



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 20 November 2020**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Remote Meeting - held via Microsoft Teams**

Business

Part A

**Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend.
Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's
agreement.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the meeting held 22 September 2020 (Pages 3 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Community Protection Update: (Pages 15 - 26)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Head of Community Protection Services, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change.
7. Public Protection Service - Enforcement and Intervention Activity: (Pages 27 - 38)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Public Protection Manager, Neighbourhoods and Climate Change.

8. County Durham Youth Justice Service, Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and Service Improvement Plan 2020/21: (Pages 39 - 54)
Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services – presented by the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children and the County Durham Youth Justice Service Manager, Children and Young People's Services.
9. County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group - Update: (Pages 55 - 66)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources.
 - (ii) Report of the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group – presented by the Policy Lead, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner.
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
12 November 2020

To: The Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor D Boyes (Chair)
Councillor H Liddle (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B Avery, A Bainbridge, A Batey, J Charlton, R Crute, S Durham, D Hall, C Hampson, G Huntington, S Iveson, B Kellett, L Kennedy, J Maitland, E Mavin, J Stephenson, D Stoker, K Thompson, J Turnbull and C Wilson

Co-opted Members: Mr D Balls and Mr A J Cooke

Co-opted Employees/Officers: Chief Fire Officer S Errington and Chief Superintendent A Green

Contact: Martin Tindle

Tel: 03000 269 713

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held remotely via **Microsoft Teams** on **Tuesday 22 September 2020** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors A Bainbridge, A Batey, R Crute, S Durham, D Hall, C Hampson, G Huntington, S Iveson, H Liddle, J Maitland, E Mavin, J Stephenson, D Stoker and J Turnbull

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Avery, J Charlton, L Kennedy, C Wilson, Mr D Balls, Mr A J Cooke and Chief Fire Officer S Errington

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 17 February 2020 and were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties.

6 Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

The Chair welcomed the Policy Lead, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), Jeanne Trotter who was in attendance to provide the Committee with an update presentation in relation to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (for copy see file of minutes).

The Policy Lead thanked the Chair and Members and noted she was also the Chair of the Durham and Darlington Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG). She noted that DASVEG had retained its high-level priorities and there had been additional work planning in relation to sexual violence. She explained that the objectives in respect of domestic abuse were: One – reduction in repeat victims and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse; Two – domestic abuse is prevented through early intervention; and Three – more invisible victims are identified and offered support. The Committee were asked to note that a separate work plan had been developed for victims of sexual violence and it was explained that the focus was on prevention and early intervention, with a coordinated response. The Policy Lead highlighted hidden victims and risk of harm criteria as well as work to promote good evidence based practice.

Members were referred to the report within the agenda pack, with the Policy Lead highlighting key areas. She explained as regards Objective One, reducing repeat victims, there was a lot of innovative work ongoing including with the MATAC (Multi-Agency Tasking and Coordination), the scrutiny of the use of the Checkpoint scheme with domestic abuse perpetrators as an early intervention, and a bid being made to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) for funds to support the development of perpetrator programmes which would include an extension of MATAC and one-to-one work and interventions in respect of non-intimate partner violence, while also maintaining focus on the support for victims.

In relation to Objective Two, the Policy Lead explained that the Embedded Learning Group, that had been set up as part of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI), noted some areas of duplication and significant work was then undertaken in terms training, support and the production and availability of resources for partners. She added that other issues highlighted within the report included priorities going forward in relation to the objective.

The Committee were informed in respect of Objective Three, identifying more invisible victims, a programme of work was being drawn up by the appropriate Task and Finish Group, with an aim to better understand the issues relating to invisible victims. The Policy Lead noted that work included: potential extension of workplace champions, training to encompass community champions, review and referral resources, understanding of the characteristics relating to hidden victims and coercive control awareness raising campaigns.

The Policy Lead noted the issue of commissioning and added that the often short-term nature of domestic abuse and sexual violence funding had been raised by Members when she previously attended Committee. She explained that therefore a budget prioritisation exercise was being carried out, facilitated by colleagues from Public Health and supported by partner agencies, and this would form the basis for future commissioning plans.

In relation to COVID 19 restrictions and national reporting in terms of increasing domestic abuse and sexual violence, the Policy Lead explained that as the Chair of DASVEG and joint commissioner of those services she would wish to reassure Members that close attention was being paid to any local changes, with weekly reporting from Harbour and monthly national helpline figures. She added that while County Durham had not experienced the increases that some of the larger areas elsewhere in the country had experienced, referrals had fluctuated and more recently there had been increase. She noted for context that referrals to Harbour in February 2020 were 122, with an increase during April, stabilising back at around 122 in June. She noted during the period of increased referrals, self-referrals increased from an average of 2 to 38, adding that this may have been as a consequence of the media campaign as explained within the report. The Policy Lead noted that local data in relation to calls into the national helpline early within the lockdown period had not shown a significant increase, perhaps indicating that in County Durham the local provision was being utilised where appropriate. She reiterated that the increasing demand would be closely monitored and added that Durham Constabulary was proactive in contacting the victims of known repeat perpetrators and high risk cases, including visits to their homes. The Policy Lead concluded by noting that during COVID 19 all the commissioned services remained in operation, collaborative working enabled successes, such as the joint campaign, as well additional funding provided to the Office of the PCVC from the MoJ having been distributed amongst commissioned partners and non-commissioned partners enabling some innovative development of support to victims, especially through the use of IT.

The Chair thanked the Policy Lead and noted concern in any increase in cases of domestic abuse and any links to the increase in alcohol consumption. He added it was encouraging to learn of the joint approach being taken by the relevant Authorities and organisations to combat the issues. He asked Members of the Committee for their questions on the report.

Councillor R Crute, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, asked if the Policy Lead could remind the Committee of the composition of DASVEG and noted that when looking at the determinants more widely, such as poor job prospects, poor housing, the dip in the economy and now the impact of COVID 19, there was a need to take those issues into account and asked how DASVEG brought all of that information together and pool resources. He added he understood that work was being undertaken in terms of the budget prioritisation exercise and asked, given the tight budgets in the current climate, was the Policy Lead confident that the challenges, once identified, could be met.

The Policy Lead noted a large number of organisations were represented within DASVEG, including Public Health, Housing, Probation partners, the Council's Children and Young People's Services directorate, Durham Constabulary, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and Courts amongst many others. She added she could provide a full list of those attending for Members' information. In respect of meeting challenges, she explained this was the purpose of the budget prioritisation exercise, as there were several funding streams feeding in respect of domestic abuse and sexual violence and therefore it was difficult in terms of being sustainable and long-term. She noted that Durham was one of only a few areas that had both the PCVC and Local Authority co-commissioning such services and added that this was a good first step in terms of joint working. Councillor R Crute thanked the Policy Lead, noting that this gave him some assurance that all the relevant bodies were covered under DASVEG and that the review of funding would help provide an opportunity to look at funds that may be ringfenced for particular issues. The Chair asked, while noting it involving a number of agencies, whether there was there a clear lead organisation and structure so that operations could be directed effectively, as it had been noted in the past where a number of agencies were involved there could be duplication. The Policy Lead noted that this was an issue that had been raised within DASVEG and organisations were ensuring they had the right people involved at the meetings. She added she felt there were the right people who were able to make decisions at the meetings and she was confident they would then in turn be able to move on issues quickly.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Tom Gorman noted the link to the performance report later on the agenda and added that there was a reported increase in domestic violence incidents in April of 8 percent averaged across County Durham. He added that this increase was outside of normal variation, however, data down at a sub-county level showed that the increase was not in all areas across the county, with some Members that may have spoken to their local Police Inspectors noting no increase in such incidents in their area. He explained that Peterlee and Newton Aycliffe had reported the highest increases, with some areas reporting no change and some areas reporting a decrease in incidents. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted a 9.8 percent reduction in domestic violence incidents as a crime and little difference in the number of incidents involving alcohol or high-risk referrals. The Chair thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager and asked what period those figures represented, and it was explained they were for April to June 2020.

Councillor J Maitland asked as regards the extension to workplace champions and how this would be affected as a result of COVID 19. The Policy Lead noted that a lot would be done remotely, with work ongoing to make such approaches more accessible. She added that alternative ways of delivering support utilising IT equipment would help and additional IT equipment would be available, secured through COVID funding.

