



Cabinet

Date **Wednesday 18 November 2015**
Time **10.00 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the press and public are welcome to attend -
members of the public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement**

1. Public Questions
2. Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2015 (Pages 1 - 4)
3. Declarations of interest

Key Decisions:

4. Council Tax Base 2016/17 and Forecast Surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund as 31 March 2016 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources [Key Decision: CORP/R/15/03] (Pages 5 - 22)
5. Review of Council Plan - Report of Assistant Chief Executive [Key Decision: CORP/A/03/15/1] (Pages 23 - 34)

Ordinary Decisions:

6. Mid-Year Report for the Period to 30 September 2015 on Treasury Management Service - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 35 - 46)
7. Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account - Period to 30 September 2015 - Report of Corporate Director, Resources (Pages 47 - 70)
8. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15 - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (Pages 71 - 132)
9. Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report - Report of Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services (Pages 133 - 164)
10. Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy - Report of Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services (Pages 165 - 214)
11. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

12. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information.

Part B

Items during which it is considered the meeting will not be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information)

13. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
10 November 2015

To: **The Members of the Cabinet**

Councillors S Henig and A Napier (Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council) together with Councillors J Allen, J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson

Contact: Ros Layfield

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DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Cabinet** held in **The Music Hall, The Witham, 3 Horsemarket, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 8LY** on **Wednesday 21 October 2015** at **10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor S Henig (Leader of the Council) in the Chair

Members of the Cabinet:

Councillors J Allen, J Brown, N Foster, L Hovvels, O Johnson, A Napier, M Plews, B Stephens and E Tomlinson.

Also Present:

Councillors J Clare, R Crute, A Surtees, G Richardson, and J Rowlandson.

1 Public Questions

There were no questions received from members of the public.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Welfare Reform and poverty issues

The Cabinet considered a joint report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Corporate Director, Resources and the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which provided an update to Cabinet on the Government's welfare reform programme and sought approval to consult on a draft County Durham Poverty Action Plan (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

5 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Review of tourism marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented key findings and recommendations of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Review Group report of tourism marketing activity undertaken by Visit County Durham (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor R Crute, Chairman of the Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee presented the report to Cabinet, and provided detail on the scope of the review and its findings. He thanked Members, officers, partners, and everyone who had been part of the working group.

Cabinet Members thanked Councillor Crute and the scrutiny group for the review work, and would provide a response to their findings in line with the recommendations in the report.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

6 Auckland Castle Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which updated the Cabinet on activity being undertaken by the Auckland Castle Trust on the development of Auckland Castle as a major heritage attraction and explained how the Council is supporting the delivery of the various projects (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

7 Future DLI Museum Arrangements

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which presented a proposal for a new approach to the storage, display and access to the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) museum collections (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

8 County Durham Partnership Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which updated on key issues being addressed by the County Durham Partnership including key issues from the Board, the five thematic partnerships and all the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015 - 2020

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which sought endorsement for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-2020 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

10 Public Health Update Report

The Cabinet considered a report the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update on national, regional and local public health developments and demonstrated the delivery of the Public Health Pledge signed by the Council in February 2014 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

11 0-5 (Health Visitor and Family Nurse Partnership) and 5-19 (School Nursing) Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which provided an update on the 0-5 (Health visitor and family nurse partnership) and 5-19 (school nursing) commissioning developments (for copy see file of minutes).

The Director of Public Health, County Durham advised that since the report was circulated the outcomes of the randomised control trial as referred to in paragraph 19 of the report had been published. The outcomes of the trial supported the transition that the service had taken to move to a vulnerable parent pathway.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

12 The County Durham Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-18

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Regeneration and Economic Development which sought approval of the third Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

13 Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project - Update

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which provided Cabinet with an update on the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the recommendation contained in the report be approved.

Cabinet

18 November 2015

**Council Tax Base 2016/17 and Forecast
Surplus on the Council Tax Collection
Fund as 31 March 2016**



Key Decision: CORP/R/15/03

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources
Councillor Alan Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To determine the Council's Council Tax Base for all domestic properties liable to pay council tax, which is an important component in the Council's budget setting process for 2016/17 and to report on the estimated collection fund surplus as at 31 March 2016, which will need to be distributed to the principal precepting authorities in 2016/17.

Background

- 2 Regulations made under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended)) require each billing authority to calculate its 'Council Tax Base' for the following financial year.
- 3 The Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012:2914) provides amended statutory guidance to incorporate the changes as a result of the introduction of Local Council Tax Reduction Schemes (LCTRS's) from 1 April 2013.
- 4 The Council Tax Base is a measure of the County Council's 'taxable capacity', for the purpose of setting its Council Tax. Legislation requires the Council to set out the formula for that calculation and that the tax base is formally approved by Cabinet.
- 5 Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003 enables authorities to set their Council Tax Base, other than by a decision of the full Council, therefore, allowing Cabinet to take the necessary decisions to determine the Council Tax Base for 2016/17.
- 6 On 15 July 2015 Cabinet resolved to recommend to Council continuation of the current LCTRS into 2016/17. Council, on 28 October 2015 subsequently approved the continuation of the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme into 2016/17, which retains the same level of support to all council tax payers as the previous Council Tax Benefit Scheme, which was abolished on 1 April 2013.

- 7 The extension to the LCTRS is initially for one more year and the Scheme will be kept under continuous review with a further decision to be considered by Cabinet in the summer of 2016 and Full Council by January 2017 with regards to proposals for 2017/18. There are no other discount changes impacting on the Tax Base for 2016/17.
- 8 All monies collected from Council Tax are paid into the Collection Fund. The Council collects monies on behalf of itself, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority and Town and Parish Councils in the County. Police and Fire are classified as major precepting bodies under Council Tax legislation, whereas Town and Parish Councils are classified as local precepting bodies.
- 9 Significant sums pass through the Collection Fund annually, a process which can result in a surplus or deficit on the Fund at the 31st March as the monies collected inevitably vary from those estimated.
- 10 As the billing authority, the Council is required on an annual basis by 15 January to make a declaration of the estimated Collection Fund outturn position, and identify and apportion any surplus or deficit anticipated for the following financial year between the principal precepting authorities making a precept on the Fund so that they can factor this into the budget setting processes. Quarterly updates are reported as part of the budgetary control reports to Cabinet and over the last few years the Council has declared a balanced position on the Collection Fund.

Calculating the Tax Base 2016/17

- 11 Appendix 2 shows the number of dwellings in County Durham, allocated across the various Council Tax Bands. At 5 October 2015 there were 239,806 dwellings registered for Council Tax.
- 12 Some of these properties are exempt from council tax (e.g. dwellings occupied solely by students), whilst in single person households only 75% of the tax is payable. Following decisions taken in December 2012, empty properties no longer receive any discount; neither do second homes and long term empty properties. Empty properties for more than two years are charged a 50% premium.
- 13 The number of dwellings, therefore, needs to be adjusted to reflect these discounts and exemptions, giving a net property base (chargeable dwellings) for each Council Tax band. Council Tax for a Band A property is 6/9ths of the Band D council tax; Band B is 7/9ths and Band C is 8/9ths. Prior to consideration of the impact of the LCTRS, there are 212,924.46 chargeable properties in County Durham and over 84% of these are within bands A to C, with 59% of all properties being in Band A.
- 14 The Council Tax levied varies between the different bands according to proportions laid down in legislation. These proportions are based around Band D, and are fixed so that the bill for a dwelling in Band A will be a third of the bill for a dwelling in Band H. Applying the relevant proportion to each

band's net property base produces the number of 'Band D Equivalent' properties for the area. Prior to consideration of the impact of LCTRS, there are 166,980.0 Band D Equivalent properties in County Durham.

- 15 In determining the Council Tax Base for 2016/17, two further issues must be factored into the calculation:
 - Forecast reductions in the tax base as a result of the LCTRS, which is a discount rather than a benefit payment and therefore reduces the tax base; and
 - Provision for non-collection of council tax due to bad debts that need to be written off.
- 16 In previous years, the provision for non-collection was 1.5%, giving a forecast collection rate of 98.5% and based on actual collection performance, it is proposed to retain the same non-collection rate for 2016/17 tax base setting purposes. In determining the tax base, no provision has been made for new build or other changes in the quantum of discounts and exemptions. Also, unlike previous years, no provision has been made for increases in the incidence of LCTRS claims. This is considered a prudent approach to apply going forward based on experience of the incidence of LCTRS claims over recent years.
- 17 Taking into account the forecast collection rate and factoring in the adjustments to the Band D Equivalent properties as a result of the LCTRS next year, the Band D Equivalent Tax Base is forecasted to be 133,892.4 in 2016/17, which compares to the current 2015/16 tax base figure for the County of 130,493.0 – an increase of 3,399.4 (2.61%).
- 18 The council tax base for the County Council will be used by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority to set their council tax precepts for 2016/17, which will be included in the council tax bills sent to every council tax payer in the County.
- 19 The Town and Parish (T&P) Councils and the Charter Trust for the City of Durham, council tax bases are set out at Appendix 3 and will be used to calculate the parish and town councils and the Charter Trust for the City of Durham precepts in 2016/17. These will also be added to the council tax bills and sent to every council tax payer in the respective T&P Council areas.
- 20 The Council's formula grant includes an element relating to T&P Councils and whilst the Council has passed the grant on to the T&P Councils over the last three years, there is no statutory requirement to do so.
- 21 Following discussions with the T&P Councils' Working Group, Cabinet resolved on 15 July 2015 to continue to pass on the T&P element of its formula grant in 2016/17, but in doing so, continue to apply pro-rata reductions in the Council Tax Support Grant paid to T&P Councils in 2016/17 in line with reductions in the overall formula funding made available to the Council.

- 22 Formula grant has been subject to significant ongoing year on year reductions since 2010/11 and the latest MTFP includes a forecast c£15m reduction in Revenue Support Grant in 2016/17, partially offset by retail price index inflation (RPI) increases in the local share of business rates and top up grant under the localisation of Business Rates. Overall, funding from a combination of formula grant and business rates top up is forecast to reduce by c6.42% in 2016/17. This equates to a reduction in grant next year for the T&P Councils of £131,000.
- 23 Appendix 4 summarises the financial impact on individual parish and town councils across the county and the Charter Trust for the City of Durham from the combined effects of the changes to the tax base, and the distribution of LCTRS grant in 2016/17.
- 24 The LCTRS grant payable to individual T&P Councils has been allocated proportionate to impact on tax raising capacity brought about by the LCTRS, which was agreed as the most appropriate method of distribution.
- 25 Although there is a year on year reduction in LCTRS grant payable to T&P Councils in 2016/17, due to the increase in the tax base, T&P Councils are forecast to be in a positive net position.

Estimated Collection Fund Surplus – Council Tax

- 26 The Council needs to determine and declare the estimated surplus or deficit on its Collection Fund at 31 March each year by 15 January.
- 27 As highlighted in the quarter 2 forecast of outturn report (based on the position to 30 September 2015) the Council Tax Collection Fund is forecast to achieve a surplus of £7.031m at 31 March 2016 and therefore the Council will be declaring a surplus for budget setting purposes and needs to apportion this between the major precepting bodies.
- 28 The estimated surplus for council tax will be shared between the County Council, the Fire Authority and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner in proportion to the 2016/17 demands / precepts on the Fund. The £7.031m will therefore be allocated as follows:

	Forecast Surplus to be Distributed in 2016/17 £m
Durham County Council	£5.896m
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	£0.719m
Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	£0.416m
Total	£7.031m

- 29 Officers will continue to carefully track and monitor the Council Tax Base and Collection Fund performance over the coming months. It is unlikely that the forecast outturn on the Collection Fund will change significantly at this stage.

Next Steps

- 30 Police, Fire and local town and parish councils have been notified of their indicative Council Tax Bases earlier this summer and the Fire Authority and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner were notified that they will receive a share of an anticipated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund.
- 31 Subject to Cabinet consideration of this report, the tax bases will be confirmed. Town and Parish Councils will be requested to submit their precept requests by 29 January 2016 to enable these to be incorporated into the 2016/17 Budget and Council tax setting reports to Cabinet and Council in February 2016.
- 32 The Fire Authority and Durham Police and Crime Commissioner will be notified of their share of the estimated surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund to enable them to factor this into their budget setting for 2016/17. This will produce a one-off benefit / additional resource in 2016/17.
- 33 In continuing with the current LCTRS next year, members have committed to a full review of the Scheme in early summer of 2016. This review will draw on experiences elsewhere and the impact of the wider welfare reforms in County Durham during the period 2013/14 to 2015/16 and put forward options for consideration by Cabinet in July/September next year, with a view to consultation on any changes for 2017/18 being in the Autumn of 2016 and a report being presented to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation by December 2016. The 2017/18 LCTRS scheme will need to be endorsed by Council before 31 January 2017.

Recommendation and Reasons

- 34 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- (i) approves the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2016/17 for the County, which has been calculated to be 133,892.4 Band D equivalent properties;
 - (ii) approves the declaration of a surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund at 31 March 2016 of £7.031m, to be distributed to the Council; the County Durham Fire and Rescue Authority; and the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner in accordance with Council Tax regulations.

Contact: Paul Darby Tel : 03000 261 930

Background Papers

- Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012 (SI:2012:2914)
- Welfare Reform Act 2012.
- Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2016/17 – report to Council 28 October 2015
- Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2016/17: Quarter 2 – report to Cabinet 18 November 2015

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Council on 28 October 2015 approved the Cabinet's recommendations to extend and continue the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) into 2016/17, which retains the same level of support to all council tax payers as the previous Council Tax Benefit Scheme, which was abolished on 1 April 2013.

The extension to the LCTRS is initially for one more year and the Scheme will kept under continuous review with a further decision to be considered by Cabinet in July / September 2016 and Council in January 2017. There are no other discount changes impacting on the Tax Base for 2016/17.

The Council will distribute £1.691m of its formula grant to the Town and Parish Councils and the Charter Trust for the City of Durham in 2016/17, reflecting the Town and Parish element of the LCTRS Grant (as reduced in line with Council formula grant reductions).

Factoring in the Tax Base figures contained in this report, the Council will be able to include additional Council tax revenues of c£4.536m into MTFP6 in 2016/17 as a recurring item.

The Council is forecasting a surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund of £7.031m at 31 March 2016 and therefore will be declaring a surplus for budget setting purposes and need to apportion this between the major precepting bodies. The Councils share of this surplus is £5.836m and this will be included into MTFP6 in 2016/17 as a one off sum.

Staffing

None.

Risk

The key risks associated with this report are financial, in terms of prudence and accuracy of forecasts used to determine the Tax Base and the estimation of the Council tax Collection Fund surplus / deficit position at 31 March 2016.

The Council's performance on recovery of Council Tax, both in year and the overall recovery rate needs careful monitoring. In 2015/16, the provision for non-collection was 1.5%, giving a forecast collection rate of 98.5% and it is proposed to retain the same collection rate for budget setting in 2016/17.

The tax base does not include any provision for new build or other changes in the quantum of discounts and exemptions. Unlike previous years, no provision has been made for increases in the incidence of LCTRS claims. This is considered a prudent approach to apply going forward based on experience of the incidence of LCTRS claims over recent years.

Officers will continue to carefully track and monitor the Council Tax Base and Collection Fund performance. The quarter 2 forecast of outturn report (based on the position to 30 September 2015) includes details of the Collection Fund performance.

For budget setting purposes the Council Tax Collection Fund surplus is estimated to be £7.031m at 31 March 2016 and this will be distributed between the major precepting bodies in 2016/17 in accordance with Council Tax legislation.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Accommodation

None

Crime and Disorder

None.

Human Rights

None

Consultation

Towns and Parish Councils were consulted on the proposals to continue to passport an element of the Councils formula grant, equivalent to the Town and Parish share of the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant funding within formula grant for 2016/17. Indicative tax base figures and LCTRS grant allocations were provided to Town and Parish Councils in July.

No further consultation has been undertaken as Council resolved on 28 October 2015 to continue with the current Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme into 2016/17, thereby retaining the same level of support to all council tax payers as the previous Council Tax Benefit Scheme, which was abolished on 1 April 2013.

The County Durham Fire and Rescue Authority; and the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner were informed of their indicative tax base for 2016/17 and an initial estimate of their share of a forecast surplus on the Council Tax Collection Fund in July.

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

See above.

Legal Implications

The Council has a statutory responsibility to set its council tax base for the purpose of levying council tax from its council tax payers in order to raise the required amount of council tax income to balance its 2016/17 revenue budget

There is a statutory requirement for the Council to adopt a local council tax reduction scheme by 31 January each year and Council agreed on 28 October 2015 to continue with the current LCTRS into 2016/17, in line with the Cabinet decisions on 15 July 2015.

The Council is also required to determine and declare the forecast surplus or deficit position on its Collection Fund at the year-end by 15 January each year and notify its major precepting bodies (County Durham Fire and Rescue Authority; and the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner) of their share of these sums so that they can factor these into their budget setting processes

APPENDIX 2 - Durham County Council Tax Base 2016/17

	Band								Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
Number of Dwellings shown on the valuation list for the Authority on 06/	143,525.00	30,849.00	29,273.00	20,168.00	9,827.00	3,819.00	2,078.00	267.00	239,806.00
Discounts, Exemptions and Reliefs	(17,952.10)	(3,289.30)	(2,682.30)	(1,679.04)	(751.70)	(258.70)	(151.70)	(116.70)	(26,881.54)
Chargeable Dwellings before LCTRS	125,572.90	27,559.70	26,590.70	18,488.96	9,075.30	3,560.30	1,926.30	150.30	212,924.46
Band D Equivalent prior to LCTRS	83,673.7	21,435.3	23,636.2	18,489.0	11,092.0	5,142.7	3,210.5	300.6	166,980.0
Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme impact on tax base (Band D Equivalent)	(26,277.9)	(2,414.8)	(1,331.5)	(644.6)	(269.4)	(76.7)	(33.7)	0.0	(31,048.6)
Band D Equivalent Properties	57,395.8	19,020.5	22,304.7	17,844.4	10,822.6	5,066.0	3,176.8	300.6	135,931.4

Tax Base (98.5%)	133,892.4
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% of Properties per Council Tax Band	58.98%	12.94%	12.49%	8.68%	4.26%	1.67%	0.90%	0.07%	100.00%
% Properties in Band A to C	84.41%								

APPENDIX 3 - Durham County Council & Parish Council Tax Base 2016/17

Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2015/16	Locality	Parish Area	Number of Dwellings on the Valuation Office List	Band D Equivalent Properties	Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2016/17	Increase / (Decrease) in Tax Base from 2015/16
No.			No.	No.	No.	No.
1,721.8	Barnard Castle	Barnard Castle	2,684.0	1,785.1	1,758.3	36.5
82.2	Barnard Castle	Barningham	86.0	82.3	81.1	(1.1)
51.0	Barnard Castle	Boldron	51.0	51.1	50.3	(0.7)
165.5	Barnard Castle	Bowes	202.0	170.3	167.7	2.2
377.3	Barnard Castle	Cockfield	794.0	398.2	392.2	14.9
257.4	Barnard Castle	Cotherstone	295.0	274.8	270.7	13.3
185.0	Barnard Castle	Eggleston	213.0	192.1	189.2	4.2
645.8	Barnard Castle	Etherley	986.0	675.0	664.9	19.1
664.3	Barnard Castle	Evenwood and Barony	1,271.0	688.9	678.6	14.3
55.1	Barnard Castle	Forest and Frith	80.0	57.6	56.7	1.6
485.9	Barnard Castle	Gainford & Langton	619.0	500.2	492.7	6.8
180.8	Barnard Castle	Hamsterley	197.0	184.5	181.7	0.9
49.5	Barnard Castle	Hutton Magna	48.0	48.0	47.3	(2.2)
177.1	Barnard Castle	Ingleton	207.0	186.3	183.5	6.4
63.5	Barnard Castle	Lartington	59.0	62.1	61.2	(2.3)
42.8	Barnard Castle	Lunedale	44.0	43.0	42.4	(0.4)
390.7	Barnard Castle	Lynesack and Softley	594.0	403.0	397.0	6.3
205.7	Barnard Castle	Marwood	278.0	245.2	241.5	35.8
173.0	Barnard Castle	Mickleton	216.0	176.2	173.6	0.6
479.0	Barnard Castle	Middleton in Teesdale & Newbiggin in Teesdale	703.0	491.1	483.7	4.7
68.0	Barnard Castle	Ovington	68.0	68.2	67.2	(0.8)
70.0	Barnard Castle	Rokerby, Brignall and Egglestone Abbey	76.0	71.8	70.7	0.7
91.0	Barnard Castle	Romaldkirk	94.0	94.6	93.2	2.2
78.8	Barnard Castle	South Bedburn	76.0	78.3	77.1	(1.7)
441.1	Barnard Castle	Staindrop	609.0	458.0	451.1	10.0
348.9	Barnard Castle	Startforth	419.0	351.9	346.6	(2.3)
154.4	Barnard Castle	Streatlam & Stainton	217.0	158.3	155.9	1.5
408.4	Barnard Castle	Unparished Areas	409.0	417.7	411.4	3.0
112.7	Barnard Castle	Whorlton & Westwick	121.0	116.0	114.3	1.6
200.6	Barnard Castle	Winston	211.0	204.5	201.4	0.8
75.1	Barnard Castle	Woodland	121.0	80.3	79.1	4.0
580.7	Chester-le-Street	Bournmoor	935.0	591.2	582.3	1.6
139.3	Chester-le-Street	Edmondsley	275.0	147.8	145.6	6.3
1,027.0	Chester-le-Street	Great Lumley	1,656.0	1,048.8	1,033.1	6.1
431.6	Chester-le-Street	Kimbleworth and Plawsworth	772.0	466.9	459.9	28.3
467.2	Chester-le-Street	Little Lumley	731.0	490.7	483.3	16.1
898.0	Chester-le-Street	North Lodge	1,018.0	910.9	897.2	(0.8)
805.4	Chester-le-Street	Ouston	1,267.0	831.6	819.1	13.7
1,432.0	Chester-le-Street	Pelton	3,039.0	1,530.0	1,507.1	75.1
1,241.1	Chester-le-Street	Sacrison	2,431.0	1,288.2	1,268.9	27.8
5,427.9	Chester-le-Street	Unparished Areas	9,764.0	5,608.7	5,524.6	96.7
1,029.5	Chester-le-Street	Urpeth	1,557.0	1,050.9	1,035.1	5.6
1,445.9	Chester-le-Street	Waldridge	1,758.0	1,480.9	1,458.7	12.8
3,930.8	Crook	Bishop Auckland	7,828.0	4,089.1	4,027.8	97.0
707.9	Crook	Dene Valley	1,323.0	743.0	731.9	24.0
1,638.7	Crook	Greater Willington	3,348.0	1,703.3	1,677.8	39.1
1,589.7	Crook	Stanhope	2,412.0	1,646.5	1,621.8	32.1
452.0	Crook	Tow Law	1,017.0	480.0	472.8	20.8
6,716.3	Crook	Unparished Areas	12,874.0	7,087.0	6,980.7	264.4
549.7	Crook	West Auckland	1,237.0	585.7	576.9	27.2
285.7	Crook	Witton le Wear	327.0	289.8	285.5	(0.2)
950.0	Crook	Wolsingham	1,303.0	977.2	962.5	12.5
518.5	Durham	Bearpark	997.0	539.6	531.5	13.0
2,797.7	Durham	Belmont	4,145.0	2,855.2	2,812.4	14.7
219.2	Durham	Brancepeth	191.0	223.7	220.3	1.1
4,608.9	Durham	Brandon & Byshottles	9,030.0	4,785.4	4,713.6	105.5

APPENDIX 3 - Durham County Council & Parish Council Tax Base 2016/17

Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2015/16	Locality	Parish Area	Number of Dwellings on the Valuation Office List	Band D Equivalent Properties	Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2016/17	Increase / (Decrease) in Tax Base from 2015/16
No.			No.	No.	No.	No.
1,405.6	Durham	Cassop-cum-Quarrington Hill	2,676.0	1,472.1	1,450.0	44.4
1,215.4	Durham	Coxhoe	2,021.0	1,275.4	1,256.3	40.9
283.3	Durham	Croxdale & Hett	472.0	296.6	292.2	8.9
1,646.3	Durham	Framwellgate Moor	2,535.0	1,738.1	1,712.0	65.7
305.2	Durham	Kelloe	687.0	322.8	318.0	12.8
458.4	Durham	Pittington	679.0	469.2	462.2	3.8
527.3	Durham	Shadforth	1,003.0	551.7	543.4	16.1
835.3	Durham	Sherburn	1,470.0	858.3	845.4	10.1
720.1	Durham	Shincliffe	710.0	729.1	718.2	(1.9)
7,251.7	Durham	Unparished Areas	12,118.0	7,444.7	7,333.0	81.3
663.5	Durham	West Rainton	1,164.0	684.9	674.6	11.1
728.2	Durham	Witton Gilbert	1,213.0	753.4	742.1	13.9
304.8	Easington	Castle Eden	275.0	310.7	306.0	1.2
477.3	Easington	Dalton-le-Dale	677.0	488.0	480.7	3.4
1,101.0	Easington	Easington Colliery	2,501.0	1,155.4	1,138.1	37.1
682.6	Easington	Easington Village	1,020.0	702.0	691.5	8.9
440.7	Easington	Haswell	888.0	456.6	449.8	9.1
197.8	Easington	Hawthorn	228.0	201.3	198.3	0.5
1,570.5	Easington	Horden	3,964.0	1,691.6	1,666.2	95.7
397.3	Easington	Hutton Henry	752.0	408.2	402.1	4.8
1,385.2	Easington	Monk Hesleden	2,976.0	1,441.4	1,419.8	34.6
1,695.7	Easington	Murton	3,561.0	1,746.9	1,720.7	25.0
4,127.0	Easington	Peterlee	9,061.0	4,310.1	4,245.4	118.4
4,356.8	Easington	Seaham	9,188.0	4,543.0	4,474.9	118.1
408.1	Easington	Seaton with Slingley	538.0	420.0	413.7	5.6
905.7	Easington	Shotton	2,148.0	1,004.4	989.3	83.6
670.0	Easington	South Hetton	1,340.0	686.5	676.2	6.2
568.2	Easington	Thornley	1,214.0	608.5	599.4	31.2
333.3	Easington	Trimdon Foundry	691.0	344.8	339.6	6.3
56.3	Easington	Unparished Areas	55.0	58.6	57.7	1.4
594.0	Easington	Wheatley Hill	1,428.0	629.9	620.5	26.5
969.9	Easington	Wingate	1,852.0	998.1	983.1	13.2
408.6	Spennymoor	Bishop Middleham	580.0	410.9	404.7	(3.9)
59.4	Spennymoor	Bradbury	55.0	60.4	59.5	0.1
880.6	Spennymoor	Chilton	1,932.0	956.8	942.4	61.8
576.3	Spennymoor	Cornforth	1,306.0	595.8	586.9	10.6
80.6	Spennymoor	Eldon	206.0	89.1	87.8	7.2
2,205.0	Spennymoor	Ferryhill	5,078.0	2,306.5	2,271.9	66.9
610.4	Spennymoor	Fishburn	1,184.0	621.7	612.4	2.0
6,321.7	Spennymoor	Great Aycliffe	11,919.0	6,584.9	6,486.1	164.4
117.7	Spennymoor	Middridge	152.0	118.3	116.5	(1.2)
112.8	Spennymoor	Mordon	111.0	115.8	114.1	1.3
1,818.1	Spennymoor	Sedgefield Town Council	2,323.0	1,853.6	1,825.8	7.7
2,001.3	Spennymoor	Sildon	5,073.0	2,156.7	2,124.3	123.0
5,307.8	Spennymoor	Spennymoor Town Council	9,825.0	5,628.8	5,544.4	236.6
1,066.3	Spennymoor	Trimdon	2,189.0	1,103.3	1,086.8	20.5
111.2	Spennymoor	Windlestone	117.0	117.1	115.3	4.1
377.9	Stanley	Burnhope	746.0	392.2	386.3	8.4
243.4	Stanley	Cornsay	501.0	265.3	261.3	17.9
1,306.5	Stanley	Esh	2,338.0	1,355.9	1,335.6	29.1
81.6	Stanley	Greencroft	88.0	84.3	83.0	1.4
498.3	Stanley	Healeyfield	718.0	513.1	505.4	7.1
56.9	Stanley	Hedleyhope	84.0	58.4	57.5	0.6
1,428.4	Stanley	Lanchester	1,975.0	1,485.7	1,463.4	35.0
43.9	Stanley	Muggleswick	57.0	44.8	44.1	0.2
120.7	Stanley	Satley	129.0	121.1	119.3	(1.4)

APPENDIX 3 - Durham County Council & Parish Council Tax Base 2016/17

Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2015/16	Locality	Parish Area	Number of Dwellings on the Valuation Office List	Band D Equivalent Properties	Tax Base for Council Tax purposes 2016/17	Increase / (Decrease) in Tax Base from 2015/16
No.			No.	No.	No.	No.
7,167.2	Stanley	Stanley	15,726.0	7,509.6	7,397.0	229.8
11,815.6	Stanley	Unparished Areas	21,006.0	12,312.3	12,127.6	312.0
130,493.0			239,806.0	135,931.4	133,892.4	3,399.5
24,183.4	Durham	City of Durham Charter Trust	41,111.0	25,000.2	24,625.2	441.8

APPENDIX 4 - Impact on Parish & Town Councils & The Chartered Trust for the City of Durham 2016/17

Locality	Parish Area	Increase / (Decrease) in Council Tax Base Band D Equivalent in 2016/17	Band D Council Tax 2015/16	Increase / (Loss) of Tax Raising Capacity	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2015/16	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2016/17	Net Position After Distribution of LCTRS Grant
		No.	£	£	£	£	£
Barnard Castle	Barnard Castle Town Council	36.5	90.36	3,298.14	(11,292.00)	9,136.00	1,142.14
Barnard Castle	Barningham Parish Council	(1.1)	9.73	(10.70)	0.00	12.00	1.30
Barnard Castle	Boldron Parish Council	(0.7)	6.73	(4.71)	(7.00)	13.00	1.29
Barnard Castle	Bowes Parish Council	2.2	24.27	53.39	0.00	0.00	53.39
Barnard Castle	Cockfield Parish Council	14.9	41.70	621.33	(3,408.00)	3,185.00	398.33
Barnard Castle	Cotherstone Parish Council	13.3	23.87	317.47	0.00	0.00	317.47
Barnard Castle	Eggleston Parish Council	4.2	33.26	139.69	0.00	0.00	139.69
Barnard Castle	Etherly Parish Council	19.1	31.57	602.99	(1,319.00)	818.00	101.99
Barnard Castle	Evenwood and Barony Parish Council	14.3	30.78	440.15	(1,737.00)	1,482.00	185.15
Barnard Castle	Forest and Frith Parish Council	1.6	-	0.00	(70.00)	80.00	10.00
Barnard Castle	Gainford & Langton Parish Council	6.8	75.30	512.04	(318.00)	0.00	194.04
Barnard Castle	Hamsterley Parish Council	0.9	17.70	15.93	(49.00)	38.00	4.93
Barnard Castle	Hutton Magna Parish Council	(2.2)	10.15	(22.33)	0.00	26.00	3.67
Barnard Castle	Ingleton Parish Council	6.4	24.90	159.36	(226.00)	76.00	9.36
Barnard Castle	Lartington Parish Council	(2.3)	20.08	(46.18)	0.00	53.00	6.82
Barnard Castle	Lunedale Parish Council	(0.4)	4.67	(1.87)	0.00	2.00	0.13
Barnard Castle	Lynesack and Softley Parish Council	6.3	21.93	138.16	(433.00)	337.00	42.16
Barnard Castle	Marwood Parish Council	35.8	11.83	423.51	0.00	0.00	423.51
Barnard Castle	Mickleton Parish Council	0.6	23.26	13.96	0.00	0.00	13.96
Barnard Castle	Middleton in Teesdale & Newbiggin in Teesdale Parish Council	4.7	30.04	141.19	(164.00)	26.00	3.19
Barnard Castle	Ovington Parish Council	(0.8)	21.12	(16.90)	(13.00)	34.00	4.10
Barnard Castle	Rokerby, Brignall and Egglestone Abbey Parish Council	0.7	24.32	17.02	0.00	0.00	17.02
Barnard Castle	Romaldkirk Parish Council	2.2	22.65	49.83	0.00	0.00	49.83
Barnard Castle	South Bedburn Parish Council	(1.7)	9.52	(16.18)	0.00	18.00	1.82
Barnard Castle	Staindrop Parish Council	10.0	32.47	324.70	(826.00)	573.00	71.70

APPENDIX 4 - Impact on Parish & Town Councils & The Chartered Trust for the City of Durham 2016/17

Page 18 Locality	Parish Area	Increase / (Decrease) in Council Tax Base Band D Equivalent in 2016/17	Band D Council Tax 2015/16	Increase / (Loss) of Tax Raising Capacity	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2015/16	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2016/17	Net Position After Distribution of LCTRS Grant
		No.	£	£	£	£	£
Barnard Castle	Startforth Parish Council	(2.3)	35.83	(82.41)	(18.00)	115.00	14.59
Barnard Castle	Streatlam & Stainton Parish Council	1.5	30.37	45.56	(77.00)	36.00	4.56
Barnard Castle	Whorlton & Westwick Parish Council	1.6	41.00	65.60	0.00	0.00	65.60
Barnard Castle	Winston Parish Council	0.8	22.43	17.94	0.00	0.00	17.94
Barnard Castle	Woodland Parish Council	4.0	16.54	66.16	(118.00)	59.00	7.16
Chester-le-Street	Bournmoor Parish Council	1.6	20.66	33.06	(1,297.00)	1,445.00	181.06
Chester-le-Street	Edmondsley Parish Council	6.3	35.64	224.53	(1,046.00)	939.00	117.53
Chester-le-Street	Great Lumley Parish Council	6.1	18.76	114.44	(1,990.00)	2,144.00	268.44
Chester-le-Street	Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council	28.3	21.36	604.49	(781.00)	202.00	25.49
Chester-le-Street	Little Lumley Parish Council	16.1	15.30	246.33	(600.00)	404.00	50.33
Chester-le-Street	North Lodge Parish Council	(0.8)	19.35	(15.48)	(623.00)	730.00	91.52
Chester-le-Street	Ouston Parish Council	13.7	27.21	372.78	(1,575.00)	1,374.00	171.78
Chester-le-Street	Pelton Parish Council	75.1	102.44	7,693.24	(13,515.00)	6,654.00	832.24
Chester-le-Street	Sacrison Parish Council	27.8	40.82	1,134.80	(6,205.00)	5,795.00	724.80
Chester-le-Street	Urpeth Parish Council	5.6	31.08	174.05	(1,797.00)	1,855.00	232.05
Chester-le-Street	Waldridge Parish Council	12.8	20.82	266.50	(502.00)	269.00	33.50
Crook	Bishop Auckland Town Council	97.0	38.03	3,688.91	(18,629.00)	17,075.00	2,134.91
Crook	Dene Valley Parish Council	24.0	16.71	401.04	(726.00)	371.00	46.04
Crook	Greater Willington Town Council	39.1	51.27	2,004.66	(10,139.00)	9,297.00	1,162.66
Crook	Stanhope Parish Council	32.1	25.13	806.67	(891.00)	96.00	11.67
Crook	Tow Law Town Council	20.8	71.29	1,482.83	(4,699.00)	3,676.00	459.83
Crook	West Auckland Parish Council	27.2	31.33	852.18	(4,558.00)	4,235.00	529.18
Crook	Witton le Wear Parish Council	(0.2)	19.60	(3.92)	(87.00)	104.00	13.08
Crook	Wolsingham Parish Council	12.5	33.54	419.25	(1,442.00)	1,169.00	146.25
Durham	Bearpark Parish Council	13.0	25.05	325.65	(1,806.00)	1,692.00	211.65

APPENDIX 4 - Impact on Parish & Town Councils & The Chartered Trust for the City of Durham 2016/17

Locality	Parish Area	Increase / (Decrease) in Council Tax Base Band D Equivalent in 2016/17	Band D Council Tax 2015/16	Increase / (Loss) of Tax Raising Capacity	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2015/16	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2016/17	Net Position After Distribution of LCTRS Grant
		No.	£	£	£	£	£
Durham	Belmont Parish Council	14.7	25.83	379.70	(3,788.00)	3,895.00	486.70
Durham	Brancepeth Parish Council	1.1	66.08	72.69	0.00	0.00	72.69
Durham	Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council	105.5	32.50	3,428.75	(17,370.00)	15,934.00	1,992.75
Durham	Cassop-cum-Quarrington Hill Parish Council	44.4	24.05	1,067.82	(2,038.00)	1,109.00	138.82
Durham	Coxhoe Parish Council	40.9	63.09	2,580.38	(2,897.00)	362.00	45.38
Durham	Croxdale & Hett Parish Council	8.9	33.28	296.19	(1,192.00)	1,024.00	128.19
Durham	Framwellgate Moor Parish Council	65.7	24.98	1,641.19	(784.00)	0.00	857.19
Durham	Kelloe Parish Council	12.8	30.21	386.69	(2,055.00)	1,907.00	238.69
Durham	Pittington Parish Council	3.8	50.17	190.65	(815.00)	714.00	89.65
Durham	Shadforth Parish Council	16.1	22.82	367.40	(1,968.00)	1,829.00	228.40
Durham	Sherburn Village Parish Council	10.1	24.54	247.85	(2,981.00)	3,124.00	390.85
Durham	Shincliffe Parish Council	(1.9)	21.25	(40.37)	0.00	46.00	5.63
Durham	West Rainton Parish Council	11.1	37.92	420.91	(3,030.00)	2,982.00	372.91
Durham	Witton Gilbert Parish Council	13.9	37.77	525.00	(1,994.00)	1,679.00	210.00
Easington	Castle Eden Parish Council	1.2	29.53	35.44	(47.00)	13.00	1.44
Easington	Dalton-le-Dale Parish Council	3.4	27.59	93.81	(754.00)	755.00	94.81
Easington	Easington Colliery Parish Council	37.1	261.49	9,701.28	(52,334.00)	48,726.00	6,093.28
Easington	Easington Village Parish Council	8.9	168.10	1,496.09	(5,741.00)	4,852.00	607.09
Easington	Haswell Parish Council	9.1	155.21	1,412.41	(11,463.00)	11,487.00	1,436.41
Easington	Hawthorn Parish Council	0.5	34.50	17.25	(239.00)	253.00	31.25
Easington	Horden Parish Council	95.7	242.71	23,227.35	(100,014.00)	87,761.00	10,974.35
Easington	Hutton Henry Parish Council	4.8	100.68	483.26	(6,050.00)	6,362.00	795.26
Easington	Monk Hesleden Parish Council	34.6	173.21	5,993.07	(36,673.00)	35,065.00	4,385.07
Easington	Murton Parish Council	25.0	164.53	4,113.25	(42,148.00)	43,471.00	5,436.25
Easington	Peterlee Town Council	118.4	297.88	35,268.99	(288,305.00)	289,198.00	36,161.99

APPENDIX 4 - Impact on Parish & Town Councils & The Chartered Trust for the City of Durham 2016/17

Page 20 Locality	Parish Area	Increase / (Decrease) in Council Tax Base Band D Equivalent in 2016/17	Band D Council Tax 2015/16	Increase / (Loss) of Tax Raising Capacity	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2015/16	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2016/17	Net Position After Distribution of LCTRS Grant
		No.	£	£	£	£	£
Easington	Seaham Town Council	118.1	223.33	26,375.27	(174,025.00)	168,751.00	21,101.27
Easington	Seaton with Slingley Parish Council	5.6	28.74	160.94	(398.00)	271.00	33.94
Easington	Shotton Parish Council	83.6	101.90	8,518.84	(18,942.00)	11,913.00	1,489.84
Easington	South Hetton Parish Council	6.2	133.64	828.57	(13,262.00)	14,210.00	1,776.57
Easington	Thornley Parish Council	31.2	234.42	7,313.90	(19,095.00)	13,465.00	1,683.90
Easington	Trimdon Foundry Parish Council	6.3	172.43	1,086.31	(11,034.00)	11,369.00	1,421.31
Easington	Wheatley Hill Parish Council	26.5	165.01	4,372.77	(29,299.00)	28,489.00	3,562.77
Easington	Wingate Parish Council	13.2	133.86	1,766.95	(18,710.00)	19,364.00	2,420.95
Spennymoor	Bishop Middleham Parish Council	(3.9)	117.28	(457.39)	(2,372.00)	3,234.00	404.61
Spennymoor	Bradbury and The Isles Parish Council	0.1	23.31	2.33	0.00	0.00	2.33
Spennymoor	Chilton Town Council	61.8	196.82	12,163.48	(28,680.00)	18,877.00	2,360.48
Spennymoor	Cornforth Parish Council	10.6	140.99	1,494.49	(18,650.00)	19,607.00	2,451.49
Spennymoor	Eldon Parish Council	7.2	115.56	832.03	(2,806.00)	2,256.00	282.03
Spennymoor	Ferryhill Town Council	66.9	212.97	14,247.69	(121,170.00)	122,203.00	15,280.69
Spennymoor	Fishburn Parish Council	2.0	111.94	223.88	(10,307.00)	11,524.00	1,440.88
Spennymoor	Great Aycliffe Town Council	164.4	213.32	35,069.81	(228,899.00)	221,530.00	27,700.81
Spennymoor	Midridge Parish Council	(1.2)	53.70	(64.44)	(321.00)	441.00	55.56
Spennymoor	Mordon Parish Council	1.3	13.27	17.25	(17.00)	0.00	0.25
Spennymoor	Sedgefield Town Council	7.7	129.85	999.85	(12,269.00)	12,880.00	1,610.85
Spennymoor	Shildon Town Council	123.0	250.16	30,769.68	(145,005.00)	130,561.00	16,325.68
Spennymoor	Spennymoor Town Council	236.6	208.33	49,290.88	(111,660.00)	71,283.00	8,913.88
Spennymoor	Trimdon Parish Council	20.5	139.59	2,861.60	(21,256.00)	21,023.00	2,628.60
Spennymoor	Windlestone Parish Council	4.1	23.38	95.86	0.00	0.00	95.86
Stanley	Burnhope Parish Council	8.4	13.50	113.40	(801.00)	786.00	98.40
Stanley	Cornsay Parish Council	17.9	52.15	933.49	(2,177.00)	1,421.00	177.49

APPENDIX 4 - Impact on Parish & Town Councils & The Chartered Trust for the City of Durham 2016/17

Locality	Parish Area	Increase / (Decrease) in Council Tax Base Band D Equivalent in 2016/17	Band D Council Tax 2015/16	Increase / (Loss) of Tax Raising Capacity	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2015/16	Parish Element of LCTRS Grant 2016/17	Net Position After Distribution of LCTRS Grant
		No.	£	£	£	£	£
Stanley	Esh Parish Council	29.1	58.35	1,697.98	(6,969.00)	6,024.00	752.98
Stanley	Greencroft Parish Council	1.4	38.48	53.87	(68.00)	16.00	1.87
Stanley	Healeyfield Parish Council	7.1	17.24	122.40	(437.00)	360.00	45.40
Stanley	Hedleyhope Parish Council	0.6	68.33	41.00	(26.00)	0.00	15.00
Stanley	Lanchester Parish Council	35.0	37.23	1,303.05	(2,495.00)	1,362.00	170.05
Stanley	Muggleswick Parish Council	0.2	27.33	5.47	(30.00)	28.00	3.47
Stanley	Satley Parish Council	(1.4)	27.26	(38.16)	0.00	44.00	5.84
Stanley	Stanley Town Council	229.8	88.12	20,249.98	(135,095.00)	131,258.00	16,412.98
		2,640.7		343,948.93	(1,813,938.00)	1,682,743.00	212,753.93

Durham	City of Durham Charter Trust	441.8	1.90	839.42	(8,064.00)	8,257.00	1,032.42
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3,082.50

344,788.35 (1,822,002.00) 1,691,000.00 213,786.35

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Cabinet

18 November 2015



Review of Council Plan

Key Decision CORP/A/03/15/1

Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To present for approval the draft Council Plan objectives and outcomes for each Altogether priority theme.

Background

2. The Council Plan details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), together with its own improvement agenda. The Council Plan covers a three year timeframe in line with the council's Medium Term Financial Plan and sets out how we will deliver our corporate priorities and the key actions we will take to support the longer term goals set out in the SCS.
3. This year it is proposed that the existing three year Council Plan is updated and rolled forward a year, with a more fundamental review to take place next year, in line with a refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This year it is proposed to produce a more visual and interactive version of the council plan, in addition to the word version. Early ideas are that it will be a shorter, more impactful plan with a greater use of visual material such as charts, infographics, diagrams and photographs.
4. Service groupings have been working up proposals for the objectives and outcomes framework, key areas of work and performance indicators for inclusion in the Council Plan 2016-19.

Draft Objectives and Outcomes

5. Overall it is recommended that the five key Altogether Better themes remain unchanged in line with the Altogether Better Durham vision set by the County Durham Partnership. It is also recommended that the Altogether Better Council theme is retained giving six key themes as follows:

- i. Altogether Wealthier
 - ii. Altogether Better for Children and Young People
 - iii. Altogether Healthier
 - iv. Altogether Safer
 - v. Altogether Greener
 - vi. Altogether Better Council
6. Sitting beneath each of these six themes are a series of objectives setting out the key goals being pursued over the medium term. The objectives layer is shared across the SCS and Council Plan and was agreed by Council in 2014.
7. Whilst the SCS is a long-term plan, the Council Plan has a medium-term timeframe of three years and is therefore more detailed in nature. The Council Plan contains an additional layer which is the council's outcomes. Outcomes reflect the intended results from our actions and provide the rationale for our interventions. These are subject to more frequent change than objectives. Some additional outcomes and amendments to existing outcomes have been proposed in order to align our framework with the work of the council over the next three years.
8. The proposed changes to the Council Plan outcomes are attached as Appendix 1. There are no proposed changes to the Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Better for Children and Young People and Altogether Healthier frameworks. The changes to the other Altogether themes are summarised below:

Altogether Safer

9. An additional outcome is proposed 'Improved understanding of open water safety' as there are a number of actions being undertaken to increase people's understanding and confidence when around open water. The wording of objective 5 has been amended to reflect the addition of this new outcome.

