

# Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Safe Durham Partnership Update

9 January 2017



Safe Durham Partnership

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### Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

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#### 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 November 2016 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board meeting.

#### Safeguarding Boards

2. The Safe Durham Partnership Board received information on the current position of the Durham Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) from the Independent Chair of both boards.
3. The Care Act 2014 has put Safeguarding Adults Boards on a statutory footing. A number of areas are highlighted within the statutory guidance that the annual report should evidence, including how successful adult safeguarding is at linking with other parts of the system, for example children's safeguarding, domestic violence and community safety. The SAB has recently agreed governance arrangements with the SDP and LSCB on a range of abuse-related areas.
4. The LSCB had a year of development during 2015/16 and achieved a 'good' Ofsted rating in May 2016. The annual report documents the work carried out by partners during 2015/16 to safeguard and protect children, including refreshing the Early Help and Neglect Strategy to include more focus on Hidden Harm (domestic abuse, alcohol misuse, substance misuse and parental mental health) and the creation of a multi-agency ERASE team to tackle Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and disrupt offenders. The report also highlights the joint working with the SDP in respect of domestic abuse, alcohol misuse, substance misuse and aligning and improving work within sexual violence, CSE and Female Genital Mutilation.

#### Open Water Safety

5. There are two groups in place that report to the Safe Durham Partnership Board, the Durham City Safety Group (CSG) and the countywide Open Water Safety Group (OWSG).
6. Recent activities undertaken by the Durham City Safety Group include:
  - The CSG has published its first annual report since the group formed in January 2015
  - A monthly cycle of inspection and monitoring continues in relation to the completion of all physical safety infrastructure works. Further developments have been completed for the Freemans Reach development following a RoSPA assessment

- There have been zero fatalities since the formation of the CSG and a reduction in water related incidents
- A wide range of education and awareness raising activity with Durham University has taken place
- A joint water safety “Don’t Drink and Drown” campaign has taken place over the festive period 2016, covering Durham City and Chester-le-Street
- Safety improvements have been implemented by licensed premises.

7. Recent activities undertaken by the Open Water Safety Group include:

- There are 256 priority locations across the county and work is ongoing to assess them as low to medium risk
- Assessments of priority locations have resulted in physical safety improvements
- The ‘Dying to be Cool?’ campaign has continued to gain publicity and interest locally, nationally and internationally, has been nominated for two awards and has been referenced as a best practice case study for local authorities
- Further developmental work is to be undertaken with private landowners who have rivers running through their land.

### **Strategic Victims and Witness Group**

8. The Strategic Victims and Witness Group, led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, reports to both the Safe Durham Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board.

9. Following a review it has been agreed that the following pieces of work will underpin, what are currently, high level aims and objectives of the group:

- Improving communication with and connectivity across internal and external partners
- Developing clear monitoring and evaluation processes, including defined performance and outcome measures
- Ensuring alignment of relevant plans and strategies.

10. In relation to work planning, the refreshed ‘Delivering Change for Victims and Witnesses’ report will be the main vehicle for priority areas of work in Durham, continuing the commitment to:

- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of support for victims and witnesses;
- Identify and act on opportunities to further enhance or add value to existing services
- Engage with victims, witnesses and local communities to ensure they are fully involved in identifying and addressing issues and solutions
- Work with partners to improve collaboration and co-ordination and ensure seamless pathways
- Monitor the changing nature of crime and victimisation and commission services appropriate to the needs of our communities.

11. In addition, the Group will be involved in current discussions about Ministry of Justice proposals to devolve further victims’ funding to Police and Crime Commissioners. In particular, this will involve exploring the benefits and risks of local, rather than national, commissioning of the Witness Service, the Homicide Service, the Rape Support Fund, support for victims of road traffic crime and support for victims of terrorist activity.

## **The Voice of Young People in the Youth Justice System**

12. Feedback from young people who have offended and from young victims of youth crime is collated from a range of sources. These include the HMIP Young People's Feedback Survey undertaken by the County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) with young people; young people's experience of the youth justice system, including work with CDYOS; young people's feedback about what has helped them to change their behaviour/ lives and feedback from young victims of crime. The active participation of young people in their own assessments and intervention plans is a theme running through all CDYOS quality assurance work.
13. Feedback from young people was, again this year, very positive about the work of CDYOS and their partners. This feedback will be incorporated into a new system which has been developed to share engagement information from children and young people.

## **Funding**

14. Recommendations were agreed by the SDP in relation to the allocation of the Community Safety Fund for 2017/18. Funding will support:
  - Services to tackle anti-social behaviour
  - Supporting young victims of crime
  - Programmes to reduce re-offending by young people
  - The Checkpoint Programme
  - The further rollout of Community Peer Mentors.
15. Further work will be undertaken by the SDP Funding Group during 2017 in relation to the commissioning of community safety services and how to maximise working with the community and voluntary sector on shared priorities.

## **Drugs Strategy 2014/17**

16. Durham County Council Public Health Team will be reviewing the current County Durham Drug Strategy when Public Health England (PHE) publishes the new National Drug Strategy, taking into account both national strategy and local need. The Drug Strategy action plan was refreshed in June 2016 and continues to be monitored quarterly.
17. It has been agreed, in principle, by the SDP and the Health and Wellbeing Board that a more rounded approach to substance misuse could be developed by merging the Drug Strategy and the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and widening the scope to 'addictions prevention and treatment' to include tobacco and possibly gambling. Further discussions will take place with partners to take this work forward and a further update will be provided to Committee.

## **Recommendations and reasons**

18. 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**

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**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