Councillor E Mavin noted his thanks to the Policy Lead and all those working throughout the COVID 19 period. The Policy Lead thanked the Councillor and noted it was to the credit of all the services working hard, looking at innovative approaches utilising the additional funding, and she would pass on the thanks to those involved.

Councillor D Hall asked as regards the timescales of the planned commissioning and whether information on the results would be reported back to Committee in due course. The Policy Lead noted the last commissioning session would be in October and a report would follow in November/December, looking to prioritise for the 2021 budget.

The Chair asked in respect of invisible victims and what strategy was undertaken to try to get in touch with such hard to reach groups. The Policy Lead noted the success of the awareness campaign at the beginning of the COVID 19 period and the power of agencies working collectively to deliver the message that such services were available. She added that it was believed that some of the increase in self-reporting was as a result of the campaign and noted that there was a plan in terms of developing a joint communication strategy to help reach those hidden victims.

Resolved:

That the content of the report be noted.

7 Safe Durham Partnership Board - Impact of COVID 19

The Chair welcomed the Area Manager, Community Risk Management, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Keith Wanley in his capacity as the Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board who was in attendance to provide the Committee with an update presentation in relation to the Impact of COVID 19 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Area Manager thanked the Chair and Committee and noted at the last meeting of the SDP Board, he had asked partner organisations to provide an update report on the actions taken in response to COVID 19. He added that the presentation for Members would give a summary of the detailed responses that had been provided by partners, highlighting key areas.

In respect of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS), the Area Manager noted that it would not have been appropriate to continue to deliver the Safe and Wellbeing Visits (SWVs) in the usual manner, however, it was important to ensure that the most vulnerable members of the community continued to receive actual physical support where it could be delivered in a COVID-safe manner.

He explained that Community Risk Officers had undertaken risk assessments and utilised personal protective equipment (PPE) to be able to continue to visit the most vulnerable people to provide support in their homes, with crews providing home safety advice via telephone. He added they had also delivered, and fitted where necessary, smoke alarms and fire bags. He added that for businesses, physical visits had not been deemed appropriate and therefore in terms of Fire Safety Audits, a statutory duty, desktop audits had been carried out, followed by a telephone call with businesses to ensure their risk assessments were appropriate.

The Area Manager noted this was of particular importance in supporting the care and nursing homes across the county, with every one receiving a telephone call to ensure their risk assessments were adjusted. He added that the CDDFRS, in conjunction with the County Council, were looking at the issue of workplace audits to ensure workplaces were adhering to COVID secure workplace requirements. In terms of wider COVID 19 support, the CDDFRS had helped partner organisations in terms of delivery of food, PPE, essential supplies for partners and people at home. He noted several staff had trained as ambulance drivers, so they would be able to support the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) if required.

In reference to Durham Constabulary, the Area Manager noted that there had been an increase in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB) as a result of COVID legislation breach reporting having an ASB tag. He noted the difference in terms of both nuisance and environmental ASB as a result of that reporting had been noted. He added that the Police had used technology to: take statements remotely; upload CCTV footage; provide remote interpreters and legal advice within custody suites; undertake remote remand hearings to support HM Courts and Tribunal Services; provide Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act compliant suspect interviews via the use of body cameras. In respect of Road Safety, there had been an ability to undertake a proactive approach in the policing of roads.

The Committee were asked to note that in terms of the County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), they had continued to deliver all services, albeit with some different approaches. The Area Manager noted all young people assessed as a high risk of harm or vulnerability continued to receive in-person contact, with all victims continuing to receive appropriate contact throughout the lockdown restrictions. He added that the CDYJS had noted that for some young people they had responded better with video contact and interventions than to face-to-face contact and that for staff it was more efficient to work remotely, while maintaining the ability to meet in person if needed. It was noted that the importance of communication had been highlighted in terms of keeping staff and service users informed, as well as in helping to maintain morale.

The Area Manager noted in respect of Prevent, online training was delivered to schools and housing colleagues, and there had been a notable increase in UK Government branded scams relating to COVID 19, more than relating to any other subject. He added there had been reports of conspiracies relating 5G masts being linked to COVID 19.

In respect of the multi-agency Channel Panel, it was noted it was meeting monthly via Microsoft Teams to support people vulnerable to radicalisation.

Councillors noted in terms of Road Safety delivery, COVID 19 restrictions resulted in a suspension of face-to-face activities and the education elements, including physical deliver in schools, driver training and community based events. The Area Manager explained that it had been noted that casualty rates had reduced in the first few weeks of lockdown, however, it was expected they would increase as lockdown released and traffic levels returned to normal. He added that social media campaigns had continued, and remote lessons were planned to deliver to schools and other key groups.

The Area Manager explained that Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (DTVCR) had noted that joint working was essential in these times and that early communication was key to this. He added that their use of video gave their staff better flexibility for clients and a risk based programme was put in place to support low and medium risk offenders.

Members noted that in respect of Public Health and the engagement of key services, such as the Drug and Alcohol Service, numbers in treatment remained stable, with press releases used to help increase referrals into specialist services, such as domestic abuse and drug and alcohol misuse. It was added that a daily dashboard was established to monitor COVID-19 cases and deaths. The Area Manager noted in respect of outbreak control, there were weekly updates from Public Health England (PHE) in relation to the prison estate, there had been engagement with agencies and communities, a community hub had been established and the mental health crisis number had been used to support those in need during the lockdown phase. He explained that a Health Inequality Impact Assessment and a Local Outbreak Control Plan had been developed, with the Outbreak Control Team providing communications and training for single points of contact within the community and workplaces.

In respect of the Council's Housing function, the Area Manager explained that they had adapted to be able to deliver their statutory functions differently. Councillors noted in terms of "Everyone In", on 27 March Government directed Councils to get rough sleepers off the streets and in Durham excellent support was given by social housing providers alongside private landlords and private accommodation, where they had properties available, to ensure no one was left on the streets.

The Area Manager explained as regards the work of the Council's Public Protection Team, the majority of businesses were compliant with the regulations, however there were a few who had not. He added that the Team had been helping support and advise businesses that wished to continue to trade lawfully. It was explained that during lockdown there had been no reduction in the level of demand for the Noise Action Team, predominately as a consequence of people being at home and unable to go out and therefore the noise from neighbouring properties was more apparent.

The Area Manager informed the Committee that there had been many community safety issues that had been dealt with during lockdown, including increases in fly-tipping, and community walkabouts with partners and Local Members had continued with issues identified referred to the Multi-Agency Problem Solving (MAPS) groups, which had held virtual meetings since March. Members noted the Appleby Horse Fair had been cancelled very early by its organisers after lockdown had been announced, and an extensive communication plan was put in place to advise those that would normally travel through Durham not to, as the Fair had been cancelled. It was added that despite this there had been a number of authorised encampments and staff had helped manage the welfare of those in the encampments, while progressing directions for them to leave, using enforcement actions where necessary.

Councillors noted in respect of the PCVC, the use of technology had allowed for the increase of video enabled trials and funding from the MoJ had allowed for a further video link to be provided into the local Courts. The Area Manager noted an early piece of work was a communication strategy in terms of helping to support those at risk of domestic abuse and sexual violence and a number of partners had signed up and shared the communication strategy and were keen to develop the model for future communications.

Members learned in relation to HMP Durham, Courts had continued to operate, and prisons had continued to receive new inmates. It was explained that procedures had been put in place for prisoners to be in small cohorts and it was added that this had required a considerable amount of inter-agency cooperation to ensure prisoners were received safely. Councillors noted prisoner support when leaving prison, including provision of face-coverings and guidance in relation to COVID 19, such as social distancing.

The Area Manager noted that in respect of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) and the East Durham Trust, there had been no reduction in services, and they had acted as a community conduit to ensure that people were aware of what was happening. He noted the support given to people and they had directed services and support to where it was most needed. He added that support had also been given to community groups to ensure that they were able to help people that needed them.

The Area Manager noted a number of cross-cutting themes had emerged from the work included: communication; use of technology; partnership working; and looking after the most vulnerable. He explained that in terms of communication, he noted it was important to identify need and risk, and to allocate resources, inform and reassure the public and help improve the morale of staff.

He added the use of technology had highlighted many new ways of working, not only to deliver services during the pandemic, but also more effective and efficient methods to be carried forward as best practise for future delivery.

