



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 9 July 2021**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

**Items which are open to the Public and Press
Members of the public can ask questions with the Chair's agreement,
and if registered to speak.**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held 1 March 2021 (Pages 3 - 12)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Quarter Four, 2020/21 Performance Management Report:
(Pages 13 - 30)
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim).
7. Safe Durham Partnership: (Pages 31 - 46)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim).
 - (ii) Presentation by the Strategic Manager – Partnerships,
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change.
8. Refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22 for the Safer and Stronger
Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee: (Pages 47 - 62)
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim).

9. 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
1 July 2021

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

Councillor J Charlton (Chair)
Councillor B Avery (Vice-Chair)

Councillors V Andrews, P Atkinson, D Boyes, J Cairns, S Deinali, L Fenwick, C Hampson, P Heaviside, C Lines, M McGaun, D McKenna, C Martin, E Mavin, D Nicholls, D Oliver, J Quinn, A Simpson, D Sutton-Lloyd and M Wilson

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

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

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 **Monday 1 March 2021** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Fire Officer S Errington

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A J Cooke.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 4 January 2021 and were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Stoker and J Turnbull declared an interest in Item 6 - County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority - Community Risk Management Plan 2021-2024 as Members of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority - Community Risk Management Plan 2021-2024

The Chair asked the Chief Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) to provide the Committee with an update presentation in relation to the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority (CDDFRA) Community Risk Management Plan 2021-2024 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer thanked the Chair and Members and referred to the presentation slides included in the agenda pack. He explained the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) had been presented to Committee over the last few years for comment, now having changed to be the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). He encouraged Members to complete an individual response to the consultation, ending 23 March, in addition to providing feedback at the meeting. The Chief Fire Officer noted there were four questions set out within the consultation:

1. Do you have any overall comments about our CRMP and approach to allocating our resources?
2. Should we continue to invest and prioritise Fire Safety activities to ensure the built environment within County Durham and Darlington remains safe for occupants and visitors?
3. Should we continue to trial the use and various crewing arrangements of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRVs)?
4. Should we identify opportunities for collaboration with local Fire and Rescue Services and key partners?

The Chair thanked the Chief Fire Officer and asked Members for their comments on each of the questions.

Councillor R Crute, Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his report and presentation. He noted Members would be aware of the situation in relation to issues such as COVID-19 and working with reduced funding. He added that the uncertainty was also an issue that impacted the Local Authority and noted the Chief Fire Officer would see the same impact from a Fire and Rescue Service perspective. He commended the work of the CDDFRS and asked as regards Safe and Wellbeing Visits (SWVs). He noted that prevention was better than cure and asked if any reduction in terms of the number of visits due to the pandemic had increased risk. He noted he suspected that the visits would be focussed on the most vulnerable and asked what the current position was and how the Fire and Rescue Service planned to catch up on visits to help mitigate that risk.

The Chief Fire Officer noted that it was difficult in terms of working through the SWVs, adding that the visits were a long-term strategy, with visits having been carried out for the past 10-12 years. He reminded Members that following changes to how resources were used, the number of visits had been increased significantly over the last four to five years, with CDDFRS being one of the highest performing Fire and Rescue Services in the country in relation to number of visits per 1,000 population. He explained that, while frontline Firefighters may not have been able to conduct SWVs in person during the pandemic, in order to both protect against passing COVID-19 to vulnerable people and protect staff, there was a small team of Community Risk Officers that had still continued to visit those that were most vulnerable. It was noted such visits were carried out with the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and procedures in place to mitigate the impact upon the most vulnerable.

The Chief Fire Officer added that from an early stage CDDFRS had adopted telephone SWVs and while the number of SWVs had not been at previous levels, there had still been a few thousand delivered over the period. He explained that there would be a review of SWVs, noting currently that all areas and people are treated similarly. He noted an example being a property in an affluent area with hardwired smoke alarms would still receive a physical SWV. He added that experience during the COVID-19 period had shown that those types of properties potentially could receive a telephone or online SWV as there would be no need to attend the property to fit smoke alarms and therefore it would allow an increase of both types of visit and allow focus for the physical visits to be for those in high risk areas or with some area of vulnerability. The Chief Fire Officer noted there was a lag period associated with the outcomes from such visits and therefore it may be a few years before information would come through. He added that there would be efforts to catch up in terms of SWVs as soon it was safe to do so from a community and Firefighter safety perspective.

