

31 October 2016



Checkpoint

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 on the Checkpoint programme from Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.

Background

2. At its meeting in October 2015, the Committee received a presentation on the Checkpoint programme and requested a progress report to be presented to the Committee. Information within this presentation is linked to the 'Reducing re-offending' sections of the Altogether Safer objective within the Council Plan 2016/19 and Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016/19.
3. The Checkpoint programme, launched in April 2015, aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by reducing reoffending. The programme offers eligible offenders a four month long contract to engage with services as an alternative to prosecution and offers interventions to address the underlying reasons why they committed the crime to prevent them from doing it again.
4. It is to note that not all offences can qualify for the Checkpoint programme. Serious offences such as rape, robbery or murder will not be eligible for Checkpoint and the programme does not include driving offences, cases of domestic abuse or hate crime.
5. The offender is supported through the process by a specialist 'navigator' who completes a detailed needs assessment and creates a tailored contract to which could include interventions around any of the issues the offender may have. Within this context, should the offender successfully complete the contract and has not reoffended, no further action will be taken against them. However, if they reoffend or fail to complete the contract they will be prosecuted and the courts will be informed of the circumstances of their failure to complete the contract.
6. The presentation to Members in October 2015 provided an overview on the above areas together with current performance. Building on this presentation, Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff will be in attendance to provide Members with a progress update on the checkpoint programme and how this has developed during the past year.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

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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