Councillors noted that in terms of partnership working, there had been several excellent examples of partners coming together to deliver support to the community and it was noted by the Area Manager that it would be essential for this to continue to be able to deal with issues as the situation changed. He added that it was important to continue to identify and support those in need of extra help, support and advice over the period.

The Area Manager concluded by noting that looking at the response from partner agencies he felt we could be confident that we were supporting and helping the most vulnerable members of our community.

The Chair thanked the Area Manager and noted that fly-tipping was an issue many residents had raised with him as a Local Ward Member. He added that the visibility of law enforcement had been a cornerstone of the approach by both the PCVC and Chief Constable, having Police Community Support Officers (PSCOs) on the ground, and he felt there had been a lack of this, albeit understandably so due to the pandemic. He asked if there would be increased visibility as we emerged from the crisis phase of the pandemic and highlighted he had received a number of comments from residents that they had been unable to contact partners, citing examples in terms of housing providers, noting the context in terms of issues with telephony systems with many staff working from home.

The Area Manager noted in terms of fly-tipping, this was an issue raised through the Tactical Command Group (TCG) and also was an issue noted by the CDDFRS, being potential fuel for fires. He explained that an electronic reporting system had been introduced where every fire station had an account set up with the County Council so that they could report any incidents of fly-tipping more effectively and also to received feedback in terms of when the fly-tipped material had been removed.

He added that such accounts were not only available for the CDDFRS, any individual that wished could set up an account to report such fly-tipping incidents, and noted he felt this had been an excellent facility set up by the County Council.

In terms of the point raised in terms of the visibility of law enforcement, the Area Manager noted he felt confident in the work of the Police and while he could not speak for them in terms of their allocation of resources, he would discuss the issue with them at the next SDP meeting. He added that there was a need to respond appropriately as Government guidance was received on how much direct contact services could have within people's homes, businesses and also out within the community. He noted it was important for organisations to remain visible within the community.

In terms of communication issues with organisations, such as housing providers, the Area Manager noted it had been acknowledged and lessons were being learned going forward, however, he would raise the point at the SDP meeting in November.

The Strategic Manager (Partnerships), Andrea Petty added that in terms of new restrictions, the Police had an approach of encouragement and engagement, working with the public, before enforcement was taken. She added that the issues raised would be fed back to Durham Constabulary.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted in terms of fly-tipping, the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee looked at the relevant performance indicator and the latest performance reported to Cabinet showed a slight increase in incidents, the latest data covering the quarter up to June 2020, with 7,146 with the previous year figure for the quarter being 7,052. The Area Manager added that while in Quarter One there had been a slight reduction on the number of deliberate fires, the CDDFRS had noted a significant increase, around 10 percent, in the number of “false alarms with good intentions”, with many people having controlled burning within gardens and allotments, and therefore the overall context in terms of impact would be in terms of fly-tipping, deliberate fires and such false alarms.

Councillor R Crute noted in respect of fly-tipping there would have been a moderate increase in some areas as a consequence of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) having to close as a result of pandemic restrictions, however, in some areas there had been a marked increase in incidents in the back yards of old colliery housing that was standing empty, also a cause of a number of secondary fires within the East Durham area. He reminded the Committee that Cabinet had resolved to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in terms the introduction of a Selective Licensing Scheme and this would look to address issues not only relating to housing issues within the private rented sector but also the associated environmental issues. He added that he understood that the Council was looking to increase its number of Neighbourhood Wardens in due course and noted he felt this would help.

Councillor R Crute added that the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering environmental campaigns at its next meeting on 16 November, including relating to fly-tipping and therefore if there was an interest from Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee then an invitation to that meeting could be made. The Chair noted such an invitation would be appreciated as it was a cross-cutting issue between the two Committees.

Councillor A Batey, Vice-Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board asked as regards whether all the statutory agencies involved had felt that the powers in place helped deal with the COVID 19 restrictions or whether there were any areas where there were concerns that Members could help look at, noting the speculation within the media as regards the various powers given to those statutory agencies.

The Area Manager noted an important issue in terms of the use of powers was to work together as multi-agency partnerships, as all had different powers and statutory functions and, in some cases, it was not entirely clear with which agency an issue sat.

He added that the powers were relatively new, with lockdown having began in March, and with the lifting of some restrictions there had been changing guidance in response to the changing “R rate” in certain areas. He noted he would raise this as an issue with the SDP in order to get provide feedback from partners as whether there was a need for additional powers or to clarify where powers and statutory functions sat. He noted this would provide a network of information whereby agencies could quickly refer accordingly where they felt they did not have the appropriate powers. Councillor A Batey thanked the Area Manager and all the agencies involved for all the excellent work carried out.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted the report provided some updates to the performance figures normally reported to the Committee and reminded Members that some came from official sources, such as Government Departments, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and PHE. He added that data lag meant that some did not represent the lockdown period, and therefore would not reflect the immediate impact of COVID 19 in some performance areas. He noted an example of an area where he could provide updated data was the suicide rate per 100,000, which had lag due to the requirements of the Coroner to provide an official determination. He explained that while a small number, it was subject to wide variation and therefore the ONS published a rolling average over a two-year period with the period in the report being 2016 to 2018. He added that PHE had recently published data for the period 2017 to 2019 which had shown an increase in the rate in County Durham from 12.8 to 13.4, while England had increase from 9.8 to 10.1, the North East from 11.3 to 11.6 and nearest neighbours from 11.6 to 12.3. He noted that County Durham had the fourth highest rate in the North East and highlighted that colleagues in Public Health had a surveillance system in terms of suspected suicide numbers as part of the Council’s suicide prevention approach, which had been subject to scrutiny via the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted the suspected figures could not be published as they were unofficial, and subject to change pending Coroner determinations, however, those figures had not indicated an increase in the rate in County Durham since lockdown.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager and noted that the next performance report would likely give a better indication in terms of the effects of lockdown on many of the performance indicators.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the overall position and direction of travel in relation to Quarter One performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic be noted.

8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21

The Chairman asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee to speak to Members in relation to the refresh of the Work Programme 2020/21 for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that the report set out the proposed work programme for the Committee for 2020/21 at Appendix 2 and highlighted that the work programme was designed to be flexible in order to accommodate items that may arise throughout the year, was framed in terms of the impact of COVID 19 and the recently launched County Durham Vision, and was developed in terms of the powers for Local Government to hold remote meetings.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the work programme for 2020/21 was set out at Appendix 2 and the approach taken was to set out which items would be considered by Committee and which would be provided as briefing notes, with the opportunity for Members to comment and raise questions via e-mail. He noted paragraph 14 of the report highlighted activity undertaken in 2019/20 with many of those areas continuing forward into 2020/21. He added that dates in terms of when reports would be taken may flex as a result of additional demands and the capacity of services during the COVID period.

The Chair thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and noted Members could contact the Overview and Scrutiny Officer in terms of contributing to any areas to be considered by Committee in the period to May 2021.

Resolved:

- (i) That the comments of the Committee on the proposed Work Programme for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2020/21 be noted.
- (ii) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2020/21, and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues, be agreed.

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

20 November 2020

Community Protection Update



Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on community protection within County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview of community protection activity including development of a County Durham Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (ASB), implementation of a place-based multi-agency approach and making every adult matter initiatives and area based interventions.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 At its meeting in September 2020, the Committee agreed its work programme to include a presentation on ASB. Information within this presentation includes ASB and associated initiatives and interventions are linked to the Safe Durham Partnership plan priority “Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community” and the Council Plan ambition “Connected Communities”.
- 5 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with progress community protection activity in relation to development of an ASB strategy for County Durham, information on the establishment of a place-based multi-agency approach and the Making Every Adult Matter initiative. The presentation also includes details on key deliverables including tackling ASB, crime and disorder and improving confidence in services. In addition, Members will be provided with an update on current and future activity for area-based interventions including the Safer Streets initiative, the Community Action Team programme and how this activity supports the implementation of initiatives including tackling empty properties, selective licensing and longer term regeneration plans. The presentation will be delivered by Joanne Waller, Head of Community Protection.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 6 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Conclusion

- 7 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to provide comment on current and future on community protection activity.
- 8 Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Jonathan Slee

Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

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COMMUNITY PROTECTION UPDATE

Joanne Waller - Head of Community Protection

Neighbourhoods and Climate Change



Better for everyone

Community Protection Update

- County Durham Anti Social Behaviour Strategy
- Developing a place-based multi-agency approach
- MAKING EVERY ADULT MATTER (MEAM)
- Area Based Interventions Programme - September 2020



Better for everyone

Anti Social Behaviour Strategy

- County Durham Profile
- Key Priorities
- Local delivery landscape
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Escalation procedures
- What we plan to do
- Impacts and outcomes



Better for everyone

Place-based multi-agency approach

- Build community confidence and restore social norms.
- Build evidence around the impact of targeted interventions in high crime areas and to strengthen the case for future investment, both at a local and national level.
- Give the community a voice and maintain regular community conversations.
- Redesign and deliver better coordinated services for people experiencing multiple disadvantage
- Making Every Adult Matter in an area





Making Every Adult Matter

The MEAM approach will provide a framework on which to strengthen our existing partnership arrangements as well as facilitate change and promote the co-production of future services.