The Chair thanked the Chief Fire Officer and recalled the previous work of the Committee in respect of SWVs and noted the respected and trusted nature of the Fire and Rescue Service meant that they were particularly effective in terms of the SWVs and their ability to gather valuable information from residents. The Chair asked for comments relating to the first question from the CRMP consultation.

Councillor K Thompson asked as regards the budget forecast, which set out best, worst, and mid-case scenarios, and what level of inflation had been built in respect of an increase in precept. The Chief Fire Officer noted that all the scenarios assumed an increase in precept up to the maximum amount of two percent, adding that Fire and Rescue Services were held to tight referendum limits and had not had freedom that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) had in terms of their precept increases. He reiterated that over the life of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) an increase of two percent had been factored in.

The Chief Fire Officer noted it was a difficult decision and the Fire Authority did not take the matter lightly, however, the alternatives could be some significant cuts to frontline resources, impacting on prevention, business fire safety and in the ability to put the same level of resource to respond. He explained that from an inflation perspective, two percent was also factored in across the four years. The Chief Fire Officer noted that such issues were difficult to predict, with some short-term impacts around Brexit relating to capital funds, refurbishment of stations, there being an increase in terms of the cost of steel and insulation materials coming from Europe. He concluded by reiterating the difficulty in predictions, given the continuing uncertainty in respect of COVID-19 and Brexit.

The Chair asked as regards forecasting for the next few years, given the exceptional year as a result of the pandemic. The Chief Fire Officer explained that there were a series of assumptions that were used, an example being the level of Government grant. He explained that for the best case scenario a two percent increase in Government grant had been assumed, for the medium case no increase which had been the case for the current year, and the worst case had assumed a five percent decrease, as had been experienced year on year through the first four years of austerity. He added there were assumptions in respect of council tax and business rates based upon information from Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council in terms of their assumptions. He explained there were also assumptions relating to pay awards, noting previous zero increases based upon the Government's position in terms public sector pay freezes, with a two percent increase per year being factored in beyond the current year. He concluded by reiterating that as there was a number of assumptions and uncertainties the three best, medium, and worst case scenarios were as set out within the report.

With no further questions from Members, the Chair reminded Members that they could respond individually in addition to the contributing to the response of the Committee. He asked Members as regards the four questions as set out within the CRMP consultation. The Chair noted that the Committee Members supported the CDDFRA in all four of the areas as set out within the CRMP consultation questions. He thanked the Chief Fire Officer and all CDDFRS staff for their hard work especially in the current situation and funding settlements.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That a response containing views of the Committee on the CRMP consultation be submitted to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority.

7 Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025 Consultation

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 a presentation in relation to the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025 Consultation (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair, SDP thanked the Committee and referred to the presentation set out within the agenda papers. He reminded Members that there had been an update to the SDP Plan last year, however, it had been previously agreed to refresh the plan after one year following County Durham Partnership (CDP) reviews and with a need to align with the new 2035 County Vision. He added that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on County Durham, from early 2020, needed to be taken into account within the Plan noting that the response of the SDP to the pandemic had been the subject of a presentation that he had given to Committee at a previous meeting. The Chair, SDP noted that the refresh provided the opportunity to ensure services continued to be delivered effectively and that there was good use of resources to make County Durham a better place to live, work and visit. He noted the new partnership framework, as agreed by the CDP in September 2020, aided in delivery of the County Durham Vision 2035.

The Chair, SDP referred to slides setting out the SDP led objectives within the County Durham Vision 2035, the impact of COVID-19 on areas under the SDP, and the SDP Plan Priorities for 2021-2025. He explained the priorities were:

- Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community
- Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm
- Prevent: Counter Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism
- Reduce reoffending
- Alcohol and substance misuse reduction
- Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime

The Chair noted in respect of the first priority, there were issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB), road safety and hate crime, with deliberate fires seeming to sit within ASB as opposed to being a separate priority itself.

The Chair, SDP noted that fires were linked to ASB, with primary fires linked to criminal damage and secondary, more nuisance fires took up a lot of resource. He noted that fires were one form of ASB and were recorded with the Performance Indicators within that area. He added that all sub-groups had been reviewed in December 2020 to see which delivery mechanism in terms of ASB would be best. He noted one potential sub-group was the County Durham Together Partnership which would look at a more place-based approach.