Altogether Greener

10. Minor wording changes to objective 1 have been proposed so it reads 'Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment'. Two additional outcomes are also proposed under this objective 'Improved land and air quality' and 'well-maintained and accessible parks'. There is a significant amount of work being undertaken around pollution, contaminated land, air quality and ensuring any public space for which we have responsibility remains of a high standard.
11. Outcome G3 'Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change' was intended to capture any actions to reduce the effects of climate change. The main programmes of work in this area are around flood defence, coastal erosion and mitigation schemes. However, these feature under another existing outcome G6: 'Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events'. It is therefore proposed that outcome G3 be deleted to remove duplication between existing outcomes.

Altogether Better Council

12. Minor rewording of outcome ABC 6 is proposed to read 'Responding to the effects of poverty and a Welfare Reform' to reflect the importance of addressing the impacts of poverty. Outcome ABC8 is to be reworded to 'Making the best use of our assets and managing information' making it more plain English.
13. The proposed objectives and outcomes were presented at the members seminars held on 4 November 2015 and comments raised by members are outlined in Appendix 2 and will be considered as the Council Plan is further developed.

Next steps

14. The key milestones for production of the 2016-19 Council Plan and service plans are:

Individual OSCs consider Council Plan objectives and outcomes framework, and performance indicators for their committee to input into the future requirements	January 2016	Assistant Chief Executive and all service groupings
Cabinet considers Council Plan and Service Plans	16 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
OSMB considers Council Plan and Service Plans	22 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
Full Council considers Council Plan and Service Plans	13 April 2016	Assistant Chief Executive

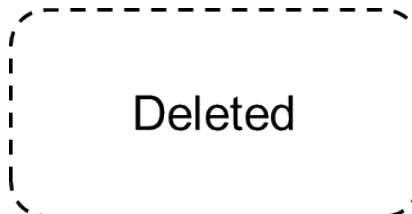
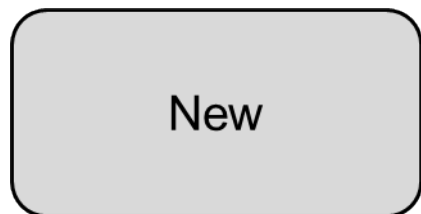
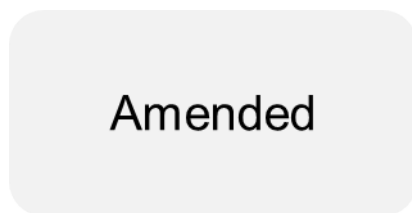
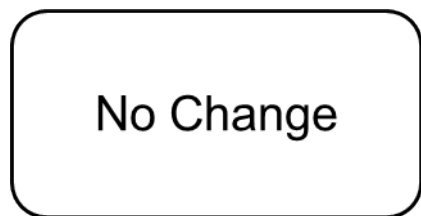
Recommendations and reasons

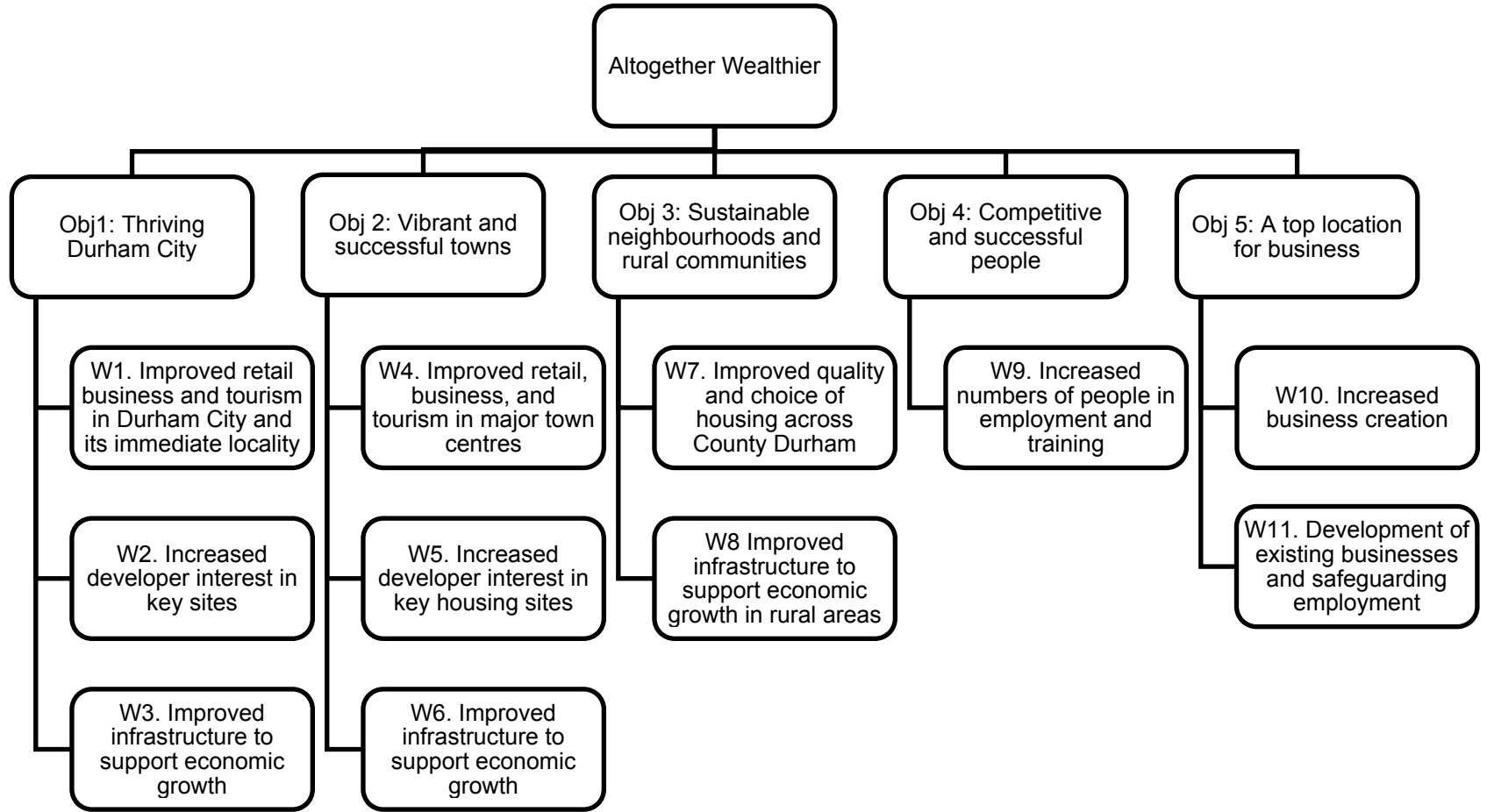
15. Cabinet are asked to:
- i. Agree the approach to rolling forward the current Council Plan;
 - ii. Approve the changes proposed to the Council Plan outcomes framework as outlined in Appendix 1;
 - iii. Note the proposed more fundamental review of the SCS and Council Plan next year.
 - iv. Note the comments raised at the Members seminars outlined in Appendix 2

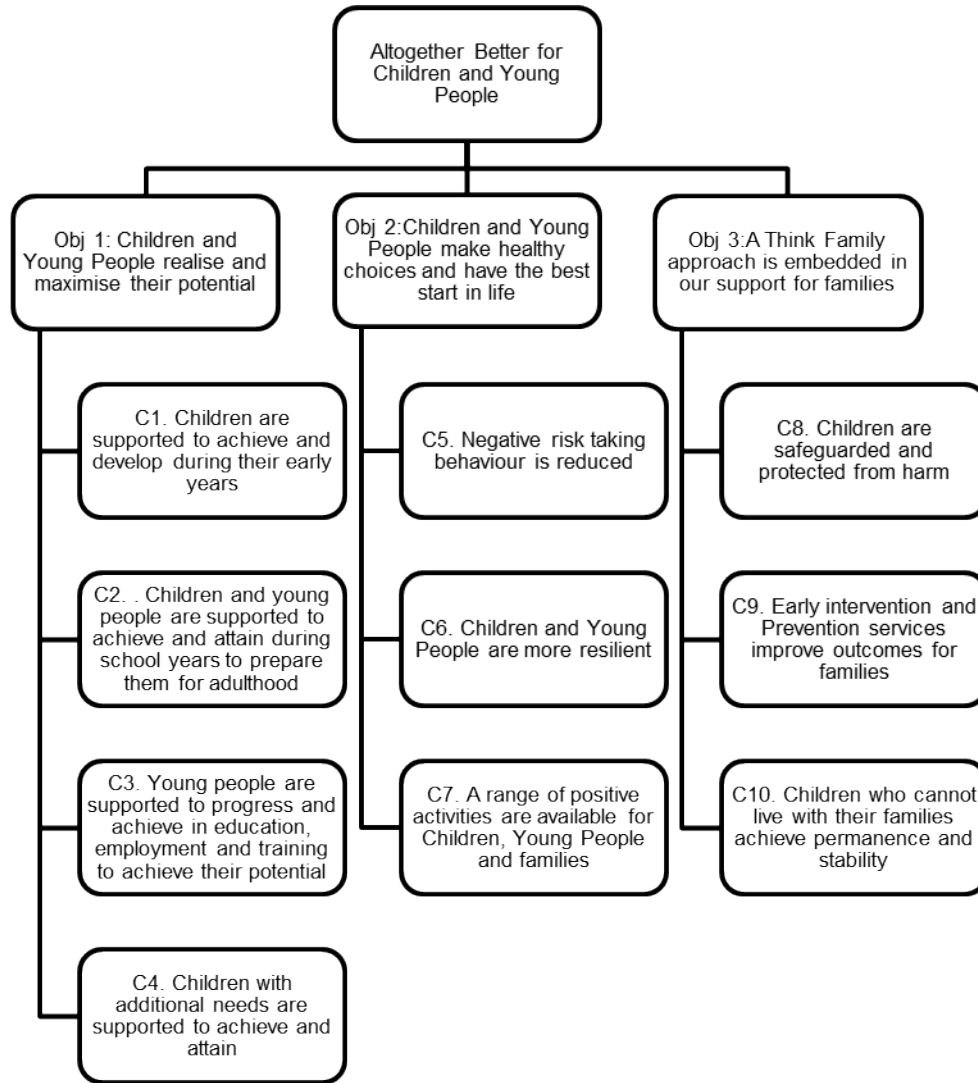
Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance, 03000 268071

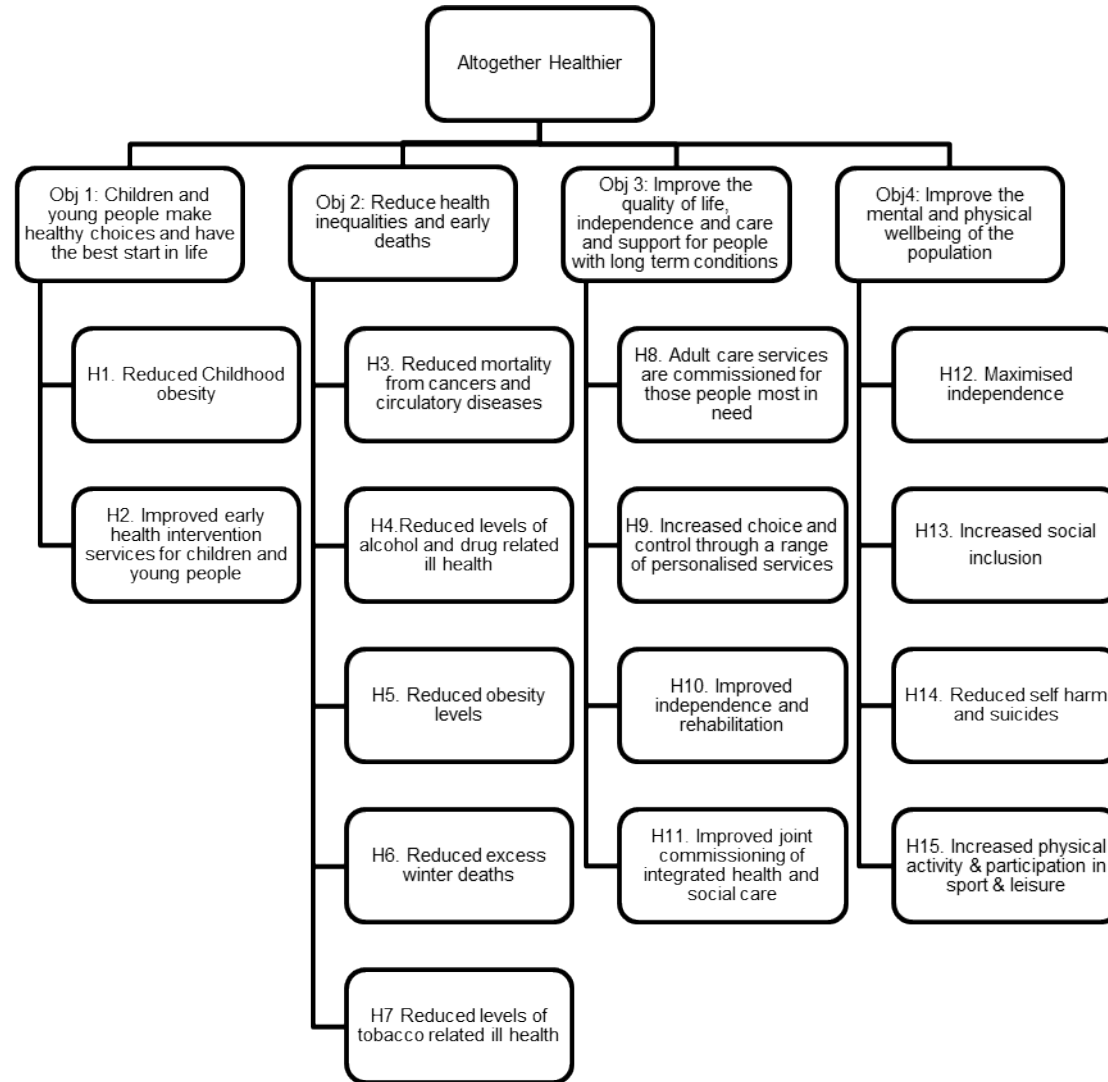
Appendix 1 Proposed Council Plan Objectives and Outcomes 2016_2019

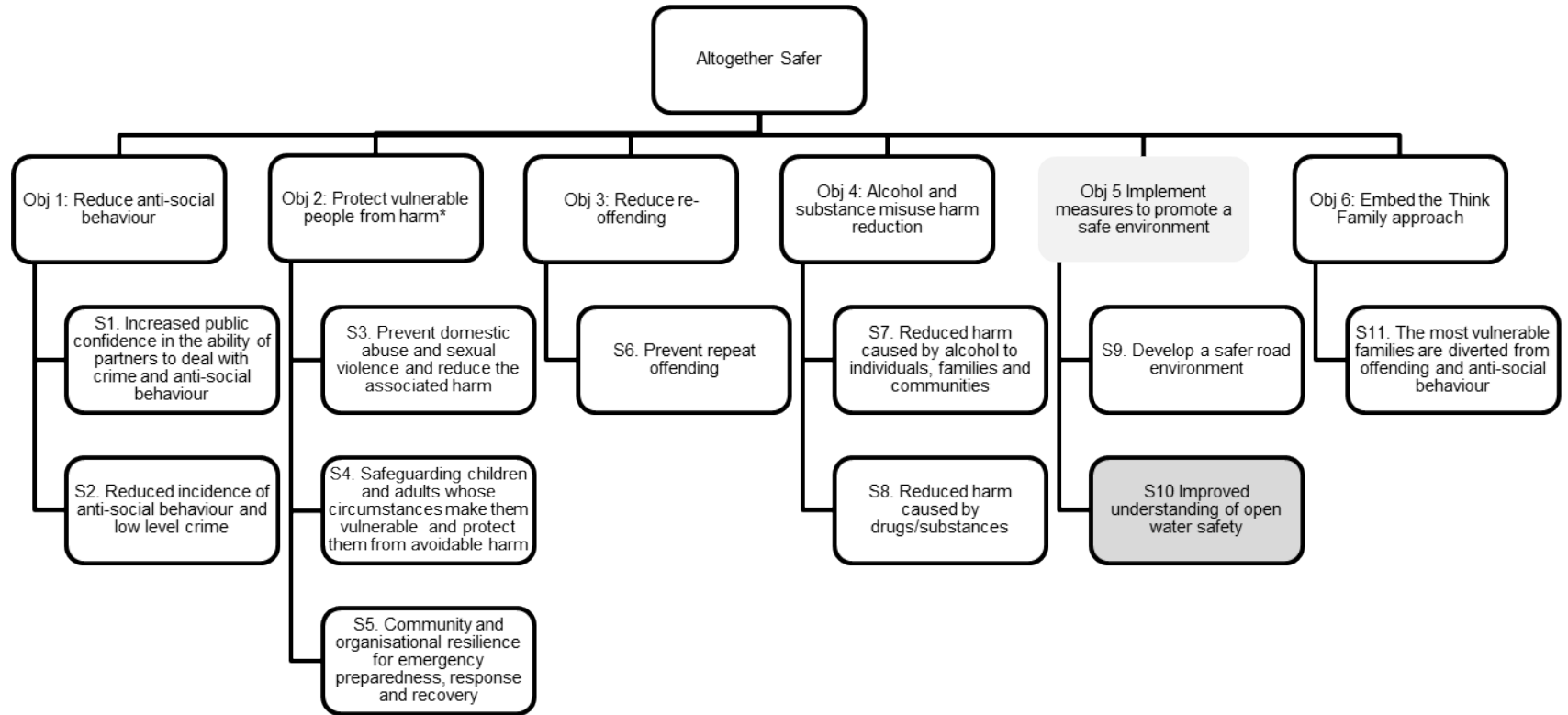
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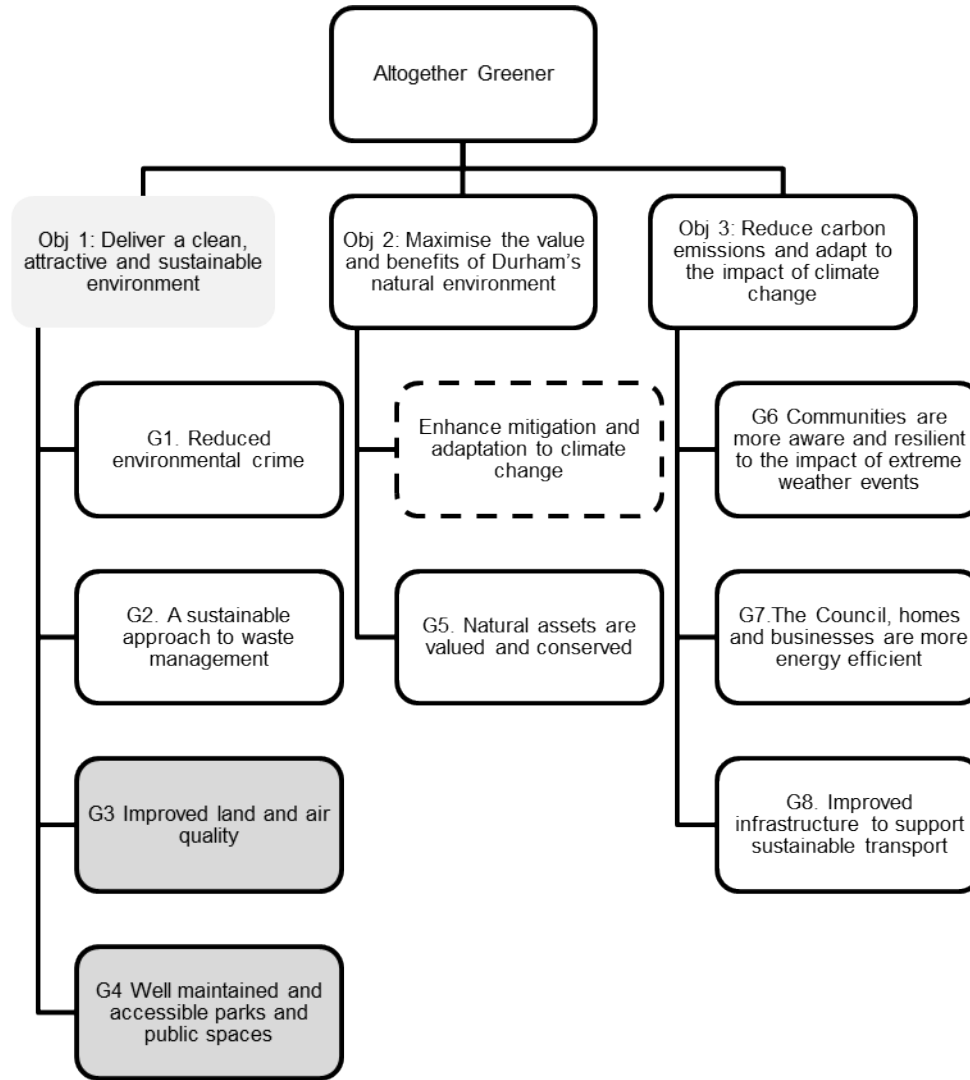


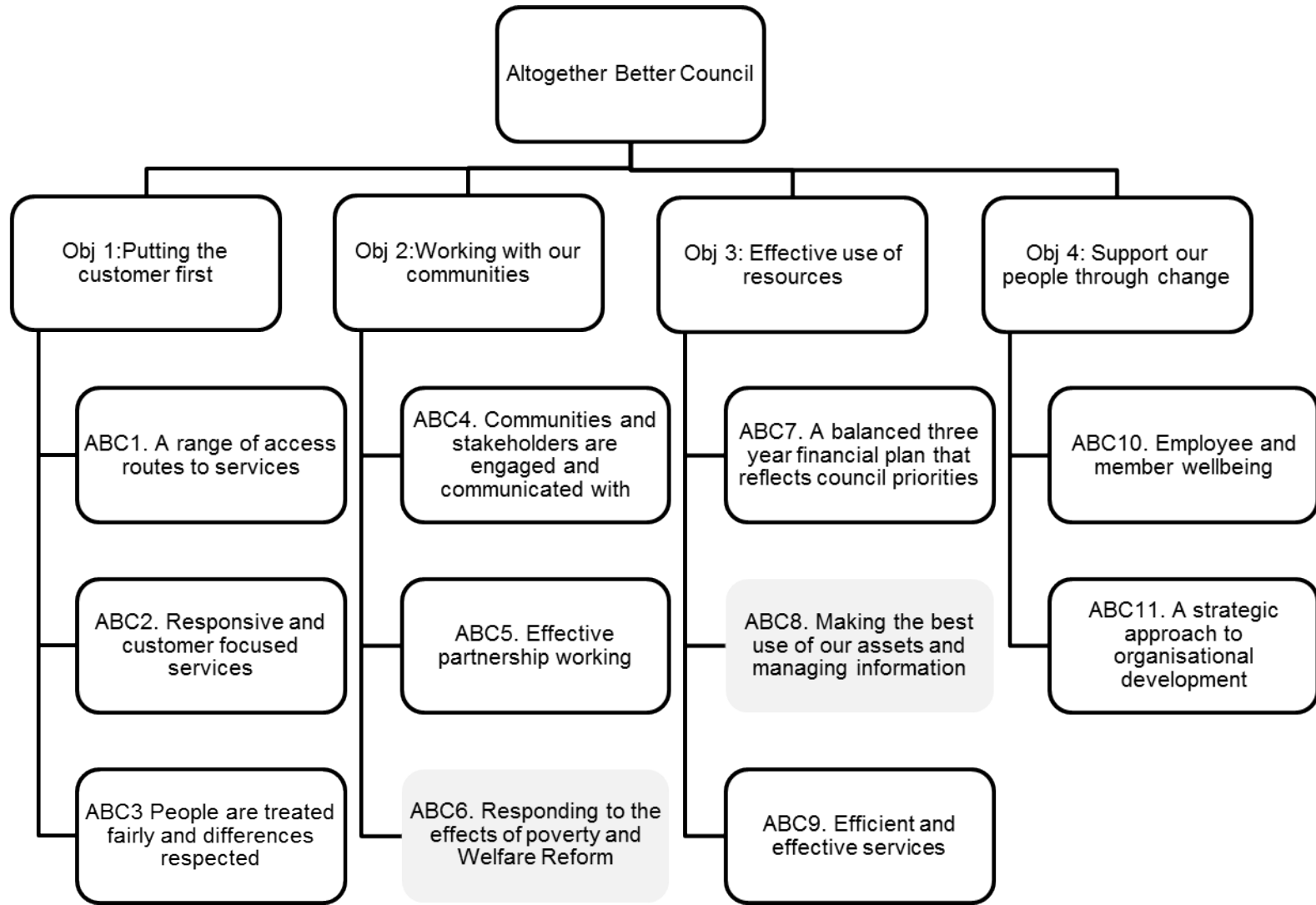












Members Seminars - 4 November 2015

Comments raised by Members

Objective	Outcome	Comment raised
Altogether Wealthier		
N/A	N/A	Why is there nothing about regeneration of some of our villages which are dying a death?
Objective 1 - Thriving Durham City	W2 Increased developer interest in key sites	Members need to have confidence and assurance that we actually have some interest in key sites such as the Aykley Heads site before agreeing to development plans.
Objective 3 - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities	W7 Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham'	How do we formulate a plan to encourage new housing in village locations?
Objective 4 - Competitive and successful people	N/A	Need to ensure that apprenticeships feature in relation to employment and training.
Altogether Healthier		
Objective 4 - Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	H14 Reduced self-harm and suicides	How do we reduce self-harm?
Altogether Greener		
Objective 3 - Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change	G7 The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient	How can we influence what homeowners do and what can the council do to set an example without demolishing our old stock of public buildings?
Objective 2 - Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change (proposed deletion)	Where do initiatives such as the construction of a new headquarters and encouraging more home working fit with our framework?
Altogether Better Council		
Objective 2 - Working with our communities	ABC4 - Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Can we add something about engaging with stakeholders at the planning stage? Often consultation is presented as a fait accompli. The council does not have a monopoly on good ideas and consultation at the planning stage may elicit some innovative solutions from our communities.
Objective 2 - Working with our communities	ABC4 - Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Can we add something around accessibility of consultations? Putting consultation on the website only is iniquitous.
Objective 3 -Effective use of resources	ABC8 Making the best use of our assets	When we sell assets who decides the price? How do we ensure that we get best value? Need to ensure that members are informed in good

Objective	Outcome	Comment raised
	and managing information	time of local issues.
Objective 4 -Support our people through change	ABC10 Employee and member wellbeing	Does recent work on sickness absence fit within this priority area. Need to ensure that this is linked in.

GENERAL ISSUES

Comments raised
Can we carry on keeping all of these objectives and outcomes going forward as austerity is stepped up?
Should we continue to maintain aspirational objectives?
Is there a hierarchy to these aims and objectives which would help us to review and rationalise them in the future?

Cabinet

18 November 2015

**Mid-Year Report for the Period to
30 September 2015 on Treasury
Management Service**



Report of Corporate Management Team

Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources

Councillor Alan Napier, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The regulatory framework of treasury management requires the Council to receive a mid-year treasury review, in addition to the forward looking annual treasury strategy and backward looking performance against the previous strategy.
- 2 As well as meeting the above requirement this report also incorporates the needs of the 'Prudential Code', which can be regarded as being best operational practice, to ensure adequate monitoring of our capital expenditure plans and the Council's prudential indicators (PIs). The treasury strategy and PIs were previously reported to Council as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 on 25 February 2015.
- 3 The purpose of the report also supports the objective in the revised CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and the Communities and Local Government Investment Guidance. These state that Members should receive and scrutinise the treasury management service.

Background

Economic Performance to Date

- 4 The Council's Treasury Management advisers, Capita Asset Services have provided a commentary on Economic Performance. The following paragraphs detail their thoughts on, and knowledge of the economy in the UK, US, Eurozone (EZ), Japan and China.
- 5 Following the UK having the strongest GDP growth rates of any G7 country in 2013 of 2.2% and 2.9% in 2014; (the 2014 growth rate was also the strongest UK rate since 2006), the 2015 growth rate is likely to be a leading rate in the G7 again, possibly being equal to that of the US. However, quarter 1 of 2015 was weak at +0.4% (+2.9% year on year) with an improvement in quarter 2 of 2015 to +0.7% (+2.4% year on year).
- 6 Growth is expected to weaken to about +0.5% in quarter 3 of 2015 as the economy faces difficulties for exporters from the appreciation of Sterling against the Euro and weak growth in the European Union (EU), China and emerging

markets, as well as the dampening effect of the Government's continuing austerity programme, although the pace of reductions was eased in the May 2015 Budget.

- 7 The Bank of England's August 2015 Inflation Report had included a forecast for growth to remain around 2.4% – 2.8% over the next three years, driven mainly by strong consumer demand as a result of the pressure on the disposable incomes of consumers being reversed by a recovery in wage inflation at the same time that CPI inflation has fallen to, or near to, zero over the last quarter.
- 8 Investment expenditure is also expected to support growth. However, since the report was issued, the Purchasing Manager's Index, (PMI), for services on 5 October indicates a further decline in the growth rate to only +0.3% in quarter 4 of 2015, which would be the lowest rate since the end of 2012. Worldwide economic statistics and UK consumer and business confidence have also weakened, so it is likely that the next Inflation Report in November may cut those forecasts.
- 9 The Bank of England's August Inflation Report forecast was notably subdued in respect of inflation which was forecast to possibly get back up to the 2% target within the 2-3 year time horizon. However, with the price of oil taking a downward direction and Iran expected to soon rejoin the world oil market after the impending lifting of sanctions, there could be several more months of low inflation to come. This is also due to world commodity prices generally being depressed by the Chinese economic downturn.
- 10 There are therefore considerable risks around whether inflation will rise in the near future as strongly as had previously been expected; this will make it more difficult for the central banks of both the US and the UK to raise rates as soon as had been forecast until recently. The risks include the recent major concerns around the slowdown in Chinese growth, the knock-on impact on the earnings of emerging countries due to falling oil and commodity prices, and the volatility seen in equity and bond markets in 2015 so far, which could potentially impact the real economies rather than just financial markets.
- 11 The American economy made a strong comeback after a weak first quarter's growth at +0.6% (annualised), to grow by 3.9% in quarter 2 of 2015. There had been confident expectations during the summer that the Federal Reserve could start increasing rates at its meeting on 17 September 2015, or if not, by the end of 2015. However, recent news concerning Chinese and Japanese growth and the knock-on impact on emerging countries that are major suppliers of commodities, have been cited as the main reason for the Federal Reserve's decision not to start increasing rates. The 'nonfarm payrolls'¹ figures for September and revised August figures, issued on 2 October, were disappointingly weak and confirmed concerns that US growth is likely to weaken. This has pushed back expectations of a first rate increase from 2015 into 2016.

¹ A statistic researched, recorded and reported by the US Bureau of Labour Statistics intended to represent the total number of paid US workers of any business excluding general government employees, non-profit employees, individuals who work within private households and farm employees. This monthly information on salaries is an indicator of the health of the US economy.

- 12 In the Eurozone (EZ), the European Central Bank (ECB) began a massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing (QE) to buy up high credit quality government and other debt of selected EZ countries. This programme of €60bn of monthly purchases started in March 2015 and it is intended to continue initially to September 2016. This already appears to have had a positive effect in helping a recovery in consumer and business confidence and a start to a significant improvement in economic growth.
- 13 GDP growth rose to 0.5% in quarter 1 of 2015 (1.0% year on year) but came in at +0.4% (+1.5% year on year) in quarter 2 of 2015 and looks as if it may maintain this pace in quarter 3. However, the recent pessimistic Chinese and Japanese news has raised questions as to whether the ECB will need to boost its QE programme if it is to succeed in significantly improving growth in the EZ and getting inflation from the current level of around zero to its target of 2%.

Forecast of Treasury Advisors (Capita)

Capita's Interest Rate Forecast

- 14 The Council's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

Rate	Dec-15 %	Mar-16 %	Jun-16 %	Sep-16 %	Dec-16 %	Mar-17 %	Jun-17 %	Sep-17 %	Dec-17 %	Mar-18 %	Jun-18 %
Bank	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.75	1.75
5 yr PWLB	2.40	2.50	2.60	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50
10 yr PWLB	3.00	3.20	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.70	3.80	3.90	4.00	4.10	4.20
25 yr PWLB	3.60	3.80	3.90	4.00	4.10	4.20	4.30	4.40	4.50	4.60	4.60
50 yr PWLB	3.60	3.80	3.90	4.00	4.10	4.20	4.30	4.40	4.50	4.60	4.60

- 15 Capita Asset Services undertook its last review of interest rate forecasts on 11 August shortly after the quarterly Bank of England Inflation Report. Later in August, fears around the slowdown in China and Japan caused major volatility in equities and bonds and produced a move from equities into safer investments like gilts which caused PWLB rates to fall below the forecasts detailed in paragraph 14 for quarter 4 of 2015. However, there is much volatility in rates as news moves in negative or positive ways. In September, news in respect of Volkswagen, and other corporates, has compounded downward pressure on equity prices. This latest forecast includes a first increase in Bank Rate in quarter 2 of 2016.
- 16 Despite market turbulence since late August causing a sharp downturn in Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) rates, the overall trend in the longer term will be for gilt yields and PWLB rates to rise when economic recovery is firmly established. This is likely to be accompanied by rising inflation and consequent increases in Bank Rate, and the eventual unwinding of QE. Increasing investor confidence in eventual world economic recovery is also likely to compound this effect as recovery will encourage investors to switch from bonds to equities.

- 17 The overall balance of risks to economic recovery in the UK is currently evenly balanced. Only time will tell just how long this current period of strong economic growth will last; it also remains exposed to vulnerabilities in a number of key areas.
- 18 The disappointing US nonfarm payrolls figures and UK PMI services figures at the beginning of October have served to reinforce a trend of increasing concerns that growth is likely to be significantly weaker than had previously been expected. This, therefore, has markedly increased concerns, both in the US and UK, that growth is only being achieved by monetary policy being highly aggressive with central rates at near zero and huge QE in place.
- 19 In turn, this is also causing an increasing debate as to how realistic it will be for central banks to start reversing such aggressive monetary policy until such time as strong growth rates are more firmly established and confidence increases that inflation is going to get back to around 2% within a 2-3 year time horizon. Market expectations in October for the first Bank Rate increase have therefore shifted back sharply into the second half of 2016.
- 20 Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates currently include:
- Geopolitical risks in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia, increasing safe haven² flows.
 - UK economic growth turns significantly weaker than we currently anticipate.
 - Weak growth or recession in the UK's main trading partners - the EU, US and China.
 - A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis.
 - Recapitalisation of European banks requiring more government financial support.
 - Emerging country economies, currencies and corporates destabilised by falling commodity prices and / or the start of Federal Reserve rate increases, causing a flight to safe havens
- 21 The potential for upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates, especially for longer term PWLB rates include: -
- Uncertainty around the risk of a UK exit from the EU.
 - The ECB severely disappointing financial markets with a programme of asset purchases which proves insufficient to significantly stimulate growth in the EZ.

² Investments expected to retain value or even increase value in times of market turbulence.

- The commencement by the US Federal Reserve of increases in the funds rate causing a fundamental reassessment by investors of the relative risks of holding bonds as opposed to equities and leading to a major flight from bonds to equities.
- UK inflation returning to significantly higher levels than in the wider EU and US, causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy Update

- 22 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2015/16 was approved by the Council on 25 February 2015.

Capital Expenditure

- 23 The following table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed by Council.

Capital Expenditure by Service	2015/16 Original Estimate (£m)	2015/16 Approved Revisions (£m)	2014/15 Revised Estimate (£m)
Assistant Chief Executive	3.768	1.587	5.355
Children and Adults Services	34.366	14.403	48.769
Neighbourhoods	35.691	10.262	45.953
Regeneration and Economic Development	61.307	-19.089	42.218
Resources	13.348	0.675	14.023
Total General Fund	148.480	7.838	156.318

- 24 Taking into account reprofiling from the 2014/15 capital programme, additional approved grant funded expenditure and reprofiling into future years, the revised capital expenditure budget for the General Fund is £156.318m.
- 25 Details of the individual capital projects and scheme funding can be found in the Quarter 2 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for the General Fund – Period to 30 September 2015.

Impact of Capital Expenditure Plans

- 26 The following table draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans, highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt which is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision.

- 27 On the General Fund, the underlying borrowing requirement has been revised downwards by £13.136m.

Capital Expenditure	2015/16 Original Estimate (£m)	2015/16 Revised Estimate (£m)
General Fund	148.480	156.318
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	16.619	16.631
Capital grants	36.041	53.579
Revenue and Reserves	0.280	3.704
Total Financing	52.940	73.914
Borrowing Need	95.540	82.404

Capital Financing Requirement

- 28 The table shows the capital financing requirement (CFR), which is the underlying external need to borrow for a capital purpose.

	2014/15 Outturn Position (£m)	2015/16 Original Estimate (£m)	2015/16 Revised Estimate (£m)
CFR – Non Housing	392.459	507.927	494.791
CFR – Housing	244.000	0.000	0.000
Total CFR	636.459	507.927	494.791

Borrowing Strategy

- 29 The CFR shown above indicates the requirement for the Council to borrow to support its capital activities. This borrowing can be in the form of external sources (e.g. PWLB) or internal resources (e.g. use of reserves, working capital).
- 30 The Corporate Director Resources, under delegated powers, will adopt the most appropriate form of borrowing depending on the prevailing interest rates at the time.
- 31 Due to the overall financial position of the Council, no new borrowing has been raised during the period.
- 32 The overall borrowing position at 30 September 2015 was £246m. This relates to General Fund borrowing as all Housing debt was repaid as part of the transfer of housing stock.

Limits to Borrowing Activity

- 33 The first key control over the treasury activity is a Performance Indicator (PI) to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less

investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Net external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2015/16 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has an approved policy for borrowing in advance of need, and this will be used if it is considered prudent.

- 34 The Corporate Director Resources reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this PI.
- 35 A further PI controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised limit for external debt	2015/16 Original Indicator (£m)	2016/17 Original Indicator (£m)	2017/18 Original Indicator (£m)
Borrowing	508.000	506.000	489.000
Other long term liabilities	53.000	55.000	56.000
Total	561.000	561.000	545.000

Investment Portfolio

- 36 In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the 'Capita's Interest Rate Forecast', it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the 0.5% Bank Rate.
- 37 The continuing potential for a re-emergence of a Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, and its impact on banks, prompts a low risk and short term strategy. Given this risk environment, investment returns are likely to remain low.
- 38 The main rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's) have, through much of the financial austerity period, provided some institutions with a ratings "uplift" due to implied levels of sovereign support. From 2015, in response to the evolving regulatory regime, all three agencies have begun removing these "uplifts" with the timing of the process determined by regulatory progress at the national level.
- 39 The process has been part of a wider reassessment of methodologies by each of the rating agencies. In addition to the removal of implied support, new methodologies are now taking into account additional factors, such as regulatory capital levels. In some cases, these factors have "netted" each other off, to leave underlying ratings either unchanged or little changed. A

consequence of the new methodologies is that they have also lowered the importance of the (Fitch) Support and Viability ratings and have seen the (Moody's) Financial Strength rating withdrawn by the agency.

- 40 In keeping with the agencies' new methodologies, the credit element of the Council's own credit assessment process now focuses solely on the Short and Long Term ratings of an institution. While this is the same process that has always been used by Standard & Poor's, this has been a change to the use of Fitch and Moody's ratings. It is important to note that the other key elements to the process, the assessment of Rating Watch and Outlook information as well as the Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay have not been changed.
- 41 The evolving regulatory environment, along with the rating agencies' new methodologies also means that sovereign ratings are now of lesser importance in the assessment process. Where through the crisis, typically, the highest sovereign rating was assigned to criteria, the new regulatory environment is attempting to break the link between sovereign support and domestic financial institutions. The Council continues to specify a minimum sovereign rating of AAA for non-UK banks. This is in relation to the fact that the underlying domestic and where appropriate, international, economic and wider political and social background will still have an influence on the ratings of a financial institution.
- 42 It is important to note that these rating agency changes do not reflect any changes in the underlying status or credit quality of the institution, merely a reassessment of their methodologies in light of enacted and future expected changes to the regulatory environment in which financial institutions operate.
- 43 While some banks have received lower credit ratings as a result of these changes, this does not mean that they are less credit worthy than they were previously. Rather, in the majority of cases, this mainly reflects the fact that implied sovereign government support has effectively been withdrawn from banks. They are now expected to have sufficiently strong balance sheets to be able to withstand foreseeable adverse financial circumstances without government support. In many cases, the balance sheets of banks are now much more robust than they were before the 2008 financial crisis when they had higher ratings. However, this is not universally applicable, leaving some entities with modestly lower ratings than they had through much of the "support" phase of the financial crisis.

- 44 The Council held £236m of investments at 30 September 2015, and the constituent parts of the investment position are:

Sector	Country	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-12 months
Banks	UK	£19m	£19m	£104m
Banks	Non UK	0	0	0
Building Societies	UK	0	0	£27m
Central Government/Other Local Authorities	UK	£1m	0	0
Money Market Funds	UK	£66m	0	0
Total		£86m	£19m	£131m

- 45 As set out earlier in the report, it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the 0.5% Bank Rate. As a result investment returns are likely to remain low.
- 46 The investment portfolio yield for the first six months of the year is 0.65% against a benchmark 7 day London Inter Bank Bid Rate (the rate at which banks take deposits from each other) yield of 0.36%.
- 47 The original budgeted investment return for 2015/16 was £1.641m, however it is now expected that this will be exceeded by around £0.964m. This is in the main due to a higher than anticipated level of cash balances.

Icelandic Bank Deposits

- 48 The County Council had £7m deposited across the Icelandic banks; Glitnir Bank hf (£4m); Landsbanki (£2m) and Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd (£1m), which all went into administration in October 2008.
- 49 The Council has been pursuing recovery of the £7m since 2008 and the position with Glitnir and Landsbanki is now closed. The Council received £6.2m (including accrued interest) in respect of £6m principal deposited.
- 50 All monies within Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander are currently subject to the respective administration and receivership processes. The Council's recovery position at 30 September 2015 is that £0.836m of the outstanding balance (including accrued interest) has been repaid. In the long run, it is anticipated £0.857m of the principal deposited will be recovered.
- 51 In total up to 30 September, the Council has therefore recovered £7.036m against the original £7m and for reporting purposes it is recommended that this matter can now be closed.

Recommendations and Reasons

52 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Note the contents of the mid-year review report and agree to report further to Full Council.
- b) Agree that no further reporting on the Icelandic Bank Deposit is required on the basis that the full £7m at risk has been recovered.

Background papers

- (a) County Council – 25 February 2015 – General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18, Revenue and Capital Budget 2015/16 and 2015/16 Council House and Garage Rent Proposals
- (b) County Council – 23 September 2015 – Treasury management Outturn 2014/15
- (c) Cabinet – 18 November 2015 – Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period ended 30 September 2015
- (d) Capita Treasury Solutions – Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy – Mid Year Review 2015/16 – English Authorities

Contact:	Jeff Garfoot	Tel:	03000 261946
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance -

Details of the overall financing of the Council's anticipated capital expenditure, along with forecast borrowing and investment income returns are provided in the report.

Staffing –

None

Risk –

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty –

None

Accommodation -

None

Crime and Disorder -

None

Human Rights -

None

Consultation -

None

Procurement -

None

Disability issues -

None

Legal Implications –

None

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Cabinet

18 November 2015

**Forecast of Revenue and Capital
Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and
Housing Revenue Account – Period to
30 September 2015**



**Report of Corporate Management Team
Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources
Councillor Alan Napier, Portfolio Holder for Finance**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Cabinet with a forecast of 2015/16 revenue and capital outturn, based on the period to 30 September 2015 for the Council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account. The report also includes the forecasts for the Council Tax Collection Fund and Business Rates Collection Fund.

Background

- 2 This report updates the position presented to Cabinet on 16 September 2015 that showed the forecasted revenue and capital outturn based on expenditure and income up to 30 June 2015 and incorporates the recommended changes to cash limits within Service Groupings agreed at that time, providing updates to these forecasts and revised forecast balances on general and earmarked reserves at 31 March 2016.

Revenue – Current Position to 30 September 2015

- 3 The table overleaf compares the forecast with the revised budgets and is shown in more detail in Appendices 2 and 3.
- 4 The following adjustments have been made to the Original Budget that was agreed by Full Council in February 2015:
 - (i) agreed budget transfers between Service Groupings;
 - (ii) additions to budget for items outside the cash limit (for Cabinet consideration and recommended approval);
 - (iii) planned use of or contribution to Earmarked Reserves (please refer to Appendix 4).

Forecast of General Fund Revenue Outturn 2015/16

	Original Budget 2015/16	Budget - incorporating adjustments	Service Groupings Forecast of Outturn	Forecasted Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assistant Chief Executive	10,163	9,493	9,256	-237
Children and Adults Services	251,450	259,836	252,655	-7,181
Neighbourhood Services	104,236	109,432	108,021	-1,411
Regeneration and Economic Development Resources	41,535	26,752	26,120	-632
	15,855	18,023	17,033	-990
Cash Limit Position	423,239	423,536	413,085	-10,451
Contingencies	5,690	2,380	2,380	0
Corporate Costs	4,980	4,091	3,902	-189
NET COST OF SERVICES	433,909	430,007	419,367	-10,640
Capital charges	-48,977	-48,977	-48,977	0
Interest and Investment income	-1,641	-3,168	-4,132	-964
Interest payable and similar charges	38,530	46,031	45,773	-258
Levies	0	16,555	16,555	0
Net Expenditure	421,821	440,448	428,586	-11,862
Funded By:				
Council tax	-174,134	-174,134	-174,134	0
Use of earmarked reserves	-11,511	-16,230	-16,230	0
Estimated net surplus on Collection Fund	-500	-500	-500	0
Start up Funding Assessment	-215,540	-215,540	-215,540	0
New Homes Bonus	-8,322	-8,322	-8,323	-1
New Homes Bonus - Re-imburement	-377	-377	-377	0
Section 31 Grant - Small business rate relief	-2,398	-2,398	-2,424	-26
Section 31 Grant - Settlement Funding Assessment Adj	-919	-919	-1,022	-103
Section 31 Grant - Retail Adjustment	-1,681	-1,681	-1,648	33
Education Services Grant	-6,002	-6,002	-5,975	27
Forecast contribution to/from(-) Cash Limit Reserve	-437	-14,345	-3,894	10,451
Forecast contribution to General Reserves	0	0	1,481	1,481
TOTAL	0	0	0	0

Note: Negative figures in the variance column represent an underspend or overachievement of income

Note: the Regeneration and Economic Development (RED) budget has changed as a result of moving the North East Combined Authority levy for 2015/16 of £16.176m from the Net Cost of Services to reflect the correct accounting treatment. Other minor levies were also moved from the Resources budget.