This approach will require a step change in the delivery of local services within the defined locality which will require strong leadership, drive and motivation as well as time and effort over next three years.



Better for everyone

Key Deliverables

- **Tackling ASB, crime and disorder-** making residents safer and reducing demand on the key public services enabling them to focus on more complex crimes.
- **Reduction in burglary**
- **Reduction in fear of crime**
- **Understanding of community needs and ongoing concerns**
- **Provide a joined-up, whole community response** to tackling local issues.
- **Develop an advocacy strategy** that would enable multiple agencies to engage with local communities and individuals through a single, end-to-end contact.
- **Public authorities are trusted by communities and individuals** and are confident in their response to local issues.



Area Based Interventions

Short to medium term interventions:

- Safer Street Initiative Sep to March 2021
- CAT Programme - Oct to Dec 2020
- Establish the 'Place' Team - January 2021
- Making Every Adult Matter - 2020-2023

Medium to Longer term Interventions:

- Empty Homes initiatives
- Selective Licensing
- Horden Masterplan / Area Regeneration



Better for everyone

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**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

20 November 2020



**Public Protection Service - Enforcement
and Intervention Activity**

Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on enforcement and intervention activity by the Council's Public Protection Service.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview for comment on activities of the Licensing, neighbourhood Interventions, Trading Standards and Safer Communities teams within the Public Protection Service. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, much of the presentation has focussed on the response to the issues that have arisen as a result of the national and local restrictions

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 At its meeting in September 2020, the Committee agreed its work programme to include a presentation on enforcement activity by the Council's Consumer Protection Team. Information within this presentation will build upon the report and presentation on '*Consumer Protection – Enforcement and Interventions Activity*' to the Committee's meeting in February 2020.
- 5 The presentation illustrated activity undertaken by the Service in partnership with a number of agencies in relation to activities such as door step crime, counterfeit goods, illicit tobacco and alcohol and fair trading.
- 6 The Public Protection team consists of four service teams, Licensing, Neighbourhood Interventions, Trading Standards and Safer Communities.
- 7 Owen Cleugh, Public Protection Manager will attend the Committee's meeting to deliver the presentation that is attached in Appendix 2 provide Members with an update of activity undertaken by the Public Protection Team, as well as with the wider Community Protection service, in particular focussing on the Covid 19 enforcement and intervention response.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 8 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Conclusion

- 9 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to comment on enforcement and intervention activity undertaken by the Council's Public Protection Service.
- 10 Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- Consumer Protection Enforcement Activity – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee, February 2020

Contact: Jonathan Slee

Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

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Public Protection Service – Enforcement Activities

Owen Cleugh

Public Protection Manager



Public Protection service teams

- Licensing services
- Neighbourhood Interventions
- Trading Standards
- Safer Communities



National Lockdown (23rd March to 4th July)

- Business closures
- Essential retail
- Covid Compliance
- Enforcement
- Business advice
- Diversifying businesses



Restrictions lifted (4th July)

- New guidance for hospitality and leisure industry
- Visits to licensed premises
- Noise protocol
- Compliance enquiries



North East Restrictions

- Specific offences and requirements on Pubs, bars, restaurants etc
- Significant out of hours presence for four weekends
- Directions notices
- Fixed penalty notices

- Moving into Lockdown 2.....



Trends and Business as usual

- Noise and ASB complaints
- Rise in number of types of complaints eg home improvement, tab house intell, puppy sales complaints etc
- Cases in Court and through Committee
- CAT team – revised delivery model
- Community Safety initiatives including Safer streets project
- Unauthorised encampments
- Assisting businesses where possible



Huge thank you to all Community Protection
staff

Thank you and questions



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**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

20 November 2020



**County Durham Youth Justice Service,
Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and
Service Improvement Plan 2020/21**

Report of:

**John Pearce, Corporate Director, Children and Young People's
Services**

**Councillor Olwyn Gunn, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Children and
Young People's Services**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents an Annual Performance Report for 2019/20 for information and comment. It highlights key achievements during the year, along with areas for improvement which the service will be focussed upon during the next year alongside work to recover from the coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the youth justice system.

Executive Summary

- 2 Normally, the production of a Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement of the local authority under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and is one of the requirements of the YJB grant for YOTs. However, as a result of Covid19 restrictions, the YJB decided to remove the requirement for a statutory plan for this year and instead has asked for a brief improvement plan and recovery plan which was submitted on 4 September 2020. CDYJS Management Board has continued to meet virtually and requested an annual performance report, in addition to the Service Improvement Plan to fulfil this request and give the Board oversight.

- 3 In the case of County Durham Youth Justice Service, we had already produced a plan in 2019, covering the period 2019 – 2021 and this was approved via the council’s cabinet and full council and taken through Safe Durham Partnership and Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4 Key points about performance during 2019/20 show that there were further significant falls in first time entrants to the youth justice system and a very low level for use of custody. There is some questioning with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) regarding the accuracy of performance data for re-offending figures for the period reported from 2017/18 and correspondence is in place with the MOJ regarding this. There is a significant amount of work underway with victims including young victims.
- 5 Due to amended priorities for the MoJ, as a result of Government Covid19 information requirements, the provision of performance information stopped in February 2020. The data provided is the latest available data.
- 6 Service improvement priorities for 2020/21 are:
 - (a) Improving the interventions we complete with young people;
 - (b) Improving the quality of our assessments and intervention plans;
 - (c) Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
 - (d) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
 - (e) Continue to improve our service to victims – both adults and young people;
 - (f) Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims;
 - (g) Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provide the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people.

Recommendation(s)

- 7 The Safer & Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:
 - (i) Note the contents of this report
 - (ii) Receive the CDYJS Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and Service Improvement Plan for the period 2020/21

Background

- 8 Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) are statutory partnerships, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a 'Youth Offending Team'. Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation. In Durham last year we took the opportunity to rename the service to become County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS).
- 9 Local authorities continue to have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth offending partnership's responsibilities in producing this plan. However, due to Covid19 restrictions, the Youth Justice Board removed the requirement to produce a Youth Justice Plan for the year 2020/21. In the case of CDYJS, we had already produced a plan in 2019, covering the period 2019 – 2021. The CDYJS Management Board, therefore, requested the production of an Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and the development of a Service Improvement Plan 2020/21 to meet the Youth Justice Board's request and give the board ongoing oversight of work.

CDYJS Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and Service Improvement Plan 2020/21

- 10 A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 2

Key Achievements 2019/20

(a) Performance against National Outcome Measures 2019/20

- **First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs):**

Between October 2018 and September 2019, the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham is **213**, a 14.6% reduction on the previous year.

This is a pleasing further reduction and is lower than the national rate of 219 and is significantly lower than the North East rate of 299.

- **Re-offending information for the latest cohort tracked**

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2017 – March 2018 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **51.9%**. This is higher than the both the National rate of 38.4% and the North East rate of 41.8%.

Given the consistently reducing size of the cohort of young people entering the youth justice system, the reoffending figure can vary considerably when compared to previous years.

The Service has concerns about this data and is currently corresponding with the MoJ in respect of the accuracy of the data and if the correct cohort of young people are in the data set over the period reported.

- **Use of Custody**

Custodial Sentences:

The CDYJS performance during January – December 2019 showed a rate per 1,000 10-17 years of **0.09**, a reduction of 75% on the previous year. This is lower than both the National and North East with rates of 0.19 and 0.16 respectively. On each occasion a young person is sentenced to custody, the work of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure all appropriate work was undertaken.

Remand Bed Nights: 295

This is a 56.6% reduction on the previous year. There was also a reduction in both the number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to the previous year – 11 to 4 young people and 13 to 4 episodes.