He noted the concerns of the Chair given the statistics relating to ASB and fires and explained that his personal view was that, following the review in December and further discussions at the SDP Board in January, that the issues of fires could be managed under ASB. He added that it was something that would need to be kept under review as new delivery mechanisms were put in place. The Chair noted ASB could encompass a wide range of behaviours from throwing a snowball through to much more serious issues and he felt that fires were an issue that seemed sufficiently serious to warrant its own section, not just being within ASB.

Councillor J Charlton noted the increase in figures in relation to hate crime and asked if this was as a result of it being a new definition or whether it was as more people understood how to report such incidents as hate crime. The Strategic Manager (Partnerships), Andrea Petty agreed with Councillor J Charlton in terms of increasing understanding of how to report such incidents and reminded Members of the work with the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's (PCVC) Office on the "Hate Hurts" campaign. She noted that over the next few months work would be undertaken by the Hate Crime Action Group to see if the increase in reporting was as a result of that campaign.

Councillor C Wilson noted issues of ASB in West Auckland and asked as regards any work in the area of the links between animal abuse to child abuse. The Chair, SDP noted he sat on the Safeguarding Adults Board and that information as regards the connection had been sent out last year. He noted it had been circulated within the Fire Service as those entering properties may notice animals being mistreated and there was some correlation to safeguarding. He noted he would speak to the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board to ask if they can refresh that information.

Councillor K Thompson noted most Members would have some issues in their areas relating to ASB and asked as regards how involved the Police had been in terms of the Council's Selective Licensing scheme as landlord disputes could be a factor in ASB. The Chair noted that issue was outside of the scope of the Committee, however the issue had been noted.

Councillor B Kellett noted the issue of fly-tipping, with used tyres being a particular issue in his area and asked if recycling or reuse for another purpose could be encouraged. The Chair, SDP noted there had been a lot of work carried out with the County Council and the Fire and Rescue Service in respect of fly-tipping and while it had been reported that fly-tipping had reduced it was still a concern. He noted he would speak to his Arson Reduction Manager, who sat on the Fly-tipping Task Force, as regards the issue.

Councillor R Crute asked as regards any emerging or persistent issues associated with ASB and how they would be mapped, noting the issue of off-road vehicles raised at Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings. He noted the valid point made by Councillor K Thompson in terms of links to ASB with some tenants in the private rented sector and added he hoped the Secretary of State would give approval for selective licensing.

Councillor R Crute noted he agreed with Councillor J Charlton as regards hate crime, however, there were changes in the form of such crime, noting the rise of far-right and fascism. He asked how that was handled and how it linked nationally and internationally. The Chair, SDP noted that in respect of the recording of ASB it could be either to the Council or to the Police with the figure reported being a combined figure. He added he did not have a breakdown of ASB by type to hand. He explained he agreed with the comments in respect of selective licensing, noting he had worked as part of the group when the bid was initially being developed and he too hoped for approval from the Secretary of State.

The Chair, SDP noted that different areas in respect of selective licensing were designated for different reasons, with some being as a result of ASB and he noted this would need to be monitored in terms of impact, however, he felt there would be a positive impact. The Strategic Manager (Partnerships), noted that off-road vehicles were an issue discussed at LMAPS around the County and therefore partners were looking at how to work together to try and resolve the issue. In respect of selective licensing there had been the discussions around the Vision objectives, and she gave assurance it was an area the SDP would be looking at as part of its agenda.

The Chair noted the issues raised by Members and suggested it was important how those issues were articulated within the priorities. He noted issues such as deliberate fires, seeming more serious than simple ASB, selective licensing and off-road vehicles, including issues of uninsured riders and damage to the environment. He suggested it may be useful if those issues were set out more explicitly within the Plan.

In respect of the second priority, Councillor R Crute noted articles in the press as regards "county lines" and the impact of the pandemic nationally, reducing the number of incidents as fewer people were on the street and with public transport was being used much less. He asked whether there was any similar impact on the issue in County Durham. The Chair, SDP noted he did not have the details, with the Strategic Manager (Partnerships) noting that there had been incidents on the outskirts of the county, and it was an issue she could come back to Members on. The Chair noted that with lockdown those transporting drugs and driving would stand out more and perhaps have more chance of being stopped. Councillor L Kennedy noted the work undertaken in her Division and, through their local Neighbourhood Budget, some activity in relation to numberplate recognition which had been funded. Councillor J Stephenson noted she had recently read that the prevalence of such county lines activity, and children being groomed to undertake the activity, had increased during the pandemic. She noted it had been stated that parents were not aware and with children not currently being in school there was a greater opportunity for them to be drawn into such activity. Councillor J Stephenson noted she felt it would be of interest to Members for further information to come back to the Committee.