- 5 The updated position in terms of sums provisionally agreed with Service Groupings as being outside the Cash Limit includes a new cost for premises related expenditure for former school buildings are shown in the table below:

SERVICE GROUPING	PROPOSAL	Amount
		£m
All Services	Car Mileage	0.240
Children and Adults Services	Premises related costs for former school buildings	0.091
Neighbourhoods	Climate Change Levy	0.200
RED	Whinney Hill School – Security (Surplus Property)	0.035
Total		0.566

- 6 The premises related costs for the former Durham Free School, Pelton Roseberry School and Gilesgate School which are no longer in use are proposed as being outside the cash limit. These costs would previously have been funded from the respective schools' budgets.

Review of Reserves

- 7 A fundamental review of all Reserves has been carried out to determine the available scope to utilise reserves to support corporate objectives. The review has resulted in the following reserves being identified as being available:

Reserve	Comment	Amount Available £m
Planned Delivery Programme	This reserve was created in the knowledge of savings targets in future years of austerity becoming more difficult to deliver and would therefore be used to balance the Council's Annual Budget when needed.	20.000
Housing Revenue Account	The Council's housing stock was transferred to the County Durham Housing Group (CDHG) on 13 April 2015. The remaining HRA reserves after transfer have reverted to the County Council. This transfer of reserves will enable the Council to close the HRA.	22.000
Demographic Reserve	This reserve was created to support increasing costs in relation to demographic pressures in Children and Adult Services (CAS). The reserve in recent years has been utilised to delay the impact of demographic pressures upon the MTFP. The lower than forecast Revenue Support Grant (RSG) reduction in 2016/17 has	19.450

Reserve	Comment	Amount Available £m
	enabled the Council to fully fund the demographic budget pressure and negate the need to utilise the reserve.	
Insurance Reserve	The current balance on this reserve is £15.6m. Although the Council faces several significant uninsured risks it is felt reasonable at this stage to reduce this reserve.	2.000
Local Council Tax Support	The Council received a Government grant in 2013/14 when Council Tax Benefit was localised to support the implementation of a local scheme. The Council is satisfied that risks in relation to any increased costs associated with Local Council Tax Support are accounted for in the Council Tax Collection Fund, therefore this reserve is no longer needed.	1.031
TOTAL RESERVES AVAILABLE		64.481

- 8 The Reserves review has therefore identified the availability of £64.481m to support corporate objectives. It is recommended that the £64.481m is transferred into the following reserves.

Budget Support Reserve: £30m

- 9 The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Summer Budget identified that Local Government would continue to face funding reductions until 2019/20. In the development of MTFP(6) it is recognised that frontline services will be significantly impacted in future years. The creation of a £30m Budget Support Reserve will enable the Council to protect frontline services for a period and ensure that the Council is able to plan effectively and consult fully on future years' savings plans.

Office Accommodation Capital Reserve: £34.481m

- 10 Cabinet agreed to the release of the Aykley Heads site for regeneration on 15 July 2015. The report recognised the need to invest in a new headquarters, which it was estimated would cost in the region of £50m. In addition to the investment in new headquarters there will also be capital costs in relation to the Council's other strategic sites and for the site works on Aykley Heads. There is presently an £8m Office Accommodation Capital Reserve and this transfer will result in a total reserve of £42.481m which can be utilised to support this major project subject to Cabinet approval.

- 11 In addition to the reserve adjustments detailed above, consideration has also been given to the current forecast balance on the MTFP ER/VR Redundancy Reserve. It is presently forecast that the reserve will have a balance of £6.2m at the end of 2015/16. In total £30m will have been drawn from this reserve

since its creation in 2011. To ensure there is sufficient reserve available to support further workforce reductions up to 2019/20, this reserve needs to be replenished. On that basis it is recommended that Service Grouping Cash Limit reserves are reduced by £10m to replenish the MTFP ER/VR Redundancy reserve. The apportionment of the £10m top slice is detailed below:

	£m
ACE	0.162
CAS	4.379
NS	2.039
RED	0.964
RES	2.456
TOTAL	10.000

- 12 After adjusting the budgets as detailed above the forecast outturn for Cash Limit Reserves and the General Reserve are summarised in the table below:

Type of Reserve	Opening Balance as at 1 April 2015	Budgeted use at 1 April 2015	Movement during 2015/16		2015/16 Forecast of Outturn
			Planned contribution to (-) or use of reserve	Contribution to (-) or use of reserve	
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Service Grouping Cash Limit					
Assistant Chief Executive	-0.773	0.000	0.755	-0.237	-0.255
Children and Adults Services	-9.443	0.249	6.287	-7.181	-10.088
Neighbourhoods	-5.076	0.080	2.589	-1.411	-3.818
Regeneration and Econ Development Resources	-3.216	0.000	1.261	-0.632	-2.587
	-3.857	0.108	3.016	-0.990	-1.723
TOTAL CASH LIMIT RESERVE	-22.365	0.437	13.908	-10.451	-18.471
General Reserve	-28.897	0.000	0.000	-1.481	-30.378

- 13 The forecasted Cash Limit and General Reserves position is a prudent one given the forecasted levels of savings the Council needs to make of £102.8m over 2016/17 to 2018/19, as the delivery of such is becoming more and more difficult to achieve.
- 14 The reasons for the major variances against the revised budgets are detailed by each Service Grouping below.

Assistant Chief Executive (ACE)

- 15 The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is a cash limit underspend of £0.237m for the year after taking account of the forecast use of reserves and items outside the cash limit. This represents a relatively small increased

underspend when compared to the Quarter 1 forecast of £0.152m underspend.

- 16 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across ACE to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons for the projected underspend is the net effect of the following items:
- Partnerships and Community Engagement - £29k underspend, primarily due to a managed underspend on supplies and services related costs within the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs).
 - Planning and Performance - £22k managed underspend on employee related costs due to the management of vacancies and reduced hours.
 - Policy and Communications - £0.186m underspend, predominantly resulting from a £95k managed underspend on employee related costs across the service together with a £91k underspend on the supplies and services budget through tight control of expenditure in this area.
- 17 In arriving at the forecast cash limit outturn position £63k relating to contributions to and from reserves and cash limits have been excluded from the outturn:
- 18 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the total cash limit reserve forecasted to be carried forward for ACE is £0.255m from April 2016.

Children and Adults Services

- 19 The 2015/16 projected outturn position for Children and Adults Services (CAS), based on the position to 30 September 2015, is a cash limit underspend of £7.181m. This represents circa 2.8% of the total budget for CAS.
- 20 The projected outturn takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit including redundancy costs which are met from the corporate reserves, capital accounting entries and the use of or contributions to earmarked reserves.
- 21 There are premises related costs of circa £91k re the former Durham Free School, Pelton Roseberry and Gilesgate which have been provisionally treated as outside the cash limit.
- 22 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across CAS to remain within the cash limit. The forecast underspend is accounted for by the net effect of the following items:
- Early achievement of a number of proposed future MTFP savings from management and support service proposals across the Adult Care and related areas, together with the careful management and control of vacant posts and supplies and services budgets across the service has created a projected net underspend for the year of circa £5.4m.

- Net spend on adult care packages is forecast to be circa £2.1m below budget, which represents circa 2% of the adult social care budget. This area of spend is being closely monitored to assess the impact of demographic and procedural/operational changes. Ongoing savings have arisen from the consistent and effective application of the existing eligibility criteria, and the ongoing transformational change agenda, linked to the provision of social care, will further refine processes. CAS Service Managers are reviewing their approach to current savings in order to consider building this increased saving associated with consistent application of eligibility criteria into the MTFP in future years. This will need to be carefully considered in light of transition cases, the potential for increased care package costs linked to older carers, and general increases in demand.
- Children's Services is forecasting a net overspend of £0.535m. This is primarily related to additional staffing costs incurred to provide required cover for absences, vacancies and higher than budgeted costs associated with the looked after children service, offset by additional income within the One Point Service, combined with reduced premises and supplies and services costs. In terms of the looked after children service, work is underway to set out plans for MTFP savings planned in this area in future years, in line with the increased pressures presently being faced. An Innovations and Transformation programme has also been set up to address budget pressures in this area.
- The Education Service is currently forecasting a net underspend of £0.231m. An underspend of £0.911m in relation to staff vacancies, reduction in pension liabilities and additional Service Level contract income is offset by a projected overspend on Home to School Transport of £0.680m which is principally due to an increase in pupils with Special Educational Need and Disabilities, that often require individual transport arrangements, and an increase in contract prices. Work is underway to better understand these pressures in light of further savings anticipated from the ongoing review of the home to school transport budget, though there may be a need for CAS to adjust the base budget in 2016/17 to offset these pressures in the short term. There has also been increased liability following the outcome of an employment tribunal legal case which has now been finalised and an additional £0.385m is to be funded from the CAS Cash Limit.

23 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including the transfer to or from Reserves in year, the estimated cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Children and Adults Services is forecast to be £10.088m – a forecasted increase of £0.645m for 2015/16.

Neighbourhood Services

- 24 The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is a cash limit underspend of £1.411m, after taking into account the forecast use of reserves and items outside the cash limit.
- 25 The forecast underspend is a managed position, reflecting the proactive management of activity by Heads of Service across Neighbourhoods to

remain within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are shown below:

- Within Direct Services, there is an overachievement in the surplus generated by Building Services of approximately £0.900m due to the level of turnover being significantly higher than originally anticipated. A review of the charge out rates is currently underway which will involve increasing the income budget to a more realistic level for 2016/17, and this should result in the surplus being closer to the budgeted level next year. In addition, there is £0.810m of 2016/17 MTFP savings that have been achieved early.
- Technical Services is showing a forecast underspend of £0.219m. This is due to additional income within Design Services of £0.450m, which is being partially offset by a net overspend of approximately £0.200m within Highways Services, where the additional surplus on the trading account areas have offset additional policy led expenditure on highways maintenance in relation to Category 1 and 2 defects.
- Environment, Health and Consumer Protection is projected to underspend by £0.112m, largely attributable to underspends on employees, supplies and services and transport in Health Protection, Consumer Protection and Environmental Protection.
- Within Strategic Waste there have been significant increases in the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) costs of £0.900m, which is as a result of a national reduction in the market value of recycled materials and therefore outside the control of the Council, These overspends are being offset by savings of £0.340m on the waste disposal contract budgets.

26 In arriving at the forecast outturn position, £2.226m relating to contributions to and from reserves and cash limits have been excluded from the outturn figure.

27 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Neighbourhood Services is £3.818m.

Regeneration and Economic Development (RED)

28 The forecast revenue outturn for Regeneration and Economic Development is a cash limit underspend of £0.632m. This takes into account adjustments for sums outside the cash limit such as redundancy costs which are met from an earmarked reserve, year-end capital accounting entries and use of contributions to earmarked reserves.

29 The forecast underspend is a managed position. The Heads of Service across RED continue to proactively manage activity to remain within the cash limit. The main reasons accounting for the outturn position are shown below:

- Strategy Programmes and Performance - £41k managed saving on employee related costs due to vacancies, maternity leave and staff working reduced hours.

- Economic Development and Housing - £0.317m underspend, primarily due to managed savings on employee related costs as a result of restructuring and residual income from the FamilyWise project.
 - Planning and Assets - £0.157m overspend, which is broken down into a £0.180m underspend in the Planning Service and a £0.337m overspend on Assets. The underspend in the Planning Service primarily results from an increase in planning fee income. Assets is continuing to experience income pressures, mainly from Newgate Street in Bishop Auckland, the Brackenhill Centre in Peterlee, the Millennium Square in Durham City and the Beveridge Arcades where rental income is not being achieved.
 - Transport - £0.431m underspend, primarily resulting from reduced payments on the Bus and Rail contracts.
- 30 In arriving at the forecast outturn position some £0.980m relating to contributions to and from reserves and cash limits has been excluded from the outturn.
- 31 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecasted cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Regeneration and Economic Development is £2.587m.

Resources

- 32 The forecast revenue outturn for 2015/16 is a cash limit underspend of £0.990m for the year after taking account of the forecast use of reserves and items outside the cash limit.
- 33 The forecast underspend is a managed position. The Heads of Service across Resources continue to proactively manage activity to remain within the cash limit. The projected underspend position is the net effect of the following items:
- Corporate Finance is forecast to underspend by £0.162m. £0.122m of this relates to a managed underspend in pay, with £18k from over recovery of income and £22k from supplies and services and transport.
 - Financial Services is forecast to underspend by £0.276m, consisting primarily of a managed underspend against employees (£0.204m), staff travel costs (£0.113m) and a forecast over recovery of income (£0.210m), offset by overspends on work packages (£0.150m) and supplies and services (£0.114m).
 - Human Resources is forecast to underspend by £22k through minor variances for overachieved income and supplies and services.
 - ICT Services is forecasting an underspend position of £3k, through underspends on transport (£70k), supplies and services (£66k) and premises (£3k), offset by overspends on employees (£76k) and Digital Durham (£60k).

- Internal Audit and Risk is forecast to underspend by £0.119m resulting from a £75k underspend on employees and a £45k over recovery of income plus other minor variances.
 - Legal and Democratic Services is forecast to underspend by £0.316m, with a £0.322m underspend on employees, following the implementation of a restructure to achieve MTFP savings.
 - Service Management is forecasting a £92k underspend position arising from Service Level Agreement income from Northumberland and NECA for HR support.
 - Housing Benefits is forecasting a balanced budget position.
- 34 There is also a £0.189m underspend against Centrally Administered Costs, comprising expenses associated with raising loans (£41k), Audit Fees (£94k), subscriptions (£18k), over recovery of credit card income (£15k) and other miscellaneous headings (£21k).
- 35 In arriving at the forecast outturn position contributions to and from reserves and cash limits have been excluded from the outturn for both Resources (£0.726m net contribution from reserves) and Centrally Administered Costs (£0.411m net contribution to reserves).
- 36 Taking the projected outturn position into account, including items proposed to be treated as outside the cash limit, the forecast cash limit reserve to be carried forward for Resources is £1.723m.

Central Budgets

- Interest Payable and Similar Charges - Capital Financing

- 37 Following a review of capital financing costs, linked to re-profiling within the capital programmes earlier in the year, there is a forecast underspend of £0.258m. This saving is being achieved due to lower than forecast interest rates on loans and borrowing not needing to take place yet due to higher levels of cash balances than forecast.

- Interest and Investment Income

- 38 The forecast of outturn at this stage is an overachievement of income of £0.964m which is due to a higher than anticipated level of cash balances. This is due in the main to slower than expected use of reserves and capital expenditure.

Council Earmarked Reserves Forecast

- 39 The table at Appendix 4 sets out the 59 earmarked reserves that the Council has plus two earmarked reserves for schools, where funding has been set aside in anticipation of future expenditure and shows the forecasted balance on these reserves by 31 March 2016.

- 40 A summary of the latest forecast of Council reserves by 31 March 2016 is shown below:

	Earmarked	Cash Limit	TOTAL
	£m	£m	£m
Opening Earmarked Balances as at 1 April 2015	-157.571	-22.365	-179.936
Less/Plus Forecasted usage/increase of Earmarked Reserves	-13.955	3.894	-10.061
Forecasted Earmarked Reserve Balance as at 31 March 2016	-171.526	-18.471	-189.997

Schools

- 41 The current schools forecasts are summarised below:

Schools forecasting a surplus above 2.5% of funding						
	Nursery	PRU	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Number	12	-	187	7	9	215
Forecast	(£0.660m)	-	(£16.082m)	(£1.599m)	(£1.773m)	(£20.114m)
Schools forecasting a surplus of less than 2.5% of funding						
	Nursery	PRU	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Number	-	-	18	6	-	24
Forecast	-	-	(£0.217m)	(£0.309m)	-	(£0.526m)
Schools forecasting a deficit						
	Nursery	PRU	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Number	-	1	3	3	-	7
Forecast	-	£0.450m	£0.022m	£2.895m	-	£3.367m
Total						
	Nursery	PRU	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Number	12	1	208	16	9	246
Forecast	(£0.660m)	£0.450m	(£16.277m)	£0.987m	(£1.773m)	(£17.273m)

- 42 Compared to Quarter 1 there are three fewer primary schools reported above due to them converting to academies.

- 43 After excluding the academy conversions, the overall change from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2 is a £0.381m reduction in the forecast net balances held by schools at 31 March 2016, when the retained balances are forecast to be £17.743m.

- 44 One more school is forecasting a deficit at the end of 2015/16 than previously forecast and the total forecast deficit forecast has increased by £32k, mainly because of an increase in the forecast deficit of the Council's Pupil Referral Unit.
- 45 Of the remaining schools in deficit, the three primary schools are beginning restructuring processes to address their financial position. The three secondary schools are closely monitoring their budgets, but the Council is mindful of the need to provide places for their pupils and these schools cannot address their deficits in the short-term without unacceptable impacts on the standard of education that they are able to offer to their pupils.
- 46 The School Funding Team are visiting all schools this term for autumn budget reviews and some schools will be facing significant financial pressures next year, including the effects of changes to employers' contributions for National Insurance and pensions. It is likely that there will be a significant drawdown on school surpluses next year, in order to balance budgets, which will create a greater challenge for 2017/18.
- 47 The Schools will also be affected by planned changes to formula funding; subject to Council approval and any changes to statutory regulation, the primary lump sum will reduce from £0.175m to £0.168m in 2016/17 and then to £0.160m in 2017/18. A planned transfer of £1.5m from primary and secondary school funding to SEN provision in 2016/17 has been deferred pending a full review of SEN provision which is currently underway, but which may need to be implemented in 2017/18. These transitional arrangements will be funded through the application of unallocated centrally retained DSG reserves in 2016/17, which are ring-fenced to schools.
- 48 Officers from CAS and Finance have met to discuss our approach to identifying schools causing concern, and how we address their issues in a strategic way. Consultation with the Schools Forum and schools about the reduction in the primary lump sum has highlighted the number of small schools in the County and the cost to formula funding in respect of the lump sum, which is paid to every school, regardless of size. The Council and schools will work more closely together to look at ways of re-organising schools to reduce the number of small schools and thus release more money for pupil-led funding.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 49 On 13 April 2015, the Council transferred its housing stock of 18,500 dwellings to the County Durham Housing Group Ltd. Consent was received from the Secretary of State to close down the HRA any time from 30 April 2015 onwards as the Council is no longer a social housing landlord and not required to maintain a ring-fenced HRA.
- 50 There were some residual transactions still taking place reflecting the relatively short period of activity in 2015/16 and also costs associated with delivering stock transfer in April which have been met from available income and reserves. All transactions are now complete and the HRA will now be closed.

Capital

Background

- 51 The General Fund (GF) capital budget for 2015/16 was set at £148.480m by Council on 25 February 2015. Re-profiling from the 2014/15 capital programme outturn into 2015/16, amounting to £18.736m was reported to Cabinet on 15 July 2015 and was included in the Quarter 1 Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn Report to Cabinet 16 September 2015.
- 52 The Council's Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) that closely monitors the capital programme has since recommended approval to Cabinet of further revisions to the capital programme, taking into account additional resources received by the authority and further requests for re-profiling as Service Management Teams continue to monitor and review their capital schemes.

Current Position

- 53 The following table summarises the latest capital budget considered by MOWG on 5 October 2015, along with the original budget and the Quarter 1 budget reported in July. The table also shows the forecast outturn for each service and the actual capital spend as at 30 September 2015.

Service Grouping	Original Budget 2015/16	Revised Budget at Quarter 1 2015/16	Amendments Recommended by MOWG	Revised Budget 2015/16 at Quarter 2 October MOWG	Projected Outturn 2015/16	Actual Spend to 30 Sept 2015
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Assistant Chief Executives	3.768	5.681	-0.326	5.355	5.355	0.847
Children and Adult Services	34.366	50.724	-1.955	48.769	48.769	21.838
Neighbourhoods	35.691	48.504	-2.551	45.953	45.953	17.587
Regeneration and Economic Development	61.307	40.611	1.607	42.218	42.218	9.617
Resources	13.348	13.909	0.114	14.023	14.023	4.441
Total	148.480	159.429	-3.111	156.318	156.318	54.330

- 54 At this stage of the year expenditure is not at expected levels, with only 35% of the total estimated spend for the year having been incurred in the first six months of the year. All service groupings have been asked to thoroughly review all capital budget profiles to determine whether budgets should be reprofiled into the future.
- 55 Since the Quarter 1 2015/16 budget was reported to Cabinet on 16 September 2015, MOWG has approved a number of variations to the capital programme which are a result of additional resources received by the Council as well as reductions in grants notified by central government departments. The variations of note are as follows:

- **ACE** – The Community Buildings Budget received a contribution of £3k from Ludworth Community Association.
- **Resources** – The ICT budget, covering various equipment and software replacement schemes has been increased by £0.350m. The increase will be funded by Direct Revenue Contributions to the value of £0.270m and £80k from the ICT Trading Reserve.
- **RED** – Section 106 funding to the value of £0.208m has been secured towards capital projects in Murton (£83k), improvements to the Holliday Park project in Langley Moor (£75k), Affordable Housing projects (£5k) as well as the Heart of Teesdale Landscape scheme (£45k). The School Demolition programme is to be increased by £1.418m and will be funded from anticipated capital receipts to the value of £1.202m and £0.216m from Capital Contingencies. The South Moor Regeneration scheme budget is to be increased by Private Sector Contributions of £31k and British Gas Ecofunding of £36k. The Group Repairs in Craghead will also receive British Gas Ecofunding to the value of £68k. The North East Combined Authority (NECA) has agreed to contribute £0.600m towards the Durham Rail Cycle Links project.
- **Neighbourhood Services** – The Burnigill Bank scheme has received additional funding to the value of £0.248m from Network Rail and Environment Agency Grant payments of £0.276m have now been received towards flood defence schemes in the Chester-le- Street area.
- **CAS** – Wolsingham School has been awarded £95k from Sport England towards the MUGA
- **RED** – The NECA Budget for Transport Related Schemes – has been reduced by £0.100m following the announcement from NECA in July 2015 that the £0.100m had been deducted prior to the payment of the Quarter 1 Integrated Transport and Maintenance Block Grant.

56 Budget managers continue to challenge and review the programming and phasing of works, which has resulted in the re-profiling of the following budgets in line with anticipated activity:

- **ACE – Assets to Communities** – It was agreed to carry forward £0.100m from 2015/16 to 2016/17 to reflect the anticipated cost of Capital Defects work within this budget area.
- **CAS – Public Health** - £1.160m relating to three Public Health schemes is to be carried forward from 2015/16 into 2016/17; this includes £0.160m relating to the Drug Estate Dilapidations budget as ongoing negotiations regarding premises to be vacated have indicated that the associated dilapidation works will now take place in 2016/17. The £0.500m budget relating to establishment of Safe Walking Routes has also been re-profiled from 2015/16 to 2016/17 to reflect the revised completion schedule. Due to delays in obtaining the relevant approvals and identifying suitable properties in the area the £0.500m Drug and Alcohol Alterations Castlebridge, Bishop Auckland has been re-profiled from 2015/16 to 2016/17.

- **CAS – School Related** – MOWG agreed to bring forward £0.500m of the Unprogrammed Capital Grant budget from 2017/18 and £0.152m of that budget from 2016/17 into 2015/16 to meet the cost of anticipated work in the 2015/16 financial year. Permission was also granted to re-profile £1.300m of the Priority School Building budget from 2015/16 into 2016/17 to reflect service delivery.
- **Neighbourhood Services** – It was agreed to re-profile £3.448m from 2015/16 to 2016/17 relating to the proposed programme delivery of Waste Management schemes, to re-profile £3.810m of the Street Lighting Energy Reduction Programme from 2017/18 into 2018/19 and to bring forward £0.330m of the budget for the Refurbishment of Stainton Grove Waste Transfer Station from 2016/17 into 2015/16 to reflect the progress made to date.
- **RED – Durham Rail Station Cycle Links** – Permission was sought to re-profile £0.450m of the additional £0.600m NECA funding received in 2015/16 into 2016/17 in line with the schedule of work to be undertaken.

Capital Financing

57 The following table summarises the recommended financing of the revised Capital Programme:

Financing – General Fund Capital Programme 2015/16

Financed By:	Original Budget 2015/16 £m	Quarter 1 Budget 2015/16 £m	Amendments Recommended by MOWG £m	Revised Budget 2015/16 £m
Grants and Contributions	36.041	52.572	1.007	53.579
Revenue and Reserves	0.280	2.913	0.791	3.704
Capital Receipts	16.619	16.619	0.012	16.631
Borrowing	95.540	87.324	-4.920	82.404
Total	148.480	159.428	-3.110	156.318

Council Tax and Business Rates Collection Funds

Council Tax

- 58 Council Tax is charged for all residential dwellings in bandings agreed by the Valuation Office Agency, which is part of Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs (HMRC). Exemptions, reliefs and discounts are awarded dependent upon the state of the property, its use and occupiers' personal circumstances.
- 59 The collection rate at 30 September 2015 was above the target of 56.0% and also an improvement of 0.56% points over 2014/15 actual collection. This has been achieved through more automation of the 2015/16 recovery schedule used to target non-payers

- 60 The in-year collection rates to Quarter 2 for the last three years including the current year are shown below:

Billing Year	Position at 30 September Each Year %
2015/16	56.47
2014/15	55.91
2013/14	55.18

- 61 The current overall collection rate for 2014/15 council tax liabilities is now 96.88% and for 2013/14 council tax liabilities is now 97.84%. The Council continues to recover Council Tax from earlier years and currently, the collection rate for all years excluding the current year is 99.02% which is in line with our medium term financial plan forecasts.
- 62 The income shown in the Council Tax Collection Fund is the amount collectable from Council Tax payers in the long run, rather than the actual cash collected in the year the charges are raised. Likely bad debts are accounted for by maintaining a bad debt provision. The amount estimated to be collectable is calculated each year by reference to the actual council taxbase for all domestic properties in the county (schedule of all properties, discounts and reliefs) with an allowance for non-collection, currently 1.5%.
- 63 Due to changes in the number of properties (including new build and demolitions), eligibility of discounts and reliefs during the year, the actual amount collectable increases or decreases from the estimate on a dynamic day to day basis. In addition, adjustments for previous billing years take place during each accounting year. All of these adjustments mean that the actual amounts collected will always differ from the estimate.
- 64 Such differences at the end of each accounting year, after taking into account the calculated change required in the 'bad debt' provision, determines whether a surplus or deficit has arisen, which is then shared proportionately between the Council and its major preceptors, being Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.
- 65 At 30 September 2015, the Estimated Outturn for the Council Tax Collection Fund is a surplus of £7.031m as shown in the table overleaf. Durham County Council's share of this forecasted surplus is £5.896m.

	£'000
Net Bills issued during Accounting Year 2015/16	279,939
LCTRS and previous years CTB adjustments	-52,389
Calculated change in provision for bad debts required and write offs	-2,459
Net income receivable (a)	225,091
Precepts and Demands	
Durham County Council	174,134
Parish and Town Councils	10,921
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	21,235
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority	12,261
Total Precepts and Demands (b)	218,551
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit for year (a) – (b)	6,540
Surplus Brought Forward from 2014/15	491
Estimated Year end surplus	7,031

- 66 At 15 January in each year, the estimated surplus or deficit on the Collection Fund Council Tax Account is notified to the two major preceptors for inclusion in the budget setting process for the following year as an additional income or expenditure item.
- 67 At 15 January 2016 an estimated year end position on the Council Tax Collection Fund for 2015/16 will be declared and taken into account in the budget setting process for 2016/17. Any difference between this and the actual surplus at 31 March 2016 will be carried forward to 15 January 2017 and will be taken into account in estimating the surplus/deficit for 2016/17, which will need to be taken into account for 2017/18 budget setting.
- 68 Over the past four years, the Council Tax provision for bad debts has been increasing steadily. This managed approach has been necessary to minimise the risk of the Council Tax Collection Fund moving into deficit whilst securing the robustness of the levels of provision held.

Business Rates

- 69 2013/14 was the first year of the new Business Rates Retention Scheme whereby the Council now has a vested budget interest and stake in the level of business rate yield, as income generated from Business Rates is now shared between Central Government (50%), Durham County Council (49%) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (1%). It is therefore, not only the accuracy and timeliness of bills levied and tax collected that is monitored and audited, but the level of income anticipated for the year is important and new monitoring procedures have been devised for this purpose.

- 70 Bills raised, exemptions and reliefs awarded are examined together with local knowledge of anticipated changes in reliefs such as Mandatory Charitable Relief and Discretionary Rate Relief on a monthly basis to enable a comparison with the January 2015 estimate of 2015/16 Business Rates income that was used for budget setting purposes. At 30 September 2015, the estimated outturn for the Collection Fund - Business Rates is a deficit of £5.545m, arrived at as shown in the table below, which takes into account the actual surplus brought forward from 2014/15, including the previously declared estimated surplus plus the undeclared surplus based upon the actual surplus as at 31 March 2015.

	£'000
Net rate yield for 2015/16 including previous year adjustments	117,728
Estimate of changes due to appeals lodged and future appeals	-9,539
Estimated losses in Collection – Provision for Bad Debts and Write-offs	-1,766
Net income receivable (a)	106,423
Agreed allocated shares	
Central Government (50%)	55,916
Durham County Council (49%)	54,798
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (1%)	1,118
Payment of Previous year's declared surplus	1,020
Cost of Collection Allowance and Renewable Energy (paid to Durham County Council)	640
Total fixed payments (b)	113,492
Net deficit for year (a) – (b)	-7,069
Declared Surplus brought forward from 2014/15	1,020
Undeclared Surplus brought forward from 2014/15	504
Estimated year end deficit	-5,545

- 71 The in-year estimated deficit of £7.069m is mainly due to forecasted increased loss of income from business rate payers' successful appeals so that they are paying less. This forecasted loss is being offset by the total surplus brought forward from 2014/15, leaving an estimated deficit of £5.545m at 31 March 2016. Any surpluses or deficits at 31 March in any year are shared proportionately between Durham County Council, Central Government and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue, Durham County Council's share being 49%. Durham County Council's share of the estimated year end deficit will therefore be £2.718m.
- 72 The forecasting of the outturn position on the Business Rate Collection Fund is volatile and is therefore being monitored very closely. It is important that the Council can accurately ascertain the net position of both the Council Tax and Business Rate Collection Funds as part of the development of MTFP(6).

- 73 The payment profile on collection performance is changing due to more businesses opting to spread their payments over 12 months rather than ten. The major Business Rates Payers have all opted to take up this opportunity to re-profile their cash flow. However, robust collection procedures have ensured that the challenging collection target of 58.0% has been marginally exceeded.
- 74 The in-year collection rates to Quarter 2 for the last three years, including the current year, are shown below:

Billing year	Position at 30 September Each Year %
2015/16	58.65
2014/15	58.00
2013/14	60.71

- 75 The 58.65% collection rate exceeds the target by 0.65 percentage points.
- 76 The current overall collection rate for 2014/15 business rate liabilities is now 98.18% and for 2013/14 business rate liabilities is now 98.9%. The Council continues to recover Business Rates from earlier years and currently, the collection rate for all years excluding the current year is 99.45% which is in line with our medium term financial plan forecasts.

Section 31 Grant - Small Business Rate Relief

- 77 Small Business Ratepayers with properties with rateable values under £12k benefit from relief on their rates payable. The Government has awarded local authorities a special 'Section 31' grant to cover their share of the shortfall in business rates that these small business ratepayers would have paid had the relief scheme not been in place.
- 78 Small Business Ratepayers with properties with rateable values up to £6k are currently being granted full relief instead of 50% relief under the previous scheme, and properties with rateable values between £6k and £12k have a tapered relief applied to them ranging from 100% down to 0%, but in all cases double the standard relief.
- 79 The Section 31 grant has been calculated as 50% of the extended small business rate relief awarded.
- 80 The Government has only agreed to pay Section 31 grant for the additional Small Business Rate Relief in respect of business rates bills and adjustments thereof relating to the period commencing 1 April 2013. Any adjustments that relate to bills for years prior to this will be dealt with as part of the normal Rate Retention shares. At 30 September 2015, the gross Small Business Relief awarded against 2015/16 Business Rates bills and adjustments to 2014/15 and 2013/14 bills is £9.774m, and on this the Council will receive £2.424m in Section 31 Grant, including the capping adjustment.

Other Section 31 Grants

- 81 In the Autumn Statement 2013 and 2014, additional Business Rate Reliefs were announced for 2014/15 and 2015/16 for which Section 31 Grants would be payable. These included one for properties empty from new, reoccupation

of long-term empty properties and an additional relief for small shops. Durham County Council will be recompensed for any retained rates foregone because of reliefs given.

- 82 When assessing estimated outturn income from Business Rates, due regard must also be given on the effect that changes in estimated reliefs will have on the Section 31 grants. At 30 September 2015, the surplus in Durham County Council's Section 31 grants (including Small Business Rate Relief) was £0.096m, in addition to the estimated deficit discussed above.
- 83 Whilst the surplus in S31 grants is accounted for in 2015/16, the deficit on Business Rates retention is accounted for in 2016/17.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 84 It is recommended that Cabinet:
1. Note the projected change in the Council's overall financial position for 2015/16.
 2. Agree the proposed 'sums outside the cash limit' for approval.
 3. Agree the revenue and capital budget adjustments.
 4. Note the creation of the Budget Support Reserve and the transfer of available reserves into Office Accommodation Capital Reserve.
 5. Note the transfer of £10m from Cash Limit reserves to replenish the MTFP ER/VR reserve
 6. Note the forecast use of Earmarked Reserves.
 7. Note the forecast end of year position for the Cash Limit and General Reserves.
 8. Note the position on the Capital Programme and the Collection Funds in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates.
 9. Note the closure of the Housing Revenue Account.

Background Papers

- (a) County Council – 25 February 2015 – General Fund Medium Term Financial Plan 2015/16 to 2017/18, Revenue and Capital Budget 2015/16
- (b) Cabinet – 15 July 2015 - 2014/15 Final Outturn for General Fund, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund
- (c) Cabinet – 16 September 2015 - Forecast of Revenue and Capital Outturn 2015/16 for General Fund and Housing Revenue Account – Period to 30 June 2015

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance -

The report details the 2015/16 forecast of outturn position for Revenue and Capital and details the forecast movement on Reserves.

Staffing -

None

Risk -

The figures contained within this report have been extracted from the General Ledger, and have been scrutinised and supplemented with information supplied by the Service Management Teams and budget holders. The projected outturn has been produced taking into consideration spend to date, trend data and market intelligence, and includes an element of prudence. This, together with the information supplied by Service Management Teams and budget holders, helps to mitigate the risks associated with achievement of the forecast outturn position.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty -

None

Accommodation -

None

Crime and Disorder -

None

Human Rights -

None

Consultation -

None

Procurement -

None

Disability Issues -

None

Legal Implications -

The outturn proposals contained within this report have been prepared in accordance with standard accounting policies and procedures.

Appendix 3: Revenue Summary by Expenditure / Income for the period ended 31 March 2016

	Original Budget 2015/16	Revised Budget	Proposed Budget Revisions	Agreed Budget	Service Groupings Forecast of Outturn	Corporate Costs	Sums Outside the Cash Limit	Cash Limit Reserve	Contribution to / Use of Earmarked Reserves	Revised Service Outturn	Forecasted Variance (including Corporate Costs)	Forecasted Variance - Corporate Costs
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Employees	470,911	481,351	1,339	482,690	479,197	484	0	-1,978	160	477,863	-4,827	-20
Premises	50,757	49,876	819	50,695	51,136	0	-90	-450	435	51,031	336	0
Transport	47,915	35,016	6,210	41,226	40,841	0	0	-500	503	40,844	-382	0
Supplies & Services	112,068	120,793	2,944	123,737	124,558	1,269	-2	-257	-2,668	122,900	-837	-152
Agency & Contracted	307,725	310,697	138	310,835	305,036	2,309	0	-420	-14	306,911	-3,924	-2
Transfer Payments	204,317	205,983	-9	205,974	202,826	0	0	0	-638	202,188	-3,786	0
Central Costs	96,263	96,562	333	96,895	97,685	0	0	0	220	97,905	1,010	0
DRF	0	125	0	125	125	0	0	0	0	125	0	0
Other	18,603	20,331	-133	20,198	20,078	0	0	-10,073	9,901	19,906	-292	0
Capital Charges	48,977	48,977	0	48,977	48,977	0	0	0	0	48,977	0	0
GROSS EXPENDITURE	1,357,536	1,369,711	11,641	1,381,352	1,370,459	4,062	-92	-13,678	7,899	1,368,650	-12,702	-174
Income												
- Specific Grants	564,352	577,026	313	577,339	571,898	45	0	0	-98	571,845	5,494	0
- Other Grants & conts	53,488	70,291	-101	70,190	72,811	0	0	0	-86	72,725	-2,535	0
- Sales	5,966	6,449	69	6,518	6,384	100	0	0	49	6,533	-15	0
- Fees & charges	104,473	104,311	-1,790	102,521	99,663	15	0	0	81	99,759	2,762	-15
- Rents	6,494	6,301	1,397	7,698	7,126	0	0	0	0	7,126	572	0
- Recharges	186,789	175,183	11,842	187,025	189,790	0	0	0	-92	189,698	-2,673	0
- Other	7,755	8,018	-89	7,929	9,702	0	-1	0	-229	9,472	-1,543	0
Total Income	929,317	947,579	11,641	959,220	957,374	160	-1	0	-375	957,158	2,062	-15
NET EXPENDITURE	428,219	422,132	0	422,132	413,085	3,902	-91	-13,678	8,274	411,492	-10,640	-189

Appendix 4: Earmarked Reserves Position as at 30 September 2015

	EARMARKED RESERVES AND CASH LIMIT RESERVES	SERVICE GROUPING	2014/15 CLOSING BALANCE	USE OF RESERVES	CONTRIBUTION TO RESERVES	TRANSFERS BETWEEN RESERVES	TOTAL MOVEMENT ON RESERVES	2015/16 CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2015
			£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
1	ACE AAP/Members Reserve	ACE	-3,699	674	0	-118	556	-3,143
2	ACE Grant Reserve	ACE	-194	48	-1,145	0	-1,097	-1,291
3	ACE Operational Reserve	ACE	-124	8	-88	-475	-555	-679
4	Social Care Reserve	CAS	-13,335	902	0	0	902	-12,433
5	Aycliffe Young People's Centre Reserve	CAS	-1,202	1,202	0	0	1,202	0
6	Continuing Professional Development Reserve	CAS	-1,035	566	-110	0	456	-579
7	Education Reserve	CAS	-2,440	578	-166	-1,409	-997	-3,437
8	Tackling Troubled Families	CAS	-2,027	281	-93	0	188	-1,839
9	Transformation Reserve	CAS	-1,483	0	-1,594	0	-1,594	-3,077
10	Innovations and YEI Redundancy Reserve	CAS	0	0	0	-1,000	-1,000	-1,000
11	Special Projects Reserve	CAS	-37	37	0	0	37	0
12	Public Health Reserve	CAS	-4,983	1,209	-300	0	909	-4,074
13	Neighbourhoods AAP Reserve	NS	-40	0	0	0	0	-40
14	Customer Services Reserve	NS	-373	350	0	0	350	-23
15	Direct Services Reserve	NS	-3,043	789	-96	0	693	-2,350
16	Env. Health and Consumer Protection Reserve	NS	-1,000	210	0	0	210	-790
17	Culture and Sport Reserve	NS	-3,193	536	0	0	536	-2,657
18	Strategic Waste Reserve	NS	-1,796	1,548	0	0	1,548	-248
19	Technical Services Reserve	NS	-2,922	702	0	0	702	-2,220
20	Transport Asset Management Programme Reserve	NS	-318	206	0	0	206	-112
21	Business Growth Fund Reserve	RED	-913	97	-278	0	-181	-1,094
22	Economic Development Reserve	RED	-1,486	316	0	0	316	-1,170
23	Planning Reserve	RED	-1,423	65	0	0	65	-1,358
24	North Pennines AONB Partnership Reserve	RED	-329	0	0	0	0	-329
25	Employability and Training Reserve	RED	-458	93	0	0	93	-365
26	RED Regeneration Reserve	RED	-1,344	0	-700	0	-700	-2,044
27	Housing Regeneration Reserve	RED	-410	0	-827	0	-827	-1,237
28	Housing Solutions Reserve	RED	-867	188	0	0	188	-679
29	Restructure Reserve	RED	-663	0	0	0	0	-663
30	Transport Reserve	RED	-287	0	0	0	0	-287
31	Funding and Programmes Management Reserve	RED	-140	45	0	0	45	-95
32	Resources Corporate Reserve	Resources	-984	59	0	0	59	-925
33	Resources DWP Grant Reserve	Resources	-1,930	217	-469	0	-252	-2,182
34	Resources System Development Reserve	Resources	-840	205	0	0	205	-635
35	Resources Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve	Resources	745	0	0	0	0	-745
36	Resources Single Fraud Incentive Scheme	Resources	0	0	-257	0	-257	-257
37	Local Council Tax Support Scheme Reserve	Resources	-1,031	0	0	1,031	1,031	0
38	Resources Land Search Fees Reserve	Resources	-1,000	491	0	509	1,000	0
39	Resources Legal Expenses Reserve	Resources	-200	0	0	0	0	-200
40	Resources Legal Services Reserve	Resources	0	0	-154	0	-154	-154
41	Resources Elections Reserve	Resources	-1,036	26	0	0	26	-1,010
42	Resources ICT Reserves	Resources	-1,130	247	0	-500	-253	-1,383
43	Human Resources Reserve	Resources	-65	65	0	0	65	0
44	Corporate Reserve - Demographic Pressures	Corporate Fin	-23,600	4,150	0	19,450	23,600	0
45	Equal Pay Reserve	Corporate Fin	-14,114	4,744	-207	0	4,537	-9,577
46	Insurance Reserve	Corporate Fin	-15,601	0	0	2,000	2,000	-13,601
47	Performance Reward Grant Reserve	Corporate Fin	-1,044	320	0	0	320	-724
48	MTFP Redundancy and Early Retirement Reserve	Corporate Fin	-10,878	4,705	0	-10,000	-5,295	-16,173
49	Office Accommodation Project Support Reserve	Corporate Fin	-1,007	743	0	0	743	-264
50	Planned Delivery Programme (PDP) Reserve	Corporate Fin	-20,000	0	0	20,000	20,000	0
51	Budget Support Reserve	Corporate Fin	0	0	0	-30,000	-30,000	-30,000
52	Capital Expenditure Reserve	Corporate Fin	-2,802	1,450	0	450	1,900	-902
53	Office Accommodation Capital Reserve	Corporate Fin	-8,000	0	-22,000	-12,481	-34,481	-42,481
54	Housing Stock Transfer Reserve	Corporate Fin	0	0	-1,000	0	-1,000	-1,000
	Total Earmarked Reserves		-157,571	28,072	-29,484	-12,543	-13,955	-171,526
	Cash Limit Reserves							
55	Assistant Chief Executive		-773	0	-237	755	518	-255
56	Children and Adults Services		-9,443	707	-7,181	5,829	-645	-10,088
57	Neighbourhood Services		-5,076	630	-1,411	2,039	1,258	-3,818
58	Regeneration and Economic Development		-3,216	297	-632	964	629	-2,587
59	Resources		-3,857	168	-990	2,956	2,134	-1,723
	Total Cash Limit Reserves		-22,365	1,802	-10,451	12,543	3,894	-18,471
	Total Council Reserves		-179,936	29,874	-39,935	0	-10,061	-189,997
	Schools' Balances							
Sch 1	Schools' Revenue Balance	CAS	-24,244	6,825	0	0	6,825	-17,419
Sch 2	DSG Reserve	CAS	-10,365	360	0	0	360	-10,005
	Total Schools and DSG Reserve		-34,609	7,185	0	0	7,185	-27,424

Cabinet

18 November 2015



**Durham Local Safeguarding Children
Board Annual Report 2014-15**

**Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director of Children and
Adults Services**

**Councillor Ossie Johnson, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and
Young People's Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014-15 (attached at Appendix 2).

Background

2. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. It is independently chaired (as required by statute) and consists of senior representatives of all the principal stakeholders working together to safeguard children and young people in Durham.
3. Its statutory objectives are to:
 - coordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
 - ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes
4. The LSCB's primary responsibility is to provide a way for local organisations who have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.
5. Working Together (2015) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area. It also requires that the Annual Report be submitted to the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council, the local Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
6. During 2014/15 the LSCB has seen a year of restructure and development for the Board. This includes the appointment of a new independent chair, a review of LSCB sub-groups and the alignment of the partnership structure of the LSCB Business Unit from Children's Services to Planning and Service Strategy in Children and Adults Services.

7. In line with national requirements, the Board continues to be chaired by an independent person, an arrangement that has been in place since 2011. The Chair has a crucial role in making certain that the Board operates independently and secures an independent voice for the LSCB. Jane Geraghty became the new Independent Chair of the LSCB Board in October 2014. The LSCB has also recruited two lay members to the LSCB Board to provide further independent scrutiny.
8. Throughout August and September 2015 the draft LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 has been presented to the LSCB Board, partner agencies and stakeholders for consultation and comment. The feedback received has been incorporated into the final document.