- **Work with Victims, including Young Victims:**

For the period 1.4.19 – 31.3.20, our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged over **100** victims in restorative approaches. Our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to re-build and restore confidence. The support group for young victims of all crime ('With Youth in Mind') has continued to develop and is now working with an average of **30** young people at any one time throughout the year (annual total of **57** young people). Young people who offend have also engaged in almost **1,500** hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

Sales of the items made by young people (Xmas Wreaths, Garden Planters etc) as part of their reparation, enabled us to donate **£1,000** to the Great North Air Ambulance and North East Autism Society – charities chosen by the young people themselves.

- 10 Along with all services of the Local Authority, CDYJS amended its service delivery methods in reaction to the demands of lockdown. The Annual Report details the changes we implemented to manage the service; and our plans to learn the lessons of lockdown and carry forward those activities that are shown to be beneficial for the long term.
- 11 The Service Improvement Plan outlines how CDYJS will:
- Reduce First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System;
 - Reduce re-offending by young people;
 - Reduce the use of custody for both sentenced and remanded young people.

We are seeking to do this through:

- Improving the interventions we complete with young people;
- Improving the quality of our assessments and intervention plans;
- Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
- Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
- Continue to improve our service to victims – both adults and young people;
- Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims;
- Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provide the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people.

Background papers

- CDYJS Youth Justice Plan 2019/21

Contact: Dave Summers, YJS Manager Tel: 03000 265999

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

The pooled budget for the Youth Justice Service 2020/21 has been approved by the CDYJS Management Board.

Consultation

CDYJS Management Board, partners, staff, young people, parents/carers have all been consulted in developing the service improvement plan.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

CDYJS is committed to meeting the needs of the young people, families and victims with whom we work. All staff have undertaken specialist diversity training for youth offending, speech language and communication needs training and, in addition, case managers have undertaken specialist diversity training for assessments. Diversity issues are a specific category on the checklist used by managers to countersign assessments and intervention plans.

Human Rights

Not Applicable

Crime and Disorder

The statutory function of CDYJS partnership is the prevention of offending by children and young people (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The Service Improvement Plan provides detail on how the partnership will improve those functions.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

All managers and staff in CDYOS have their main base in DCC, Crook.

Risk

Risks to future delivery have been considered. Due to Covid19 restrictions, separate Business Continuity and Business Recovery Plans are available.

Procurement

Not applicable

COUNTY DURHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
(2019-2020)
&
SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN
(2020-2021)**

01 June 2020

Performance

1. National Outcome Measures 2019/2020 – Summary

Please note: Due to changes in operational priorities for the provision of performance data, at the Ministry of Justice, reports in respect of Youth Justice Services performance have been unavailable since February 2020. The performance information presented, below, is the latest available data.

Reducing First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs):

Between October 2018 and September 2019, the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham is **213**, a 14.6% reduction on the previous year. This is lower than the national rate of 219 and is significantly lower than the North East rate of 299.

Reducing Re-offending

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2017 – March 2018 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **51.9%**. This is higher than both the National rate of 38.4% and the North East rate of 41.8%.

Given the consistently reducing size of the cohort of young people entering the youth justice system, the reoffending figure can vary considerably when compared to previous years.

Reducing the Use of Custody

Custodial Sentences:

The CDYJS performance during January – December 2019 showed a rate per 1,000 10-17 years of **0.09**, a reduction of 75% on the previous year. This is lower than both the National and North East with rates of 0.19 and 0.16 respectively. On each occasion a young person is sentenced to custody, the work of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure all appropriate work was undertaken.

Remand Bed Nights: 295

This is a 56.6% reduction on the previous year. There was also a reduction in both the number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to the previous year – 11 to 4 young people and 13 to 4 episodes.

Further detail, to illustrate the above information, is provided below.

2. Work with Victims, including Young Victims:

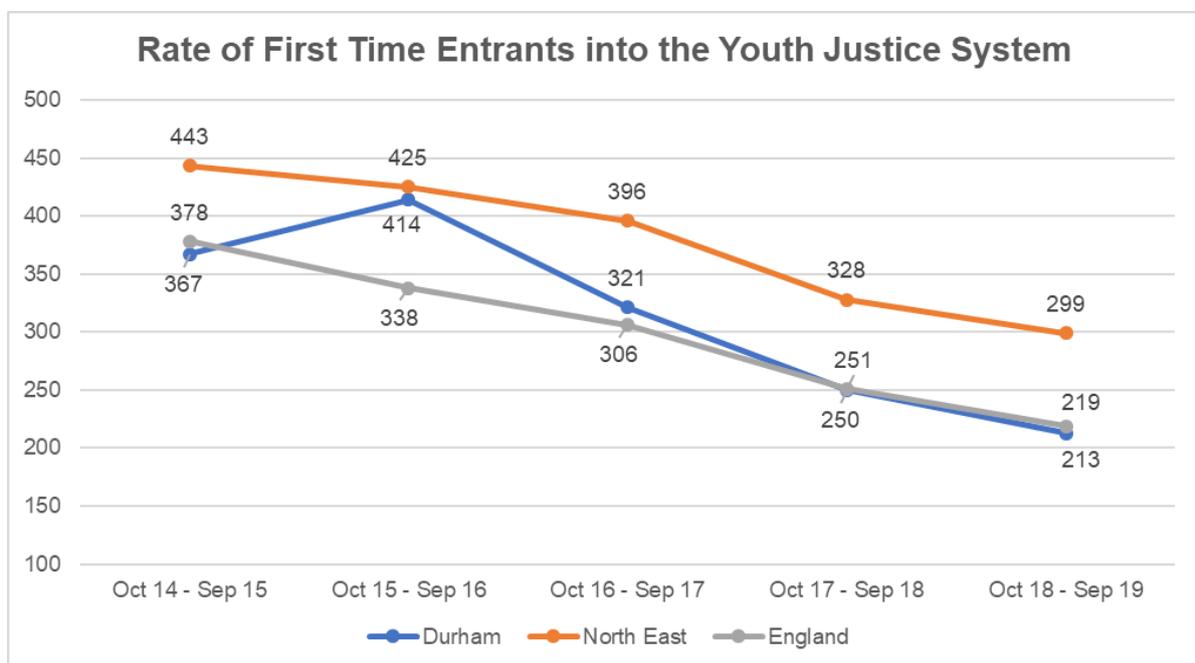
Our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged over **100** victims in restorative approaches. In particular our work with young people who are the victims of youth crime has provided dedicated support and an opportunity to rebuild and restore confidence. The support group for young victims of all crime ('With Youth in Mind') has continued to develop and is now working with an average of **30** young people at any one time throughout the year (annual total of **57** young people). Young people who offend have also engaged in almost

1,500 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation. Sales of the items made by young people (Xmas Wreaths, Garden Planters etc) as part of their reparation, enabled us to donate **£1,000** to the Great North Air Ambulance and North East Autism Society – charities chosen by the young people themselves.

National Outcome Measures – Detail

Reducing First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System (FTEs)

Data provided by the MoJ shows that between October 2014 and September 2019, we have achieved a **42% reduction** in first time entrants to the youth justice system, from a rate of **367** per 100,000 10-17 population to **213**.



The latest available locally sourced data (not MoJ approved data) shows 83 young people entering the Youth Justice System between April 2019 and March 2020 at a rate of **189** per 100,000 10-17 population – a further reduction.

