

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 September 2016

County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of a presentation from Dave Wafer, Chair of the County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum on activity undertaken throughout 2016/17.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2015, the Committee received and responded to a presentation on work of the Road Casualty Reduction Forum during 2015/16. Within its response, the Committee note that whilst the number of people 'killed or seriously injured' for 2014 was down compared to the previous year, Members raised concern that there has been an increase in fatal accidents for 2015.
3. Members acknowledged the positive work that is being undertaken by the Forum through education, engagement, engineering and enforcement and gained an insight to this work through attending wisedrive and safety carousel events in October and November 2015.
4. The Committee also supported the positive introduction of roadside testing for drug driving and encouraged the Road Casualty Reduction Forum to raise awareness to the dangers and consequences of drug driving.
5. The Committee agreed its work programme in June 2016 and requested to include an item on the County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum. Information within the presentation contributes to the objective of 'Road Casualty Reduction' within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016-19. In addition Members also requested to hold a focussed meeting during 2016/17 on road safety with regard to young drivers and the fatal four causes of accidents.
6. The road casualty reduction forum reports to the Safe Durham Partnership and its membership includes representation from Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and NHS organisations. In partnership, the forum undertake a range of activity that focus on education, engagement, engineering and enforcement and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan identifies the following key objectives:

- a. Improve education and raise awareness of road safety;
 - b. Improve health and wellbeing of communities through casualty reduction, and
 - c. Develop a safer road environment.
7. The presentation to the Committee's meeting will provide Members with an update following the presentation in September 2015 on current accident trends together with an overview of activity undertaken to deliver the above objectives and information on campaign activity throughout 2016/17.
8. In addition, the presentation will also contribute to the Committee's focussed meeting on road safety with regard to young drivers and the fatal four causes of accidents.

Recommendation

Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

None

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

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