Annual Report

9. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.
10. The report describes the work undertaken against the 2014-15 priorities and sets out the future priorities for 2015-16. It describes the local governance arrangements and structure of Durham LSCB, the linkages to other strategic partnerships across County Durham and work with other LSCBs.
11. The report provides an overview of the performance monitoring framework and quality assurance plan as well as providing a brief summary of safeguarding privately fostered children, the use of restraint in secure centres, Serious Case Reviews, Child Death Reviews and the single and multi-agency training provision.
12. The LSCB has reviewed its vision, which has been agreed as: **'Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm'**.
13. Some achievements and progress highlighted in the Annual Report are as follows:
 - Development of the Early Help Strategy
 - The introduction of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - Development and implemented the 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children' information sharing protocol
 - Developed a Safeguarding Framework to improve links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership
 - Development of a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and delivery plan
 - Developing and implementing a Child Sexual Exploitation audit and sharing the information through other council and partnership structures
 - Supported 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations)
 - Set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB
 - Developing a new LSCB website, with input from young people

Challenge and Impact

14. The LSCB has a role in relation to challenging partners on the impact they are making to safeguard children and young people in order to provide assurance to the LSCB. The Annual Report provides examples of challenges raised by the LSCB, the resulting progress and the impact this has had on the delivery of services and improvements in safeguarding.
15. For example, challenging partners to improve the voice of the child has resulted in collaborative work with 'Investing in Children' and the development of the Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. These young people have met with members of the LSCB Board on a number of occasions and their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan and the Board's priority setting arrangements. An example of a direct impact of listening to these young people is the inclusion of the self-harm priority for the LSCB for 2015-16.
16. Other examples within the report include a challenge to partners to:
 - improve Early Help responses leading to the development of a Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub
 - improve links with wider strategic partnerships structures leading to aligning work on cross-cutting Strategies such as the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Strategies
 - ensuring the work on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) led to a CSE audit identifying risk factors and a subsequent action plan
 - Improve joint training and alignment of training programmes leading to joint delivery of Domestic Abuse training and Child Sexual Exploitation training and the delivery of e-learning training for Counter Terrorism and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

LSCB Priorities for 2015-18

17. The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the following priorities for 2015/16:
 - Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Improving Early Help
 - Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are domestic abuse; alcohol misuse; substance misuse; parental mental health)
 - Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem
 - Increase the voice of the Child
 - Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities
18. Alongside the identified priorities above the LSCB has highlighted areas of work for 2015/16, which include:
 - Supporting and challenging the new Children's Services Transformation arrangements for the delivery of children's services
 - Improving the performance and quality assurance information to support and improve performance on the Board's priorities

- Strengthening our engagement with children and young people especially those from vulnerable communities such as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender, young carers, Gypsy Roma Travellers, young people who offend and children and young people with additional needs
 - Building on the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) training offered to health professional and develop an Female Genital Mutilation Strategy and Practice Guidance
 - Work with the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) to promote the need for domestic abuse services to support children, young people and their families
 - A continued focus on information sharing supporting and promoting good practice across multi-agency teams
 - Continue a programme of self-improvement
19. The LSCB priorities above and areas of work are supported by a detailed LSCB Business Plan outlining the actions to be undertaken in 2015/16.
20. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 was agreed at the LSCB Board Meeting on the 15th October 2015.
21. The report will be available on the Durham LSCB Website www.durham-lscb.org.uk and will be disseminated through partners own organisational governance structures. The report will be also be presented, for information, at the next available Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Recommendations

22. Cabinet is requested to receive and endorse the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2014/15 (attached as Appendix 2).

Background papers

None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Yearly financial contributions to Durham LSCB are received from partner agencies and are detailed in the LSCB Annual Report.

Staffing

The priorities identified in the LSCB Annual Report will be delivered using existing resources. Durham County Council will contribute to the delivery of the priorities in partnership with other responsible authorities.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

The LSCB Annual Report identifies the actions to safeguard the needs of vulnerable children and young people.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

The LSCB Annual Report reflects priorities and action that impact positively on crime and disorder in County Durham. The report shows effective partnership working with the Safe Durham Partnership.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Consultation with partner agencies and stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the development of the LSCB Annual Report.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No adverse implications.

Legal Implications

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is a statutory body established under the Children Act 2004. Working Together to Safeguard Children (Statutory Guidance) requires each Local Safeguarding Children Board to produce and publish an Annual Report evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

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Durham

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Report

2014 / 2015

Safeguarding Children in County Durham

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Section 1: Foreword by Independent Chair



Welcome to my first Annual Report as independent chair of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The role of the chair is to bring independent scrutiny and challenge to the work of the LSCB Board. Since being appointed in September 2014 I have immersed myself in scrutinising the work and development of the LSCB and I am encouraged by what I have seen. I am looking forward to my first full year in 2015 and eager to progress the good work of partners in County Durham.

Over the last year we have reviewed and updated our vision to **‘Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm’**. Our children and young people are at the heart of all we do and I have already challenged the Board to increase the ‘voice of the child’ in our plans and actions in the coming years and to understanding more fully the experience of the child or young person receiving help and support.

This Annual Report is intended to give local people an account of the Board’s work over the past year to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across County Durham. The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-groups against its priorities for 2014/15. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners’ service delivery, where they link with the Board’s overall strategies and the impact we have had. It will also report on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identify the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

In 2014/15 we have improved performance in some key areas and responded to continued reforms and changes to public services. Where possible we have used these reforms and changes as an opportunity to learn more about each other’s priorities and challenges and to strengthen our partnership working.

2014/15 has also been a year of restructure and development for the Board and my thanks go to LSCB Business Unit for their hard work and dedication during a time of huge demand and tight deadlines. I would also like to thank the many partner agencies whose commitment and motivation helps deliver our shared priorities, develop new innovative initiatives and for the ongoing work to safeguard children in many different settings. It is through your hard working and effective teams that, at times, complex safeguarding issues are addressed and supported. I will continue to act as your critical friend, to scrutinise, challenge and seek continued improvement in services.

Lastly I would like to welcome our two new Lay Members, Helene Petch and Peter Harrison who give their valuable time and expertise to the work of the LSCB in County Durham.

Jane Geraghty

Independent Chair

Section 2: Introduction

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people in County Durham. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.

Section 3 of the report highlights some statistical information about County Durham and provides a local context for our work. This section gives information on national policy that shapes the work of the LSCB such as the increased national focus on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). It provides information on our local challenges that drive local work and innovation. The section also provides information in relation to those young people who have been involved in Children's Social Care and Youth Justice Service.

In Section 4 we describe the local governance arrangements and structure of Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, the linkages to other strategic partnerships across County Durham and working with other LSCBs. In Section 5 we highlight some of the achievements and the progress that has been made in the last year as well as reporting on the work undertaken against the 2014/15 priorities including Early Help; Information Sharing; parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health; tackling Child Sexual Exploitation; strengthening our engagement with children and young people; supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services and the development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board.

Section 6 covers our Performance Monitoring Framework and Quality Assurance Plan as well as providing a brief overview of safeguarding privately fostered children, the use of restraint in secure centres, Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews. Section 7 discusses our single and multi-agency training provision. The LSCB training programme has seen an increased collaboration with a range of organisations; Durham County Council; County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Durham Constabulary and Barnardos; in the planning, design and delivery of training. This has strengthened and enhanced the quality of training while avoiding duplication and promoting the importance of inter-agency working. Lastly, Section 8 provides the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

The information in this Annual Report is drawn from a wide range of sources from across the Children and Families Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safe Durham Partnership. Together these Partnerships, (along with Environmental and Economic themes), work under the County Durham Partnership towards the overarching vision of an 'Altogether Better Durham'. The report demonstrates the extent to which the functions of the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, as set out in the national statutory guidance 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (March 2015) are being effectively discharged.

Section 3: The Local Context

3.1 Our Community

In 2014, there were an estimated 517,773 people living in about 228,000 households in County Durham, with 12 major centres of population including Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Newton Aycliffe, Consett and Peterlee. The county stretches from the remote rural North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the West to the Heritage Coastline in the East and is the home to a range of treasures including Durham Cathedral and Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Commonly regarded as a predominantly rural area, the county varies in character from remote and sparsely populated areas in the west to former coalfield communities in the centre and east, where villages tend to accommodate thousands rather than hundreds of people.

The number of children aged 0-15 in 2014 is 88,500 an increase of 200 (0.3%) since 2013. Despite recent increases in birth rates since 2001, this age group has declined by 6.1%, 5,700 fewer children. This is in contrast to national trends the number on children has increased by 3.5% over the same period.

By 2030, the number of children and young people aged 0-17 is projected to increase by 6.5%, reversing some of the declining trends seen prior to 2011.

Between 2001 and 2013, due to the increase in birth rate, the 0-4 age group in County Durham increased by 10.7%. As a result of an increase in the birth rate, it is expected that there will be in the region of 1,220 more primary aged pupils by 2023/24 than there were in 2013/14.



Growing up in poverty has a significant impact on children and young people both during their childhood and beyond. Almost a quarter of children in County Durham (23%) are living in poverty compared to an England average of one fifth (20.6%).

3.2 Key National Policy Drivers

Revisions to Working Together to Safeguard Children March 2015

Following consultation the government has updated and replaced the statutory guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children published in 2013. The revisions include changes to:

- the referral of allegations against those who work with children
- notifiable incidents involving the care of a child
- the definition of serious harm for the purposes of serious case reviews



Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

The focus on Child Sexual Exploitation continues to grow following the Jay Report into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham and the Casey Inspection Report of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, both of which were damning in their assessment of local services and governance.

In March 2015, HM Government released 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation'. The report sets out a range of measures aimed at preventing Child Sexual Exploitation through improved joint working and information sharing, better protection of vulnerable children, stopping offenders and supporting victims and survivors. In recognition of the harm caused to victims, Child Sexual Exploitation was elevated to a national threat with a requirement to adopt the PURSUE approach to combat it.

Female Genital Mutilation

Tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has risen in prominence in recent years and in 2014 clearer direction from central government about the safeguarding responsibilities of local agencies was issued. The government is clear that political or cultural sensitivities must not get in the way of uncovering and stopping this abuse. FGM should never be ignored, FGM is child abuse.

FGM is a hidden crime and identifying girls at risk of FGM is not straight forward because; it may be the only incident of child abuse, usually from what is otherwise a loving family; there are rarely reasons for routine examinations, so they are not routinely seen by people outside of the family and girls are unlikely to disclose FGM for fear of consequences to and from family members and the wider community.

A factor to be considered in County Durham due to its rural nature is the possible family isolation within the local community – Government research suggests that communities / families less integrated into British society are more likely to carry out FGM because they may be unaware it is harmful or illegal, are isolated and there are no support networks to tell them otherwise.



Troubled Families

In June 2014, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families Programme (known as Stronger Families in County Durham) for a further five years from 2015/16 and to reach an additional 400,000 families across England.

For Durham this means an additional 4,330 families will be targeted. The expanded programme will continue to focus on families with multiple high cost problems and continue to include families affected by poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment. Offender management teams have embedded a 'Think Family' approach into their work and strong links now exist to promote and support the needs of families and children of offenders. This ensure a joined up approach to meeting families' needs and recognising and understanding the impact of adults' problems on a child's life. However, it will also reach out to families with a broad range of problems, including those affected by domestic abuse, substance misuse and those with a range of physical and mental health problems. We know these are indicators of neglect and

Durham LSCB is embedded in the work of Stronger Families and Think Family Programmes.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act

The Prevent Strategy is a cross-Government policy that forms one of the four strands of CONTEST: the United Kingdom's Strategy for Counter Terrorism. It includes the anti-radicalisation of vulnerable adults and children. Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.

There is no obvious profile of anyone likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas. The process of radicalisation is different for every individual and can take place over an extended period or within a very short time frame. However, we do know young people are vulnerable to grooming and radicalisation. PREVENT includes work to identify and support those susceptible to violent extremism into appropriate interventions. These interventions are aimed to stop the vulnerable being radicalised. Those services working with children and young people (such as schools and Children's Services) continue to work with the Safe Durham Partnership, who oversees this priority.

Transforming Rehabilitation (Probation Reforms)

The Transforming Rehabilitation Programme sets out the Government's plans to transform the way in which offenders are managed in the community, in order to bring down re-offending rates. The key aspects of the reforms are:

- The creation of a new public sector National Probation Service to manage high risk offenders, (which took place in June 2014).
- The creation of 21 regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders (which took place in February 2015).
- Every offender released from custody will receive statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community.
- A nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service will be put in place, meaning most offenders are given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community. Offenders are held in a prison designated to their area for at least three months before release.
- New payment by results incentives for CRCs to focus on reforming offenders.

Adult offenders managed by the new National Probation Service include all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public – this group will include those subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The new National Probation Service will continue to carry out assessments of the risk of serious harm posed by each offender and advise the courts and Parole Board accordingly. All other adult offenders will be managed and supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies.

3.3 Our Local Drivers

Alcohol

Parental alcohol misuse – Parental alcohol misuse has a considerable negative effect on children, young people and the family. Children and young people experience poor outcomes due to parental alcohol misuse including foetal alcohol syndrome, school attainment, inferior health and wellbeing, neglect, greater likelihood of exposure to crime and alcohol-related domestic violence. In 2014/15 18.6% of initial child protection conferences in County Durham were as a result of parental alcohol misuse. Balance (the North East Alcohol Office) estimate that the number of children living with a parent(s) who drink at high risk levels in County Durham is 49,353.

Child Sexual Exploitation – Alcohol is a common vulnerability factor in incidence of child sexual exploitation and grooming. Alcohol increases risk taking behaviour, it can impair decision making processes and can reduce the ability to sense dangerous situations or people. This can also involve child victims and perpetrators exchanging sexual favours for alcohol. Young people often consume alcohol in private homes or

on or off the street, such as wooded areas and parks. Often this alcohol is purchased through 'proxy' sales, i.e. someone else purchasing the alcohol for them.

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Alcohol consumption by young people – The amount of young people drinking in the UK is reducing (Health & Social Care Information Centre, 2014) and this is no different in County Durham. However, those young people who do drink alcohol are drinking more in volume and more frequently. Young people are more likely to experience poor outcomes due to their own alcohol consumption than any other age group. Alcohol related youth offending continues to be a focus for our Youth Offending Services and although we have seen reductions in this area we will continue to support interventions to reduce alcohol related offending by young people further.



Under-18 alcohol specific admissions – rates are significantly higher in County Durham than England. The rates are the 18th worst in the Country (LAPE, 2014).

Sexual health and teenage pregnancy – Evidence suggests that alcohol can contribute to misjudgements about sexual behaviour and alcohol consumption in young people is associated with an increased likelihood of having sex and at a younger age, of contracting sexually transmitted infections and teenage pregnancy. Teenage conception rates have reduced from 43.2 per 1,000 population of 15-17 year olds in 2012 to 33.7 in 2014, but remain higher than the national average of 27.7. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014).

Domestic Abuse

The main parental risk factor leading to a child being made subject to a child protection plan is domestic abuse. In County Durham the levels of domestic abuse related incidents reported to the police have seen a continuous but small increase since 2009/10. Domestic abuse continues to be under-reported. Plans to build on the Central Referral Unit were developed as part of the Early Help Strategy and resulted in the implementation of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) launched in March 2015.

In September 2013 Durham County Council commissioned Harbour to deliver a countywide domestic abuse service and a domestic abuse referral pathway was agreed and launched in December 2014 as part of the multi-agency 'Sorry's Not Enough' campaign. From April 2015 the countywide domestic abuse service was widened to provide a holistic service focussed on early intervention. The LSCB has links to the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) and we will continue to promote the need for domestic abuse services to support children, young people and their families.



Our annual training programme in relation to domestic abuse focuses on improving the understanding of risk factors; equipping practitioners with knowledge and skills to undertake effective risk assessment and ensuring practitioners and managers are clear about referral pathways and key points of contact. Over the last year the LSCB were challenged to improve the links and with other Strategic Partnerships. This has had a positive impact on Domestic Abuse training. Both the LSCB training and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

Information Sharing

This remains an important issue highlighted in learning from Serious Case Reviews both nationally and locally here in County Durham. We will continue to keep a focus on information sharing supporting and promoting good practice across multi-agency teams.

3.4 Our Children

Our approach is to ensure strong safeguarding culture and arrangements where the focus is firmly on the experience of the child or young person and their journey to getting early help and support. In planning, resourcing, designing and managing our work there are some key facts that are of importance to us.

Looked After Children

When children become Looked After there are significant challenges in providing them with placement stability and improved outcomes and in equipping them for life beyond the care system. We know that by understanding the reasons for children become Looked After enables agencies to target their early help and family support services. Reduction in the number of children Looked After is a good indicator of the impact of our early help strategy.

The percentage of Children in Need referrals that occurred within 12 months of the previous referral has reduced from 27.4% in 2013/14 to a provisional figure of 22.8% in 2014/15, which is better than the 2013/14 national rate of 23.4%.

Child Protection Plan

Provisional data at 31 March 2015 indicates that 377 children were subject to a Child Protection Plan, a rate of 37.6 per 10,000 population. This is a reduction from 45.1 in March 2014 and is better than the March 2014 England average (42.1).

The percentage of Child Protection Plans that lasted two years or more is provisionally 0.9%, which is an improvement from the

previous year (2.1%) and is better than the 2013/14 national average (2.6%).

The most frequent reason for children being placed on a child protection plan in 2014/15 was **Neglect** (68.8%) with **Physical Abuse** (16.7%) being the second most significant reason.

The LSCB continues to respond to the issues of neglect and its impact on children and young people’s wellbeing and outcomes. We have implemented the provision of specialist training for multi-agency practitioners supporting children identified as at risk or subject to neglect by their parent/carers. We have used improved national guidance and lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews to develop this training further and cover early help, child development and the long term impact of neglect on children.

As a Board we recognise the need to better understand the links between the impact of our training and professional practice on children’s outcomes.

Parental Risk Factors

Domestic abuse continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan, accounting for **36% of child protection conferences** recorded for 2014/15. Parental alcohol misuse, substance misuse and mental health, are the next most common.

Opposite - Number of conferences with specified parental factor (percentage of all conferences, initial and review with specific risk factor recorded) during 2014/15.

In 2012, domestic abuse was identified as a priority for the LSCB and is now embedded into the Board’s core activities. Specialist training continues to be provided for multi-agency practitioners and includes awareness raising sessions as well as more in-depth specialist sessions presented by specialist workers.

	Initial conference	Review conference
Parental factors relating to mental health issues	37 (4.32%)	143 (16.71%)
Parental factors relating to domestic abuse	42 (4.91%)	308 (35.98%)
Parental factors relating to alcohol misuse	22 (2.57%)	159 (18.57%)
Parental factors relating to substance misuse	32 (3.74%)	157 (18.34%)
Parental factors relating to risk to children	12 (1.4%)	60 (7.01%)

The Age of Children on a Child Protection Plan

Age	Total	%
Unborn	7	1.9
< 1	42	11.1
1 to 4	115	30.5
5 to 9	132	35.0
10 to 15	76	20.2
16 to 17	<6	1.3
TOTAL	377	100.0

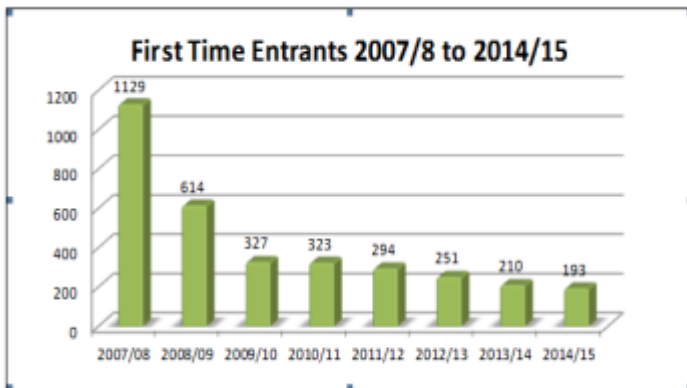
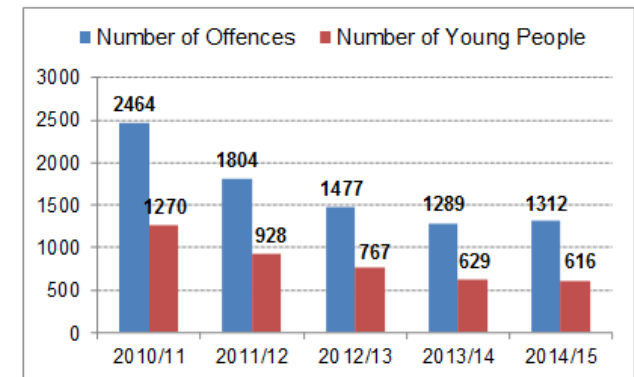
As shown in the table **43.5% of children** who were made subject of a Child Protection Plan **were under five years old**, (2014-15) indicating how vulnerable this age group is and indicating the importance of the Early Help strategy in engaging with families as early as possible.

The LSCB continues to support the voluntary and community sector through the provision of targeted safeguarding training to Early Year's providers. This has led to better identification of vulnerable families and children at risk. We have also incorporated lessons learned from Serious Case Reviews into our training in order to support practitioners and managers to improve their understanding and assessment skills.

Youth Justice

Since 2010-11 there has been a **46.8% decrease** in the number of offences committed (2,464 to 1,312) and a **51.5% reduction** over the same period in the number of young people offending (1,270 to 616).

2014-15 saw a fourth successive year reduction in the number of young people offending, however a slight increase in the number offences committed, when compared to the previous year. The graph to the right shows the year on year reduction in young people offending and the reduction, since 2010-11, in the number of offences.



As a result of our integrated pre court/out of court system which provides assessment and intervention at a young person's first point of contact with the youth justice system (first offence), we have reduced first time entrants (FTEs) and re-offending.

Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 we have achieved **82.9% reduction** in first time entrants, from 1129 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15.

Locally County Durham Youth Offending Service has been a key member of the local probation reforms transitional arrangements.

Section 4: Local Safeguarding Children Board Governance and Structure

4.1 Local Safeguarding Children Board

Each local area is required by Law to have an LSCB. The LSCB is a statutory body established in legislation (Section 13 of the Children Act 2004) and works according to national guidance, the most significant being the latest version of 'Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015'.

Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and to ensure that they will do so effectively.

The functions of the LSCB are:

To develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area.

These could include:

- the action to be taken where there are concerns about a child's safety or welfare, including thresholds for intervention
- training of persons who work with children or in services affecting the safety and welfare of children
- the recruitment and supervision of persons who work with children
- the safety and welfare of children who are privately fostered
- having a clear strategy in place for tackling Child Sexual Exploitation
- co-operating with neighbouring children services and their Board partners

To raise awareness of both the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and action to so do

To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the local authority and their Board partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children **and advise them on ways to improve**

To participate in the planning of services for children in the area of the authority

To undertake reviews of serious cases and advising the authority and their Board partners on lessons to be learned

The LSCB does not commission or deliver direct frontline services and does not have the power to direct other organisations, which retain their own existing lines of accountability for safeguarding. However, the LSCB does have a role in quality assurance making it clear where improvement is needed and where appropriate reviewing and challenging existing procedures.

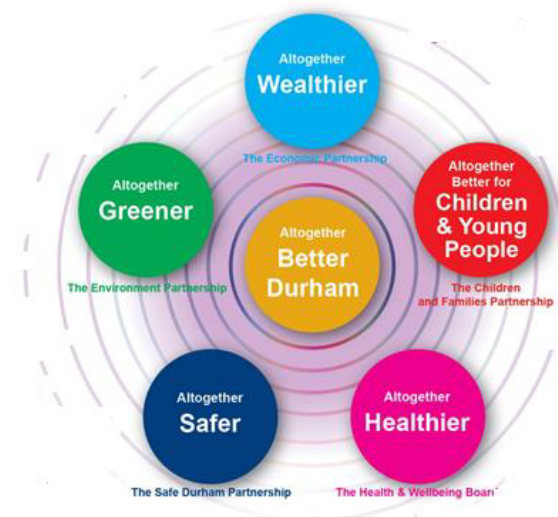
To fulfil this role, the LSCB uses data to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the help being provided to children and families, including early help
- Quality assure practice, including through joint audits of case files involving practitioners and identifying lessons to be learned
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of training, including multi-agency training

4.2 Linkages across other partnerships and services

The County Durham Partnership (CDP) is the overarching partnership for County Durham and is supported by five thematic partnerships, each of which has a specific focus:

- **The Economic Partnership** - Aims to make County Durham a place where people want to live, work, invest and visit whilst enabling our residents and businesses to achieve their potential
- **The Children and Families Partnership** - Works to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way to improve the lives of children, young people and families in County Durham
- **The Health and Wellbeing Board** - Promotes integrated working between commissioners of health services, public health and social care services, for the purposes of improving the health and wellbeing of the people in the area
- **The Safe Durham Partnership** - Tackles crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment and seeks to reduce re-offending
- **The Environment Partnership** - Aims to transform and sustain the environment within County Durham, maximising partnership arrangements to support the economy and the wellbeing of local communities.



4.3 LSCB Membership and Governance

The LCSB is a statutory partnership made up of local agencies. In County Durham there is a longstanding and high commitment amongst partner agencies to develop and improve arrangements to protect and safeguard children from harm and to share responsibility and accountability for those services. A membership list is attached at Appendix 1.

Durham LSCB has a Governance and Memorandum of Understanding in place and forms the formal agreement between the Board and all partner agencies. It outlines the accountability arrangements; key purposes; functions and tasks of the LSCB; membership; and agreed standards and expectations of LSCB services. The document also sets out the wider links with other key strategic partnership groups such as the Children & Families Partnership; the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Safe Durham Partnership.

In line with national requirements, the Board continues to be chaired by an independent person, an arrangement that has been in place since 2011. The Chair has a crucial role in making certain that the Board operates independently and secures an independent voice for the LSCB. Jane Geraghty became the new Independent Chair of the board in October 2014, and a new vice chair Gill Findley (Director of Nursing Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield CCG and North Durham CCG) took up post in May 2015.

The LSCB Business Unit has been realigned to Planning and Service Strategy within the Local Authority to develop the links with other partnership structures and strengthen the joint working on a range of strategies such as the County Durham Domestic Abuse Strategy, the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the Early Help Strategy.

4.4 LSCB Board Meetings

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board meets bi-monthly and attendance is monitored and reported annually as part of the Board's governance and effectiveness arrangements. Throughout 2014/15 the Board has been well supported by partner agencies. The membership of the Board is made up of the senior strategic leaders and managers of the partner agencies.

Action plans against priorities and performance are reported, monitored and challenged. Progress on Child Death Reviews and Serious Case Reviews are updated and completed Serious Case Reviews are published on the LSCB website for a period of 12 months. The findings and recommendations are disseminated to partners and any action plan coming out of a review is also monitored by the Board.

4.5 Learning and Improvement

Durham LSCB continually monitors the quality, timeliness and effectiveness of multi-agency practice through the LSCB Performance Management Framework. Where gaps are identified, implications for the LSCB are considered and progressed through business planning and the work of sub-groups.

We will continue to:

- Monitor partner compliance with the statutory requirement to have effective safeguarding arrangements in place (section 11)
- Apply the national Children Safeguarding Information Performance Framework, based on an 'Outcomes Based Accountability' approach asking three questions:
 - How much did we do?
 - How well did we do it?
 - Did it make a difference?
- Develop a series of scorecards for priority areas, e.g. CSE
- Develop a multi-agency Audit and Quality Assurance forward plan designed to provide much more information about the quality of work being undertaken and its impact on outcomes for individual children and young people.

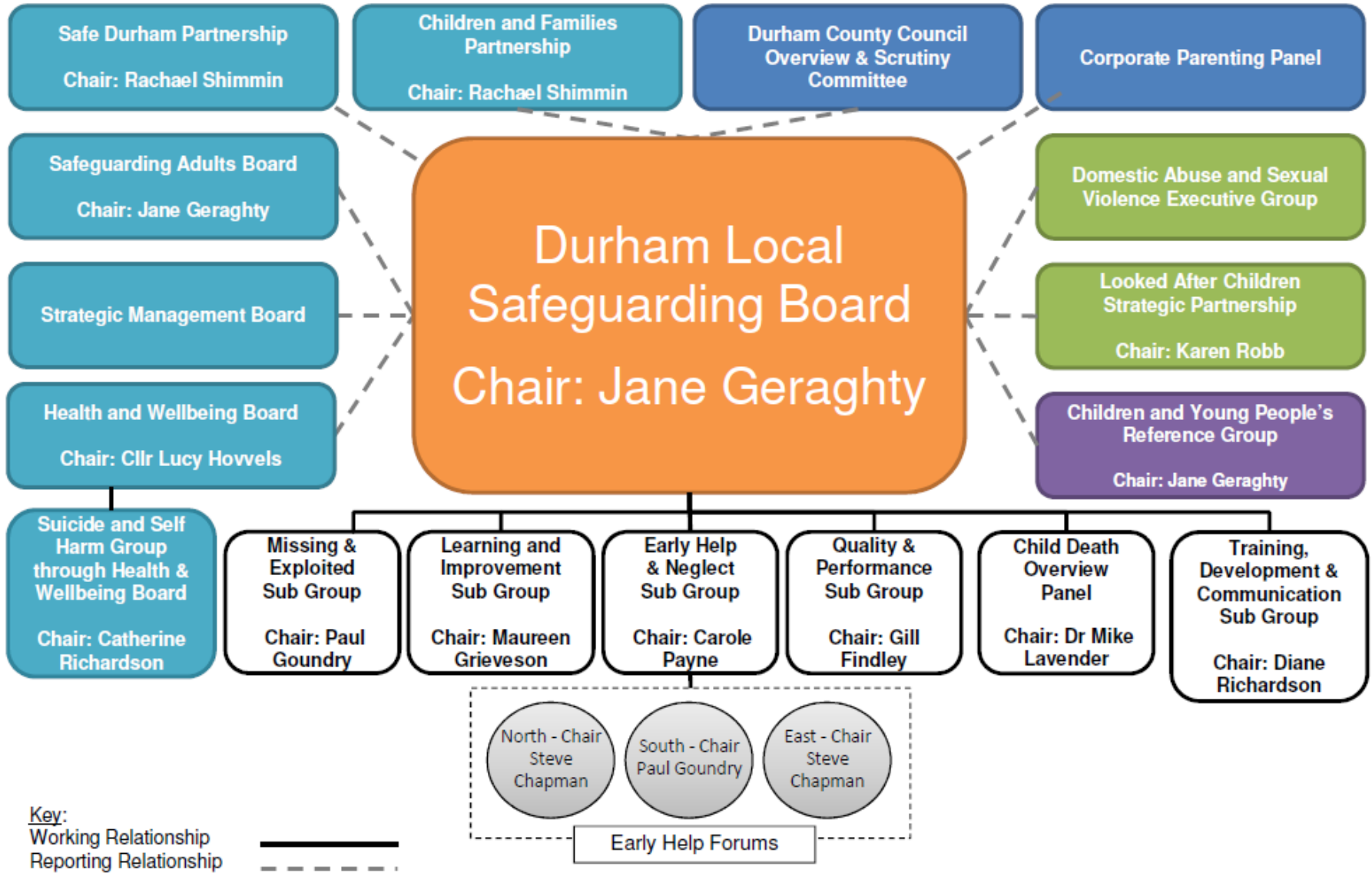
Outcomes and findings feed into our learning and improvement structures to promote a culture of continuous improvement across the LSCB.

In 2014 we have undertaken a range of steps to develop our practice to improve our effectiveness, building on and addressing the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and the feedback arising from the Local Government Association review of October 2014.

We continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews and host learning events where key messages and the lessons learnt from the Serious Case Reviews we have published are shared with practitioners and agencies.

Child Death Overview Panel for Durham LSCB and Darlington LSCB Boards share key learning from child deaths. Action plans implemented and reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel at each meeting.

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board Structure



4.7 Sub Groups

The LSCB has in place a number of sub-groups, taking forward the priorities of the Board.

Missing and Exploited Sub-Group (MEG) – This group focusses on monitoring activity and improving services and responses to reported missing and absent children and Child Sexual Exploitation.

Learning and Improvement Sub-group – This group considers serious incidents, commissions serious case reviews, oversees and monitors progress on agreed actions for specific local cases.

Quality and Performance Sub-group – This group oversees the quality and standards of safeguarding practice across the partnership to ensure that the LSCB fulfils its statutory function. Performance is monitored and analysis of the effectiveness of procedures is undertaken. The group also plans and monitors the LSCB audit programme.

Early Help and Neglect Sub-group – This group reviews and improves the referral pathways and access to help and support for families at an earlier stage of need and thereby reduce the number of families entering the system in crisis. This group supports three Early Help Locality Forums for a range of multi-agency practitioners.

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) – This is a joint group of both Durham and Darlington LSCBs. It has responsibility for reviewing the available information on all child deaths.

Training, Development and Communications Sub-group – This group reviews, plans and develops delivery of multi-agency training programmes using information from Learning Lessons Reviews, Serious Case Reviews and complaints as well as national and regional guidance. Lastly, this group has responsibility for the development and delivery of a LSCB Communication Strategy.

In addition are the following groups with links to the LSCB Board.

Children and Young People's Reference Group – This group has been set up to actively engage with children and young people and seek their views on a range of safeguarding issues.

Suicide and Self Harm Group – This group is a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board with a relationship to the LSCB and tackles the causal factors for suicide, attempted suicide and self-harm, which incorporates children and young people.

Looked After Children Strategic Partnership – This group has a reporting relationship to the LSCB; it aims to improve educational achievements; to improve post 16 services and to improve the health and emotional well-being of looked after children and young people.

4.8 Equality and Diversity

The LSCB strives to promote equal access to safeguarding services, particularly for those children who are unable to communicate, due to their age, disability or first language, with those people or services that are able to protect them.

Policies and procedures of the LSCB are subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure that new policies and procedures do not discriminate on any basis.

Equality and diversity, challenging discrimination and values underpins the delivery of all LSCB training. LSCB training considers a broad range of issues such as parental mental illness, parental learning disability, substance misuse, child neglect, CSE and children who are deaf or disabled. It also recognises the impact of social disadvantage such as poverty, poor housing and worklessness. Durham LSCB also strives to ensure that its courses are open and accessible to all and create an environment where participants feel able to challenge and be challenged in a safe and constructive way.

The LSCB has a complaints review system in place for child protection conferences to ensure that where there is concern raised by parents and carers and young people, they will be treated with respect, are listened to and their views taken into account.

4.9 Working with other LSCBs

Durham LSCB works collaboratively with other Local Safeguarding Children Boards to share learning and agree safeguarding policies and procedures which impact on children and families and cross our Local Authority boundaries. This includes Cross Boundary Procedure for North East England LSCBs (children who move from one authority area to another), Child Deaths, Serious Case Reviews and lessons learned.

There is invaluable work across the region promoting good practice in areas such as training, policies and procedures and lessons learned. We are an active member of the LSCB Regional Business Managers Group. Our regional priorities will focus on key issues of child sexual exploitation and neglect.

Section 5: Achievements and progress against 2014/15 Priorities

5.1 LSCB Priorities 2014/15

The 2013/14 Annual Plan identified the following priorities:

- Early Help
- Information Sharing
- Parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health
- Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Strengthening our engagement with children and young people
- Supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services
- Development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board

5.2 Achievements and Progress Highlights

- Development of the Early Help Strategy and sharing with the Children and Families Partnership
- The introduction of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Development and implemented the 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children' information sharing protocol
- Developed a Safeguarding Framework to improve links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership and to align Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health work
- Development of a CSE Strategy and delivery plan
- Developing and implementing a CSE audit and sharing the information through other council and partnership structures
- Supported 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations)
- Set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB

- The LSCB and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training
- LSCB support to Childrens Services innovations funding bid, training programmes, single assessment and Think Family
- Reviewed the leadership of the LSCB and appointed new Chair, Vice-Chair and Business Manager
- Appointed two new Lay Members to act as an independent voice
- Review of the governance of LSCB sub-groups, each of which is now chaired by a LSCB partner member
- Developing a new LSCB website, with input from young people

5.3 Challenge and Impact

Here we provide examples of challenges raised by the LSCB, the resulting progress and the impact this has had on delivery of services and improvements in safeguarding.

In the development of the Early Help Strategy we challenged partners to improve the early help responses within the Central Referral Unit. The impact of this challenge was the development of a successful police innovation funding bid resulting in the implementation of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) launched in March 2015.

A recommendation of the Local Government Association (LGA) peer review challenged the LSCB to improve the links with wider strategic partnership structures. Over the last year we have clarified and improved the LSCB Board's relationship to other strategic partnerships across County Durham. This has already resulted in closer working arrangement such as the Domestic abuse worker now based in the MASH; the development of a Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway and alignment of Training Programmes, the LSCB training and the Safe Durham Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

We have contributed into the draft County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the draft Safe Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy. In addition we have been able to utilise wider partnership resources and structures to improve an LSCB response, for example; we have linked the LSCB Self-Harm priority to the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) sub-group who are already addressing this issue. This has had the added impact of improving the visibility and influence of the LSCB Board.

A challenge from the Chair of the LSCB was to improve the voice of the child. This has resulted in collaborative work with 'Investing in Children' and the development of the Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. These young people have met with members of the

LSCB on a number of occasions and their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan and our priority setting arrangements. An example of a direct impact of listening to these young people is the inclusion of the self-harm priority for the LSCB 2015-16.

Partners were also challenged in relation to work on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) which resulted in a CSE audit taking place to identify numbers and risk factors.

Responding to Working Together guidance's stating volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children the LSCB have proactively supported the 'Never Do Nothing' training across County Durham. Never do nothing is a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations to promote good practice in the safeguarding of children and young people. It provides guidance for individuals; staff, volunteers, carers, etc as well as providing a framework for delivery of safeguarding within any organisation, within any sector – so that no-one is left in any doubt as to what action to take when they have a concern about the welfare of a child or young person in County Durham.

Challenge also takes place at a very senior level through a Chief Officers Safeguarding Group which includes the County Council's Chief Executive, Independent Chair of the LSCB, Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services, Chief Officers of the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the local NHS Foundation Trust and Police Constable as well as other senior managers. This forum allows the opportunity to challenge and share information to ensure line of sight on safeguarding issues including:

- Child Sexual Exploitation and the commitment to provide additional resources from the Police
- Ensure training programmes are joined up with the LSCBs
- Ensure quality of front-line practice
- Share outcomes of multi-agency audits and action plans

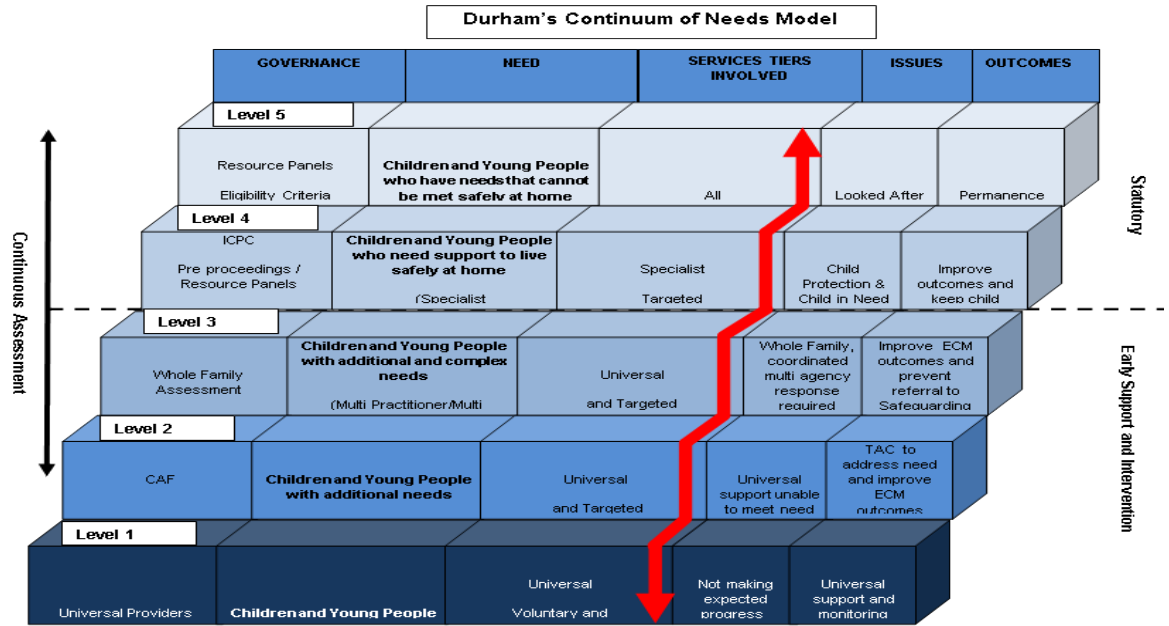
5.4 Progress on LSCB priorities 2014/15

Early Help

The LSCB recognises early help as a key priority area for making significant impact on outcomes for children. 'Working Together 2015' identifies this as an area where LSCBs need to bring more challenge to partners to demonstrate that families are receiving help at an earlier stage and before matters escalate. Partners have responded to the challenge to develop strategies that shape and deliver services in a number of new ways. These include: The Early Help Strategy; a strong continuum of needs framework and the local authority re-design of children's services.

We have worked alongside the Children and Families Partnership to help develop an Early Help Strategy and Action Plan. Our role will continue to be one of challenging partners as to what changes they are making to the way they deliver services to children and families to make them more child centred, more responsive and available at a much earlier point to prevent problems escalating.

The Durham Continuum of Needs Model is designed to reflect the fact that children and young people’s needs and those of their families exist along a continuum. The model recognises that needs may change over time and is based on the principle that children and young people’s welfare and safety is a shared responsibility and should be a seamless positive journey. Regardless of which ‘step’ children, young people and families are identified on they will be supported at the earliest opportunity and continue to be supported by the relevant services as they move up and down the staircase.



Through the Stronger Families’ programme we have engaged with our offender management structures. Durham Constabulary, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Services and Anti-social Behaviour Teams are all fully involved in this work. The second phase of the ‘Troubled Families’ programme will identify and support families over a wider range of need, one being ‘Parents and Children Involved in crime or anti-social behaviour’. This will enable teams to reach not only families where there is a young person involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, but to include adult offenders who have parenting responsibilities.

In terms of safeguarding arrangements outcomes for children and families it is expected that more families will receive help at an earlier point and be empowered to take control of their own lives, avoiding the need for statutory intervention. We look to see a reduction in the number of Children In Need, Look after Children and children subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Impact of the Early Help Strategy can be seen through a range of activity; the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); Early Help Forums are now up and running across the County. The forums will be used as a line of communication between the LSCB and front line practitioners; ‘Never Do Nothing’ training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations); the new single

assessment practice guidance underpins the work across children's services and is now in use alongside a range of practice tools. Multi agency audits continue to be driven by the LSCB and a new audit process within children's services was introduced in June 2014.

Early Help has started to be recognised in everyday practice as crucial to achieving positive outcomes for children and their families. Early Help is now written into many policies, plans and strategies across the Durham partnership.

Information Sharing

This remains an important issue highlighted in learning from Serious Case Reviews both nationally and locally here in County Durham. In 2014 the LSCB developed and implemented an information sharing protocol called 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children.' This protocol has also been shared with wider safeguarding arrangements and has been approved by both the LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board and endorsed through single agency governance arrangements.

The protocol captures the existing guidance on information sharing and signposts professionals that their safeguarding responsibilities carry with it an expectation that information sharing is the norm. The main emphasis is to ensure information is shared to enable children to be better safeguarded and families offered early help. The protocol is supported by a guidance document for professionals, which is made available as part of LSCB training. In 2015 we will review and revise the protocol to ensure compliance with the latest version of 'Working Together' published in March 2015 and the Care Act 2015.

Parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health

Domestic abuse continues to be the main parental risk factor leading to children becoming subject of a Child Protection Plan. Parental alcohol misuse, substance misuse and mental health, are the next most common. These parental risk factors are discussed in greater depth in section 3.3 'Our Local Drivers'.

Probation reforms have led to a greater focus on rehabilitation and tackling the critical pathways of offending. It is no surprise these align directly with the parental risk factors above. The National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company continue to become more involved in this area of work as they adapt delivery of services to improve the management of offenders in areas such as 'Through the Gate' provision (rehabilitation and resettlement in the community); exit strategies after statutory supervision and pathways into mainstream services and transitional arrangements for young people who offend. Other project such as the 'Checkpoint' (offender diversion scheme) contribute to tackling parental issues of Domestic Abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and Mental Health and as a result impact positively on the outcomes for children.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation can have a serious long-term impact on every aspect on children's lives, health and education. It damages the lives of families and carers, which can lead to family break-ups.

There are strong links between sexual exploitation and those young people who are reported missing from home. Recent analysis conducted by Tasking and Coordinating (Missing From Home Summary Report – Early Findings February 2015) highlighted a range of risks associated with missing including sexual exploitation, mental health, alcohol or drugs issues with motivation for missing including family conflict or relationship issues. The offender profile is one of 'street grooming' and use of social media to exploit children.

We have developed a CSE Strategy and Action Plan to detect, prevent and disrupt all forms of Child Sexual Exploitation including online child abuse as well as contact offences. The Missing from Home (MFH) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) procedures focus on early identification and prevention meaning we identify children at risk and work to reduce this risk, rather than waiting for harm to occur before we act.

Durham was successful in a bid to the Governments Children's Social Care Innovation Fund 2014/15 for a therapeutic support programme at Aycliffe Secure Centre for children who have been sexually exploited. This will offer targeted support in helping young people deal with trauma and in making the transition from the secure setting into more independent living.

We have also developed a CSE Disruption Toolkit allowing practitioners to highlight to the police risk factor behaviour around potential perpetrators. The use of this toolkit continues to be promoted in presentations and awareness raising events.

Durham Constabulary has become the first Force in the UK to adopt a new training package aimed at protecting children from abuse. 'Intervene to Protect a Child' (IPC) is a new and proactive training tactic which has had significant success in the United States. Early successes in Durham indicate the potential this training can have on protecting children from abuse. The Transforming Rehabilitation agenda (probations reforms) have enabled offender managers greater collaboration with Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Missing and Exploited Group. Hundreds of police officers and other agency staff such as teachers, neighbourhood wardens and probation officers have been trained in this innovative technique. In 2014/15 we have also:

- Carried out LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents to assess child protection practice and improve outcomes for children who go missing
- Undertaken an audit of responses for named suspects



- Developed a CSE marketing strategy
- Created the 'ERASE' brand (Educate and Raise Awareness of Sexual Exploitation) to tackle child sexual exploitation (ERASE offers parents and carers advice on how to communicate with their children about who they speak to on-line and off-line)

Agencies continue to work together to tackle CSE and planned actions for 2015/16 include:

- A dedicated ERASE team will be piloted and launched in August 2015 and will include a Detective Sergeant, two PCSOs and an Admin Support Officer. This team will focus on early identification of young people at risk and suspected offenders and use problem solving tactics to address CSE
- Widen our training and awareness to those services not traditionally associated with safeguarding e.g. taxi drivers
- Development and launch of an 'ERASE' website
- Develop transitional arrangement with Safeguarding Adults Board for those young people reaching their 18th birthday, who remain vulnerable to sexual exploitation
- Develop stronger relationships with communities through Area Action Partnerships (AAP), raising awareness of CSE and how to report concerns or intelligence of CSE
- Actively engage young people within identified vulnerable groups at risk of CSE (for example, lesbian, gay, bisexual or transsexual, and special needs) that face additional barriers around reporting and support

Strengthening our engagement with children and young people

The LSCB actively engages and seeks the views of children and young people on wider safeguarding issues.

We have continued to improve the way we involve young people, throughout 2014/15 we have worked collaboratively with 'Investing in Children' to set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB. These young people have met with members of the LSCB on a number of occasions and their views have been taken into account in the LSCB work plan and our priority setting arrangements.



Staff from the LSCB have conducted community visits alongside these young people to see first-hand their concerns. A direct impact of listening to these young people has been the inclusion of the self-harm priority for the LSCB 2015-16.