Reducing Re-offending

This measure, provided by the MoJ, provides a rate of reoffending of a cohort of young people who:

- Receive an out of court disposal (N.B. This does not include the Pre Caution Disposal)
- Receive a court conviction
- Were discharged from custody

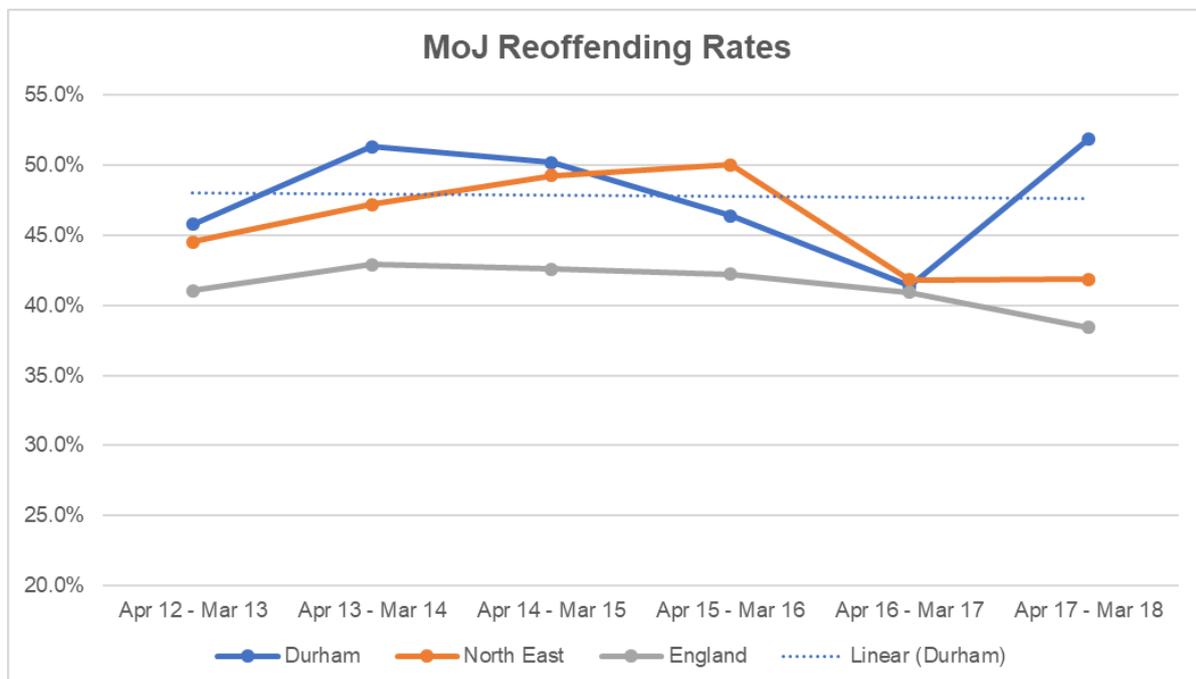
The measure counts any offences committed in a 12 month follow up period, where those offences are proved by a court conviction or out of court disposal in that period or in a further 6 months. This gives a methodologically robust measure of re-offending.

All data is taken from the Police National Computer (PNC) and is summarised before distribution to youth offending services/teams.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (April 2017 – March 2018 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of **51.9%**. This is higher than the both the North East and National rates of 41.8% and 38.4% respectively.

It should be noted that we are currently corresponding with the MoJ, due to concerns about the accuracy of this data.

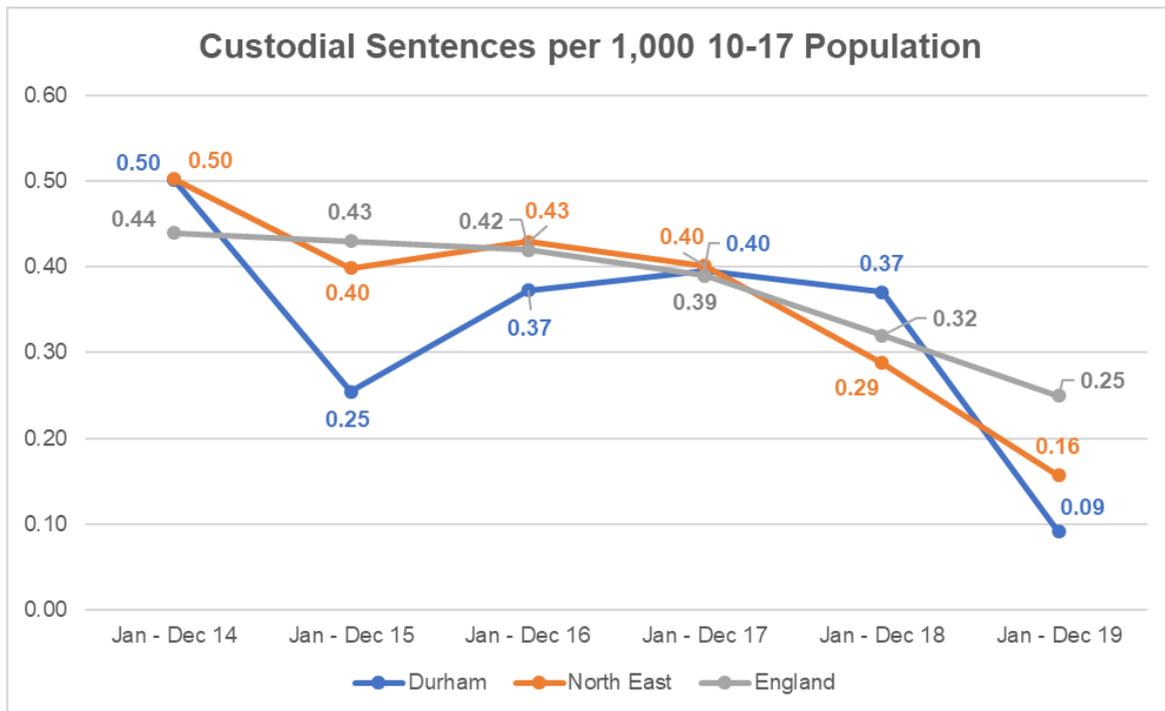
The rate of reoffending can fluctuate considerably due to the significant decreases, year to year, in the size of the cohort of young people. The graph below shows the fluctuating re-offending rates for County Durham since the April 12 – March 13 cohort, but also shows that the trend is a slight reduction in reoffending rates.



Reducing the Use of Custody

Between 2014 and 2019 we have reduced the rate of custodial sentences from 0.5 to **0.09** per 1,000 10-17 population.

The CDYJS rate of **0.09** is lower than both the North East and England rates of 0.16 and 0.25 respectively. Each time a young person receives a custodial sentence, the role of CDYJS is reviewed to ensure that we have undertaken all appropriate tasks to ensure that custody is used as a last resort.



The most up to date locally sourced information (April 2019-March 2020) shows **4** custodial sentences which is a **73% reduction** from the previous year when there were 15.

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation

Remand bed nights (Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation) at **295 nights** (1.4.19 - 31.3.20) saw a **56.6% reduction** on the previous year. There was also a reduction in both the number of young people being remanded to youth detention accommodation and the number of episodes when compared to 2018/19 – 11 to 4 young people and 13 to 4 episodes. CDYJS reviews each case and in all cases the remand to youth detention was considered appropriate due, mostly, to the seriousness of the offences but also due to the history of the young people. At all times we are in discussion with colleagues from HM Courts to review processes to ensure the time spent, by young people, remanded to youth detention is minimised as much as possible.

The work carried out during 2019/20 which has supported our Key Achievements has been:-

Reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs)

- Approved the use of AssetPlus assessment for all referrals for Out of Court Disposals.
- Embedded the multiple Pre-Caution Disposal processes
- Undertook an audit of National Standards for out-of-court work and developed an improvement plan
- Embedded out-of-court work as a routine consideration in all case auditing and improvement planning
- Included out-of-court cases in the Enhanced Case Management pilot
- Began the development of a programme targeting violence offences and out-of-court disposals

Reducing Re-offending

- Developed and undertook a pilot Enhanced Case Management programme, following a trauma recovery model
- Undertook research into violence offences and the causes and developed an action plan
- Researched and developed a profile for young people who are persistent offenders to improve our targeting of interventions
- Reviewed and amended our Persistent Reoffending cohort and the operation of the Reoffending Panels
- Audited our compliance with SLCN procedures and implemented an improvement plan based on the findings
- Delivered an extensive training programme based on the findings of a range of quality audits
- Expanded the roles of the health team based on experience of the client cohort
- Retrained staff in harmful sexual behaviour assessment and risk management procedures
- Improved the collation and use of feedback received from young people, families and other service users
- Refined and improved our quality assurance processes and quality auditing and the way in which we collate and use the findings
- Undertook an audit of national standards for young people who are sentenced at court and developed an action plan

Reducing Use of Custody

- Reviewed all cases where a custodial sentence was imposed and looked for learning opportunities;
- Undertook training, in conjunction with colleagues from Durham Constabulary and EDT, the process for transfer to Local Authority under PACE;
- Developed a regional process for feedback from Magistrates in respect of the service provided by CDYJS in court and jointly developed areas for improvement/review;
- Maintained a 6/7 day per week service, including experienced court officers available for Saturdays and Bank Holiday special courts;