In respect of the third priority, the Chair noted that as children had not been in school, then the number of referrals via schools would therefore likely have reduced. He noted the example mentioned was far-right terrorism and agreed that would be a more likely scenario than other types of terrorism in County Durham. Councillor R Crute noted the wording of "Prevent counter terrorism" could be confusing. The Chair, SDP agreed, with the Strategic Manager (Partnerships) noting PREVENT was the national programme, countering terrorism.

In relation to the fourth priority, the Chair noted that the Committee had received varying figures in relation to the reducing reoffending rate for children and young people and asked how it was recorded. He noted, as he understood, some other authorities were recording reported crimes with others recording admissions of guilt and added he felt there should be standardised method of recording. The Chair, SDP noted he would refer the matter to Police colleagues and ask for a response for the Committee. Councillor R Crute noted the recent presentation at Committee as regards the Probation Service where Members had received information as regards the changes to the National Probation Service (NPS) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs), to effectively renationalise the service and therefore it may take time for figures to feed through and the information may be available when the NPS next attended Committee. He added it was not simply a probation issue, with there being issues in terms of how the criminal justice system was funded, and further information may come from a future meeting with the NPS.

In respect of the fifth priority, Councillor J Charlton asked if the increase in alcohol and drug use during the pandemic period had links to domestic abuse. The Chair, SDP noted the links between alcohol misuse and domestic violence and added that alcohol misuse was an issue that was cross-cutting with many of the priority areas. He noted he did not have a breakdown to hand, with the Strategic Manager (Partnerships) noting that it would be possible to speak to colleagues within the Police and come back to Members with further information.

Councillor J Turnbull noted the issue of illegal drug use appeared to be increasing, with use of taxis to cross into the county, and with an increase in use drug paraphernalia being left lying around. He noted repeated reporting of properties involved in drugs, adding that when nothing appeared to happen, members of the community would become disillusioned. He added there needed to be a greater clampdown on such drug use as there was a significant impact on young children by those using drugs and leaving needles lying around. The Chair, SDP noted he would take the issue back to the Board to see what actions were being taken in that regard.

The Chair noted the reduction in drug poisoning and misuse deaths and queried if there was a link to any reduction in county lines activity. He added that the reduction in Public Health funding was a concern as they had been instrumental in helping people to successfully complete drug and alcohol treatment. He noted that recent budget reports had reassured Members in terms of allocation to Public Health and drug and alcohol services, an area he felt was vital in both terms of health and crime issues.

In relation to the sixth priority, the Chair noted the Vice-Chair, Councillor H Liddle had chaired a working group looking at the issue of cybercrime. Councillor J Stephenson asked if the current work included combating telephone scams as well as online fraud, with many older vulnerable residents were being targeted via telephone, especially during the pandemic. The Chair, SDP noted he would check if the work included telephone fraud. The Strategic Manager (Partnerships) noted that work undertaken by the SDP and the Safeguarding Adults Board was not specific to telephones, however, she understood some work of the Safeguarding Adults Board had included the issue of fraud, including telephone fraud, in particular those targeting elderly residents.

Councillor K Thompson asked for clarification in terms of “Work with the voluntary and community sector to identify means of communicating digital hygiene...”. The Strategic Manager (Partnerships) noted it may need to be set out clearer, however, it referred to issues such as keeping passwords and PINs safe and secure, and raising awareness of those issues with vulnerable groups.

The Chair noted that Members had commented on the SDP Priorities throughout the presentation and that Officers would have made note of those comments. The Chair, SDP noted that the consultation had taken place and had tried to encompass a wide range of groups, including the Youth Council which had shown a great improvement in the increased number of responses from that age group. He noted the responses from Members along with those from the other groups would be included and the finalised Plan would be considered by the SDP Board on 10 March 2021. He thanked the Chair and Members for the opportunity to bring the draft Plan to Committee and reiterated the comments had been noted.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee noted he would collate the comments from the Committee and agree the response to the SDP with the Chair, to be circulated to the Committee in due course. The Chair thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and added that the opportunity for Members to provide input into the Plan was one of the highlights of the Committee. He also thanked the Chair, SDP and the Strategic Manager (Partnerships) for their presentation, and Members for their contributions.

Resolved:

That the comments of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025 be collated and fed back to the Partnership.

