

Cabinet

6th February 2013



Overview and Scrutiny Review of Road Safety for Children and Young People

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose

1. To present the report from the scrutiny review of Road Safety with a focus on Children and Young People (the report is attached at appendix 2).

Information

2. At its meeting in July 2012, Members of the Committee agreed to undertake a review of Road Safety following concerns regarding performance of the 'number of children killed or seriously injured (KSI) in road traffic collisions' during 2010/2011 and to look at road safety initiatives undertaken by the Council and partners within County Durham. Members did note that the quantitative data related to this performance measure represented small numbers and was therefore open to statistical inference and trend analysis that would present information open to misinterpretation.
3. The purpose of the review was to explore road safety initiatives provided by the Council and Partners to children and young people within County Durham.
4. The review has gathered a wide range of evidence, conducted field study activity including review group members attending road safety events provided by the Council and partner agencies to see first hand what is available. The report contains findings on causation factors and the impact of road traffic collisions, the partnership approach to road safety within County Durham, specific road safety education activities with children and young people and information on best practice from across the country.
5. The review report concludes that casualty reduction is an important objective for the Council and its partners reflected in respective strategic documents and action plans. A great deal of work is being done in a partnership context that has made a difference. The quantitative data related to this performance measure represented small numbers and this itself can present difficulties in that small

numbers can be open to misinterpretation. Work to develop a strategy on unintentional injuries is welcome as is public health becoming a local authority responsibility. Further work on evaluating the impact on casualty reduction programmes is essential so that value for money and any further investment into programmes demonstrate that they work, they do make a difference and that they are the right thing to do.

Service Response

6. The Neighbourhood services group welcome the report. The scrutiny review comprehensively covers the services provided by the road safety team. It recognises that casualty reduction is an important priority for the Council and its partners and that this is reflected in respective strategic documents and action plans.
7. It should also be noted that the road safety service complements the wider objectives of the Council's strategy to improve road safety for all road users and, in particular, children and young people. It is essential that improvements to the highway infrastructure, in terms of road safety schemes and highway maintenance, continue to be addressed and the appropriate level of funding allocated to continue this vital work.
8. The Children and Adults service group also welcome the investigation into this issue, as this has been an area of interest for the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Board. In this context the report should be shared with these partnership boards and also be shared with the Safe Durham Partnership.

Recommendation

9. That Cabinet notes the recommendations in the attached report (appendix 2) and formulates a response within the six month period identified in the report for systematic review of recommendations.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – Like all other Council services and activities this area of work is subject to MTFP considerations. Accident prevention/road casualty reduction is a public health priority so any resources available will need to take this area of work into account.

Staffing – The transfer of public health staff into the Council will increase capacity to support this area as it is public health priority.

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – An equality impact assessment on the scrutiny review is available.

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – In line with the equality impacts assessment referred to above.

Legal Implications – None