Working with young people and local communities is a key area for the LSCB to take forward into 2015/16. This direct link to young people in their own communities and understanding the 'voice of the child' has brought a positive and different perspective into the LSCB Board, listening to what young people tell us and acting upon it. We will continue and widen our engagement with young people and will work towards achieving Investors in Children status in 2015.

We will also create a more cohesive link with Area Action Partnerships to encourage communities to be more 'safeguarding of children and young people' focused and promoting safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Supporting the new arrangements for the delivery of children's services

Durham County Council Children's Services is on a journey of major transformation and has completed two phases of that work. The vision is being delivered through a transformational change programme.

The programme consists of three main phases:

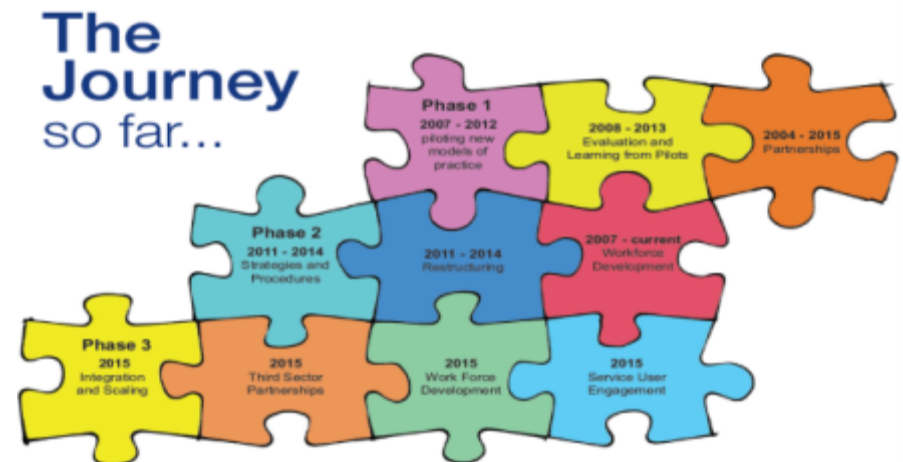
1. Piloting of new service forms – reflection and learning 2009/12
2. Service transformation, policy and procedure development – 2013/14
3. Service reform based on learning from phases 1 and 2 – 2015/16

Phase 1 and Phase 2 have already been delivered.

Durham was successful in a bid to the Government's Children's Social Care Innovation Fund 2014/15. The funding will allow Children's Services to build on the progress they have already made to date and accelerate developments more quickly than we would otherwise have been able to do without this significant additional investment. The Project is underpinned by a significant programme of workforce development designed to create a new culture by developing new skills and attitudes, through training, mentoring, clinical consultation and challenge.

The main innovative elements of Durham's Project are:

- Creation of 10 integrated teams (Families First) across the County, focussed on early help and significantly increasing the range, access, quality and effectiveness of services for the whole family across the continuum of need
- Creation and development of third sector alliances to build community capacity and sustainable change for families
- An intensive workforce development programme to support the new teams and the whole workforce
- Significantly enhanced service user engagement to change the relationship between professional and service user



Working alongside these arrangements is an aligned model of universal services, such as schools, community health services and voluntary and community sector organisations. It is their role to ensure that need is identified at the earliest point, so that early help can be provided. These services are already engaged through three Early Help Forums.

Three child protection teams will continue working with children subject to Child Protection Plans and children in care proceedings and a Looked After Children's Team will work with children with permanence plans. We hope to see:

- A reduction in the number of Look after Children
- A reduction in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan
- More Children and families receiving Early Help
- Improved social work practice

An independent evaluation will commence in March 2016.

Development and self-improvement of the LSCB Board

The LSCB Board recognises the importance of self-improvement, to be effective it needs to continuously learn from its own experiences and that of others. Building on and addressing the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and feedback arising from the LGA review of October 2014 we have:

- Revised our performance indicators and implemented a new dataset to better reflect priorities
- Appointed two lay members
- Strengthened the scrutiny / challenge role and developing a framework for evidencing impact and difference
- Strengthened the engagement and participation of children and young people in the work of the Board
- Clarified the Board's relationship with other partnership forums
- Improved the visibility and influence of the Board
- Strengthened the engagement and participation of frontline staff including involvement in audit work

We have undertaken a range of steps to develop our practice and values to improve our effectiveness - keeping the child's journey at the forefront of what we do. In addition, we have clarified our business objectives and aligned our LSCB operations against our objectives.

Section 6: Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

6.1 Performance Monitoring and Quality Assurance

Durham LSCB's primary responsibility is to provide a way for local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the locality, and to ensure that they will do so effectively. Our Performance Monitoring Framework and quality assurance plan monitor and developed these arrangements.

In the last year we have continued to monitor and develop Section 11* auditing covering the following organisations:

- Durham Constabulary
- North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- County Durham Youth Offending Service
- Durham County Council Children's Services
- Durham Dales Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group
- North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
- Hassockfield Secure Training Centre (up to Oct 2014)
- National Probation Service (Durham)
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company
- Children and Families Court Advisory Support Services
- County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust

We have also carried out LSCB audits for both CSE and missing children incidents to assess child protection practice and improve outcomes for children who go missing and undertook an audit of responses for named suspects.

*Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions – and any services that they contract out to others – are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The LSCB provides a statutory function of auditing the Board’s partner organisations to ensure their compliance to this statute.

6.2 Quality Assurance Forward Plan

In 2015/16 we will:

- Develop an on-line version of Section 11 audits
- Review governance arrangements
- Review Memorandum of Understanding
- Develop consistent use of auditing tools and processes
- Identify and develop areas for auditing
- Develop reporting formats to include case studies and make the voice of the child more visible
- Develop additional ‘Quality’ reporting to include areas such as complaints, serious case reviews and child death overview monitoring

6.3 Safeguarding Privately Fostered Children

The LSCB Board monitors the local arrangements for safeguarding children who are privately fostered. The Board includes specific data in its ‘Top Ten’ performance indicator list and on an annual basis is provided with a full report setting out the Local Authority’s strategy and specific arrangements to raise awareness in the community, monitor and support children and young people who are in such placements.

6.4 The Use of Restraint – Safeguarding Young People in Secure Settings

County Durham is among a small number of Councils who have secure services within its boundaries. In 2014/15 the Youth Justice Board (YJB) took the decision to close Hassockfield Secure Training Centre, this means only partial data for this centre can be provided. The LSCB also monitors the use of restraint at Aycliffe Secure Services Centre. Many of the children are placed by Local Authorities outside the area

and by the criminal courts. Since 2011 and in line with Working Together guidance we have reported on the use of restraint in the two secure settings within County Durham.

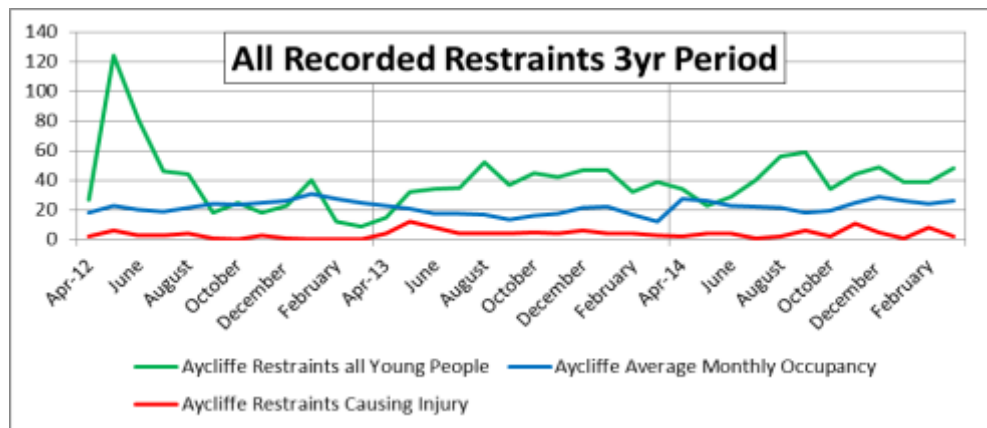
Hassockfield Secure Training Centre

Month	Hassockfield Restraints all Young People		Hassockfield Restraints Causing Injury		Hassockfield Average Occupancy	Hassockfield Occupancy at 1 st of Month
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
April	89	61	17	6	45	55
May	65	19	9	1	42	43
June	75	32	11	4	42	37
July	43	47	6	3	42	38
August	45	28	3	5	45	41
September	45	36	5	3	42	32
October	58	18	3	0	50	32
November						
December						
January						
February						
March						
TOTAL	420	241	54	22		
Average per month	60	34.4	7.7	3.1	44	39.7

Table 1: Total Incidence of Restraints and Restraints causing Injury: (April 2014 – Nov 2015 & the previous period for comparison.)

This centre was closed in November 2014. Hassockfield catered for up to 58 young people, male and female. Young people lived in four separate house blocks with three of the 'house' blocks having two residential living units.

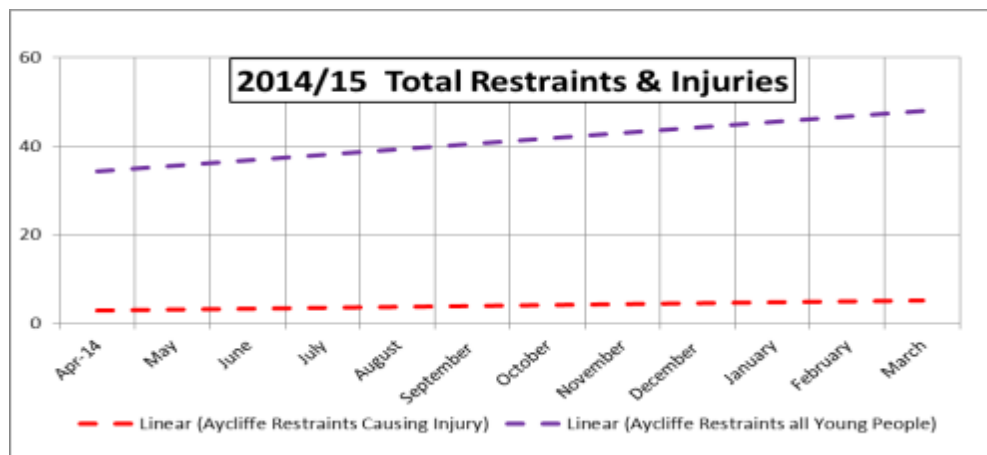
During the last reporting period, up to the point of closure, the gender occupancy ratio was consistently a little over 2:1 (annual totals - male 232:109 female). However, incidents of restraint by gender were closer to 4:1 (annual totals - male 19:50 female).



Aycliffe Secure Services Centre is licensed by Ofsted for up to 42 places. The centre has five secure children’s homes and a step-down facility with 24 beds commissioned by the Youth Justice Board. Local Authorities can also commission places for young people on welfare grounds if the courts decide that young people meet the legislative criteria required to place them in a secure setting.

The trend of restraint incidents has stayed consistent with a very slight downward direction of travel during the three year period shown in graph above. Peaks most often occurring around late Summer and the Christmas holiday periods.

The trend of restraint incidents leading to injury has also maintained a consistent level but with a slight upward trend in the 2014/15 reporting period.



The trend over the course of the reporting period (2014/15) defies the longer term trend with an upward direction, however, during this period there have been 107 Restrictive Physical Intervention (RPI) incidents relating to a single individual. As a statistical outlier, incidents relating to this young person represent 22% of all the incidents at the centre during the reporting period. This rate of incidence is high, even amongst other high incidence individuals.

Overall, there was a total of 111 different young people at Aycliffe between April 2014 and March 2015. 74 young people (66.7%) were required to be restrained in this period. Nine young people were responsible for 50% of the RPI’s with 12 young people being restrained ten or more times during their stay at Aycliffe.

6.5 Serious Case Review Function

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We have commenced five Serious Case Reviews in 2014/15. There are a number of recurrent themes running through these reviews:

- Parental misuse of substances or alcohol
- The role of males within a family setting / household who have contact with children and young people
- Multi-agency engagement with safeguarding processes
- Information sharing

These themes are reflected in national findings for Serious Case Reviews published in 2014/15.

We continue to implement the recommendations from Serious Case Reviews both multi-agency and single agency recommendations. Action plans are reviewed by the Learning and Improvement Group bi-monthly.

In 2015 we will host a range of learning events where key messages and the lessons learnt from the Serious Case Reviews we have published will be shared with practitioners and agencies. We will also present progress against Serious Case Reviews action plans.

The LSCB will continue to challenge agencies to demonstrate that they have implemented the learned lessons.

6.6 Child Death Review Function

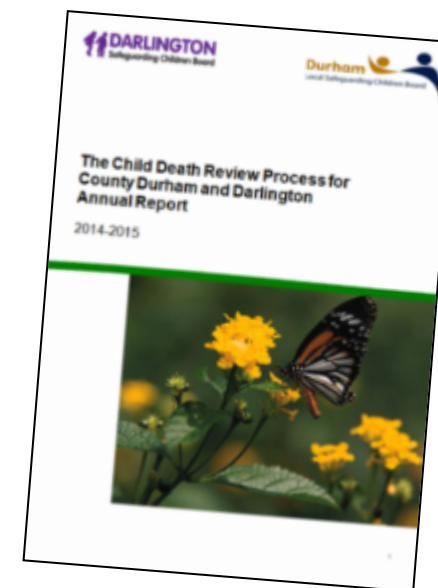
There are two interrelated processes for reviewing child deaths:

1. Rapid Response by a group of key professionals who come together for the purpose of enquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death; *and*
2. An overview of all deaths up to the age of 18 years (excluding both those babies that are stillborn and planned terminations of pregnancy carried out within the law) in Durham and Darlington areas, undertaken by a panel

Child Death Review Notifications

There were 31 child death reviews in County Durham between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2015. Of the 31 child deaths there were:

- 25 Rapid Responses (this is a process for gathering key professionals to enquire into and evaluate circumstances of an unexpected death)
- 20 deaths that have been or will be considered at a Local Case Discussion meeting (for most unexpected deaths a local case discussion takes place when all the information has been gathered and all agencies involved with the child and family before and at the time of their death are invited to the meeting.)
- 17 deaths reviewed at Panels during 2014/15 (the Child Death Overview Panel's purpose is to conduct an overview of all child deaths)
- 21 child deaths are ongoing reviews and will be brought forward to 2015/16



Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

Between April 2014 and March 2015 there were six Child Death Overview Panels in which 44 cases were reviewed. At each Child Death Overview Panel, the Designated Doctor for Child Deaths presents the circumstances of each death to the multi-agency panel. The case is reviewed in detail and recommendations/actions logged for monitoring purposes.

The CDOP were of the view that there were 15 deaths in which modifiable factors may have contributed to the death. These factors are defined as those which, by means of locally or nationally achievable interventions, could be modified to reduce the risk of future child deaths.

Out of the 44 Child Death Reviews completed, nine Local Case Discussions were presented at the Child Death Overview Panel.

Timescale for Child Death Review Completion

Out of the 44 completed reviews, 20% were completed in less than six months. This is an increase from 9% in 2013-14. A large majority of reviews that were 'carried forward' from an earlier period were completed during 2014/15. We will continue to work together to complete reviews in a more timely way.

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Key learning from child deaths

A thematic review was undertaken during the 2014/15 operating period of all child deaths and the findings presented at the Child Death Overview Panel and Durham LSCB and Darlington SCB Boards. As a result an action plan was formulated and is reviewed by the Child Death Overview Panel at each meeting to ensure that all actions have been completed.

The following themes were identified:

- Perinatal and infant deaths
 - CTG training (electronic foetal monitoring during labour)
 - Consultant presence on obstetric wards
 - Awareness of risk factors to prevent Sudden Infant Death (SIDs)
- Other child deaths
 - Mandatory training in paediatric resuscitation
 - Consultant assessment in children with complex health problems
 - Emergency care plans for children with complex health problems

6.7 Policy and Procedures

Durham LSCB proactively reviews policies and procedures as systems change and are developed. These form part of the work undertaken with Early Help, Children Services Transformation and Child Sexual Exploitation to name a few.

Others include:

- Updated Single Assessment Framework and thresholds document to support new ways of working and focussing on early help
- Re-alignment of LSCB sub-groups to match priorities
- Safeguarding Framework - Improved links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership
- Taking forward recommendations of LGA peer review
- Strengthening the influence of the board in key areas, particularly schools
- Clarification of the role and contribution of students attending child protection conferences

Building on the outcomes of our LSCB self-assessment and feedback arising from the LGA review we have aligned our LSCB operations against our objectives and re-aligned the LSCB sub-groups to match priorities. The Policy and Procedures group was disbanded in January 2015 as part of this re-alignment and the policy and procedures function has passed to the LSCB Business Unit.

As the new arrangements for the delivery of Children Services continue to be implemented in County Durham we will review and update our procedures accordingly. These will include Child Protection Procedures; Single Assessment Procedures; Missing Children Procedures and Families First Procedures.

Section 7: Training

7.1 Single and Multi-Agency Training Provision

All agencies working with children either directly or indirectly are required to provide training in order to carry out their own roles and responsibilities. This includes being able to recognise and raise concerns about children's safety and welfare. The current LSCB training group work plan includes a requirement to monitor single-agency training, undertake a training needs analysis and evaluate the impact of both single-agency and multi-agency training.

We have reviewed the Domestic Abuse training programmes of the LSCB training and the Safe Durham with the result that Domestic Abuse training has been aligned and brought together with a multi-agency set of trainers now delivering the training.

In March 2014 the LSCB Board agreed that it had a significant role in supporting the Local Authority in the delivery of training relating to the transformation of Children Services. During the year the LSCB training programme has seen an increased collaboration with a range of organisations; most notably the County Council's Learning and Development Team; County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust; Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, Durham Constabulary and Barnardos; in the planning, design and delivery of training. This has strengthened and enhanced the quality of training while avoiding duplication and promoting the importance of inter-agency working.

7.2 Training Programme

The purpose of the LSCB multi-agency training is to support staff and volunteers to achieve better outcomes for children and young people by fostering:

- a shared understanding of the tasks, processes, principles, roles and responsibilities outlined in national guidance and local arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare
- more effective and integrated services at both the strategic and individual case level
- improved communication and information sharing between professionals, including a common understanding of key terms, definitions and thresholds for action
- effective working relationships, including an ability to work in multi-disciplinary groups or teams

- sound child focused assessments and decision-making
- learning from Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) and reviews of child deaths

All new and existing courses were updated in line with Durham's Single Assessment procedures.

7.3 Courses delivered in 2014/15

A total of **84 courses** were held throughout the year and were attended by **1,580 staff and volunteers**. The courses with the highest total attendance over the year were:

- Safeguarding Processes
- Assessment and Intervention
- Engaging with Families
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Neglect

Overall, 75.2% of the 84 courses delivered were filled to capacity; of those participants offered a place 16.4% cancelled and 11.1% did not attend without notice. Of those applicants attending a LSCB training course, 72.8% were offered a place on the course they applied for, however 19.9% of these applicants still cancelled their places indicating that access to preferred courses is not the cause of cancellations.

Courses were well attended by services such as One Point, Durham County Council Children Services, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and the Voluntary Sector. Attendance from Police, School staff and Adult Services (who all have key objectives in protecting children) has been low and this low attendance will be addressed in 2015/16.

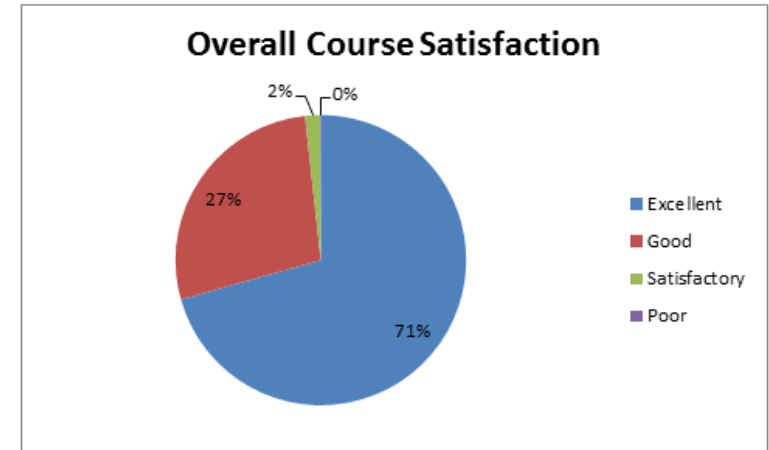
7.4 E-learning

Currently three e-learning courses are available on the Durham LSCB website; Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect (ACAN), Safeguarding Children from Abuse by Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and PREVENT – Counter Terrorism awareness. Over the last year **1,707 people** have accessed and passed the ACAN course and **2,090 people** have accessed and passed the CSE e-learning.

7.5 Training Evaluation

Page 116 Evaluation sheets for all training delivered by Durham LSCB are completed at the end of each training session. The training courses received very positive feedback with 71% of attendees marking the training they received as excellent. The chart opposite illustrates overall satisfaction levels of the courses delivered throughout 2014/15.

Follow up evaluations are carried with staff in the three months after attending a training session to assess the longer term benefits of training. 100% of those surveyed stated that the training had fulfilled their personal objectives set within the training and 81% of those surveyed agreeing that the learning from their training had improved outcomes for their clients.



'The course gave a clear picture of the process and actions needed by other professionals prior to the case being allocated to a social worker.'

'I feel able to explain the purpose of my assessment to the family which promotes their confidence to share their circumstances with me.'

'I am now more able to support the child / young person as I am now more aware of the long term effects Neglect has on them.'

'Greater understanding and knowledge of parental mental health, able to offer better advice when speaking to affected parents on the phone, understand what they are going through and their stresses and concerns better.'

'This course is applied on a daily basis, every hour of every day to change the lives of clients.'

'More comfortable when involved in core groups.'

'Gave me new ideas of activities to carry out with parents around children's needs.'

'I am wiser on how to get the child's views on the process.'

Comments from evaluation surveys 2014-15

7.6 Future Training

In 2015/16 several new courses will be offered. These are:

- LADO – Local Authority Designated Officer training. This two hour briefing is designed for Senior Nominated Officers within organisations that have responsibility for safeguarding issues including managing allegations against staff and volunteers
- Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation – This one day course will be delivered in collaboration with County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust and HALO (honour based violence and forced marriage project)
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Online Grooming – This full day aims to increase awareness of child sexual exploitation of internet abuse, online grooming and abusive images of children and provides staff with a greater understanding of the issues and processes so that children and young people can be safeguarded
- Child Sexual Exploitation training sessions will be developed specifically for taxi drivers operating in the Durham area
- Aligned Domestic Abuse training (amalgamated LSCB / Safe Durham training)
- Hidden Sentence – Funded by Think Family, this covers the impact of prison on children and families

Section 8: Future Priorities

The LSCB will continue to tackle child protection and safeguarding issues and support partners providing child safeguarding.

8.1 LSCB Priorities 2015/16

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the following priorities for 2015/16:

- Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
- Improving Early Help
- Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are Domestic Abuse; Alcohol misuse; Substance misuse; parental mental health)
- Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem
- Increase the voice of the Child
- Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities

8.2 Priority areas of work

Alongside the identified priorities above the LSCB has highlighted priority areas of work for 2015/16, these are:

- Supporting and challenging the new Children's Services Transformation arrangements for the delivery of children's services
- Improving the performance and quality assurance information to support and improve performance on the Board's priorities
- Strengthening our engagement with children and young people especially those from vulnerable communities such as Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender, young carers, Gypsy Roma Travellers, young people who offend and special needs children and young people
- Building on the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) training offered to health professional and develop an Female Genital Mutilation Strategy / Practice Guidance
- Work with the County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) to promote the need for domestic abuse services to support children, young people and their families
- We will continue to keep a focus on information sharing supporting and promoting good practice across multi-agency teams
- Continue a programme of self-improvement

8.3 Plan on Page

Our 'Plan on a Page' (within our Business Plan 2015-18) identifies actions for our 2015-16 strategic priorities.

Outcome and Business Priorities	Objectives for 2015-18	Actions in 2015-16
Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation	Ensure services are targeted, responsive and effective	1) Deliver taxi driver awareness sessions to taxi drivers in County Durham
	Embed the prevent, protect and pursue agenda into practice and service	2) Promote the Erase website 3) Increase soft intelligence of perpetrators
Improving Early Help	Ensure services support families at an earlier stage to prevent child protection intervention	4) Embed the Early Help Strategy into practice 5) Review the understanding of the early help agenda across services
	Reduce the number of young people subject to child protection plans	6) Refresh the governance and focus of the Early Help Forums
Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are Domestic Abuse; Alcohol misuse; Substance misuse; parental mental health)	Ensure that services are targeted, responsive and efficient for children suffering from neglect	7) Refresh Early Help Strategy to include Neglect and Hidden Harm 8) Engage thematic partnerships (Safe Durham / Health and Wellbeing / Children and Families) and align joint actions on Neglect
	Reduce the impact of neglect contributory factors on the outcomes of children and young people suffering from neglect	
Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem	Ensure services are targeted, responsive and effective	9) Review the services for children and young people who self-harm
		10) Review the services for children and young people who experience poor self esteem
Increase the Voice of the Child	Views of children and young people are used to inform services and best practice	11) Embed the learning from the young people's reference group into service provision and practice
Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities	Continued development of Leadership, Challenge and Learning (as below)	
Leadership	Ensure collective leadership across all agencies	12) Deliver new LSCB business plan
	Increase access of data and analysis and improve understanding	13) Embed Performance Management Framework
Challenge	Expand collective learning and improvement	14) Conduct SCR Lessons Learned events
	Develop effective policies and procedures across all agencies	15) Update the Child Protection Procedures and ensure document control process is in place
Learning	Develop effective systems, processes and polices through audits	16) Partners to implement recommendations from audits to ensure they are fulfilling their statutory obligations
	Use evidence of impact to challenge	17) Challenge agencies to demonstrate lessons learnt following a Serious Case Review
Learning	Ensure that the skills and knowledge of practitioners is effective, using learning from Serious Case Reviews	18) Publish SCR reports
		19) Continue to analyse impact of training 20) Progress the thematic tool for SCRs

These actions will be assigned to the appropriate sub groups and be monitored and reviewed quarterly by the LSCB Board.

Appendix 1 – LSCB Membership

Durham LSCB Membership

- The Board is chaired by an independent person commissioned by the Durham County Council Chief Executive
- National Probation Services – represented by the Head of Durham
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company – represented by Head of Services County Durham and Darlington
- North Durham, Dales, Easington & Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups – represented by:
 - Director of Nursing (Vice-Chair of Durham LSCB)
 - Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children and Looked After Children
- NHS England – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust – represented by the Associate Director of Nursing (Safeguarding)
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust – represented by:
 - Associate Director of Patient Experience & Safeguarding
 - Designated Paediatrician
 - Head of Children and Families
- North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – represented by the Deputy Director of Nursing
- Cafcass (County Durham) – represented the Service Manager
- County Durham Council represented by:
 - Corporate Director, Children & Adults Services
 - Head of Children’s Services
 - Head of Adults Care
 - Head of Education
 - Strategic Manager - Youth Offending Service
 - Director of Public Health County Durham
 - Housing Solutions Manager
- National Offender Management Service – represented by Public Protection Manager

- Durham Constabulary – represented by the Force Lead for Safeguarding (Superintendent Level)
- The Voluntary & Community Sector – represented by the Voluntary Sector x2 Representative
- Schools represented by:
 - Durham Association of Secondary Heads
 - Durham Association of Primary Heads
 - Durham Association of Specialist Schools
- Further Education – Head of Student Services, Bishop Auckland College
- Lay Members – represented by two members of the community whose role is to support stronger public engagement in local child safety issues and to challenge the LSCB on the accessibility by the public and children and young people of its plans and procedures
- Lead Member – represented by the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People Services
- Faith Communities – represented by the Safeguarding Lead for Durham Diocese

LSCB Advisors

The Board is advised by:

- A member of Durham County Council Corporate & Legal Services nominated as the Board’s legal advisor
- Durham LSCB Business Manager
- Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adult Services, Durham County Council
- Strategic Manager Policy Planning and Partnerships, Children and Adult Services, Durham County Council

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Appendix 2 – LSCB Staffing and Budget 2014/16

Staffing:

The LSCB is supported by the following officers:

- LSCB Business Manager
- LSCB Quality & Performance Co-ordinator (deputises for Business Manager)
- LSCB Strategy and Development Officer
- LSCB Training Co-ordinator
- LSCB Admin Co-ordinator
- LSCB Administrator

LSCB Budget

The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March in each year. Budget management is the responsibility of the Durham LSCB Business Manager and financial reports will be presented to the Board at six monthly intervals.

The majority of the budget relates to staffing costs, this includes costs associated with the independent chair. Other major costs relate to training and Serious Case Reviews.

The financial contributions from partner agencies in 2014/15 were as follows:

Partner	Contribution
Durham County Council	£171,604
Clinical Commissioning Groups	£95,097
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
Durham Constabulary	£29,285
Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust	£2,680
Haddockfield Training Centre	£2,680
Further Education Colleges	£1,400
NHS England	£2,000
Cafcass	£550
Total	£313,336

The financial contributions from partner agencies in 2015/16 are as follows:

Partner	Contribution
Durham County Council	£171,604
Clinical Commissioning Groups	£95,097
Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	£2,680
Durham Constabulary	£29,285
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company	£1,250
National Probation Service	£1,250
Further Education Colleges	£2,100
Cafcass	£550
Total	£309,176

Appendix 3 – Partner updates in the wider partnership

Stronger Families

In April 2012, the Government launched the Troubled Families Programme, known locally as the Stronger Families Programme, to incentivise local authorities and their partners to turn around the lives of over 120,000 families by May 2015. Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Children and Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership work jointly on this agenda.

Phase 1 of this programme aimed to work with families where children are not attending school, young people are committing crime, families are involved in anti-social behaviour and adults are out of work. The County Durham Stronger Families Programme met the target in March 2015 to turn around its targeted number of 1,320 families by May 2015. Families have received help and support delivered with a 'Think Family' multi-agency approach coordinated by a Lead Professional and a Team Around the Family utilising a single multi-agency care plan in order to reduce duplication and maximise impact.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

The two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) that cover Durham are:

- NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgfield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES)
- NHS North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (covering Derwentside, Chester-le-Street and Durham)

Both CCGs' Directors of Nursing and the Designated Professionals are active Board members and also support the LSCB chairing a LSCB sub-group. In addition, CCGs are active members of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and multi-agency strategic groups for Domestic Abuse, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and the strategic group for Looked After Children.

The CCGs have mandatory safeguarding children training well established for their staff. In addition, annual education sessions are offered to the CCG governing bodies regarding their corporate safeguarding responsibilities.

The CCGs have continued to support primary care in their safeguarding responsibilities by ensuring that training is delivered through Protected Learning Time (PLT) events. The CCGs audited the impact of the safeguarding training in the 2014 to 2015 academic year which has indicated

that 47% of attendees who had previously attended safeguarding children training had used the knowledge gained over the last year. 28% of the total attendees stated that their practice had changed procedures as a result of the training.

CCGs have also continued to support GP Practice safeguarding leads through the programme of quarterly development sessions. These are led by the Designated Professionals, are well attended and are generally evaluated positively.

North Durham CCG led the development of the ChildSafe Trigger Tool which provides a systematic way of ensuring all correspondence regarding trauma in children is looked at by GP Practices from a safeguarding perspective. The information then forms part of the whole picture of the child's life and experience.

The ChildSafe Trigger Tool was audited in April and May 2014 and showed it was generally embedded within primary care practice in North Durham. The ChildSafe Trigger Tool has been included as good practice in the updated national Royal College of GPs Safeguarding Children Toolkit.

The CCGs have strengthened the quality requirements within the NHS contract, requesting NHS provider Trusts to provide evidence of their training, policy and safeguarding activities and assurance that actions and any learning has been taken forward. The information is considered through clinical quality review groups, where CCGs and designated professionals are positioned to question and acknowledge practice.

The CCGs both evidence their commitment to the safeguarding of children in County Durham through a safeguarding declaration on their website and a safeguarding children strategic delivery plan. Both CCGs have a link on the front page of their websites to the LSCB procedures.

Durham Constabulary

Durham Constabulary continued to support schools in raising awareness around CSE and online safety to young people, including offering training at conferences and events. Durham Police also organised young people's conferences, which included learning from a range of agencies around CSE, internet safety and healthy relationships and respect. Safeguarding and Neighbourhoods have merged Commands ensuring the accurate education of children and their parents/carers around safeguarding issues is included in the Mini Police, Junior Neighbourhood Watch, Jet and Ben lessons, School Carousels and by Neighbourhood Teams who engage with young people.

The Police continue, in partnership with the LSCB, to monitor and improve practice when tackling CSE. In summer 2015 we will see the implementation of a dedicated multi-agency team (ERASE Team) which will focus on early identification, problem solving and offender disruption to reduce the number of children who are frequently reported Missing From Home and reduce the risk of Child Sexual Exploitation.

Durham Police are the first Force nationally to pilot pioneering training and techniques to spot warning signs around those who may pose a risk to children by providing an understanding of how sex offenders operate. The training and tools will continue to be developed and multiagency training offered in 2015 and 2016.

The Durham Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Durham Constabulary continue to work closely with a range of other agencies to improve outcomes for young people. In December 2014 the PCC held a 'One Year On' Regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Since its launch work there has been a number of achievements including employing a worker from Harbour to work within the MASH who engages victims at critical times to offer support and help. The strategy will also focus more closely on child sexual exploitation.

In January 2015 the Force launched its 'through the eyes of a child' campaign to focus officers attending domestic abuse incidents to consider what life is like for the children in that family. In support of this initiative officers are required at every domestic abuse incident to wear body worn cameras, speak with any children in the home and view their living conditions including bedrooms and to capture their voice and act upon any concerns. At the same time the Safe Durham Partnership has increased the numbers of its Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates to improve the support we give to victims. A New Domestic Abuse Team will launch in September 2015, focusing on those standard and medium risk victims to make sure they and their families are supported and to ensure perpetrators are disrupted using tools such as domestic violence protection orders and notices and perpetrator programmes.

County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

This update provides an overview of the activity and developments which has been undertaken within the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) around safeguarding children during the 12 month period April 2014 to March 2015.

Safeguarding Children Training – During 2014/15 the Safeguarding Training Team undertook a review training needs analysis is in line with the Safeguarding Children and Young People: roles and competences for health staff, Intercollegiate Document 2014 and refreshed the Safeguarding Children Training Strategy to reflect the changes identified.

Central Referral Unit (CRU) Durham – All domestic abuse cases are reviewed by the Police within the CRU and cases screened as medium and high are circulated to Health Visitors, School Nurses, Family Nurse Partnership and Midwives by the safeguarding teams.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Durham – A bid has been drafted to increase the health resources within the MASH.

SystemOne – This is being developed as an information management system for the safeguarding team. This will increase efficiency within the team allowing enhanced information exchange at an operational level. Systems and policies have been developed and it is planned for implementation by September 2015.

Policies and Procedures – A full review of Safeguarding Children Policies and Procedures has been undertaken in line with the publication of Working Together 2015.

Safeguarding audits – A supervision audit has been completed which has informed the policy development and provides assurances around quality of supervision. In addition a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) audit was completed which identified the level of compliance with regard to Safeguarding KPI's. The audit also allowed staff to comment and provide feedback on the various safeguarding services. The feedback from staff was generally positive and complimentary towards the staff and services involved.

Safeguarding model - Safeguarding team and Family Nurse Partnership – The FNP safeguarding model is now well embedded into practice and follows guidance in the FNP manual.

Acute Senior Nurse Safeguarding role – The team currently has 1 WTE Acute Senior Nurse Safeguarding Children (SNSC) who provides safeguarding advice, support, training and supervision to both Durham and Darlington Acute sites and allied health professionals, including the Sexual Health Team. Several audits are on-going as part of this role. Task forces have been established for Emergency Departments on both hospital sites. A safeguarding link group has been implemented and meets bi monthly to promote good communication between Neonatal Unit, Maternity, Paediatrics and Specialist Nurses. Acute SNSC ensures staff awareness/ updates are provided regarding policy and practice by delivering regular briefings. Acute SNSC works very closely with Consultant Paediatricians and is the key link between Acute sites and community.

Female Genital Mutilation – A time limited task and finish group including the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, Named Nurses and Specialist Midwife are leading the development of Trust wide protocols and pathways regarding Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

CP-IS (Child Protection Information Sharing) – CP-IS focuses on improving the protection of children who have previously been identified as vulnerable by Children's Services when they visit the following NHS unscheduled care settings:

- Emergency Departments
- Walk-in Centres

- Out of Hours GPs
- Minor Injuries Units
- Paediatric Wards
- Maternity Units
- Ambulance Services

The project will link the IT systems of NHS unscheduled care to those used by child protection teams, to enable minimal information on a restricted set of children to be shared.

- Those with a Child Protection Plan
- Those classed as Looked After (i.e. children with full and interim care orders or voluntary care agreements)
- Any pregnant woman whose unborn child has a pre-birth protection plan.

A project team has been established to take CP-IS forward for the Trust and a project plan is being prepared.

Looked After Children (LAC) – There are a number of updates under this subject as follows:

- **Initial Health Assessments:** The number of IHA's being completed within the statutory 20 working day timescale, has increased from 7.6% to 72.2%. Improvements to date have been influenced by multi-agency implementation of the Initial Health Assessment Escalation policy this is on-going
- **Review Health Assessments:** Performance for RHA's 2014-15 has been reported by Local Authority at Durham 92.3% which is much higher than the 86% target
- **Teenage Initial Health Assessments** flow charts have been developed and implemented to ensure all young people are offered an Initial Health Assessments with a Paediatrician and if declined this is followed up
- **On-going LAC audit:** health care plans are audited to ensure standards are maintained following briefing sessions being provided to staff to ensure a high quality of assessments
- **Policy update:** The Adoption Policy has been updated and is awaiting ratification

- **Joint LAC and Safeguarding Supervision Policy** This has been updated to include recommendations from School Nurse and Health Visitor Service Specification awaiting ratification
- **Reorganisation:** Following reorganisation the LAC processes and practices have been standardised across Durham and Darlington to ensure equity of care across the County. The LAC administrators are now to be co-located for Durham and Darlington to ensure continuity and provision is maintained for working week
- **Working Relationships:** Close working relationships have been developed with the Local Authority and CCGs joint working a number of work streams for example gap analysis of the new promoting the health and wellbeing of looked after children (2015)
- **Fostering and Adoption Panels** have representation from the LAC nurses in Durham and Darlington. There is also representation on the Placement Resource Panel.

National Probation Services and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company

The Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme of Probation reforms split probation services into two new organisations during 2014/15. These are:

- A new public sector National Probation Service (NPS) dealing with all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public.
- Twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders
- Extending statutory supervision and rehabilitation to those offenders sentenced to less than 12 months in custody
- Reorganising the prison estate to provide 'resettlement' prisons and a nationwide 'through the gate' resettlement service

Offenders managed by the new National Probation Service include all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public – this group will include those subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The new National Probation Service will continue to carry out assessments of the risk of serious harm posed by each offender and advise the courts and Parole Board accordingly.

All other offenders are managed and supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies.

In response to these reforms partners have been working together to mitigate identified risks and issues including; migration and splitting of local probation services and systems; working arrangements for statutory and non-statutory responsibilities, timely agency access to offenders in resettlement prisons and 'through the gate' provision.

Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust contract with the Ministry of Justice ended 31 May 2014. Probation staff were identified and aligned to either the National Probation Service or the Community Rehabilitation Company with the migration and splitting of probation services and systems taking place 1 June 2014.

The public sector Community Rehabilitation Company provided probation services until the end of January 2015 before a mobilisation phase transferring over to ARRC (Achieving Real Change in Communities). ARRC is a local mutual with members including Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust, Local Authorities, Housing Association and Private Investors. The Contract Packaged Area for our local area covers the existing Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust boundaries (Durham and Cleveland).

Our focus now turns to the implementation of the CRC Service Delivery Model. As this becomes available partners within the County Durham Partnership will continue to be updated as we adapt delivery of services to improve the management of offenders

Below is a simple explanation of 'Who does what':

Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Limited (CRC): The CRC delivers contracted offender management rehabilitation services in the community and will be the main point of day to day contact for partners, organisations and service users.

ARRC (Achieving Real Change in Communities): The ARCC are small group of investors who own shares in Durham Tees Valley CRC. They won the Ministry of Justice contract for offender management rehabilitation services in the Durham Tees Valley area and direct the CRC to deliver the contract.

National Probation Service (NPS): The NPS is a statutory criminal justice service that supervises high-risk offenders released into the community. The local NPS Durham Area is co-terminus with the Durham Constabulary area and will be the main point of contact for partners, organisations and service users.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS): The NOMS Contract Management Team work on behalf of the Ministry of Justice to monitor / review compliance of the contract. The Ministry of Justice are the commissioners of the contract.

Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014 / 2015 - Safeguarding Children in County Durham

The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has a statutory duty to prepare and publish an Annual Report which describes how our partners safeguard vulnerable children and young people in County Durham. Our primary responsibility is to provide a way for the local organisations that have a responsibility in respect of child welfare, to agree how they will work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in County Durham and to ensure that they do so effectively.

Over the last year we have reviewed and updated our vision to ***'Every child and young person in County Durham feels safe and grows up safe from harm'***.

This Annual Report gives an account of the Board's work over the past year to improve the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The report reflects the activity of the LSCB and its sub-groups against its priorities for 2014/15. It covers the major changes and improvements of our partners' service delivery, where they link with the Board's overall strategies and the impact we have had. It also reports on the Serious Case Reviews and Child Death Reviews undertaken and identifies the priorities we will take forward into 2015/16.

Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

 Braille  Audio  Large print

العربية Arabic (中文 (繁體字)) Chinese اردو Urdu

polski Polish ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi Español Spanish

বাংলা Bengali हिन्दी Hindi Deutsch German

Français French Türkçe Turkish Melayu Malay

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A copy of this report is available on www.durham-lscb.org.uk

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Cabinet

18 November 2015



Adult Safeguarding Board Annual Report

Report of Corporate Management Team.

Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director – Children and Adults Services

Councillor Lucy Hovvels Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services

Purpose of Report

- 1 To present the Annual Safeguarding Adults Report to Cabinet and in doing so provide information on the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and outline achievements during the year 2014/15.

Background

- 2 There are a number of specific areas covered by the Annual Report which are as follows:
 - Safeguarding in its current context.
 - Achievements during the year 2014 /15 from the Board's subgroups.
 - The Strategic Plan for 2015/18.
 - Perspectives of the partners.
 - Key data on safeguarding activity in County Durham.

Safeguarding in its Current Context

- 3 Much of the work of the Board in 2014/15 has focussed on preparing for the implementation of the Care in April 2015. The Act places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and implements changes to the way in which safeguarding enquiries are managed. If not already in place, the local authority **must** also set up a Safeguarding Adults Board to provide assurance that local safeguarding partnership arrangements act effectively to protect adults in its area.
- 4 The Care Act requires the SAB to fulfil three core duties;
 - It **must** publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan should be evidence based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from partners to form and develop its plan.
 - It **must** publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy.
 - It **must** conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.

- 5 In addition to these legislative changes, the work described in this year's annual report has continued to take place against a backdrop of austerity. As in the previous year, our public services have continued to rise to the challenge and the SAB partners have continued in their commitment to prioritising safeguarding activity. This is reflected by the achievements outlined in the annual report which remain significant.
- 6 While not a primary responsibility of SAB, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) has received much attention over the period of this Annual Report. A ruling by the Supreme Court in March 2014 significantly lowered the threshold to what constitutes a deprivation of someone's liberty. Under DoLS local authorities must assess whether people who lack capacity to consent to their care arrangements are being deprived of their liberty in care homes or hospitals and, if so, whether this is in their best interests and necessary to protect them from harm. The DoLS are designed to provide independent scrutiny, by social workers and health professionals, of these care arrangements. There were a total of 1416 such applications in 2014/15. This represents an 8 fold increase from the previous year, with the figure set to rise to approximately 2500 applications in 2015/16.

Key Achievements from the Annual Report 2014/15

- 7 All reported safeguarding concerns have risen from 2153 in 2013/14, to 2502 in 2014/15. This continues to demonstrate the effective promotion of safeguarding adult's issues across the health and social care economy resulting in low thresholds for reporting concerns to the local authority.
- 8 The overall number of multi-agency investigations has reduced from 502 to 375 over the same period. This reflects successful changes to procedures and operating practices. A more thorough risk assessment of reported concerns is undertaken early in the process, resulting in a more proportionate response. Full multi agency investigations are reserved for the high risk cases.
- 9 The SAB website and all of the associated leaflets, publicity materials, procedures and guidance have been revised to ensure they are Care Act compliant. The website usage has had a 50% increase in page views when compared to the previous year.
- 10 The appointment of Jane Geraghty, an independent chair to both the Adult and Children Board was complete in October 2014. Jane took over the chair of SAB from Lesley Jeavons, head of Adult Care in January 2015. SAB appointed Susan Harrison, a lay member at the same time. Together, these two roles provide an enhanced level of independent scrutiny of the work of the Board and its partners.
- 11 In February 2015, the SAB commenced development work with the support of two Local Government Association consultants to transform its business planning and performance management processes. This has resulted in the formation of a 'Plan on a Page' and a new outcome focussed performance framework.

The Strategic Plan 2015-18 (Plan on a Page)

- 12 This plan is shaped by the following vision:

“We will support adults at risk of harm to prevent abuse happening; when it does occur, we will act swiftly to achieve good outcomes.”

13 The plan will shape the strategic priorities of the SAB for at least the next 3 years. The priorities focus on the following seven areas;

- Performance
- Legislative Compliance
- Prevention
- User/Carer Voice
- Awareness
- Partnership Engagement
- Learning Lessons and Improvement

14 Each of these priorities will be aligned to a sub group of the SAB. The sub group will then oversee the development of associated practice and service delivery. To strengthen our governance arrangements a new performance framework has been devised to focus on the same priority areas. The development of these key documents will focus much of the work of SAB in strengthening its multi-agency collaboration from 2015/16 onward. It is envisaged that a self/ peer audit tool will be devised covering the same strategic priorities; again to bring greater cohesion to the development of this vital partnership arrangement.

Perspectives of the Key Partners

15 In addition to the local authority, the annual report features update summaries from Durham Constabulary, North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust. These summaries bare testimony to the ongoing commitment of these key partners in prioritising training and development work to further the development of safeguarding standards across County Durham.