- Maintained dedicated management cover for a 6/7 days per week service.
- Undertook an audit of national standards for young people in custody and developed an improvement plan

Work with Victims, including Young Victims

- Undertook a review of the 'With Youth in Mind' group and amended referral criteria and operating procedures based on the findings;
- Undertook research into the take-up of RJ by victims of violent offences and developed an improvement plan
- Reviewed and amended the Parenting programme for parents who are victims of their children's offending
- Reviewed and amended processes to improve the service we offer to victims and young people who offend through our restorative justice work;
- Further developed our group of mentors and 'leaders' all of whom are young people who have been victims of crime and expanded both the group size and the range of activities on offer;
- Improved the range of volunteering opportunities and the link between wider service volunteering opportunities and the young mentors/leaders
- Continued to work closely with the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC) in the development of services for victims;
- Embedding new roles for volunteers in service delivery, including, panels, mentoring, independent visiting, appropriate adults, enhanced case management, out-of-court review panel, parenting programme and young victims of crime and having over 20 fully active volunteers;
- Expanded the Independent Visitor Programme for children looked after by the Local Authority – including the appointment of a dedicated Co-ordinator post
- Delivering our work in the communities where young people and families live;
- Delivering almost 1,500 hours of court ordered reparation/ unpaid work and raising over £1,000 for charity from young people's reparation work;

Work to meet Health Needs

- Maintained and embedded our multi-disciplinary health team working with the cohort of young people under CDYJS supervision
- Developed a pilot trauma recovery programme for young people meeting risk factor criteria
- Developed pathways for mental health & emotional wellbeing
- Enhanced our screening and health assessment processes for all young people subject to CDYJS supervision
- Expanded the roles of the health team based on experience of the client cohort

Business Continuity under Covid19 Restrictions

Like all services, CDYJS was significantly affected by Covid19 restrictions. Provision of services to courts, police, custodial institutions and supervision of young people in the community, as well as the provision of services to victims, were all ascribed 'key

service' status. As such, CDYJS operated on the principle that 'what we do will remain the same; how we do it will change'.

In order to manage the delivery of services under restrictions, we did the following:

- Categorized all young people & victims we worked with into two groups – 'High Risk of Harm and/or Vulnerability' and 'Standard Risk of Harm and/or Vulnerability'.
- Continued to provide face-to-face home visits (doorstep) for all people in the High-Risk Group. Undertook video intervention sessions for all people in the Standard Group.
- Worked with colleagues, both nationally and locally, in developing safe ways to conduct court hearings.
- Worked with Police colleagues to develop safe ways to conduct Police interviews with young people requiring us to act as 'Appropriate Adult'.
- Designed a suite of interventions, specifically designed for delivery with young people remotely.
- Designed a suite of reparation tasks for young people to carry out at home.
- Implemented daily management team meetings via Microsoft Teams.
- Developed and implemented a CDYJS communication strategy.
- Developed and implemented performance indicators to manage performance under 'lockdown'.

It is pleasing to note that a recent staff survey in CDYJS (with a 66% return) showed that 98% of responses felt that the service delivered under Covid19 restrictions was 'innovative, proactive and maintained adequate risk management'. In addition, most respondents thought that service morale amongst staff had remained positive, with a significant percentage reporting that they felt it had improved.

We are currently undertaking a survey of young people and parents/carers to ascertain their views.

The outcome of both these surveys, and other work, will be the development of a recovery and restoration plan (which must be submitted to the YJB by September 2020) identifying the activities and service delivery, undertaken during lockdown, we intend to carry forward into the future and learning in respect of the benefits of a greater range of delivery methods for interventions with young people.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2020 – 2021

Priority

1) Improving the interventions, we complete with young people

- Enhance quality assurance processes to improve the management information in respect of interventions being delivered
- Develop a suite of interventions specially developed to be delivered remotely
- Develop interventions to ensure they can be delivered by various means depending on the needs of the young person
- Develop our use of video as a means of communicating with young people and parents/carers
- Ensure greater coordination between 'On-street' restorative approaches and the out-of-court process

2) Improve the quality of our assessments & plans

- Provide training on 'Reviewing assessment after a change in circumstances'
- Provide staff briefing on completion of 'History of ASB/Offending' section.
- Provide training on Safety & Wellbeing for young people (specific to Asset Plus)
- Provide training on 'Analysis in Assessment'
- Undertake a re-audit of the quality of casework (including assessment)
- Provide training on 'Planning for Victim Safety'

3) Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences

- Complete the review of the Enhanced Case Management pilot and develop an action plan based on the findings
- Further develop the Reoffending Panel and refine the areas considered

4) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us

- Continue to develop the collection, collation and reporting of feedback from all service users (individuals and agencies)
- Reapply for Investing in Children status
- Audit the impact of feedback on the development of our policies/procedures and produce an action plan to improve

5) Continuing to improve our work with victims – both adults and young people

- Review and develop 'With Youth in Mind' group for young victims of crime and ensure linkages with other programmes for victims of crime
- Audit our service to victims against the 'Victims Charter' and develop an improvement plan

6) Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims

- Reapply for Investing in Volunteers status
- Review the role of volunteer leaders in 'With Youth in Mind'
- Develop the 'Independent Visitor Programme' for children looked after
- Continue to develop the range of roles for volunteers in the Service
- Improve communication between volunteers and the service

7) Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities, victims, families and young people.

- Ensure close working relationships between the Service and the Administration Team and the Management Information Team
- Procure a new database for the Service

Contact Details

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CDYJS Manager

(dave.summers@durham.gov.uk)

Martyn Stenton

Chair, CDYJS Management Board

(martyn.stenton@durham.gov.uk)

County Durham Youth Justice Service

Durham County Council

Council Offices

Civic Centre

North Terrace

Crook

Co Durham

DL15 9ES

Telephone: 03000 265 999

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

20 November 2020

**County Durham and Darlington
Hate Crime Action Group: Update**



Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information to introduce a report (Appendix 2) on activity of the Co. Durham & Darlington Hate Crime Action Group.

Executive summary

- 2 The report aims to provide the Committee with an update and invites comment from Members on activity undertaken by the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group.

Recommendation

- 3 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report and comment accordingly.

Background

- 4 At its meeting in September 2020, the Committee agreed its work programme that included a report on the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group. Information within the report in appendix 2 will build upon previous reports on activity of the Hate Crime Action Group that was presented to the Committee's meeting in September 2018 and November 2019.
- 5 The report attached in Appendix 2 provides members with activity in relation to the aims of the group, the number of hate-incidents and hate-crimes, a progress update on delivering of objectives within the Joint Hate Crime Action Plan and future work plan. Jeanne Trotter, Acting Head of Policy, Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Office will present the report attached in Appendix 2 and respond to questions from the committee on activity of the group.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 6 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community. The report also contains details to the number of hate crimes within the Durham Constabulary force area.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7 The focus of the report is to provide an update on activity in relation to raising awareness and tackling hate crime within the County

Conclusion

- 8 The attached report provides an opportunity for Members to comment on activity of the County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group: update, Safer and Stronger Communities OSC, September 2018
- County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group: update, Safer and Stronger Communities OSC, November 2019

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

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Better for everyone

County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group: update

20 November 2020

Report of Jeanne Trotter, County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the Hate Crime Action Group (HCAG) for County Durham and Darlington.

Executive summary

- 2 Although the number of hate crime reports are steadily increasing, significant progress has been made against the existing action plan. A communications plan is in place and a review of reporting mechanisms and pathways has been carried out as well as exploring how intelligence is shared. Separately, support pathways for victims have been mapped and discussion is taking place on revisiting referral routes. Colleagues from the Crown Prosecution Service are also reviewing and advising on improving the use of evidence led prosecutions. Terms of reference and membership have been reviewed and revised to better reflect the aims and objectives of the group and this will lead to a refreshed action plan.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Committee are recommended to note and comment on the contents of the report.

Background

- 4 The Hate Crime Action group was formed in November 2013 with the purpose of developing and delivering a coordinated approach to issues relating to hate crime
- 5 When established, it was agreed that the group would have responsibility for:
 - Holding service providers to account;
 - Overseeing the delivery of initiatives to address hate crime
- 6 The terms of reference for the Group have recently been reviewed and revised to provide a mechanism for
 - (a) Collecting, collating and analysing intelligence;
 - (b) Agreeing co-ordinated action to address identified patterns and trends;
 - (c) Promoting a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime;
 - (d) Ensuring meaningful consequences for the perpetrators of hate crime;
 - (e) Commissioning and delivering support for victims and witnesses of hate crime to ensure they receive seamless, co-ordinated care and support that enables them, as far as possible, to cope and recover from their experience and participate in Criminal Justice Processes where appropriate.

