
Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues discussed at the September 2016 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board meeting.

Organised Crime

2. Durham Constabulary provided an awareness raising presentation for front-line staff "Does Your Work Take You Behind Doors?" which has been developed to assist front-line staff spot possible signs of organised criminal activity.
3. The presentation showed how to identify signs of possible hidden crimes including Child Sexual Exploitation, exploitation linked to human trafficking, stolen or counterfeit goods, organised crime and counter terrorism. Information was provided on how to report such crimes and confidentially share community intelligence with the police. Partners will disseminate this presentation to raise awareness amongst their staff.
4. The SDP Board also felt that it was important that members of the public were made aware of any potential signs of these crimes and that the PACT section on AAPs could be used to raise awareness.

Police, Crime and Victims' Plan 2016-21

5. Members of the Safe Durham Partnership Board have provided feedback on the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan as part of the formal consultation process. There is a high degree of synergy between the Police, Crime and Victims' Plan and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016/19 in relation to the current strategic objectives and outcomes. This shows the collaborative work that is in place in relation to community safety, with the importance of partnership working referenced throughout the document. With reducing resources, it is important to work together with a common aim: keeping our communities safe.
6. The Safe Durham Partnership will also provide comment on the draft of the supporting Business Plan. This will afford members of the Partnership with the opportunity to identify how partner organisations can contribute to the objectives and ensure a coordinated delivery of initiatives.

Reducing Re-Offending Group Update

7. The Chief of Staff from the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC) has taken over as Chair of the Group. It has also been agreed that the Group will now report into the Local Criminal Justice Board as well as the Safe Durham Partnership and the Safer Darlington Partnership.
8. The three priority areas are:
 - a. A review of the pathways to desistance throughout the criminal justice system
 - b. Growing the use of Restorative Justice
 - c. Developing the Performance Framework
9. The group will also receive reports on the Checkpoint project, and the Checkpoint Governance Board has been subsumed. Membership of the group has also been reviewed, and extended to ensure it includes representatives from across the Criminal Justice System and from those services which provide pathways to desistance. Membership will be kept under review.

Review of the Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB)

10. The OPCVC has now completed the review of the LCJB and the recommendations have been agreed by all board members at the September meeting. The high level objectives of the LCJB will remain, though with fresh emphasis and impetus, as:
 - Support for victims and witnesses
 - Delivering justice efficiently
 - Apprehension, punishment and rehabilitation of offenders in order to reduce reoffending.

Governance arrangements for Abuse-Related Areas

11. Regular governance reviews of partnership arrangements are undertaken to ensure they remain fit for purpose. As part of the most recent governance review of the SDP it has been highlighted that there are a number of Vulnerability / Abuse-Related issues that fall across more than one Partnership Board which need to be clarified as part of the review. As a result of the review governance arrangements have been agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP), Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and the Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) in relation to the following areas:
 - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking
 - Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
 - Hate Crime
 - Financial abuse of vulnerable adults.

Safe and Wellbeing Visits

12. County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) provided an update on Safe and Wellbeing Visits (SWVs). SWVs are now fully embedded as mainstream community safety prevention work within CDDFRS. During the visit the resident (where they consent), are asked a range of lifestyle questions which cover fire safety, dementia, slips trips and falls, smoking cessation, alcohol, loneliness and isolation, flu, winter warmth and fuel poverty. During the visit residents are also offered brief advice and interventions with referral pathways to relevant health or third sector partner where appropriate.
13. Between 15th February (when the visits were first introduced) and 31st August a total of 9,255 SWVs were carried out. Of these 3,506 agreed to answer the lifestyle questions and as a result 1,352 referrals were made to partner agencies. During this period the highest number of referrals made were regarding loneliness and isolation.
14. Two independent evaluations of the SWVs are in the initial stages of being carried out. The first by this 'Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee' and the second evaluation will be undertaken by Teesside University who have been commissioned by Public Health County Durham to undertake the work.

Casualty Trends across the North East and County Durham

15. The SDP received a report on road casualty trends that was presented to the September meeting of this committee. The report highlighted the regional work that has been undertaken to look at the link between casualty rates and deprivation. It has been agreed that Public Health Durham will lead a short terms working group to review these findings at a County level and the group will report back to the Safe Durham Partnership by the end of the financial year.

Funding

16. Funding from the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner's (PCVC) Community Safety Fund has been allocated to the Safe Durham Partnership since a range of funding streams transferred to the PCVC. The fund is used for community safety projects focusing on the SDP and PCVC strategic objectives.
17. A Funding Group was implemented in December 2013 to develop funding plans and recommendations to the SDP Board for this grant. This group also co-ordinates applications to other funding streams where available to maximise the financial capacity of the Safe Durham Partnership at a time of continued austerity across the public sector.
18. The Funding Group has developed bids in relation to:
 - Cyber-crime;
 - Domestic abuse;
 - Open water safety equipment;
 - Community cohesion;
 - The Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS); and
 - Prevent.

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs)

19. The Principal AAP Co-ordinator with the lead for 'Safer' provided an update on the work of the AAPs. All 14 AAPs have held their 2016 AGMs and 7 have selected Crime and Community Safety, Road Safety or Traffic Management as their priority.
20. So far, 15 projects have been delivered under the Altogether Safer theme since April 2016. The majority of projects align with the strategic objectives of reducing Anti-Social behaviour, Alcohol Harm Reduction and the PCVC priorities.
21. The AAPs have also provided an arena for consultation on community safety priorities to take place, both at a Board level and across the AAP forums.
22. The structure of the AAPs allows for Partners to bring up to date, local information to the communities at AAP board meetings. Each of the AAP Boards have recently agreed to receive PACT issues at every Board meeting and commencing July 2016, all Board meetings will include regular features within this section that benefit and inform local Partners and communities. In addition to this Board agenda item, Safe Durham Partners have access to AAP Facebook web pages and emails.

Recommendations and reasons

23. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - (i) Note the contents of the report.

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Appendix 1 – Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – The Safe Durham Partnership update provides an overview of reports and discussions from the Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A