Key Data on Safeguarding Activity in County Durham

16 In addition to the performance information featured earlier in this report under key successes; the Annual Report continues to feature data on trends pertaining to safeguarding adults investigations. It is reassuring to note that the vast majority of this data remains consistent with previous years. This perhaps illustrates a maturity in our reporting processes and provides some scope to predict the nature and prevalence of safeguarding concerns when developing our future plans.

Recommendations

17 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Approve the content of the Annual Report.

Contact: Lee Alexander, Safeguarding & Practice Development Manager
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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Ongoing pressure on public service finance will challenge all agencies to consider how best to respond to the safeguarding agenda.

Staffing – The sustaining of adult safeguarding activities requires continued priority to staffing to ensure adequate resources are maintained. The continued contribution to staffing from partner agencies determines the sustainability of dedicated safeguarding adults posts/ functions.

Risk – The risks associated with not appropriately managing responses to safeguarding are extremely high and include risks of ongoing abuse and neglect and the risk of serious organisational damage to statutory and non-statutory agencies in County Durham. The Safeguarding Adults Board puts considerable effort into training and awareness-raising to ensure that abuse and neglect recognised and reported. All reports of concerns are screened and directed so they receive the most appropriate response.

Equality and Diversity – Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures.

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and disorder - Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures.

Human rights - Adult safeguarding is intrinsically linked and this is covered in the SAB policies and procedures.

Consultation – Report available for all partner agencies.

Procurement – The adoption of safeguarding principles in the procurement of health and social care services is essential.

Disability issues – Safeguarding Adults procedures apply to ‘adults at risk’ who are adults that are deemed eligible for social care services.

Legal implications – While there is no legal requirement for an Annual Report at present, however there will be a statutory requirement to produce an annual report from 2015 when the Care Act 2014 comes into force.



County Durham
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
INTER-AGENCY PARTNERSHIP

Annual Report 2014/2015

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**Foreword from Jane Geraghty, Chair,
County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board**

I am delighted to present the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15. I was appointed as Independent Chair of both the Children and Adult Board in October and have begun to develop positive and constructive relationships with all the partners represented on the Board. We all have a shared objective to make County Durham a place where adults at risk are protected from abuse and supported in making decisions about their own safety.

This annual report illustrates how the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has continued to make a significant contribution towards making vulnerable adult's safe and protecting them from harm. This is all the more impressive when viewed in the light of the austerity measures the public sector continue to operate within. The local authority continues to operate within a difficult financial environment with significant reductions to its settlement, the Police have made a significant reduction of some 600 officers in recent times and health partners have had to realign many of the services that they provide.

Much of the work of the Board has involved preparing for the implementation of the Care Act. The publication of the Care Act guidance has provided a statutory framework prescribing how the SAB operates. This includes a focus on three additional areas of abuse, those of Domestic Abuse, Modern Slavery and self-neglect which will all provide challenges in their right.

The main partner organisations of the board have an obligation to co-operate in order to protect the adult from harm. The local authority must now make enquiries or cause others to do so if it believes that there has been abuse and neglect.

The Act provided an opportunity for the Board to take time out to re confirm its priorities and agree its performance framework that ensures all partners can demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding both within their own organisations and working collaboratively with partners.

The Board is concerned to ensure that its work makes a real difference to the most vulnerable. A key priority is to hear and respond to the voice of the user and care.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all Board members and all members of the business unit for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to ensure County Durham is a safe place.

Jane Geraghty
Independent Chair
Safeguarding Adults Board

Introduction

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in County Durham is a well-established multi-agency arrangement that has been developed over a number of years based on the 'No Secrets' guidance and the Association of Director of Adult Social Services (ADASS) National Framework of Standards.

The introduction of the Care Act 2014 places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing. This means if not already in place, the local authority **must** set up a Safeguarding Adults Board and its main objective is to assure itself that local safeguarding arrangements and partners act to help and protect adults in its area

The SAB has three core duties;

- It **must** publish a strategic plan for each financial year that sets how it will meet its main objective and what the members will do to achieve this. The plan should be evidence based and make use of all available evidence and intelligence from partners to form and develop its plan.
- It **must** publish an annual report detailing what the SAB has done during the year to achieve its main objective and implement its strategic plan, and what each member has done to implement the strategy.
- It **must** conduct any Safeguarding Adults Review in accordance with Section 44 of the Act.

Strategically the SAB should be viewed as 'greater than the sum of the operational duties of its core partners' and will have an oversight on safeguarding in the area. It will be seen as an important source of advice and will have a particular interest in preventing abuse and neglect.

The Care Act states that we should not limit our view of what constitutes abuse and it has highlighted three additional categories that should be considered, namely domestic abuse, modern slavery and self-neglect. It has placed an emphasis on identifying exploitation and patterns of serial offending. Much of the work carried out by the SAB over the period of this annual report has been preparatory work to ensure that adult safeguarding will be Care Act compliant.

This annual report highlights some of the initiatives that the SAB has developed during 2014/15 through the Performance & Quality, Policy & Practice and Communications & Training/Engagement Sub Groups which are the operational mechanism of the SAB. (Learning and Improvement)

Each of the main partner agencies has highlighted some of their organisational contributions to support the development of safeguarding. There is also data contained toward the back of this report that helps to provide an understanding of the extent and nature of safeguarding activity in County Durham.

Strategic Overview of Safeguarding Adults

The Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) has been through a year of transition in preparation for the introduction of the Care Act 2014.

There have been some new appointments to the Board. Jane Geraghty has been appointed as the new Independent Chair, and Susan Harrison as the first Lay Member. The Police lead is now Chief Inspector Stephen Chapman, who has taken over as Force Lead from Paul Goundry who will focus on child protection.

The new Adult Safeguarding Chair is also the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and it is expected that this will further enhance the good working relationship we have between the two Boards.

The SAB Policies and Procedures and much of the SAB literature have undergone a full review in order to ensure that they are Care Act compliant. The SAB website has continued to be used as a key source of information, with a 50% increase in use on the previous year.

The reporting of safeguarding concerns has increased by 349 to a level of 2502 which is the first significant rise in four years whilst repeat referrals have remained on a gradually downward trend.

The Board has continued to build on the success of the previous radio campaigns by leading on the fourth regional awareness campaign which incorporated promotional events in high footfall areas within Durham and other local authority areas. This was followed by a further Durham based, four week campaign, early in 2015 which was supported by a number of articles in local authority publications.

SAB has engaged with the 'Making Safeguarding Personal' initiative which is a national initiative focused on making the victims of abuse and neglect more central to the safeguarding process. The main partners of the SAB have undergone a self-assessment process; the results of which were very positive as they have demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting the safeguarding arrangements and working collaboratively to recognise and address concerns associated with abuse and neglect.

There has been widespread recognition across the partnership to refocus our approach to monitoring performance which has predominantly concentrated on local authority qualitative data taken from safeguarding adults investigations. 2015/16 will see the introduction of a greater emphasis.

The Performance and Quality Sub Group has reviewed its practices and the information that it reviews. There is now a general shift from quantitative data to a more qualitative analysis on qualitative analysis taken from a range of SAB partners.

Regional Perspective

The Safeguarding Adults Board has continued to fully participate in regional safeguarding activities in connection with ADASS.

The current ADASS Safeguarding North East Network work plan encompasses the following areas:-

- Adult engagement and participation
- Care Act 2014 audit of implementation
- Communications strategy
- Quality assurance models
- Good practice presentations and links to strategic safeguarding
- Peer Review Feedback
- Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) models

As mentioned above the Durham SAB has been instrumental in securing funding and leading on the regional awareness campaign. On behalf of the region, it has also commissioned training regarding the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) 'Learning Together Model' (methodology for safeguarding adult reviews), Legal Literacy and Sexual Exploitation (eLearning).

Durham SAB has also been responsible for re-establishing and chairing the Regional Training group which again shares information and good practice across the 11 local authority areas that cover the North East.

Safeguarding Operations

The total number of safeguarding concerns have risen for the first time in four years; the number of referrals (the portion of reported concerns that require further scrutiny under our safeguarding procedures has remained stable at around 1000). However, this has coincided with a reduction in the number of safeguarding investigations where procedures are invoked. This downward trend is entirely due to lead officers and team managers making informed decisions regarding the most appropriate response since the change in procedures which increased the decision making period from one to up to five days.

It has been a challenging year for the Safeguarding Lead Officer team which has expected higher than average levels of staff turnover and vacancy during the 2014/15 period. This in turn has made it difficult to meet the organisational targets for completing investigations. On a positive note the team is now up to full strength and the staffing levels have been increased to provide more resilience and to cope with the extra demands that will be created by engaging with the 'Making Safeguarding Personal' initiative.

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

Following a ruling in March 2014 by the Supreme Court which clarified the definition of a Deprivation of Liberty, there has been a substantial increase in DoLS applications in County Durham. Prior to the Supreme Court judgement there was an average of 14 applications per month. The applications were assessed by Best Interest Assessors (BIA) who were based in social work teams and worked on a rota basis. However, following the judgement, the number of applications rose considerably. From April 2014 to March 2015 there were a total of 1416 applications. To manage the increased number of applications in the short term, three full time Best Interest Assessors were appointed in addition to those working on a rota basis.

The significant rise in applications which has also been seen within other Local Authorities across the country has continued in 2015, reflecting the increased awareness of care homes and hospitals regarding their responsibilities within DoLS.

Transformational Change and Prevention

The Care Act 2014 was implemented in April 2015. The new legislation identifies the aim of "care and support" as helping people achieve the outcomes that matter to them in their life. It emphasises the principles of well-being and prevention as underpinning the Local Authority's role

when carrying out any of their care and support functions and introduced new national minimum eligibility criteria for service users and carers. Carers are given the same rights as those they care for; this includes the right to an assessment, a care and support plan and a Personal Budget.

The new legislation consolidates best practice around personalisation and reinforces the objectives of transformational change. Durham County Council Adult Care Services have made significant progress towards meeting these objectives over the past year. This has been supported by a comprehensive programme of staff training workshops and publication of the monthly bulletin “New Beginnings” to inform staff of the coming changes.

Working with partner agencies, the council successfully bid for funding from the Better Care Fund. This will be used to enhance the local integration of health and social care services. A pooled budget has been established and the fund has been committed to key themes which include:

- Intermediate Care Plus (IC+)
- Equipment and adaptations for independence
- Supporting independent living
- Supporting carers
- Combating social isolation

Community Chest Grants have been used throughout 2014-2015 to support the development of voluntary and community sector resources to support people who have social care needs. During the year the Community Chest supported **77** projects delivered by **73** organisations across County Durham with grants of between £500 and £10,000.

“Locate” www.durhamlocate.org.uk went live in April 2015. This new website provides information about care and support available across all sectors in County Durham. Members of the public, partner agencies and local authority staff are encouraged to access Locate when considering care and support needs. This will promote the use of community resources rather than formal social care provision.

Reporting and Interface Arrangements

The Board has interface arrangements with a number of organisational management teams across the council and partner agencies. There are also connections to a number of multi-agency partnership groups such as the Local Safeguarding Children Board, the Safe Durham Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

See Appendix 1 for a diagram of the multi-agency interface arrangements.

In addition to these arrangements a Chief Officer Group has been established which includes the councils Chief Executive alongside Chief Officers from the Police and NHS. The group is concerned with assessing quality and effective interventions across all statutory agencies.

Working with the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

Strong links continue to be maintained between SAB and the LSCB. The Independent Chair of the SAB is also the Independent Chair of the LSCB several members from partners including the Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services, also attend both Boards. Training opportunities are well established for both safeguarding boards and training leads have begun exploring areas of joint interest with a view to developing a more co-ordinated approach to training delivery.

Links to Domestic Abuse

A countywide specialist service for domestic abuse is now in place across County Durham. Harbour Support Services provide support to victims and programmes for perpetrators. Harbour are about to commence a programme of training to Adult Care staff in relation to domestic abuse following the introduction of The Care Act 2014 which highlights domestic abuse as a specific safeguarding issue.

The governance for domestic abuse continues to come from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG), which is a thematic group of the Safe Durham Partnership Board (SDPB) and provides the linkage to Adult Safeguarding. There is also adult safeguarding representation on a number of domestic abuse operational groups. A single agreed multi-agency referral pathway is also now in place to support frontline practitioners. This pathway will strengthen the links between adult safeguarding and support services.

The Safeguarding Adults Board Membership

The Board is comprised of senior representatives from the following agencies:

- Durham County Council, Children & Adults Services
- Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)
- National Health Service England (NHS England)
- Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Durham Constabulary
- Her Majesty's Prison Service
- National Probation Service
- Care Quality Commission
- Age UK County Durham
- Victim Support
- Lay Membership

Key Objectives for 2014/15

The three Sub Groups of the Safeguarding Adults Board meet four times per year. They carry out much of the development work on behalf of the Board and during the past year have achieved the following key objectives;

- **Policy and Practice** – Ensure compliance following the implementation of the Care Act 2014
- **Performance & Quality** – Closely monitor increase in referral rates for DOLS and associated impact on resources
- **Communication and Training/Engagement** – Develop awareness material for vulnerable adults regarding protecting themselves from sexual abuse.

Key Milestones Achieved: April 2014 – March 2015

The following key milestones have been achieved by the Board's thematic sub groups:

Empowerment

To develop and maintain a structured approach to supporting and involving adults at risk to ensure that decisions are made in their best interests.

- January 2015 A witness support, preparation and profiling scheme (WSPP) which gives vulnerable adults better access to the Criminal Justice System has been further developed and the first witness has been supported through the system. The scheme is now ready to be launched and the policy document is ready for sign off.
- March 2015 Safeguarding policies and procedures have been updated and are now Care Act compliant. The SAB website information and leaflets have also been reviewed and updated to ensure service users have the most up to date information regarding the safeguarding process.
- March 2015 Safeguarding Adults Review / Learning and Improvement subgroup has been established to learn the lessons from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) and the executive strategy process with a view to improving performance and processes.
- A service user survey is sent on a monthly basis to all service users where safeguarding procedures are invoked. The survey and interview process has been reviewed and revised.

Prevention

To have communities and a workforce that are able to recognise, report signs of abuse and neglect and take action to support the adult at risk.

- May 2014 Dedicated training session has been delivered to matrons in County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT) with additional sessions to follow.
- January 2015 Leaflets, information and policies and procedures have been updated to be Care Act compliant and are available on the SAB website.
- January 2015 Two radio awareness campaigns were commissioned. Funding of £18,000 was secured for a Durham lead 12 week regional campaign from July – September 2014 and second campaign which was a Durham based project ran in January 2015, incorporating articles in a number of local authority publications.
- March 2015 The percentage of invoked safeguarding referrals that were classified as occurring in the service users own home has increased.
- Ongoing Page views on website have been monitored and have increased by 50% from the previous year.

Protection

That all partners have systematic processes in place to recognise, report and manage adults at risk or allegations of abuse.

June 2014	Local authority reporting processes are compliant with SAB policies and procedures through Social Care Direct and the social services IT system (SSID) updated to give better identification of source of health referrals.
January 2015	Safeguarding Adults policy for Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group (DDES) and North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (NDCCG) practices now in place.
February 2015	Annual audit was conducted on 100 safeguarding referrals chaired by the local authority and TEWV Lead Officers. Self-assessments were carried out by the local authority, health and police partners.
Ongoing	Incidents of repeat abuse are reported quarterly and scrutinised by the Performance and Quality Sub Group and team managers. A draft Partnership Agreement is to be presented to the October SAB meeting.
Ongoing	Policies and procedures have been reviewed and are now Care Act compliant and are available on the SAB website.
Ongoing	Strategic Plan has been reviewed and redesigned.
Ongoing	<p><u>Proportionality</u></p> <p>To undertake good quality, timely risk assessments that are responsive to the needs of the individual and the least intrusive course of action central to the persons wishes, values and feelings.</p>
February 2015	<p>New IT monitoring systems are now in place for DoLS. Additional staff recruitment has been approved to deal with the increase in demand and the referral levels will continue to be monitored.</p> <p>The CCG is working with the local coroner around specific guidance for GPs in relation to their role as a result of death of a patient subject to a DoLS.</p> <p>Policies and procedures are being updated in line with the Care Act to ensure that responses to safeguarding concerns are proportionate and appropriate.</p>
March 2015	There will now be a distinction between safeguarding and adult protection, which will be triggered when there is a need for multi-agency investigation.
March 2015	<p><u>Partnership</u></p> <p>The Board fosters a one team approach to safeguarding adults at risk, which places the health and wellbeing of the individual above organisational boundaries.</p> <p>Safeguarding and local authority marketing staff have updated materials and are now Care Act compliant. This will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>Regional Training Group explored ways in which good practice and</p>

January 2015 resources could be shared across the North East region with three training packages developed. Further developments expected once Training and Development Officer is in post.

February 2015 Funding sourced for SCIE Learning Together training designed to support safeguarding adults reviews with course dates set.

Safeguarding Adults Review/Learning and Improvement Subgroup established.

February 2015

Accountability

March 2015

The Safeguarding Adults Board has open and transparent governance arrangements, ensuring that roles of all agencies are clear and holds to account partners for safeguarding adults

Independent chair and a Lay Member appointed.

Partner agencies preparing presentations to the SAB outlining organisational achievements for 2014/15 and their proposed initiatives for 2015/16.

January 2015

A briefing note was issued to staff at the end of March 2015 and a briefing for managers was arranged in April 2015 on the Care Act which includes safeguarding.

March 2015

Further Care Act training is arranged in respect of safeguarding and will begin once Training Officer in post.

March 2015

March 2015

Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018

The following provides an overview of the SABs Strategic Plan to support delivery of our key priorities over the next 3 years.

Our Vision

We will support adults at risk of harm to prevent abuse happening; when it does occur, we will act swiftly to achieve good outcomes.

Performance Framework (Performance and Quality Sub Group)

Establish a performance framework that prescribes targets that are then met across the strategic priority areas of this plan and meet national performance requirements.

Care Act/ Legislative Compliance (Policy and Practice Sub Group)

Ensure our adult protection processes comply with legislative requirements and are person centred and outcome focussed.

Prevention (Policy and Practice Sub Group)

Support people to identify and report signs of abuse and suspected criminal offences. This will involve training staff and considering how we make our local community safer in all our work. When abuse occurs, we will provide support aimed at removing or reducing risks or reoccurrence.

User/Carer Voice (Performance and Quality Sub Group)

Ensure the user's voice is heard throughout the adult protection process and user feedback is used to inform future practice. Where an individual lacks capacity, we will act in their best interests.

Awareness (Training and Communication Sub Group)

Establish and maintain a wide range of awareness raising initiatives across partner agencies that provide individuals with the right information about how to recognise abuse and how to keep themselves safe.

Partnership Engagement (Training and Communication Sub Group)

Ensure that partners are fully engaged and fulfilling their resources in achieving the objectives of SAB. In doing so, foster a 'one team' approach that places the welfare of individuals before the 'needs' of the system.

Learning Lessons and Improvement (Learning and Improvement Sub Group)

Ensure learning from serious concerns investigations, including domestic homicide reviews influences practice development across all partner agencies.

Perspectives of Key Partners

The perspective of Durham County Council is reflected throughout this document as the lead agency. The following represents a brief summary of the developments that have taken place within the other key safeguarding adults partnership organisations.

Durham Constabulary

Durham Constabulary continues to meet a growing demand in the safeguarding arena through dedicated Safeguarding Adult Teams staffed by qualified and experienced detectives.

The service is committed to working closely with partners to reduce the demand created by repeat victims/perpetrators. Good practice includes a designated Detective Superintendent to drive forward this partnership working which includes increased focus on mental health. This is already paying dividends with mental health practitioners working out of our custody suites and improved pathways into local health services. The introduction of the Care Act has also given increased focus towards the needs/expectations of vulnerable adults and the Constabulary will continue to work hard to meet these requirements. A designated Detective Chief Inspector now focuses on these issues, recently introducing front line training around the Care Act.

In addition the force is managing Operation 'Seabrook' an historic investigation into physical and sexual abuse by staff on the inmates of former Medomsley Detention Centre from the 1960,s to 1987. The investigation has brought over 1200 victims forward, making it one of the largest enquiries of its kind and it has been praised nationally for its victim care strategy that has resulted in over 300 victims now accessing counselling services. There has also been increased demand on the police adult protection staff as a result Operation Yew Tree which has encouraged many people to report incidents of historic sexual abuse.

Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

We continue to prioritise safeguarding as one of the Trust's strategic objectives in order to safeguard and promote the welfare of all adults who come into contact with our services and monitor its effectiveness through the Trust's governance arrangements and we remain fully committed to the safeguarding adult's partnership through the Safeguarding Adult Board and associated subgroups.

The Trust Board remains fully committed to on-going developments to enhance safeguarding arrangements and throughout 14/15 has continued to meet quarterly with our Local Authority colleagues through the Trust's multi agency Safeguarding Adult steering group and internal operational group to oversee Safeguarding activity within the Trust, share information, monitor action plans in response to serious case reviews, domestic homicide reviews, inspections and audit.

Ensuring clinical staff has the necessary knowledge and skills to manage safeguarding effectively has been a key priority for 14/15 and has seen a significant increase in qualified staff trained at Level 2 with the added resources to support its delivery. As part of our commitment to the safeguarding agenda the level 2 training includes the Department of Health 'Workshop to Raise Awareness about Prevent' (WRAP) 3 session.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust is accountable to patients for their safety and wellbeing through delivering high-quality care in a range of settings. This duty is underpinned by the NHS constitution that all providers of the NHS services are legally obliged to take account of. Quality is defined as providing care that is effective and safe which results in a positive patient experience.

Some patients may be unable to uphold their rights and protect themselves from harm or abuse. They may have the greatest dependency and yet be unable to hold the service to account for the quality of care they receive. The NHS has particular responsibilities to ensure that those patients receive high-quality care and that their rights are upheld, including their right to be safe.

County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust continues to be fully committed to the Safeguarding Adults Board. The Associate Director of Nursing (Patient Experience and Safeguarding) is a member of the SAB and the Safeguarding Adult Lead deputises. The Safeguarding Adults Lead is also an active member of the Board's Sub Group arrangements and is fully committed to ongoing developments to enhance safeguarding arrangements.

During 2014/15 the Trust's internal safeguarding group has continued to meet bi-monthly and is chaired by the Associate Director of Nursing (Patient Experience and Safeguarding); members include representation from all care groups, safeguarding adult lead, safeguarding children lead, looked after children team, training, named and designated professionals. The group oversees safeguarding activity within the Trust, shares information, monitors action plans in response to serious case reviews, domestic homicide reviews, inspections and audits, the group also reviews safeguarding policies, processes and procedures. The terms of reference and minutes of the meetings are received by the Quality and Healthcare Governance Committee which is a sub-committee of the Trust Board.

Since April 2012 all staff receives safeguarding adults awareness training as part of their mandatory training. At 31st March 2015, 92.7% of staff employed by the Trust had received some form of safeguarding adults training. The Trust continues to support the delivery of multi-agency safeguarding adults training and the Trust's dedicated safeguarding adults trainer has facilitated Level 2 safeguarding training sessions and Level 3 safeguarding training sessions were delivered to matrons and managers with a lead responsibility for safeguarding. Mental Capacity Act 2005 and DoLS awareness has been raised through the essential training programme; this also includes key messages from the governments PREVENT strategy.

North Durham and Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Groups (ND, DDES CCG)

CCG's are statutorily responsible for ensuring that the organisations from which they commission services provide a safe system that safeguards adults at risk of abuse or neglect. ND and DDES CCG's continue to be committed to the safeguarding agenda and work closely with provider organisations to ensure that robust systems and processes are in place. The CCG, through the contractual clinical quality review process and commissioner assurance visits, looks for assurance that providers are meeting their contractual requirements. Safeguarding referrals are being received and acted upon and those without capacity are being cared for in their best interest. Failure to comply with such standards is identified and acted upon through the quality requirements of the NHS contract schedule.

Regular monitoring of associated activity takes place on a bi-monthly basis through the clinical quality review groups for key provider organisations.

Both of the CCG's are committed to the Durham Safeguarding Adults Board with CCG board level membership and the Safeguarding Adults Manager in attendance. The Safeguarding Adults Manager attends SAB Sub-Groups and chairs a newly formed Learning and Improvement Sub-Group looking at lessons learned and improvements to practice arising from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and serious incidents.

Key developments for 2014/2015 have included; the placing of lead GPs in all practices, awareness sessions to outline and support the lead GP role were delivered in October and January. A nurses/senior carer clinical forum for staff within care home settings has been set up on a bi-monthly basis to offer peer support/share best practice. It also provides clinical supervision, revision of the MAPPA process, policies for domestic violence and embeds safeguarding adults across primary care. A named GP in both areas continue to contribute to key pieces of work in relation to primary care and offer support and advice to practices as required.

Both CCGs are committed to training with a requirement that all staff undertake mandatory eLearning training in relation to adult safeguarding. Regular performance reports are received regarding compliance with any gaps addressed.

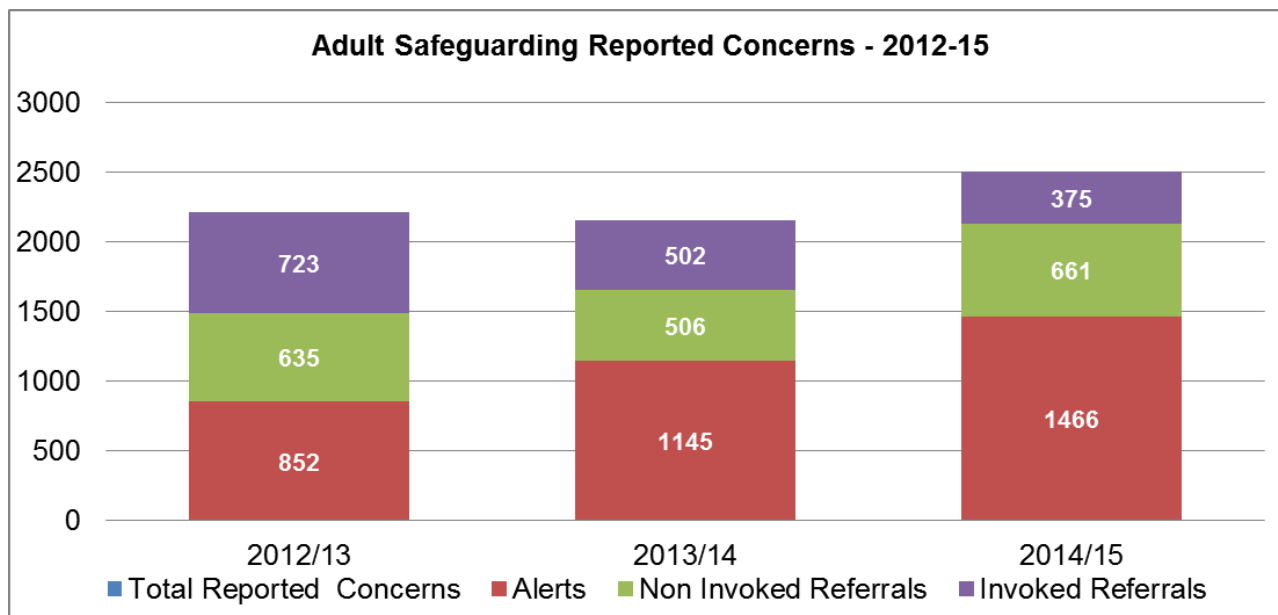
Safeguarding adults Mental Capacity Act (MCA) training events have been delivered through Protected Learning Time events in November for Derwentside, December for DDES and March for Durham and Chester le Street. All events were well attended.

The Safeguarding Adults Manager and Named GPs have met with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Manager for Primary Medical Services to further develop an understanding of the safeguarding requirements for primary care. Initial feedback has been given to safeguarding leads at their initial training sessions.

During the year NHS England allocated monies to CCGs to raise awareness of the MCA/DoLS amongst a wide range of health staff including primary care. The programme of work developed has benefited primary care, secondary care, specialist mental health and learning disabilities, as well as independent sector providers (including care homes). Joint MCA events have been held across all three CCGs served by the safeguarding team with a total of 687 staff receiving awareness/training sessions, thereby offering assurance that a wide range of health staff have received MCA/DoLS awareness.

Safeguarding Activity in Durham

Table 1a and 1b (Reported Concern Rates - All Safeguarding Adults Referrals)



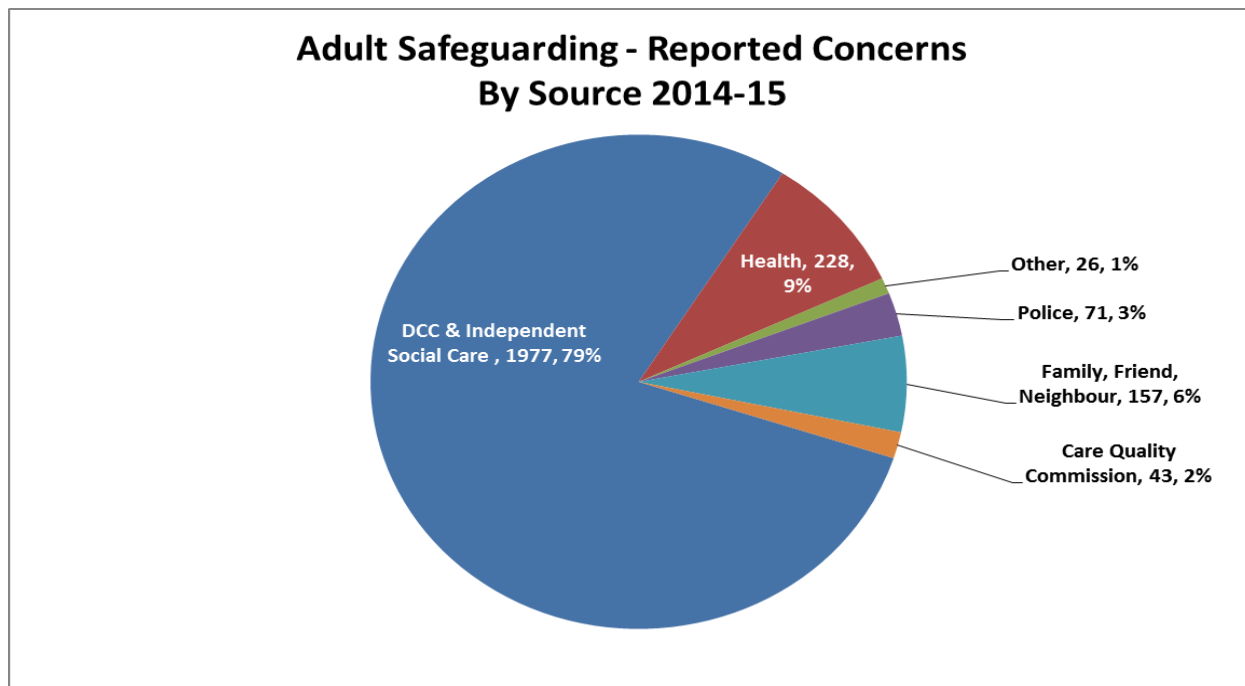
	All Reported Concerns	Referrals	Invoked	% Referred Invoked
2012/13	2210	1358	723	53%
2013/14	2153	1008	502	50%
2014/15	2502	1036	375	36%

For a number of years the Safeguarding Adults Board has invested a significant amount of time and effort providing training and awareness campaigns to help people recognise abuse and neglect and this has coincided with a progressive rise in the rate of reported concerns. Table 1a and 1b demonstrates an increase in 2014/15 of 349 from the previous year's producing a total of 2502 reported concerns.

Each reported concern is assessed around the risks and complexity of the case and is addressed with the most appropriated response. There are many ways that concerns can be addressed such as care management or care coordination, where a social worker may address the problem or issue in hand. Typically, it is the more serious or complex cases that require the safeguarding adults multi-agency procedures to be invoked. Of the 2502 reported concerns in 2014/15 there were 375 cases where safeguarding procedures were invoked and were dealt with using a multi-agency approach.

Table 7a and 7b also show a gradual decline in the number of cases where procedures are invoked. This is largely as a result of changes to procedures and operating practices that collect and advise information and resulting in more informed decision making and risk management.

Tables 2a & 2b Concern Source – (where identified)

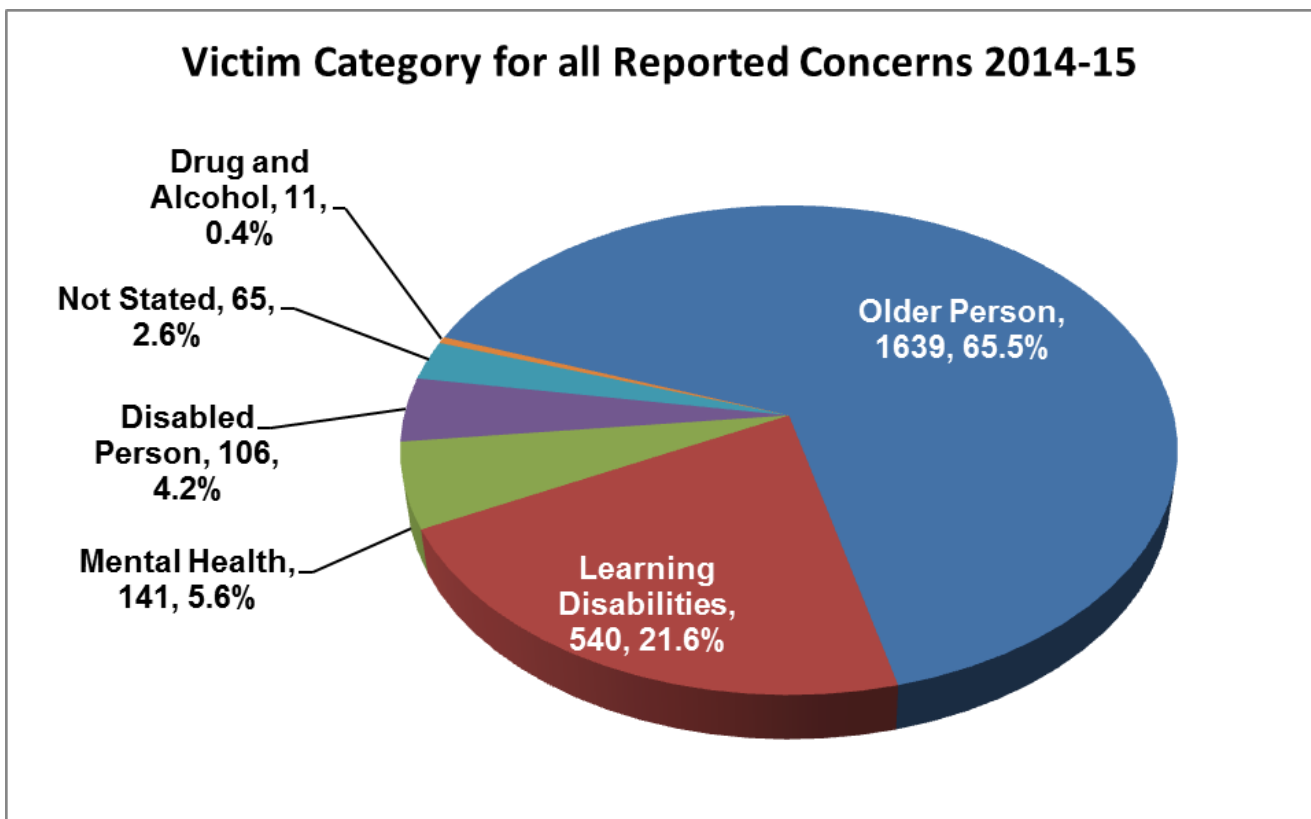


All Reported Concerns			
Source of Referral	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
DCC & Independent Social Care	72.5%	80.2%	79.0%
Health	10.2%	6.2%	9.1%
Other	1.7%	1.4%	1.0%
Police	5.9%	4.2%	2.8%
Family, Friend, Neighbour	9.7%	8.0%	6.3%
Care Quality Commission	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%

Table 2a and 2b highlight that the largest source of reported concerns is from the local authority and the care provider sector which is consistent with previous years. This sector has had a strong focus on training and awareness in recent years and staff working in this sector have regular close contact over long periods with service users.

Reported concerns originating from health (NHS) have risen close to the levels of 2012-13. This has coincided with development work carried by SAB and its NHS partners to improved reporting thresholds and mechanisms by NHS staff.

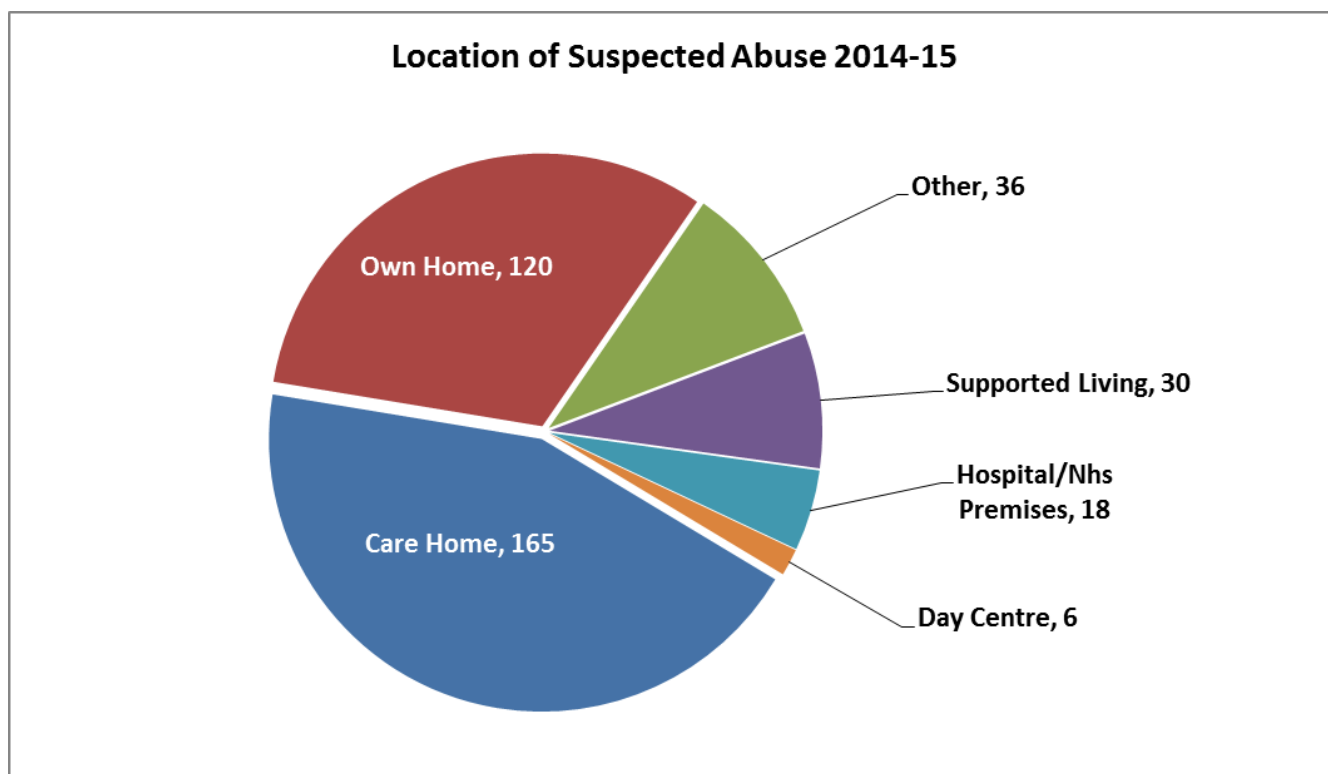
Table 3a & 3b (Victim Category - All Reported Concerns)



Party Category	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Older Person	1397	63.2%	1345	62.5%	1639	65.5%
Learning Disabilities	458	20.7%	444	20.6%	540	21.6%
Mental Health	154	7.0%	209	9.7%	141	5.6%
Disabled Person	136	6.2%	116	5.4%	106	4.2%
Not Stated (Alerts)	41	1.9%	24	1.1%	65	2.6%
Drug and Alcohol	24	1.1%	8	0.4%	11	0.4%
Grand Total	2210		2153		2502	

There has been no marked percentage change in the types of alleged victims when compared to previous years other than that of mental health, which has seen a 4% drop. The categories of older person and learning disability continue to be the most prevalent. This is broadly in line with the prevalence of individuals in receipt of adult social care from these groups.

Tables 4a & 4b (Location of Abuse – Where Adult Safeguarding procedures were invoked)



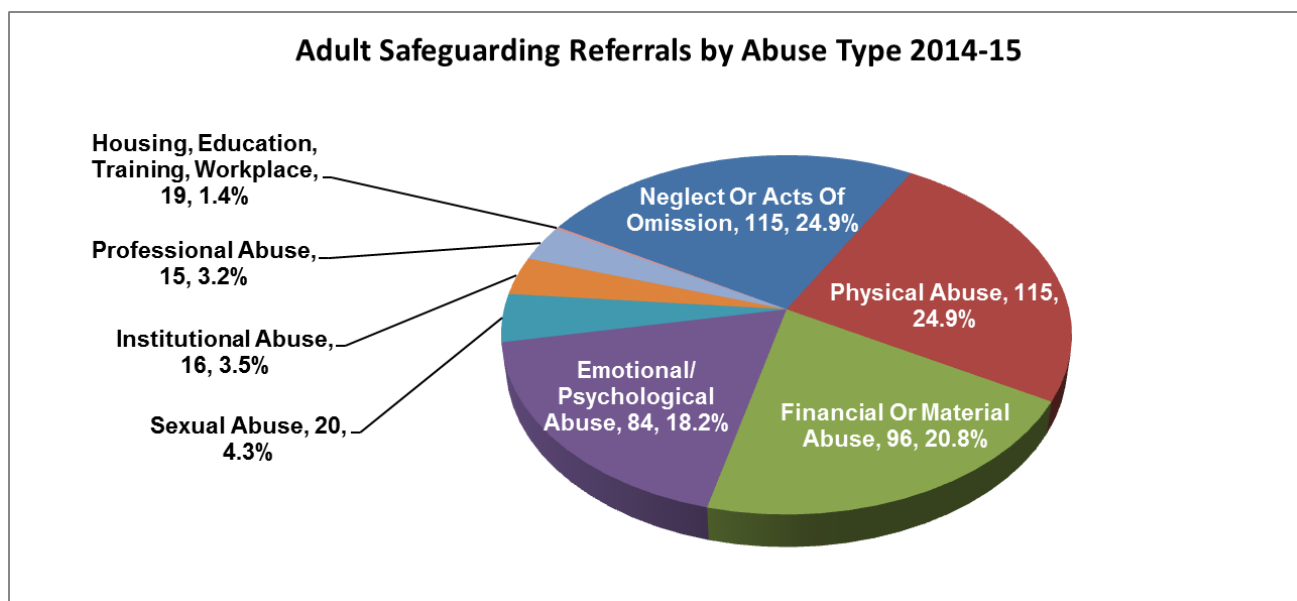
Location	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Care Home	381	52.70%	250	49.80%	165	44.00%
Own Home	212	29.30%	175	34.90%	120	32.00%
Supported Living	51	7.10%	34	6.80%	30	8.00%
Hospital/NHS Premises	23	3.20%	21	4.20%	18	4.80%
Other	51	7.10%	17	3.40%	36	9.60%
Day Centre	5	0.70%	5	1.00%	6	1.60%
Total	723		502		375	

Table 4a and 4b highlight that the most prevalent location of reported abuse comes from the care home sector followed by own home which is consistent with previous years and the national picture.

The overall number of invoked referrals has reduced but this is in line with the overall drop in those cases where the multi-agency procedures are invoked.

The Safeguarding Adults Board continues to raise awareness and standards linked to reporting safeguarding incidents in both the community and care settings.

Tables 5a & 5b (Type of Abuse - Where Adult Safeguarding procedures were invoked)



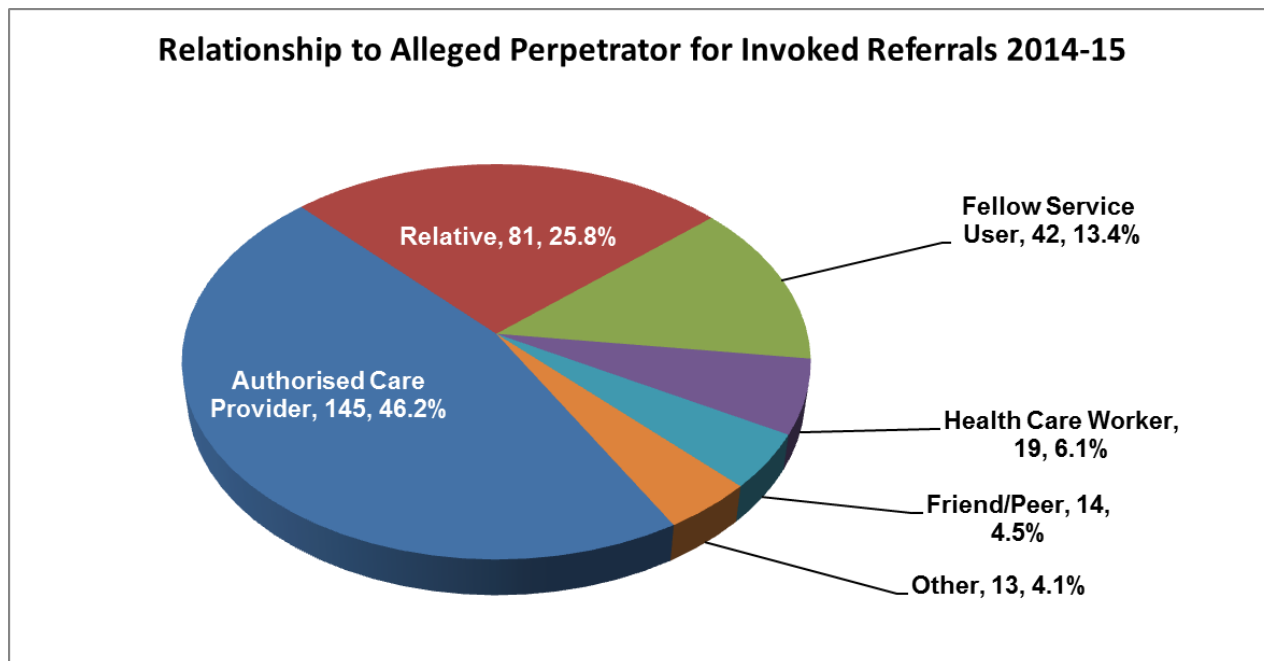
Type of Abuse	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Discriminatory Abuse	4	0.50%	3	0.50%	1	0.20%
Emotional/ Psychological Abuse	128	14.80%	95	15.10%	84	18.20%
Financial Or Material Abuse	165	19.10%	126	20.00%	96	20.80%
Institutional Abuse	13	1.50%	22	3.50%	16	3.50%
Neglect Or Acts Of Omission	236	27.30%	167	26.60%	115	24.90%
Physical Abuse	262	30.30%	158	25.10%	115	24.90%
Professional Abuse	18	2.10%	9	1.40%	15	3.20%
Sexual Abuse	38	4.40%	49	7.80%	20	4.30%
Grand Total	864		629		462	

N.B. There may be more than one abuse type per referral.