Aims

- 7 The aims of the Group remain the same, i.e. tackling and reducing hate crime, ensuring victims are supported at all stages of the criminal justice system, safeguarding and supporting vulnerable people and communities. In achieving these aims, the group will focus on:
 - (a) Supporting the development of a common understanding of need, action and resource requirements;
 - (b) Advising on and enable collaborative working to build a comprehensive continuum of action;
 - (c) Assisting with the development and implementation of an outcomes framework that facilitates delivery of key agreed targets;
 - (d) Leading the delivery of specific, delegated activities;

- (e) Advising on opportunities to develop and deliver consortium and collaborative approaches

Levels of Hate Crime

Hate Crime Data						
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Incidents	436	375	452	514	520	601
Crimes	340	471	456	647	854	940

8 As can be seen from the above table, recorded hate crimes have been steadily increasing. It is difficult to attribute the increase to any one single factor and is more likely to be a result of a combination of increased confidence in reporting, an increase in the actual number of incidents, and changes to crime recording standards relating to certain harassment incidents now being classed as crimes. A revised performance framework has recently been agreed with the Safer Durham Partnership and this should provide a more comprehensive data set from which to identify issues and agree required action.

Joint Hate Crime Action Plan

- 9 The existing Action Plan was launched in October 2018 and progress against the actions can be reported as follows:
 - (a) Develop a multi-agency communications strategy, demonstrating a cross-organisation and cross-sector approach, including a message that there should be zero-tolerance of hate crime – a communications plan is in place that includes regular updating and promotion of a hate hurts web site, producing and making available a variety of promotional materials and taking a joint approach to publicising and promoting hate crime issues during hate crime awareness week.
 - (b) Review reporting mechanisms and pathways – A review of reporting mechanism has been conducted and found that there are various ways to report hate crime, not just to the Police but to other local government agencies and organisations. Reports to the Police are captured either by our control room or via online reporting using national reporting tools.
 - (c) Review how organisations share intelligence - The Durham Constabulary Information Management Improvement Manager is currently reviewing the Community Safety Information Sharing Agreements (ISA). Asset Registers are being developed to review what information is held by the organisation and where it is shared. Awaiting national guidance on this issue.

- (d) Review the use of evidence to ensure prosecutions – This piece of work is currently ongoing with the Crown Prosecution Service as the lead. With the agreement to reform the Joint Hate Crime Action Group a progress report will be needed.
- (e) Map support for victims and identify gaps - a mapping exercise has been completed which suggests that there are a significant number of organisations supporting or able to support victims of hate crime. What has been established however, is that referral pathways are not always clear. A recommendation to review and formalise referral pathways and eligibility criteria will be discussed at the next HCAG meeting.

Future Work Plan

- 10 The revised terms of reference and membership will provide a framework for the future of group

Main implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Hate Crime Action Group includes members representing the interests of a variety of diverse groups

Crime and Disorder

The report highlights an increase in reported hate incidents

Conclusion

- 11 Significant progress has been achieved against actions in the current HCAG plan. The revised terms of reference and proposed membership will enable a more focused approach to be taken to identifying and addressing the nature and scale of issues under discussion. While the number of hate crime reports are increasing it is difficult to attribute this to any specific factor. The HCAG will continue to monitor and amend action plans as appropriate to identify and address issues associated with hate crime.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group: update, Safer and Stronger Communities OSC, September 2018
- County Durham and Darlington Hate Crime Action Group: update, Safer and Stronger Communities OSC, November 2019

Author Jeanne Trotter Tel: 0191 3752001

Appendix 1: Revised Terms of Reference: County Durham and Darlington Joint Hate Crime Action Group

Purpose

The Joint Hate Crime Action (JHCA) Group will work in partnership to agree and implement a co-ordinated approach to issues associated with hate crime. This includes;

- Collecting, collating and analysing intelligence;
- Agreeing co-ordinated action to address identified patterns and trends;
- Taking a zero-tolerance approach to incidents of hate crime;
- Ensuring meaningful consequences for the perpetrators of hate crime;
- Commissioning and delivering support for victims and witnesses of hate crime to ensure they receive seamless, co-ordinated care and support that enables them, as far as possible, to cope and recover from their experience and participate in Criminal Justice Processes where appropriate.

Focus

To establish a mechanism that facilitates a cohesive, co-ordinated approach to analysing, planning and addressing issues relating to hate crime. This will include the identification of needs and solutions, as well as advice on minimum service standards, monitoring and evaluation.

Specifically, the Group will:

- Support the development of a common understanding of need, action and resource requirements;
- Advise on and enable collaborative working to build a comprehensive continuum of action;
- Assist with the development and implementation of an outcomes framework that facilitates delivery of key agreed targets;
- Lead the delivery of specific, delegated activities;
- Advise on opportunities to develop and deliver consortium and collaborative approaches.

Roles and responsibilities

- Production of a prioritised annual work programme that includes monitoring and evaluation arrangements;
- Participation in agreed reporting arrangements;
- Support the development and implementation of effective stakeholder engagement models including regular monitoring and review;
- Production of an annual public facing report;
- Identify and champion continuous quality improvement and service development relating to hate crime initiatives;

- Identify and disseminate good practice and innovation that results in improved experience for victims and witnesses;
- Advise on and develop outcome-based performance indicators;
- Develop and maintain a strategic overview of hate crime initiatives;
- Influence and advise other relevant partners/sectors;
- Act as a capacity builder and enabler in matters relating to hate crime;
- Assist with the development of local policy while advising on local implementation of regional and national policy and guidance;
- Assist with identification of local need.

Meetings

Meetings will be held quarterly or more frequently if objectives / strategies require urgent decisions and reviews.

An agenda and associated papers will be issued seven days prior to the meeting. Requests for items to be included on the agenda should be received at least ten days before the meeting; each meeting will have an action log and minutes.

Membership

Organisation	Position
OPCVC	
Durham Constabulary	
Durham County Council	
Darlington Borough Council	
County Durham Youth Offending Service	
Crown Prosecution Service	
National Probation Service	
CRC	
Independent Advisory Group	
Durham University	
HM Prison Service	

It is envisaged that additional representation will be co-opted to advise on specific issues as and when appropriate.

The JHCA Group will consist of specific named representatives from each of the agencies highlighted above. In the absence of a named representative at scheduled meetings, that representative should arrange for a deputy to attend the meeting who will have responsibility to make decisions and implement change on behalf of their agency.

Roles and responsibilities of members

- Supporting delivery of JHCA Group activities or actions;
- Regularly reporting on JHCA Group priorities and actions within their own partnership/organisation and at other partnerships/forums in which they participate;
- Communicating across other partnerships, boards, working groups etc.;
- Providing information to other partners;
- Consulting/engaging with stakeholders;
- Support for monitoring and progress reporting on activities;
- Promoting and supporting the aims and values of the JHCA Group;
- Focusing on the common purpose of the JHCA Group i.e. continuous understanding and improvement relating to hate crime issues ;
- Contributing to the achievement of shared and individual partner priorities, through co-operation and collaboration;
- Providing information as requested within agreed deadlines;
- Acknowledging and supporting the position, motivations constraints and culture of other partners;
- Nominating a deputy when unable to attend meetings.

Chairing Arrangements

JHCA Group members will nominate and agree a Chair. This role will be reviewed and rotated on an annual basis.

Co-ordination

Administration for meetings including preparation and circulation of minutes and agenda will be undertaken by Durham Constabulary. Additional support relating to research; production of draft work programmes, reports, policies, papers, etc. will be provided by the office of the PCVC.

Specific co-ordination responsibilities include:

- Identifying the priorities and objectives of individual partner agencies so these can be acknowledged and respected while establishing shared priorities and objectives;
- Identifying and addressing any partner concerns or perceived obstacles;
- Taking responsibility for producing work/project plans;
- Organising and administering meetings;
- Troubleshooting/progressing plans as agreed by the wider group;
- Supporting specific pieces of work on behalf of the wider group.

Governance

Governance and reporting arrangements of the JHCA Group will be through the Safer Durham Partnership, the Darlington Community Safety Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Partnership.

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