Neglect or acts of omission and physical abuse represent the most commonly reported forms of abuse. This is closely followed by financial/material abuse and emotional/psychological abuse. Not only does this reflect the pattern of the previous 2 years in Durham, it is broadly consistent with both national and regional figures.

Of the 375 invoked referrals, a total of 462 types of abuse have been referred. This is because an individual can be identified as a victim of more than one form of abuse.

Tables 6a & 6b (Perpetrator Category)

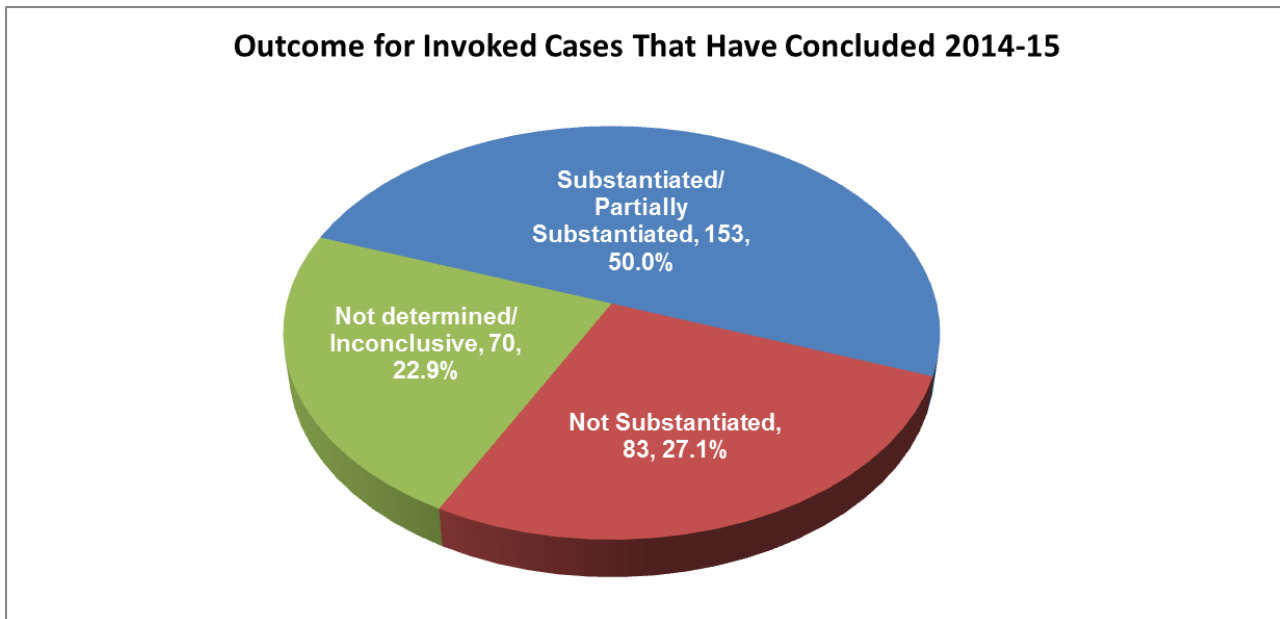


Relationship Type	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Authorised Care Provider	175	33.2%	204	45.9%	145	46.2%
Relative	139	25.5%	85	19.1%	81	25.8%
Fellow Service User	99	18.3%	63	14.2%	42	13.4%
Health Care Worker	15	3.1%	22	5.0%	19	6.1%
Friend/Peer	11	2.0%	5	1.1%	14	4.5%
Other	97	18%	65	14.6%	13	4.1%
Grand Total	545		444		314	

There is relative year on year consistency in the levels of each perpetrator category type. 'Health Care Worker' has seen a gradual percentage increase and fellow service user has seen a general percentage decrease. The category of 'Other' has seen a marked decrease signifying better recording practice

The close contact that care providers and relatives have with service users means that they generally attract more allegations than other relationship types.

Tables 7a & 7b (Outcomes of Invoked Referrals)



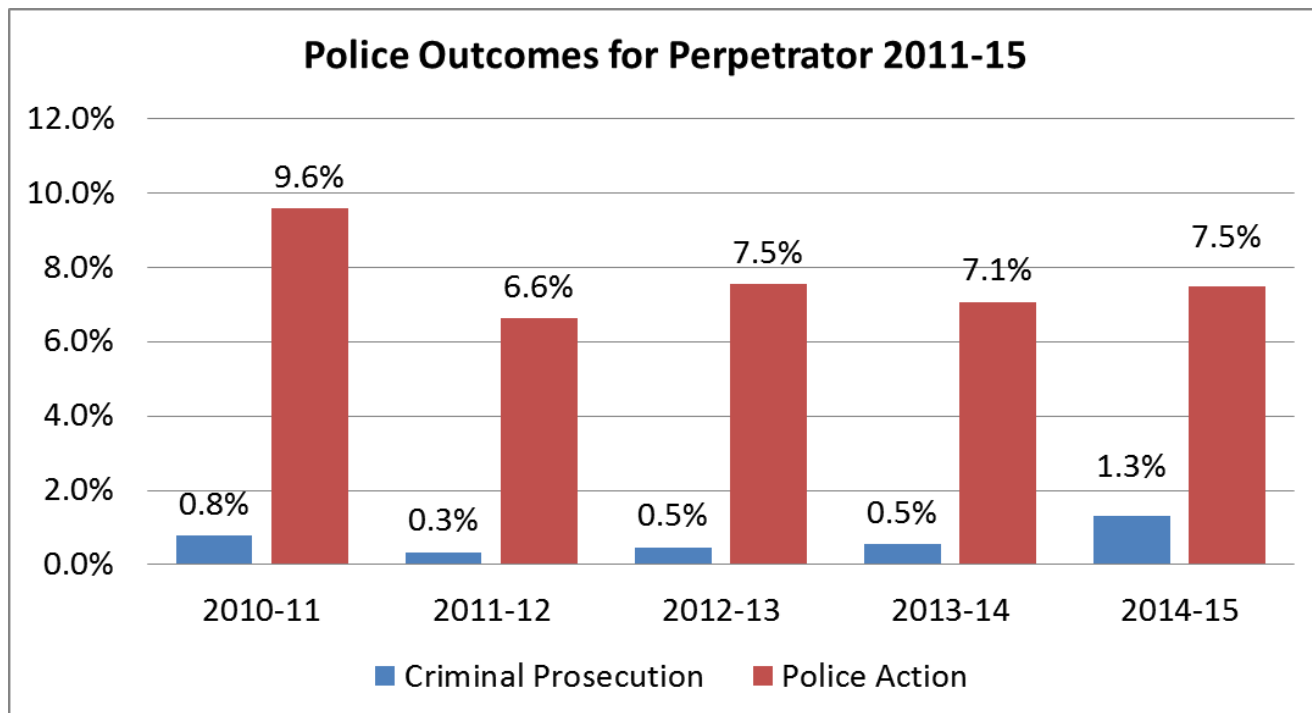
Outcome	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Substantiated/ Partially Substantiated	361	51.1%	221	49.3%	153	50.0%
Not Substantiated	170	24.1%	123	27.5%	83	27.1%
Not determined/ Inconclusive	175	24.8%	104	23.2%	70	22.9%
Grand Total	706		448		306	

Fifty percent of invoked cases were substantiated or partially substantiated, which represents a slight increase from the previous year. In these cases there are a variety of interventions that can and do take place to protect individuals including ongoing professional support, revisions to care/protection plans, advocacy and counselling interventions.

There are many reasons why the remaining cases (50%) are determined as not substantiated or inconclusive, which include malicious/false allegations and insufficient evidence following completion of an investigation. Where it is required, ongoing support is provided to those people who need it.

In general terms, there remains a high degree of consistency year on year.

Tables 8a & 8b (Police Outcomes for Perpetrator)



Outcome for Perpetrator	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Criminal Prosecution	4	0.5%	4	0.5%	6	1.3%
Police Action	65	7.5%	52	7.1%	35	7.5%
All Outcomes	861		736		468	

The police action and prosecution rates are consistent with previous years and remain low although there is a small increase in prosecutions on previous years.

There are a number of inherent difficulties mounting prosecutions involving vulnerable victims/witnesses such as communication and mental capacity issues of the victims.

In Durham, we have recently introduced a Vulnerable Victim/Witness Support Service. This service aims to support such individuals in being able to give evidence and participate in the criminal justice process. In future years, it is hoped this will help to support a further increase in the number of criminal prosecutions.

Conclusion from the Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager

2014/15 has been both a challenging and exciting time to work within the field of safeguarding adults. Despite years of austerity significantly reducing public sector funding, efficiencies have continued to be made that protect frontline services that serve the most vulnerable in society. Dedicated safeguarding adults personnel working across the local authority, police and NHS services have been retained and additional resources have been found for an additional Safeguarding Lead Officer role in the local authority to increase capacity and resilience in coordinating investigations. Temporary monies have also been approved by the CCGs that will initially enable the SAB to create a 2 year Business Manager post. This post will be created in 2015/16 to bring a much needed resource to SAB and enable it to strengthen collaboration across the partnership and to fulfil its strategic priorities following the implementation of the Care Act.

Much of our effort this year has focussed on the implementation of the Care Act in April 2014. This provides a statutory platform to SABs and requires the local authority, CCGs and the Police to be represented. In Durham, an implementation plan was produced then was overseen by an inter-agency task and finish group made up of key SAB partners. This has resulted in a coordinated implementation process covering the key requirements of this new legislation.

Looking ahead, the introduction of 'Adult Protection' as a new concept following the introduction of the Care Act will perhaps be the most significant change to our inter-agency procedures. In essence, the Care Act guidance recognises the term 'safeguarding adults' to be wide reaching. Self-neglect is introduced as a new category of abuse together with modern slavery and domestic abuse. As with other categories of abuse, each of these new categories typically presents with a different set of issues that may require very different responses depending on the risks and the vulnerability of the victim. The term 'adult protection' will be used to define those cases that require the consideration of a full inter agency investigation. In addition, over the forthcoming year further work will be undertaken to strengthen processes so ensuring that, in cases of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), when children transition to adulthood they are captured within adult care services framework.

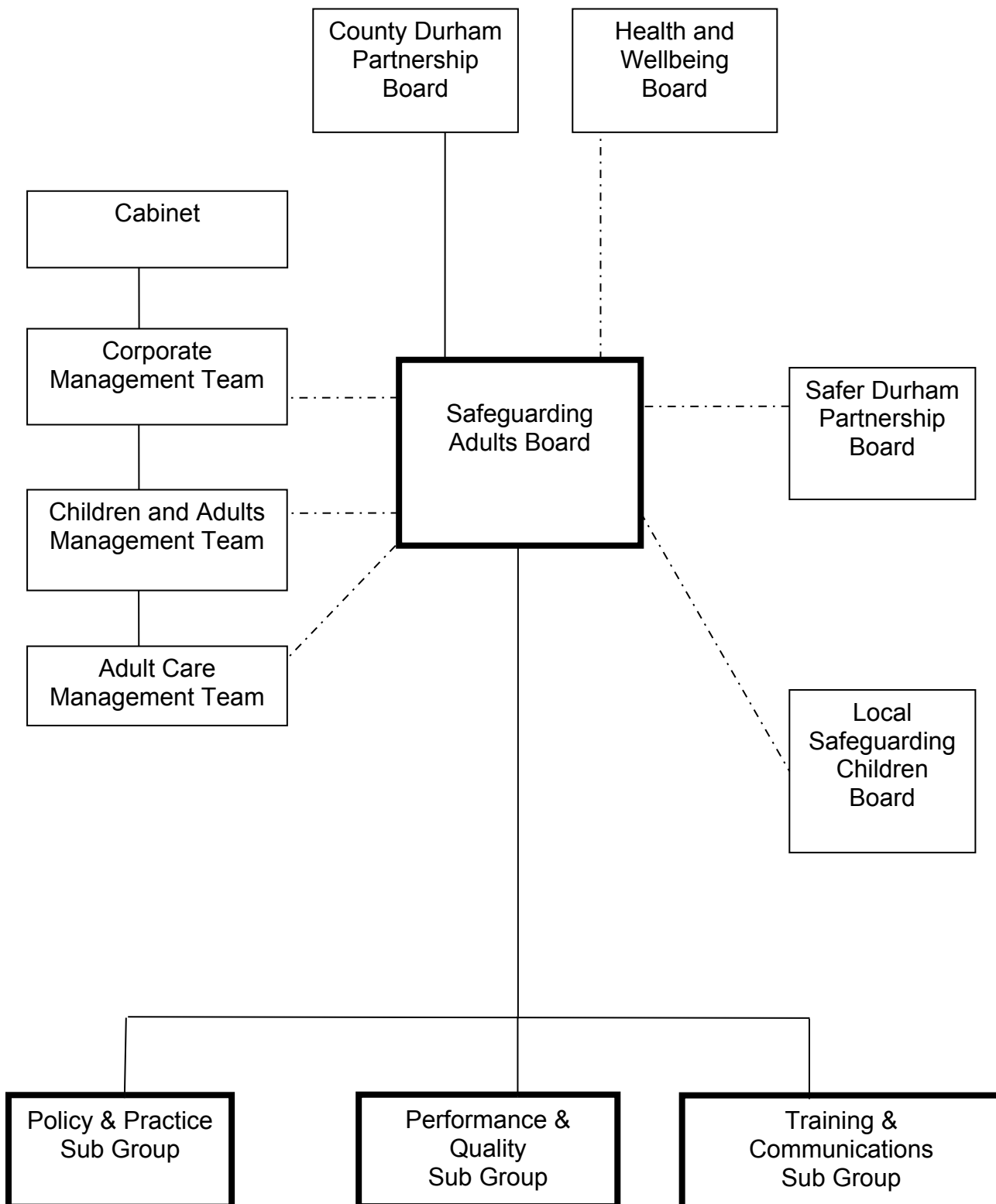
Finally, the development of new strategic planning and performance monitoring processes will be the focus of much of the SAB's business during 2015/16. Our priorities will include placing greater emphasis on partnership engagement, learning lessons and improvement and improving the user/carer voice.



Lee Alexander
Safeguarding and Practice Development Manager

Reporting and Interface Arrangements

----- Denotes linkage between chair/s members of respective groups.



Abbreviations / Glossary of Terms

ADASS - Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (formerly ADSS)

BIA - Best Interest Assessor

CCG - Clinical Commissioning Group

SDPB – Safe Durham Partnership Board

CAS – Children and Adults Services

CDDFT - County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

CQC - Care Quality Commission

CRU - Central Referral Unit (Police)

DASVEG – Domestic Abuse and Violence Executive Group

DBS – Disclosure & Barring Service

DOH - Department of Health

DoLS - Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards

GP – General Practitioner

HMPS – Her Majesty's Prison Service

IC+ - Intermediate Care Plus

LA - Local Authority

LSCB - Local Safeguarding Children Board

MAPPA - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements

MARAC - Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MCA - Mental Capacity Act

NHS - National Health Service

NHS CDD - NHS County Durham & Darlington

NHSE – National Health Service England

NPS – National Probation Service

SAB - Safeguarding Adults Board

SAR – Safeguarding Adults Review

SCIE – Social Care Institute of Excellence

SLO - Safeguarding Lead Officer

SSID - Social Services Information Database

TEWV - Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys

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Go to: www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info

To report a safeguarding alert please contact:

Social Care Direct 03000 267979

Cabinet

18 November 2015



Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

Report of Corporate Management Team

Terry Collins Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services

Cllr Brian Stephens, Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods and Local Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To consider, in the light of the formal public consultation, the revised draft Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS) (Appendix 2), dated September 2015.

Background

- 2 In April 2000, a statutory regime for the regulation of contaminated land was implemented, under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It imposes a statutory duty on each local authority to strategically inspect the land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could be defined as 'contaminated land'.
- 3 Contaminated Land for the purposes of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 is defined as 'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land that: -
 - a. Significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
 - b. Significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused, or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused.
- 4 Under the provisions of Part 2A local authorities are also obliged to produce a written CLIS outlining how they intend to fulfil their inspection duties.
- 5 Contaminated land new statutory guidance, issued by Defra and released in April 2012, brought several changes to the regime. The main changes contained within the guidance and reflected in the 2015 Strategy are: -
 - a. The introduction of risk categorisation of sites inspected under Part 2A and their allocation into one of four categories.
 - b. The principle that normal levels of contaminants such as those caused by common human activities as opposed to former industrial uses

should not be considered to cause land to qualify as contaminated land, unless there is a particular reason to consider otherwise.

- c. Changes to the reporting of sites assessed under Part 2A.
- 6 The 2015 CLIS sets out the proposals for identifying, inspecting and assessing contaminated land within the Council's area between 2015 and 2020, taking into account the statutory guidance and the Council Plan, ensuring an attractive local living environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges ('Altogether Greener'). It does not include information on the enforcement, determining liability and details of remediation of contaminated land.
- 7 The Strategy includes the following: -
- a. Introduction
 - b. Principles of Contaminant Linkages and Risk Assessment
 - c. Characteristics of Durham County Council Area
 - d. Implementing the Strategy
 - e. General Communication, Liaison and Consultation
 - f. Information Management
 - g. Dealing with land contamination outside Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- 8 The priority actions are summarised in Table 2 of the Strategy.
- 9 The Strategy aims to fulfil the requirements of the statutory guidance and it includes the following main objectives: -
- a. Continue with the identification of all potentially contaminated land sites in the Durham County Council area in a manner, which is rational, ordered and efficient.
 - b. Ensure the approach taken and resources are concentrated on investigating the most pressing and serious potentially contaminated land sites as a priority of the approximate 7,000 sites identified.
 - c. Prioritise human health.
 - d. Consider all land on an equal basis, whether it is private or public (such as the Council's own land).

- e. Undertake detailed inspections of potentially contaminated land sites subject to annual funding through the Land Quality Inspection Programme.
 - f. Promptly inspect of those sites where solutions are most urgently needed, without waiting for it to emerge from the prioritised list.
 - g. Maintain an up to date website to ensure the public have access to current information and a current Public Register.
- 10 Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act will only be used as a last resort to deal with land contamination and only where no appropriate alternative solution exists. The planning regime remains the primary mechanism for dealing with sites affected by land contamination.

Consultation

- 11 Consultations began on Monday 6th July 2015 and ended on Monday 31st August 2015. The purpose was to engage with members of the public and key stakeholders to gather their feedback on the revised CLIS. Responses could be made either directly or by completing the online survey form on the Council's website. The survey was open ended and allowed respondents to answer freely on any aspect of the strategy.
- 12 Responses were received from the following organisation: Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council; Durham Wildlife Trust; The Coal Authority; and the Environment Agency. Four interactions were made by residents however only one resident left a response and the remaining three residents left no comments. Overall there was support of the CLIS.
- 13 The consultation revealed overall strong support of the CLIS.
- 14 Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council discussed the CLIS at their meeting on 17th July 2015. They fully support the CLIS and had no issues with the content.
- 15 The Coal Authority was pleased to note they were included within the CLIS as a potential source of information regarding contamination.
- 16 The Environment Agency provided a detailed response relating to the controlled waters sections of the report and references to the Statutory Guidance.
- 17 A resident stated that they believed that is a robust strategy for dealing with contaminated land, however pointed out it must have adequate resources to underpin the delivery.

Main Changes made to the draft 2015 CLIS following consultation

- 18 The suggestions / comments made by the Environment Agency have been considered and some changes made in light of their feedback along with some additional alterations. None of the changes have altered the original draft priority actions or aims of the CLIS.
- 19 The main changes are as follows:
- a. Section 2.5 (Page 8, Paragraph 1) a change has been made from 'significant pollution of controlled waters' to 'significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters'.
 - b. Section 2.5 (Page 8, Paragraph 2) a change has been made from 'Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.30' to 'Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.29 and 4.46'.
 - c. Section 2.5 (Page 10, Paragraph 1 and 2) a change has been made from 'significant possibility of significant harm' to significant possibility of significant harm and / or a significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters'.
 - d. Section 2.6 (Page 10, Paragraph 4) and References (Page 32), updated the reference from Environment Agency (1999) Methodology for the Derivation of Remedial Targets for Soil and Groundwater to Protect Water Resources to Environment Agency (2006) Remedial Targets Methodology – Hydrogeological Risk Assessment for Land Contamination
 - e. Section 2.9c (Page 12) the word 'revised' added.
 - f. Section 3.2 (Page 16, Paragraph 3) removed the reference to 2000.
 - g. Section 4.2.1 (Page 22, Table 3) the number of sites has been amended.
 - h. Section 4.2.3 (Page 23, Paragraph 3) a change has been made from 'Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.30' to 'Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.30 and 4.46'
 - i. Section 5.3.1 (Page 26, Paragraph 2) the following was added after 2006 'and the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012'
 - j. References (Page 31) a reference added, Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1380)
 - k. References (Page 31) a reference to the River Basin Standards added, Defra and Welsh Government (August 2010) The River Basin Districts Typology, Standards and Groundwater threshold values (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Directions 2010

- i. References (Page 31) a reference added, Defra and Welsh Government (May 2014) Water Framework Directive implementation in England and Wales: new and updated standards to protect the water environment
- m. References (Pages 31 and 32) the webpage references checked and updated from 2014 to 2015.
- n. References (Page 32) a reference added, European Commission (November 2000) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- o. References (Page 32) a reference added, Water Resources Act 1991
- p. Glossary of Terms (Page 37) an amendment made to the definition of a special site: *Special Site*: Contaminated land, which meets one of more of the conditions, listed in the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 and the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. These can be broadly split into two categories; land use and significant pollution of controlled waters:
 - (a) Land use categories include land used for: petroleum refining, Part A PPC processes and land owned or occupied by the MoD. A special site can also be land adjacent to an area used for the processes in the list that is consequently affected by contamination.
 - (b) Significant pollution of controlled waters categories are land where contamination:
 - (1) affects controlled waters that supply public drinking water
 - (2) causes failure of water quality standards set under Water Resources Act 1991 or environmental objectives that apply to specific protected areas in the Water Framework Directive
 - (3) reaches controlled waters contained in specific underground strata

Summary

- 20 The revised CLIS supports compliance with the Council's statutory duty under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide a written CLIS detailing how to inspect the county to identify contaminated land. It has taken into account the responses of the interested parties.

Recommendations

- 21 It is recommended that the draft CLIS is approved by Cabinet.

Background papers

- Defra (April 2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A, Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance, HM Government
- Durham County Council's November 2011 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Durham County Council's 2015 Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990

Contact: Joanne Waller Tel: 03000 260924

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

Costs may be associated with implementing the CLIS, carrying out the strategic and where necessary detailed inspections. Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessments (Desk Top Studies) will be carried out by the EP team or a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant and Phase 2 Site Investigations and Risk Assessments will be carried out by a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant / Contractor.

It is proposed that the contaminated land revenue budget available from 2016/2017 onwards is reduced to 50k in line with the Council's MTFP saving targets.

Staffing – None

Risk – None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation –

The Environment Protection team have consulted with internal sections of the Council and external organisations and all comments received have been carefully considered and where appropriate the strategy has been amended accordingly.

A list of the bodies consulted can be found in Appendix A of the Strategy.

Procurement –

In implementing the CLIS, carrying out the strategic and where necessary detailed inspections, suitably qualified Environmental Consultants / Contractors may be procured to undertake the Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessments (Desk Top Studies) and Phase 2 Site Investigations and Risk Assessments.

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications –

Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 imposes a statutory duty on local authorities to strategically inspect land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could legally be defined as 'contaminated land'.

The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy 2015 provides a clear set of objectives and actions for inspecting land within the Durham County Council area.

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Durham County Council

Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy

Executive Summary

The statutory regime for the regulation of contaminated land came into force on 1 April 2000 under Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990 and is supported by Statutory Guidance. This regime imposes a duty on each local authority to strategically inspect the land within its area for the purpose of identifying land which could be defined as 'contaminated land'. Durham County Council (DCC) is the enforcing authority for contaminated land legislation within its area.

Under the provisions of Part 2A local authorities are also obliged to produce a written strategy outlining how they intend to fulfil their inspection duties.

The Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy (CLIS) for DCC aims to fulfil the requirements of the Statutory Guidance.

DCC became a unitary authority in April 2009, taking over seven district councils. The CLIS for DCC helps to ensure an attractive and 'liveable' local environment, and contributes to tackling global environmental challenges.

To date, approximately 7,000 potentially contaminated land sites have been identified across the DCC area. The sites have been prioritised using a dedicated contaminated land data management system and priority given to those sites considered to be the greatest risk to human health.

The Environment Protection (EP) team will continue to carry out strategic and where necessary detailed inspections of potentially contaminated land sites across the DCC area addressing the highest priority sites first.

No land is assumed to be contaminated land unless there is supporting evidence to suggest otherwise.

Details of the determination and remediation of contaminated land under Part 2A are not included as they are outside the scope of this CLIS. These can be found in the Statutory Guidance.

Part 2A will only be used as a last resort to deal with land contamination and only where no appropriate alternative solution exists.

Information relating to contaminated land is published on the Contaminated Land webpage on the Council website.

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1 Introduction

The statutory regime for the regulation of contaminated land came into force on 1 April 2000 under Part 2A Environmental Protection Act 1990, inserted in Section 57 of the Environment Act 1995.

This required that all local authorities to take a “strategic approach” to inspect land within their areas (Section 78B).

The Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance dated April 2012, issued by DEFRA, states that the strategic approach to be adopted when carrying out the inspection duty under section 78B(1), should be rational, ordered, efficient and it should reflect local circumstances.

The purpose of this Strategy is the set out the proposals for identifying, inspecting and assessing contaminated land within the DCC area taking into account the statutory guidance and, broadly, the Council Plan. It does not include information on the enforcement, determining liability and details of remediation of contaminated land.

The Statutory Guidance should be read in conjunction with this Strategy.

Part 2A provides a means of dealing with unacceptable risks posed by land contamination to human health and the environment, and enforcing authorities should seek to find and deal with such land. The main objectives of the Government’s policy on contaminated land and the Part 2A regime as stated in Section 1.4 of The Statutory Guidance are: -

- (a) To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.
- (b) To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.
- (c) To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.

1.1 Definition of Contaminated Land

Section 78A(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines contaminated land for the purposes of Part 2A as “any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land that: -

- a) significant harm is being caused or there is significant possibility of such harm being caused; or
- b) significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused, or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused.

1.1.1 Harm

Section 78A(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines harm as “harm to the health of living organisms or other interference with the ecological systems of which they form part and, in the case of man, includes harm to his property”.

Harm could be to human health, protected ecological systems, property (crops, produce, livestock, wild animals, subject to fishing / shooting rights), and property (buildings).

Conditions for determining that land as contaminated land on the basis that significant harm is being caused would exist where: -

- (a) the local authority has carried out an appropriate, scientific and technical assessment of all the relevant and available evidence; and
- (b) on the basis of that assessment, the authority is satisfied on the balance of probabilities that significant harm is being caused (i.e. that it is more likely than not that such harm is being caused) by a significant contaminant(s).

The following health effects will always be considered to constitute significant harm to human health: death, life threatening diseases (e.g. cancers); other diseases likely to have serious impacts on health; serious injury; birth defects; and impairment of reproductive functions. Other health effects may also be considered. When deciding whether or not a particular form of harm is significant harm, the EP team will consider the seriousness and scale of the harm, including the impact on the health and quality of life of any person suffering the harm.

1.1.2 Pollution of Controlled Waters

Section 78A(9) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines the pollution of controlled waters as “the entry into controlled waters of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter.”

“Controlled waters”, in relation to England, has the same meaning as in Part 3 of the Water Resources Act 1991 (territorial waters, coastal waters, inland freshwaters and groundwaters) except that “groundwaters” does not include waters contained in underground strata but above the saturation zone.

Significant pollution is being caused if substances are continuing to enter controlled waters or substances have entered controlled waters and are likely to do so again.

The following types of pollution should be considered to constitute significant pollution of controlled waters: -

- (a) Pollution equivalent to “environmental damage” to surface water or groundwater as defined by The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations but cannot be dealt with under those Regulations.
- (b) Inputs resulting in deterioration of the quality of water abstracted, or intended to be used in the future, for human consumption such that additional treatment would be required to enable that use.
- (c) A breach of a statutory surface water Environment Quality Standard, either directly or via a groundwater pathway.
- (d) Input of a substance into groundwater resulting in a significant and sustained upward trend in concentration of contaminants (as defined in Article 2(3) of the Groundwater Daughter Directive (2006/118/EC)).

1.2 The Regulatory Role of Local Authorities under Part 2A

The Statutory Guidance states there are four possible grounds for the local authority to make a determination under Part 2A: -

- (a) Significant harm is being caused to a human, or relevant non-human, receptor.
- (b) There is a significant possibility of significant harm being caused to a human, or relevant non-human receptor.
- (c) Significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused.
- (d) There is a significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters being caused.

Tables 1 and 2 in The Statutory Guidance describe the non-human receptors, e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), crops and livestock, relevant for the purposes of Part 2A.

Where decisions under Part 2A are not straightforward, and where there may be unavoidable uncertainty underlying some of the facts of each case, the local authority, when coming to a decision must strike a reasonable balance between: -

- (a) dealing with risks raised by contaminants in land and the benefits of remediating land to remove or reduce those risks; and,
- (b) the potential impacts of regulatory intervention including financial costs to whoever will pay for remediation (including the taxpayer where relevant), health and environmental impacts of taking action, property blight, and burdens on affected people.

1.3 General Policy of the Council

There are five key priority themes within the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), ‘Altogether Better Durham’. The CLIS conforms to one of the priority themes: ‘Altogether Greener’, ensuring an attractive and ‘liveable’ local environment, and contributing to tackling global environmental challenges.

The CLIS forms part of the objectives of the 'Environment, Health & Consumer Protection Service' (EHCP), within Neighbourhood Services (NS) Directorate in DCC. EHCP aims to protect and improve the health, safety, economic wellbeing and environment of the community.

1.4 The Development of the CLIS / the Strategy

1.4.1 Roles and Responsibilities

DCC is the enforcing authority for contaminated land legislation within its area.

The responsibility for development and implementation of the CLIS rests with the EP team.

The Head of EHCP is responsible for the work area.

The EP Manager has delegated powers under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995.

Officers in the EP team have the responsibility for determining whether any land is contaminated land under Part 2A. Officers may seek information or advice from another body, such as the Environment Agency or suitably qualified experienced practitioner appointed for that purpose (e.g. an environmental consultant) to reach a decision.

The EP team will take a precautionary approach to assess the risks raised by contamination, whilst avoiding a disproportionate approach given the circumstances of each case. The various benefits and costs of taking action will be considered, with a view to ensuring that the regime produces net benefits, taking account of local circumstances, as specified in the Statutory Guidance.

No land is assumed to be contaminated land under Part 2A unless there is supporting evidence to suggest otherwise, in line with the relevant guidance.

The EP team will only use Part 2A as a last resort to deal with land contamination and only where no appropriate alternative solution exists.

1.4.2 Aims and Objectives

This Strategy aims to fulfill the requirements of the Statutory Guidance and the following objectives have been set: -

- (a) Continue with the identification of all potentially contaminated land sites in the DCC area in a manner, which is rational, ordered and efficient.
- (b) Ensure the approach taken and resources are concentrated on carrying out strategic and where necessary detailed inspections of the approximate 7,000

potentially contaminated land sites identified across the DCC area (Land Quality Inspection Programme (LQIP)).

- (c) Prioritise human health sites of highest risk.
- (d) Consider all land on an equal basis, whether it is private or public (such as the Council's own land).
- (e) Improve understanding within our community about contaminated land and the LQIP.
- (f) Inform stakeholders (e.g. landowners) of any action to be taken in relation to carrying out detailed inspections of potentially contaminated land through the LQIP.
- (g) Promote and encourage voluntary remediation.
- (h) Protect receptors from significant harm by determining which sites meet the definition of 'contaminated land'.
- (i) Understand the importance of differentiating between its role as land owner and its statutory regulatory duty under Part 2A when it comes to inspecting Council owned land.
- (j) Promptly inspect of those sites where solutions are most urgently needed, without waiting for it to emerge from the prioritised list.
- (k) Maintain an up to date public register.
- (l) Ensure all information is stored on the Council's contaminated land data management software system and is reliable and of high quality.
- (m) Maintain an up to date website to ensure the public have access to current information.
- (n) Ensure all land likely to be affected by contamination is recorded for future consideration if circumstances change.
- (o) Encourage the re-use and remediation of brownfield land through the planning regime in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to ensure that new developments are suitable for use.

1.4.3 Consultation

DCC will consult with neighbouring authorities and other interested parties; any comments received during the consultation period will be carefully considered and the strategy will be amended accordingly. A list of the specific consultees is provided in Appendix A.

2 Principles of Contaminant Linkages and Risk Assessment

The EP team assumes all the land within the DCC area is not contaminated land under Part 2A unless there is reason to consider otherwise, e.g. the identification of a significant contaminant linkage from a detailed inspection.

Under Part 2A the risks should be considered only in relation to the current use of the land. Current use can, however include informal uses and likely future / temporary uses, which would not require a new or amended grant of planning permission.

2.1 Risk

The definition of contaminated land is based upon the principles of risk assessment. "Risk" is defined in the Statutory Guidance as "the combination of: -

- (a) the likelihood that harm, or pollution of water, will occur as a result of contaminants in, on or under the land; and
- (b) the scale and seriousness of such harm or pollution if it did occur."

Risk assessments should be based on information which is: -

- (a) scientifically-based;
- (b) authoritative;
- (c) relevant to the assessment of risks arising from the presence of contaminants in soil; and,
- (d) appropriate to inform regulatory decisions in accordance with Part 2A and the Statutory Guidance.

2.2 Contaminant Linkages

For any land to be designated as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 a significant contaminant linkage (previously referred to as a pollutant linkage) needs to exist. Each element (contaminant, pathway and receptor) can exist independently of each other, but will only create a risk when they are linked together, i.e. a contaminant linkage. Figure 1 shows an example of a human health contaminant linkage and Figure 2 shows an example of controlled waters contaminant linkage.

The term "significant contaminant linkage" means a contaminant linkage which gives rise to a level of risk sufficient to justify the land being determined as contaminated land.

It is important throughout the risk assessment process to formulate a conceptual model. A conceptual model is a representation (textual and / or graphical) of relevant information relating to contamination on a specific site. It identifies potential contamination source(s), pathway(s) and receptor(s) and the possible / significant

contaminant linkages. Figure 3 shows a graphical example of a conceptual model taken from R&D66 (NHBC/EA/CIEH, 2008).

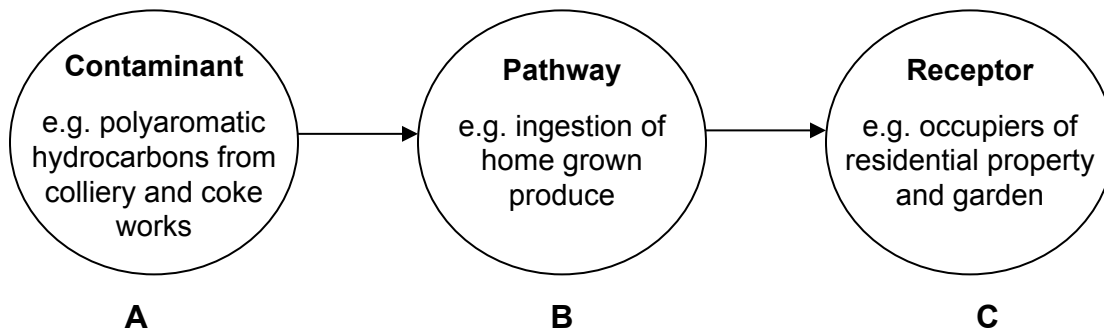


Figure 1: Human Health Contaminant Linkages

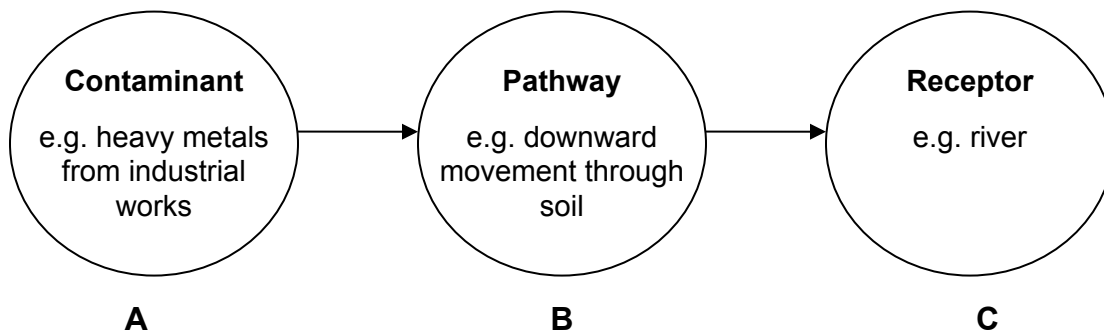


Figure 2: Controlled Waters Contaminant Linkages

2.3 'Normal' presence of contaminants

The Statutory Guidance states that normal levels of contaminants should not be considered to cause land to qualify as contaminated land, unless there is a particular reason to consider otherwise. "Normal" levels of contaminants in soil may be the result of the natural presence of contaminants or the presence of contaminants caused by low level diffuse pollution, and common human activities other than past industrial uses.

In October 2012, Defra published a report and technical guidance sheets, produced by The British Geological Survey (BGS), on normal background concentrations for a number of contaminants in English soils. The normal background concentrations, if necessary, will be used by the EP team as a guide as to what are reasonable levels to support the decision of whether land within the DCC area is contaminated land under Part 2A.

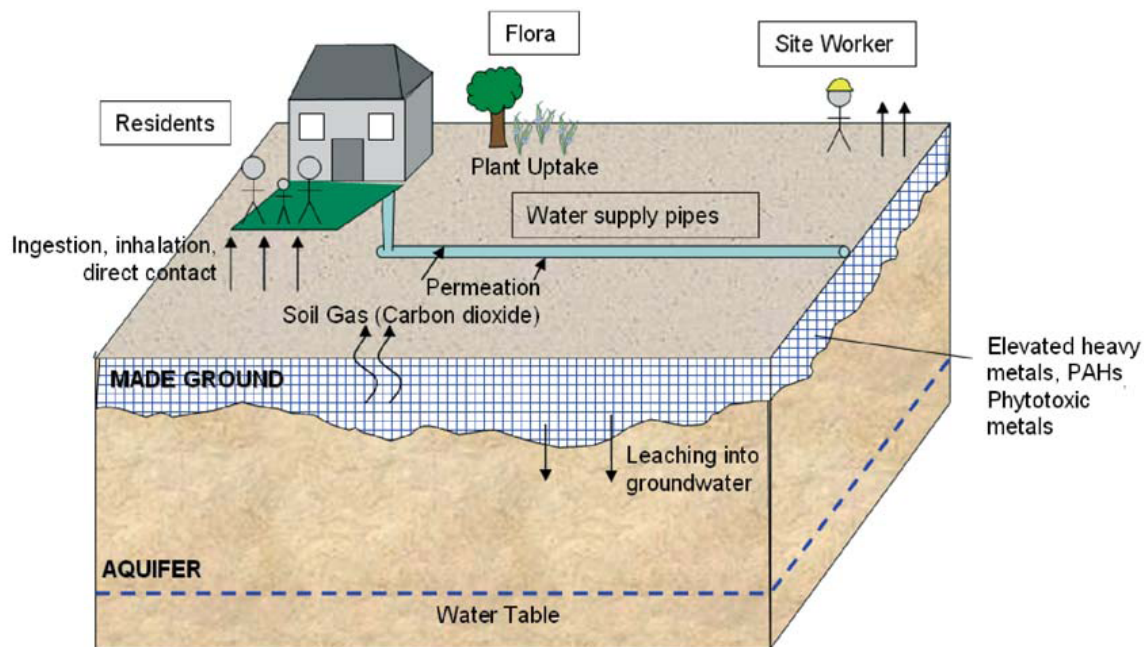


Figure 3: Graphical Conceptual Model

2.4 Strategic and Detailed Inspections

The Statutory Guidance recognises that there are two types of inspection likely to be carried out by the local authorities under Part 2A: strategic inspection and detailed inspection (Figure 4). The strategic inspection involves the collection of information and prioritisation of sites for the detailed inspection or to enable the EP team to make a decision as to whether the land is not contaminated land under Part 2A. An example of a strategic inspection is a Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Top Study) including site walkover. A detailed inspection involves obtaining detailed information on the ground conditions. For example by undertaking a Phase 2 Site Investigation and Risk Assessment in order to support the decision as to whether or not the land is contaminated land under Part 2A.

2.5 Risk Categories

The Statutory Guidance has introduced the categorisation of sites investigated and risk assessed under Part 2A for use by local authorities. The EP team will use these categories detailed in Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.29 and 4.46 of the Statutory Guidance to characterise sites inspected under Part 2A. Figure 4 shows where risk summaries fit into the investigation procedure. Table 1 provides a summary of the 4 categories. In brief, Categories 1 and 2 encompass land which is capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part 2A on grounds of significant possibility of significant harm and significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters and Categories 3 and 4 would encompass land which is not contaminated land.

Categories	Human Health	Controlled Waters
1	There is an unacceptably high probability supported by robust evidence of the significant possibility of significant harm occurring if no action is taken to stop it. Significant harm may have already been caused.	Strong and compelling case that a significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters exists. This would include cases where there is strong science-based evidence for considering that it is likely that high impact pollution would occur if nothing were done to stop it.
2	There is a strong case for considering that the risks from the land are of sufficient concern, that the land poses a significant possibility of significant harm. Includes land where there is little or no direct evidence that similar land, situations or levels of exposure have caused harm before, but available evidence suggests that there is a strong case for taking action under Part 2A on a precautionary basis.	The strength of evidence would not place the land into Category 1; however, there is sufficient concern that the land should be considered to pose a significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters on a precautionary basis. This may include land where there is a relatively low likelihood that the most serious types of significant pollution might occur.
3	The risks are not low, but regulatory intervention under Part 2A is not warranted. Owners or occupiers of the land could take action to reduce risks outside of the Part 2A regime if they choose.	Risks are such that the local authority might prefer that they did not exist but regulatory intervention under Part 2A is not warranted. This includes land where it is very unlikely that serious pollution would occur; or where there is a low likelihood that less serious types of significant pollution might occur.
4	There is no risk, or that the level of risk posed is low. For example there are no relevant contaminant linkages; contaminant levels do not exceed the Category 4 Screening Levels.	There is no risk, or that the level of risk posed is low. For example there are no relevant contaminant linkages or the water pollution is similar to that which might be caused by background contamination.

Table 1: Summaries of the 4 Categories

Following a strategic inspection, the EP team may be able to place some sites within Category 4 where no relevant contaminant linkage exists. For other sites, following the detailed inspection of the land (Phase 2 Site Investigation and Risk Assessment) the EP team should have a sufficient understanding of the risks in order to decide whether or not land is contaminated land on the grounds of significant possibility of significant harm and / or significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters and place the site into one of the four categories.

The Statutory Guidance states that where all factors are taken into account, if the local authority cannot decide whether or not a significant possibility of significant harm exists and / or a significant possibility of significant pollution of controlled waters exists, it should conclude that the legal test has not been met and the land should be placed in Category 3.

2.6 Use of Generic Assessment Criteria and Other Technical Tools

In line with common practice, the EP team will compare the findings of detailed inspections against generic and site specific assessment criteria for human health, generated using the most up to date version of CLEA UK (Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment) in order to interpret and risk assess the data and make an informed decision under Part 2A. In order to aid the risk assessment, where necessary Category 4 Screening Levels (C4SLs) which were released in March 2014 and will also be used along with normal background concentrations.

For contaminants in groundwater and surface water, depending on the environmental setting and conceptual site model, the UK Drinking Water Standards (DWS) and World Health Organisation (WHO) and River Basin Standards may be appropriate to use generic assessment criteria. The Environment Agency recommends that the framework set out in the Remedial Targets Methodology is used.

2.7 Investigation Procedure

Figure 4 shows the procedure for investigating sites under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Further details regarding each stage of the investigation process are provided in Sections 4 and 5.

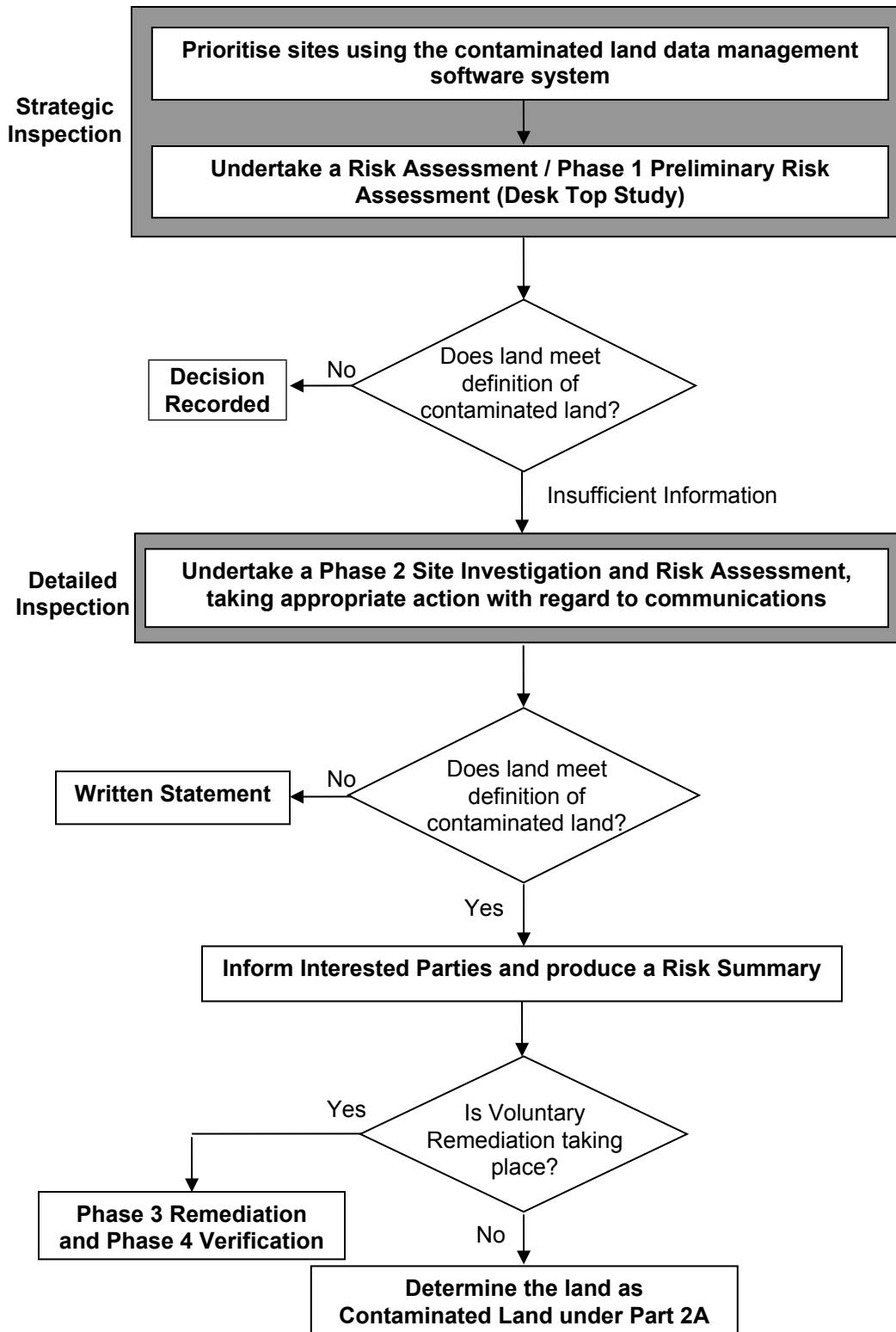


Figure 4: Investigation Procedure

2.8 Written Statement

In implementing the Part 2A regime, the EP team is likely to inspect land that it then considers is not contaminated land. For example, this will be the case where the authority has ceased its inspection and assessment of land on grounds that there is little or no evidence to suggest that it is contaminated land. The EP team will produce a written statement and record to that effect to minimise detrimental effects on property and land (Figure 4). The statement will provide reasons for why on the basis of its assessment the EP team has concluded that the land does not meet the definition of contaminated land under Part 2A.

2.9 Risk Summary

For any land within the DCC area likely to be determined as contaminated land, the EP team will produce a risk summary. A risk summary explains the authority's understanding of the risks and other factors considered relevant. This should be prepared in advance of a formal determination of the land as contaminated land under Part 2A. Risk summaries should be targeted towards the land owners and members of the public who may be affected by the decision. Details of what should be included in a risk summary are in the Statutory Guidance. Risk summaries are not required: -

- (a) For land which will not be determined as contaminated land (land in Categories 3 and 4).
- (b) For land which has been prioritised for detailed inspection but which has not yet been subject to risk assessment.
- (c) For land determined as contaminated land before the revised Statutory Guidance came into force.

2.10 Determining Whether Land is Contaminated Land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

At the end of the Phase 2 Site Investigation and Risk Assessment the conceptual model will be updated to show whether one or more significant contaminant linkages exist or otherwise. Should one or more significant contaminant linkages exist between any sources of contamination and receptors, such as human health, controlled waters and / or ecology, the EP team will follow the procedure for determining the land as contaminated land, as set out in Section 78A(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Statutory Guidance. The land would be placed in either Category 1 or 2.

The EP team may postpone the determination of contaminated land following informing the interested parties to give the landowners or other interested person(s) the opportunity to choose to undertake the remediation to an appropriate standard and timescale agreed with the EP team.

The determination may also be postponed by the EP team should one or more significant contaminant linkages only exist if the circumstances of the land were to

change in the future within the bounds of the current use of the land (e.g. if a more sensitive receptor were to move onto the land or a temporarily interrupted pathway were to be reactivated). Alternatively, in this situation the EP team could determine the land as contaminated land but postpone the remediation.

The EP team may reconsider a determination if new information comes to light, which is significant enough to alter the original decision. In such cases the EP team will decide whether to retain, vary or revoke the determination.

Further details of the determination and remediation procedures are not included as they are outside the scope of this CLIS. These can be found in the Statutory Guidance.

3 Characteristics of the DCC area

3.1 Geographical Location

DCC is located in the North East of England. It covers an area of 223,000 hectares and is predominantly rural (some 200,000 hectares (90%) is agricultural land). It incorporates the majority of the land known as County Durham. Figure 5 shows a map of the DCC area.



Figure 5: Map of the DCC area

The conurbation of Tyne & Wear and the County of Northumberland lie to the north, Cumbria lies to the west and to the south are Darlington, the Tees Valley conurbation and North Yorkshire. The North Sea borders the eastern boundary and the Durham coastline extends some 20km.

The majority of the population live in the central and eastern parts of the DCC area. In the first release of the 2011 population census, the population was 513,200 and the 2013 population estimate was 516,000. The main population centres are Durham City, Chester-le-Street, Crook, Consett, Stanley, Peterlee, Seaham, Spennymoor, Shildon, Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe. To the west of the A68, comprises the upper

valleys of the River Wear and the River Tees, and these areas are sparsely populated. The majority of the population living within these areas are located within the many small towns and villages, with the main service centre being Stanhope for Weardale which has a population of approximately 1,600, and for Teesdale, the market town of Barnard Castle which has a population of approximately 5,000.

3.2 Geology and Hydrogeology

In terms of solid geology, County Durham (Figure 6) consists principally of a succession from west to east of Carboniferous and Permian rocks, with the Permian giving way to Triassic rocks in the south-east of the County; all the strata dip gently towards the east. The Great Whin Sill, an igneous complex consisting of a number of sills and associated dykes, underlies much of the County but is best exposed in Upper Teesdale and to a lesser extent in Weardale.

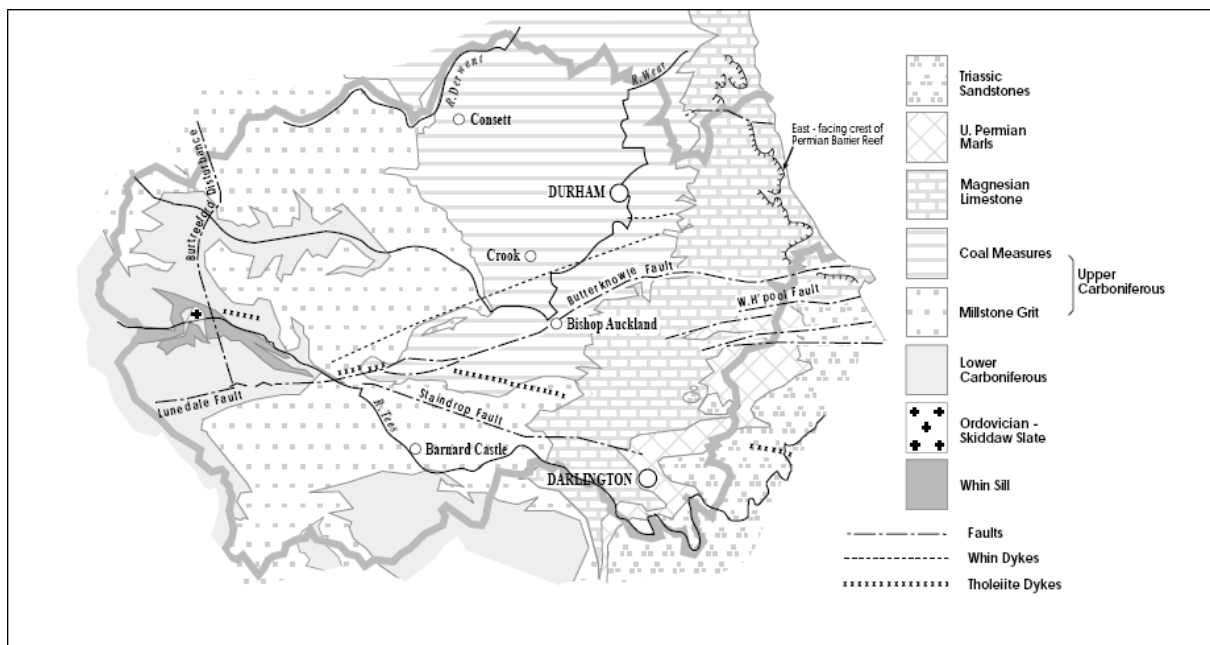


Figure 6: County Durham Geological Map

The Carboniferous Limestone series is represented by alternations of sandstone, shale and relatively thin limestone bands, which crop out in the upper reaches of West Durham. The Carboniferous sequence hosts an ore field consisting of numerous mineral infilled fractures and although it is mainly developed in the Carboniferous limestone and Millstone Grit to the west of the County, in places it extends to the coal measures in the east.

Although generally eroded away in the upper reaches of west Durham, the Millstone Grit increasingly forms the fells and ridges between the main Dales to the east of a line

between Blanchland and Middleton in Teesdale. The Millstone Grit series is represented by three groups of sandstone beds separated by shales, with a few thin coal seams.

The succession eastwards continues with the Millstone Grit being overlain by the Coal Measures, the division broadly corresponding with the easterly extent of the open moorland of west Durham. The Coal Measures extend to the east of the Wear Valley, where Permian rocks overlie them. Southwards the strata are thrown into strong undulations beyond the Butterknowle Fault and end in a sharp uprise beneath the Magnesian Limestone. These boundaries to the east and south mark the extent of the 'exposed' part of the Durham coalfield; the concealed part of the field extends beneath the Permian strata eastwards across the County and continues beneath the North Sea. The eastern edge of the Wear lowlands is marked by the outcrop of Permian rocks in the form of a bold escarpment running in a north - south direction between Pittington and Ferryhill and then turning south-westwards, with the outcrop gradually disappearing to the south of Shildon. The base of the Permian is represented by the Basal Yellow Sands, which outcrop north of Ferryhill. Above the Basal Yellow Sands lies a thin bed of marl slate, followed by deposits of Magnesian Limestone, which consists of a variable mixture of the minerals dolomite and calcite. Where the mineral dolomite is the principal constituent and scarcely any free calcite is present, the deposit is referred to as a dolomite rock. The occurrence of such deposits of dolomite is mainly confined to the lower beds of the Magnesian Limestone, the outcrop of which within the County is restricted to the lower slopes of the escarpment between Ferryhill and Pittington. Throughout the remainder of the Magnesian Limestone series the rock ranges through varying degrees of dolomitised limestone to pure limestone. Eastwards from the escarpment, the Magnesian Limestone is extensively covered by glacial drift deposits, which occasionally give rise to deposits of sand and gravel and brick clay. There is a significant amount of Made Ground in the County, largely associated with the mineral and waste activity that has taken place in the County.

Lower Carboniferous Limestone and Upper Permian Magnesian Limestone are rock formations listed in Paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 of The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006. Any of the pollutants listed in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 of the Regulations, which are likely to be present or are present in the water in these strata in concentrations that would lead them to be considered to be polluting, noxious, poisonous or solid waste matter will result in the designation of a Special Site. The Groundwater Vulnerability Map for the area shows the DCC area to be underlain by Principal, Secondary A or Secondary B Aquifers. The majority of the area is underlain by a Secondary A Aquifer. The relevant source protection zones for the DCC area are shown on Environment Agency's website and in Figure 7. The Environment Agency has defined source protection zones (SPZs) for groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs used for public drinking water supply.

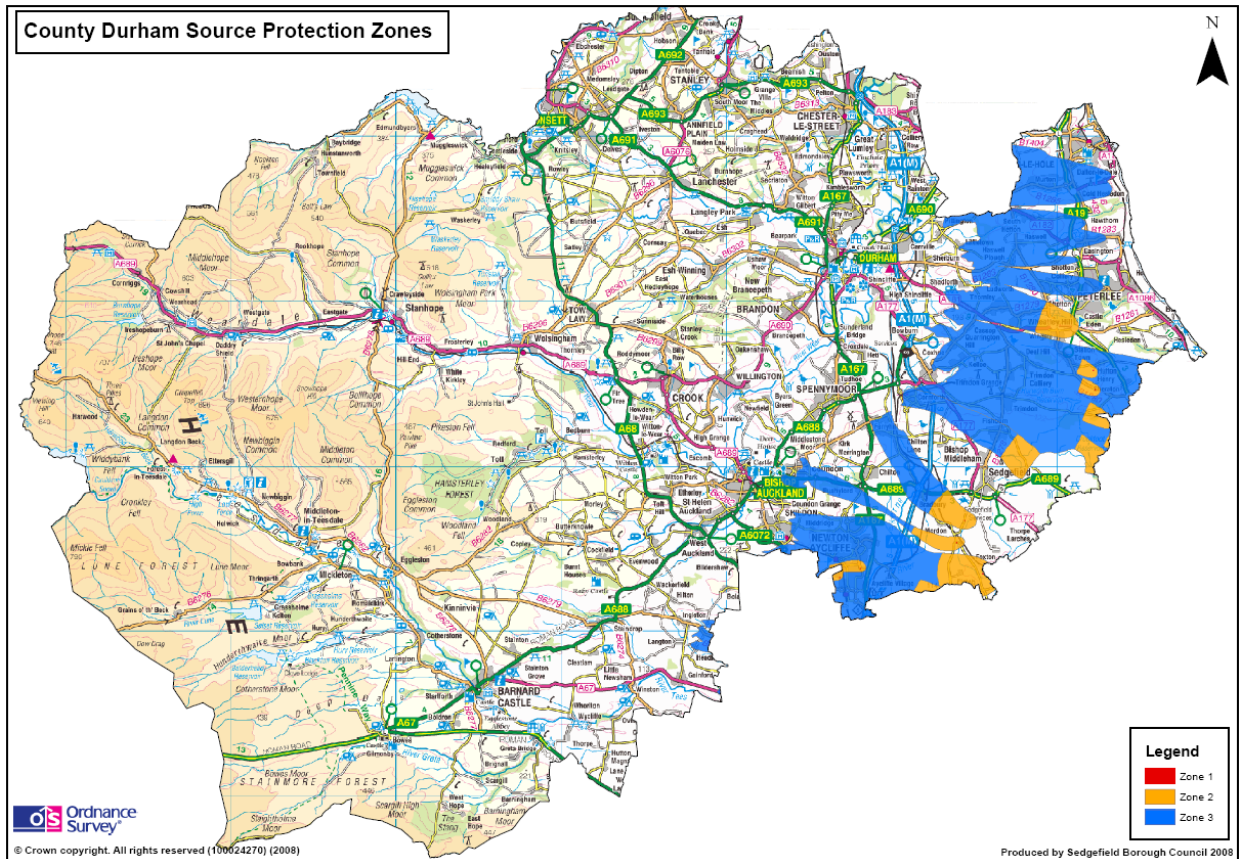


Figure 7: DCC area's Source Protection Zones

3.3 Hydrology

The Rivers' Wear, Derwent and Tees, and their associated tributaries are the main water bodies in the DCC area. The water quality of the rivers is classified by the Environment Agency. Land use and water resources are entwined, therefore activities such as, industrial activity, agriculture, urban infrastructure, agriculture etc., can affect water quality.

3.4 Landscape, Character and Biodiversity

The landscape of the area is one of great contrast and diversity (Figure 8). From the summit ridges in the North Pennines in the west, to the Durham Coast and its limestone cliffs in the east, it contains landscapes of outstanding quality and natural beauty as well as those recovering from the legacies of an industrial past. The character and biodiversity of the landscape are closely linked. Further information can be found on the Landscape character page on the Council's website.

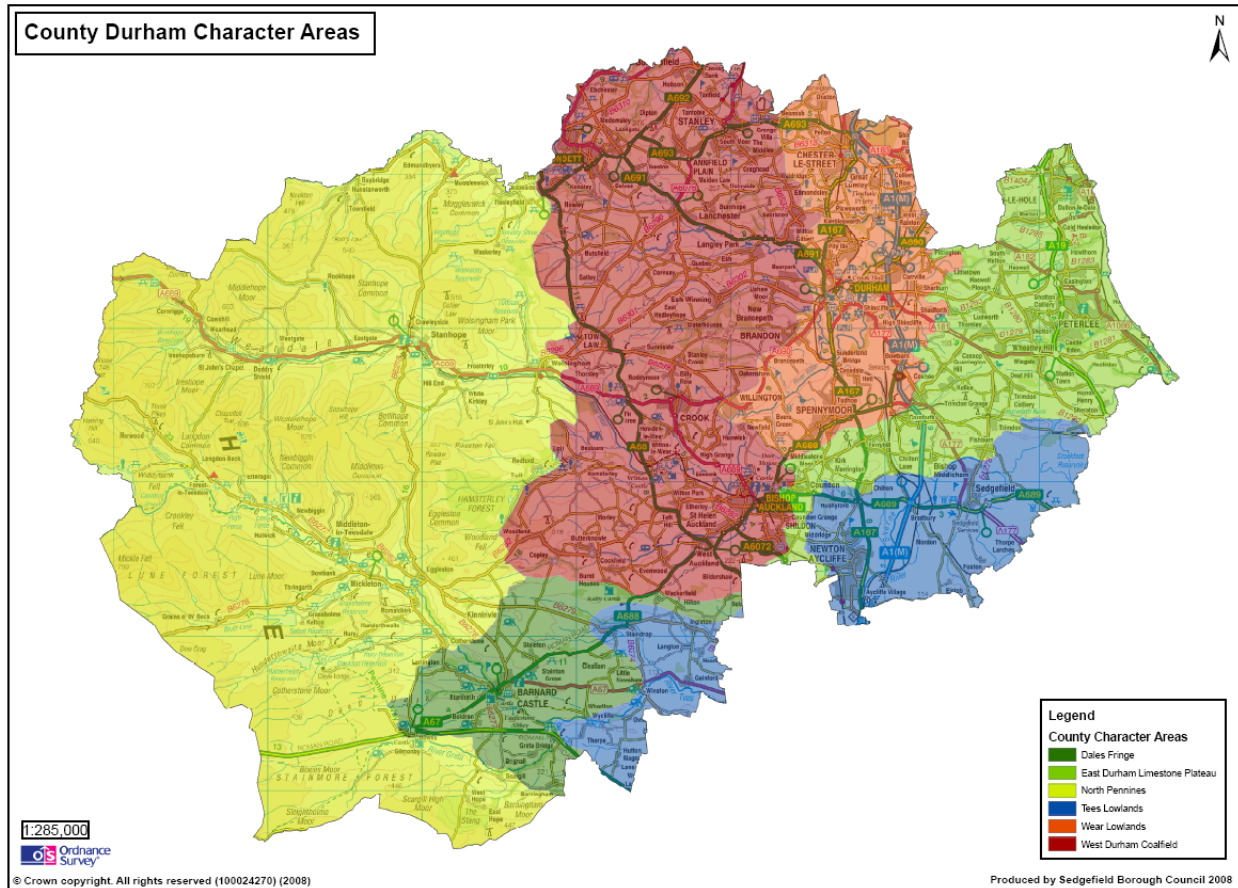


Figure 8: DCC's Character Area

3.5 Nature Conservation

The DCC area has an increasing number of protected wildlife sites of international, national and county significance, these sites support a variety of protected species.

The Durham Biodiversity Action Plan is divided into separate workplans for priority habitats and species. The priority habitats within the County are Woodland, Wetland, Upland and Lowland.

Further information can be found on the Durham Biodiversity Action Plan webpage on the Council's website.

3.6 Built Environment

The DCC area contains many areas and sites of cultural importance. These include Durham Cathedral and Castle, designated a World Heritage Site in recognition of its outstanding international historic importance, many historic parks and gardens, which are also considered of national importance, and numerous Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings. In addition, there are over 3,500 known archaeological sites in the

DCC area, of which over 100 are considered to be of national importance and are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

3.7 Industrial Heritage

The DCC area has a rich industrial heritage, dominated by the mining and quarrying activity, which has taken place since 19th Century.

The East Durham Coalfield mined underlying coal seams beneath the North Sea. Colliery spoil was deposited onto the beaches and into the North Sea which heavily degraded the coastline for many decades until the closure of the last pit in 1993. Some colliery spoil heaps have been removed from the coast line in a project called 'Turning the Tide' whilst others are naturally being eroded by the sea and this process will continue in the medium term. Associated mining activities, such as coke works and gas works with their related waste products have also left a legacy of industrial land in the DCC area. The expansion of the railways, and its subsequent retraction, has also contributed to the industrial heritage of the DCC area. There were a number of iron and steel works operating in the early 20th Century. Some of the main towns were historically supplied with town gas, and some of these sites still remain vacant.

Further information can also be found on the Durham Mining Museum website and the Durham Heritage Coast website.

4 Implementing the CLIS / the Strategy

4.1 Work programme between November 2011 and 2015

Since the publication of the CLIS, dated November 2011, DCC purchased a dedicated contaminated land software system, which is a single all-encompassing database, including a general system for managing technical environmental data (historic industrial activity, soil quality, groundwater, surface waters, ecology etc.).

It has also been integrated with standard geographical information systems (GIS), it also allows the licence holder to reliably and efficiently manage all the data that is collected for each site, (i.e. reports, digital images, sample analyses, borehole logs, etc).

Using this data management software, DCC has identified approximately 7,000 potentially contaminated land sites. The sources used to collect and collate information regarding potential sites of contamination, pathways and receptors include historical maps, geological maps, land use data, Environment Agency data such as landfill licensing, information from Natural England on environmental sensitive sites and local knowledge.

The software also includes a risk based site prioritisation system. The initial prioritisation, which produced a Stage 1 risk assessment score and site prioritisation list is based on cross referencing the current use of the site with the past industrial / historical use(s).

The Stage 1 Inspection Priority List was used to work down the list from high to low priority sites, with those sites considered to be the greatest risk to human health. This work began in 2012 and since then the EP team has inspected sites in line with the Statutory Guidance through the LQIP. The EP team has strategically inspected approximately 4,000 sites and met the target of inspecting 10 of the highest priority sites per annum, this being the detailed inspection of approximately 40 sites. All of the Council's high priority sites have been inspected.

4.2 Work Programme for 2015 - 2020

The Council recognises that in order to implement the CLIS and achieve the objectives set in Section 1.4.2, that a number of major tasks are required. These are listed below in Table 2 and detailed within this section.

Task No.	Task Description	Target Date
1.	Review highest priority sites (Stage 1 Site Prioritisation)	Ongoing
2.	Continue to collate information on sites of potential land contamination as part of the strategic inspection	Ongoing
3.	Carry out strategic and where necessary detailed inspections of potentially contaminated land sites across the DCC area (LQIP)	Ongoing
4.	Produce written statements / risk summaries for each site following the strategic and detailed inspections	Ongoing
5.	Review highest priority sites (Stage 2 Site Prioritisation)	Where resources are available
6.	Undertake strategic and where necessary detailed inspections of sites where information comes to light to deem them as urgent	Where necessary
7.	Review the CLIS	2020

Table 2: The Work Programme for 2015-2020

4.2.1 Review of Highest Priority Sites (Stage 1 Site Prioritisation)

As new information is collated regarding potentially contaminated land sites on the database a review in the Stage 1 site prioritisation is required to be undertaken focusing on those sites, which were identified as highest priority sites.

The Other Factors Score (OFS) will be applied in the Stage 1 site prioritisation. The OFS allows sites to be further risk assessed. It will be used to aid the risk assessment process, by lowering or increasing the score assigned to the site where appropriate.

Table 3 shows the breakdown of the number of potentially contaminated land sites in the DCC area in each inspection priority category. The highest priority sites will be reviewed first.

Inspection Priority Category	Score	No. of Sites
High Priority for Inspection	48-69	0
Medium - High Priority for Inspection	40-47	170
Medium Priority for Inspection	30-39	581
Low – Medium Priority for Inspection	15-29	3040
Low Priority for Inspection	0-14	3185

Table 3: Number of Sites in each Inspection Priority Category

The current uses of these sites are:

- Housing with gardens, and / or
- Allotments

The past industrial uses of these sites are:

- Coal Mining Site with Coke Works
- Gas Works, Coke Works, Coal Carbonisation Works
- Mining of Coal and Lignite
- Waste: Landfills and other Waste Treatment and Disposal Sites, and / or
- Heaps including Spoil and Slag

The majority of the DCC area has been surveyed for potentially contaminated land sites, however it is recognised that there are gaps in this data relating to some of the more remote areas. As new potentially contaminated land sites come to light they will be added to the database and prioritised in the Stage 1 site prioritisation.

4.2.2 Strategic Inspections

Working down the Stage 1 inspection priority list, information should be collated for potentially contaminated land sites to aid with the strategic inspection. This information may be obtained from reclamation files, geoenvironmental reports, the Coal Authority, Environment Agency or local knowledge etc. This is invaluable information for producing a Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Top Study).

Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessments (Desk Top Studies) will be undertaken on the highest priority sites identified in the Stage 1 site prioritisation. They will be produced in accordance with the risk assessment principles based on the contaminant-pathway-receptor approach, to identify a contaminant linkage or linkages as detailed in CLR 11 (Defra and Environment Agency, 2004). They will be carried out by the EP team or a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant who will develop a conceptual model for each site to identify whether or not there are any potentially unacceptable risks. Sufficient information may be obtained from the Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment to allow a decision to be made under Part 2A.

Additional, strategic risk assessments of potentially contaminated land sites will be undertaken by the EP team, where sufficient information is known in order to allow a decision to be made under Part 2A. The assessment will follow the contaminant-pathway-receptor approach, however it will be a robust but quicker assessment than the Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Top Study). This work will not be given priority and will only be undertaken when resources are available.

4.2.3 Detailed Inspections

Where land is identified as having the potential for one or more significant contaminant linkage to exist, a Phase 2 Site Investigation and Risk Assessment is required and will be undertaken where necessary. This is based on information from the Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Top Study). The Phase 2 Site Investigation and Risk Assessment will be undertaken by a suitably qualified Environmental Consultant / Contractor, although the final decision as to whether the land constitutes contaminated land lies with the EP team.

Prior to any work being undertaken all stakeholders will be notified, appointments made, availability of consultants and contractors booked and Health and Safety Procedures put in place. A written risk assessment will be carried out by an appropriate person, of the risks to personnel in carrying out the detailed inspection, and referred to the Council's Health and Safety team for comment. Site Investigation and Risk Assessments are carried out in accordance with CLR11 (Defra and Environment Agency, 2004) and BS10175: 2011. The results will be compared against relevant assessment criteria. The EP team will then assign the land into one of the four categories detailed in Paragraphs 4.19 to 4.29 and 4.46 of the Statutory Guidance and a decision made as to whether or not the land is contaminated land under Part 2A.

Phase 2 Site Investigations and Risk Assessments are invariably time consuming and expensive, therefore once sufficient information has been obtained, which confirms that no contaminant linkage exists, or if it does, it is not significant, the investigation will stop and no further investigative action will be taken.

Following a detailed inspection the EP team will communicate the results back to the stakeholders.

The detailed inspections are locally known as the LQIP. Further information regarding the LQIP can be found on the Council's website.

4.2.4 Written Statements

Following either a strategic or detailed inspection where sites do not meet the definition of contaminated land under Part 2A, the EP team will produce a written statement. Written statements detail the site, the inspections, finding and conclusions. Written statements will be provided to owners of the land and other interested parties (e.g.

occupiers of the land) upon request. Further information regarding written statements was detailed in Section 2.8.

4.2.5 Risk Summaries

Following either a strategic or detailed inspection where sites meet the definition of contaminated land under Part 2A, the EP team will produce a risk summary. Further information regarding risk summaries was detailed in Section 2.9.

4.2.6 Review highest priority sites (Stage 2 site prioritisation)

The Stage 2 site prioritisation allows an assessment of individual sites in more detail.

The following information will be entered onto the contaminated land data management software system for each site:

- Identification of likely contaminants based on previous industrial use
- Distance to the nearest surface water, groundwater and / or buildings
- Surface conditions at the site (e.g. hard standing, soft standing etc.)

This information is used to produce a Stage 2 risk assessment score for each site and subsequently an 'action priority list'.

4.2.7 Dealing with Urgent Sites and Imminent Risk of Harm or Water Pollution

If information is received alleging significant harm or pollution, for example if there is a chemical spillage, unplanned change of use (such as persistent unauthorised use of the land or the site or the site being designated as a Site of Conservation Importance), a Phase 1 Preliminary Risk Assessment (Desk Top Study) will be produced. Where it is identified that a significant contaminant linkage may exist, urgent action to carry out further investigation will be necessary and an action plan produced.

This work would take priority over the scheduled work programme.

4.2.8 Review the CLIS / the Strategy

In line with the Statutory Guidance, DCC's CLIS will be reviewed within five years. The next review is proposed for 2020.

5 General Communication, Liaison and Consultation

5.1 General Communication

The Council recognises that effective communication with the public of the risks associated with land contamination is critical to the successful implementation of the CLIS. The EP team will endeavour to communicate in a clear, consistent and concise manner at all times with the help and assistance of the Neighbourhoods' Communications team, if required and taking account of the advice given and guidance (SNIFFER, 1999).

In all circumstances the EP team will communicate with all relevant stakeholders (e.g. landowners) with regard to carrying out the detailed inspections of potentially contaminated land under the LQIP.

The LQIP webpage on the Council's website will be kept up to date with the details of current and previous detailed inspections. This will include information such as site location plans, frequently asked questions, relevant dates and findings of results. The website will be regularly reviewed.

The EP team will aim to gain the approval of the landowner / occupier prior to undertaking the detailed inspection. Nonetheless, the Council has the power, under Section 108 of the Environment Act 1995, to carry out an inspection under Part 2A using Statutory Powers of Entry, so long as it is satisfied that there is a reasonable possibility that a significant contaminant linkage exists on the land (Sections 2.10-2.11 of the Statutory Guidance). The Council will not exercise these powers if detailed information on which it could make a decision can be provided. Authorised Officers carry a certificate of appointment that includes their name, job title and photograph to confirm their authority to use these powers in the situation where the landowner refuses entry or cannot be found.

5.2 Internal Liaison Procedures

The EP team will ensure they liaise with all the relevant service teams throughout the inspection process, where necessary, for example, County Archivists, Planning team, Waste Management team, Building Control team, Land and Property Team, Health and Safety team, Countryside team and Legal team. Ward Councillors, Parish Councillors and Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) will be informed of the LQIP and the outcome of these works.

5.3 External Liaison Procedures

The Statutory Guidance advises local authorities to consult external expertise as part of the risk assessment process in complex cases. The EP team will liaise closely with the appointed Environmental Consultant / Contractor throughout the inspection process. Where necessary, the EP team will also liaise with the Environment Agency, Public Health England and Natural England. In complex cases the EP team will liaise with the National Panel of Experts set up by Defra in late 2012 to support

local authorities in making the decision on whether land is or is not contaminated land under Part 2A.

5.3.1 Environment Agency

The EP team will formally consult with the Environment Agency when it considers (if the land was to be determined as contaminated land under Part 2A) it would be likely to meet one or more of the descriptions of a Special Site set out in the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 and the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. Subject to the Environment Agency's advice and agreement, the EP team may request that the Environment Agency carry out a detailed inspection of the land on behalf of the EP team. The Environment Agency will advise the EP team of its findings. However, the decision as to whether the land meets the definition of contaminated land remains the sole responsibility of the EP team.

5.3.2 Public Health England

The EP team will liaise with Public Health England to assist in the communication of advice, in particular with regard to health effects and if necessary, information, such as leaflets and information packs aimed at the interested parties. If the EP team is considering whether the land might be contaminated land under Part 2A, where there is a potential for risk to human health, such as residential housing, a park or a school, they will consult with Public Health England.

5.3.3 Natural England

If the EP team is considering whether the land might be determined as contaminated land under the legal definition by virtue of an Ecological System Effect, such as a SSSI, the EP team will consult Natural England for their views and recommendations.

5.4 CLIS Consultation

Developing a strong and pragmatic relationship with our communities is a fundamental priority for the Council, and this is demonstrated in engaging with the local residential and business communities and those interested in land use and ownership in the development of the CLIS. The reviewed CLIS is available in draft for consultation on the Council website. Statutory bodies, other services of the Council are provided with a link to the draft copy on the website. The list of the specific consultees is shown in Appendix A. All are invited to provide comments. Where appropriate, the Strategy will be updated to reflect the comments received.

6 Information Management

6.1 General

Information will be managed in a logical manner ensuring its efficient use and availability. The Council will strive to continually improve information management.

6.2 Storage

All known information regarding potentially contaminated land sites and contaminated land sites under Part 2A are stored on the Council's contaminated land data management software system and is linked to GIS. The software is managed by the Senior Contaminated Land Officer.

6.3 Confidentiality

The security of the contaminated land data management software system and the list of potentially contaminated land sites are critical.

Incomplete data and reports, including conclusions based on preliminary or incomplete data, particular sites that are considered potentially contaminated, will be treated as confidential. While respecting legal rights of access to information, the process for information gathering will be made classified as work in progress until such a time when a decision can be made as to whether land is contaminated land under Part 2A or otherwise.

Information given to the Council by a third party during an inspection will be classified and confidential and will only be disclosed for public inspection with the prior agreement of the information provider.

6.4 Public Access to Information

6.4.1 Public Register

Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires local authorities to keep a public register of the regulatory and remediation actions in respect of land that has been declared as contaminated land under Part 2A.

It must be stressed that the Public Register is not a register of all sites affected by contamination and will only contain details about sites which have been formally determined as contaminated land, and the remediation action carried out to ensure the land is fit for its new purpose.

The register is held in an electronic format by the EP team. It is available for public inspection. See Appendix A for the Key Contacts for more information.

6.4.2 Request for Environmental Information

The EP team will respond to specific written requests for information held by the Council, for example whether a site appears on the Council's inspection priority list and if any site specific reports are held. The Council will act in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998. Accuracy of information will always be a high priority.

6.4.3 Complaints and General Enquiries

Complaints and general enquiries will be handled as part of the request for service procedures. All investigations will be carried out as quickly as possible and depending on the nature of the enquiry may consist of telephone advice, site walkover survey and / or consulting with other partnerships and agencies.

7 Dealing with land contamination outside Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

Prior to the introduction of Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, land affected by contamination in the DCC area was remediated through the reclamation scheme and the planning regime. The introduction of Part 2A led to an increase in the number of sites requiring assessment, specifically addressing the historical legacy of contamination. There are several ways in which land contamination can be addressed, however the planning regime remains the primary mechanism for dealing with sites affected by land contamination.

7.1 Voluntary Action

The EP team encourages owners to deal with contamination by undertaking voluntary action, therefore minimising the unnecessary burdens on the taxpayer, businesses and individuals.

7.2 The Planning Regime

Contamination is a material consideration under the planning and development management regime in the UK. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) local planning authorities have to consider the implications of contamination when developing local plans and when considering applications for proposed developments. The planning regime addresses the risks in relation to future use of land and it is the responsibility of the landowner/ developer to ensure the land is suitable and safe for the proposed use. The land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part 2A following any development under a planning consent. Planning conditions require the developer and/or landowner to risk assess their development land for any contamination, provide an assessment of contamination and if necessary remediate the land. Works are agreed with the EP team on behalf of the Planning Service at DCC prior to commencement. The landowner / developer is also required to provide a validation report, to show that the agreed remediation has been carried out to an acceptable standard following completion of the development.

7.3 Building Regulations

The Building Regulations 2010, and associated approved documents, contain specific requirements regarding contamination and landfill gas issues. These require measures to be taken to protect new buildings, and their future occupants, from the effects of contamination, including hazardous ground gases. Approved document Part C gives guidance on these requirements (HM Government, 2004 incorporating 2010 and 2013 amendments).

7.4 Pollution of Controlled Waters

The Water Resources Act 1991 gives the Environment Agency powers to take action to prevent or remedy the pollution of controlled waters. It is particularly useful in cases where there is historic pollution of groundwater, but where the Part 2A regime

does not apply. For example, where the pollutants are entirely contained within the relevant body of groundwater or where the source site cannot be identified.

7.5 Environmental Permits and Waste Management

Powers are available under the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) and Local Authority Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-PPC) regimes for dealing with contamination that result from a breach of an operating permit (Part A1 and A2). The Part 2A provisions will not apply where the regulator can take action under these regimes to remedy the effects of a breach of a permit or the carrying out of an activity authorised by the permit in accordance with its terms and conditions. Under IPPC the permit holder is required to produce a site condition report to ensure that on the surrender of the Permit the land and groundwater are in a satisfactory state (i.e. the condition of the land when the permit was issued).

An enforcing authority acting under Part 2A cannot serve a remediation notice in any case where the contamination results from an illegal deposit of controlled waste. Instead, the Environment Agency and the waste disposal authority have powers under section 59 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to remove the waste and to deal with any contamination caused by it being present.

7.6 Environmental Damage Regulations 2009

The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations (EDR) 2009 provide additional enforcement powers for the prevention and regulation of land contamination.

The regulations ensure that businesses or other responsible operators identify when there is an imminent threat or actual damage and take immediate action. EDR specifically defines environmental damage as:

Damage to:

- a) protected species or natural habitats, or a site of special scientific interest, or
- b) surface water or groundwater with a deterioration in the water's status, or
- c) contamination of land that results in a significant risk of adverse effects on human health.

The Environment Agency, Natural England, local authorities and the Secretary of State are the enforcing authorities responsible for administering and enforcing the regulations in England and Wales, depending on the type of damage involved. The enforcing authority must establish whether damage is 'environmental damage' and identify a responsible operator in order to serve a remediation notice taking account of any measures proposed by the operator.

The Regulations only apply to damage which has taken place after 1 March 2009 and are usually applied to allow a more rapid reactive resolution to land contamination caused by for example a pollution incident.

References

British Geological Survey (2012) Normal background concentrations (NBCs) of contaminants in English soils: Final project report, Science Facilities Directorate, Commissioned Report CR/12/035, Defra

British Geological Survey (2012) Technical Guidance Sheets
<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=17768&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=sp1008&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10#Description>

BS10175:2011 Code of practice for investigation of potentially contaminated sites

Communities and Local Government (03/2012) National Planning Policy Framework Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1380)

CL:AIRE (December 2013) SP1010 – Development of Category 4 Screening Levels for Assessment of Land Affected by Contamination: Final Project Report

Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1380)

Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/263)

Data Protection Act 1998

Defra (April 2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A, Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance, HM Government

Defra (March 2014) SP1010 – Development of Category 4 Screening Levels for Assessment of Land Affected by Contamination – Policy Companion Document

Defra and Environment Agency (2004) Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, Contaminated Land Report 11

Defra and Welsh Government (August 2010) The River Basin Districts Typology, Standards and Groundwater threshold values (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Directions 2010

Defra and Welsh Government (May 2014) Water Framework Directive implementation in England and Wales: new and updated standards to protect the water environment

Durham Biodiversity Action Plan (2015)
<http://www.durhambiodiversity.org.uk/biodiversity-action-plan/>

Durham County Council - Altogether Better: The Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham 2010-2030

Durham County Council, Contaminated land (2015)

<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3820/Contaminated-land>

Durham County Council, Land Quality Inspections (2015)
<http://www.durham.gov.uk/landquality>

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Durham Heritage Coast (2015) <http://www.durhamheritagecoast.org>

Durham Mining Museum, Mining History (2015)
<http://www.dmm.org.uk/history/index.htm>

Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A Contaminated Land

Environment Agency (2006) Remedial Targets Methodology – Hydrogeological Risk Assessment for Land Contamination

Environment Agency and NHBC (2000) Guidance on the Safe Development of Housing on Land Affected by Contamination

European Commission (November 2000) Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)

Freedom of Information Act 2000

GeoEnviron (2015) Contaminated Land Data Management Software System
<http://www.geoenviron.co.uk/Contaminated-Land.htm>

HM Government (2004, incorporating 2010 and 2013 amendments) The Building Regulations 2010, Approved Document C, Site preparation and resistance to contaminants and moisture

HS(G)66 (1991) Protection of workers and the general public during the development of contaminated land

Landscape character (2015)
<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2008/Landscape-character-and-guidelines>

NHBC/EA/CIEH (2008) Guidance for the Safe Development of Housing on Land Affected by Contamination, R&D66: Volume 1

SNIFFER (1999) Communicating Understanding of Contaminated Land Risks

The Building Regulations 2010

The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Water Resources Act 1991

Appendix A: Contacts and Consultees

A.1 DCC Contacts

Key Contact Points with regard to this Strategy within the Council are:

In writing	Head of Environment Health & Consumer Protection Durham County Council PO Box 617 Durham. DH1 9HZ
By telephone	03000 261016
Email	landqualitysurvey@durham.gov.uk
On-line	www.durham.gov.uk
In person	Durham County Council Environment Health & Consumer Protection Annand House John Street North Meadowfield Durham. DH7 8RS

A.2 Specific DCC Consultees

Head of Planning and Assets

Head of Sport and Leisure

Members

Strategic Waste Manager

A.3 Specific External Consultees

The Coal Authority

Environment Department, 200 Litchfield Lane, Mansfield, Nottingham, NG18 4RG

Durham Wildlife Trust

Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH4 6PU

Durham Biodiversity Partnership

Natural Environment Group Implementation Officer, Durham Biodiversity Partnership, Rainton Meadows, Chilton Moor, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH4 6PU

Durham Heritage Coast

Regeneration and Economic Development, Durham County Council, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL

Darlington Borough Council

Environmental Health, Town Hall, Feethams, Darlington, DL1 5QT

Durham County Council Area Action Partnerships**Durham County Council Parish Councillors****Eden District Council**

Eden District Council, Pollution Control, Mansion House, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 7YG

Environment Agency

Groundwater and Contaminated Land Team, North East Office, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR

Gateshead Council

Landscape and Reclamation, Development and Enterprise, Civic Centre, Regent Street, Gateshead, NE8 3HH

Hambleton District Council

Environmental Health, Civic Centre, Stonecross, Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 2UU

Hartlepool Borough Council

Engineering Consultancy, Bryan Hanson House, Lynn Street, Hartlepool, TS24 7BT

Natural England

North East Region, The Quadrant, Newburn Riverside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 8NZ

Northumberland County Council

Public Health and Protection Service, Public Protection (Environmental Protection Team), Loansdean, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2AP

Public Health England

Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards, Institute of Population Health, Nottingham City Hospital, Hucknall Road, Nottingham. NG5 1PB

Sunderland City Council

Jack Crawford House, Commercial Road, Sunderland, SR2 8QR

Stockton-on-Tees District Council

Environmental Protection Unit, P.O. Box 232, 16 Church Road, Stockton on Tees, TS18 1XD

Appendix B: Glossary of Terms

The Statutory Guidance and Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 has been used to develop the glossary of important terms set out below.

Building: any structure or erection, and any part of a building including any part below ground, but not including plant or machinery comprised in a building, or buried services such as sewers, water pipes or electricity cables.

Building effect: an effect on a building that causes significant harm.

Categories 1-4: Categorisation of land the Local Authority should use when deciding whether or not land is contaminated land on the grounds of significant possibility of significant harm.

Category 4 Screening Levels: technical guidance provides detail of the methodology and model for deciding that land is suitable for use and definitely not contaminated land under Part 2A. Six contaminants of concern were used to illustrate the application of the methodology and model, and provided levels.

Conceptual Model: the risks presented by land, and associated uncertainties.

Contaminant: a substance which is in, on or under the land and which has the potential to cause significant harm to a relevant receptor, or to cause significant pollution of controlled waters

Contaminant linkage: the relationship between a contaminant, a pathway and a receptor.

Contaminated land:

'any land which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such a condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land, that -

'(a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused, or;

'(b) significant pollution of controlled waters is being, or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused.'

Current use:

(a) The use which is being made of the land currently;

(b) Reasonably likely future uses of the land that would not require a new or amended grant of planning permission;

(c) Any temporary use to which the land is put, or is likely to be put, from time to time within the bounds of current planning permission;

(d) Likely informal use of the land, for example children playing on the land, whether authorised by the owners or occupiers, or not; and

(e) In the case of agricultural land, the current agricultural use should not be taken to extend beyond the growing or rearing of the crops or animals which are habitually grown or reared on the land.

Detailed Inspection: of particular land to obtain information on ground conditions and carrying out the risk assessments which support decisions under the Part 2A regime relevant to that land.

Enforcing Authority: is the Local Authority in whose area the land is situated.

Generic Assessment Criteria: screening tools in generic human health risk assessment to help assessors decide when land can be excluded from the need for further inspection and assessment, or when further may be warranted.

Harm: harm to the health of living organisms or other interference with the ecological systems of which they form part and, in the case of man, includes harm to his property.

Harm to Human Health: the effects of contaminants in, on or under the land on the body(ies) of the person(s) concerned.

Local Authority: generally means Durham County Council for the purpose of this Strategy

“Normal” levels of contaminants in soil: levels which are commonplace and widespread throughout England or parts of it.

Part 2A: Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990

Pathway: a route by which a receptor is or might be affected by a contaminant

Pollution of controlled waters: defined as:
'the entry into controlled waters of any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter or any solid waste matter.'

Receptor: something that could be adversely affected by a contaminant, for example, a person, an organism, an ecosystem, property, or controlled waters.

Risk: the combination of:

- (a) the likelihood that harm, or pollution of water, will occur as a result of contaminants in, on or under the land; and
- (b) the scale and seriousness of such harm or pollution if it did occur.

Risk Summary: a written record for any land, where on the basis of its risk assessment, the authority considers it is likely that the land in question may be determined as contaminated land under Part 2A. It will detail the site, the inspections, findings, uncertainties, conclusions and recommendations for possible remediation.

Significant contaminant: the contaminant which forms part of a significant contaminant linkage.

Significant contaminant linkage: a contaminant linkage which gives rise to a level of risk sufficient to justify land being determined as contaminated land under Part 2A.

Special Site: contaminated land, which meets one or more of the conditions listed in the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 and the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012. These can be broadly split into two categories; land use and significant pollution of controlled waters:

- (a) Land use categories include land used for: petroleum refining, Part A PPC processes and land owned or occupied by the MoD. A special site can also be land adjacent to an area used for the processes in the list that is consequently affected by contamination.
- (b) Significant pollution of controlled waters categories are land where contamination:
 - (1) affects controlled waters that supply public drinking water
 - (2) causes failure of water quality standards set under Water Resources Act 1991 or environmental objectives that apply to specific protected areas in the Water Framework Directive
 - (3) reaches controlled waters contained in specific underground strata

Strategic Inspection: collecting information to make a broad assessment of within an authority's area and then identifying priority land for more detailed consideration.

Unacceptable Risk: a risk of such a nature that it would give grounds for land to be considered contaminated land under Part 2A.

Written Statement: a written record for any land, where on the basis of its risk assessment, the authority considers the land does not meet the definition of contaminated land under Part 2A. It will detail the site, the inspections, findings and conclusions.