8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22

The Chairman asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to speak to Members in relation to the refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22 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 highlighted work that had been undertaken by the Committee within the past year and also looked forward to the forthcoming year. Members were reminded that the aims and objectives were aligned to those of the Council Plan and associated plans, as well as the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority areas. It was explained that the report set out the use of remote meetings and the prioritisation of issues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted Members could also suggest possible areas that Committee could consider, with a further report to come back to Committee at its first meeting in the 2021/22 municipal year.

Councillor R Crute noted Members could respond to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer as regards issues, with a further report to come back to the new Committee following the election in May. He added that an issue he felt was important and noted feedback from Councillors from AAP and PACT meetings was that of ASB with off-road vehicles on public open space and footpaths. He noted the issue could be complex, given the differing geography of the county, containing both rural and urban areas, as well countryside and coastal areas. He noted a key issue was public safety, adding that through the pandemic people had been encouraged to go for walks outdoors meaning more chance of coming across such ASB. Councillor R Crute noted the issue involved a number of partners and that any timescales in terms of activity would not be finalised until around June or July. He noted the number of meetings the Committee may have in the next municipal year would have to be taken into account when looking at the work programme, as would the way in which meetings took place, the Committee currently holding remote meetings with the current guidance relating to remote meetings expiring the first week of May.

The Chair noted the topic of ASB linked to off-road vehicles had merited a lot of discussion, adding that if Members had any issues they wished to be included they should get in touch with the Overview and Scrutiny Officer. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted he would speak to service and partnership leads to explore the area, further to the briefing note that had been circulated to the Committee on the issue.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in the Altogether Safer priority theme of the Council Plan 2020 -2023.
- (ii) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its June meeting receive a further report detailing the Committee's Work Programme for 2021 -2022.

**Safer and Stronger
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

9 July 2021

**Quarter Four, 2020/21
Performance Management Report**

Ordinary Decision



Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework.

The impact of COVID-19

- 2 2020/21 has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the world more than 115 million people have been infected and more than 2.5 million have died.
- 3 Following confirmation of its first cases in January 2020, the UK government subsequently put in place [restrictions](#) to contain the virus, minimise deaths and prevent health and social care systems being overwhelmed. Those restrictions, in varying forms, have impacted our everyday lives, our health and the economy ever since.
- 4 At the beginning of quarter four, in response to a huge increase in COVID-19 cases and the discovery of a faster spreading variant, restrictions were tightened with a third national lockdown. At the same time, the national vaccination programme¹ continued to be rolled out.
- 5 The subsequent fall in infection rates allowed the government to implement plans for a [gradual and phased route out of lockdown](#). The first step, centred around children and students returning to face-to-face teaching, was enacted in March 2021.
- 6 In line with these developments, alongside our continuing public health role and work with other agencies on the Local Resilience Forum

¹ started on 8 December 2020

(covering both County Durham and Darlington) to protect our communities and support those affected by the pandemic, we are also developing plans for future recovery.

- 7 The COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Performance Reporting

- 8 This performance report is structured around the three externally focused results-based ambitions of the [County Durham Vision 2035](#) alongside a fourth 'excellent council' theme contained within our [Council Plan](#)². It also includes an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

Connected Communities – Safer focus

- 9 Although crime has fallen across all crime categories, the reduction is more noticeable in theft-related offences, which fell by a third, and reflects people spending more time at home, there being fewer opportunities for theft in public spaces and the closure of non-essential retail and the night-time economy.
- 10 However, we remain concerned about domestic abuse, which is associated with one in every five crimes, specifically the increase in those categorised as 'violence against the person' crimes. And as victims are unable to access their normal coping mechanisms, such as leaving the home or staying with others, it is likely the intensity of the situation is driving the additional demand for our specialist support services. In addition, clients are presenting with more complex issues, especially mental health, so cases are taking longer to resolve.
- 11 Conversely, anti-social behaviour has increased. This was most likely due to a spike in reported fly-tips between April and June (which coincided with the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres), residents spending more time at home (thereby witnessing and reporting events, as well as driving increases in areas such as noise) and the enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions.

Risk Management

- 12 Effective risk management is a vital component of the council's agenda. The council's risk management process sits alongside our change programme and is incorporated into all significant change and improvement projects. The latest report can be found [here](#).

² approved by full council October 2020

Recommendation

- 13 That Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four 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.

Author

Andy Palmer

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

Latest performance information is being used to inform corporate, service and financial planning.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Equality measures are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Climate Change

We have declared a climate change emergency and consider the implications of climate change in our reports and decision-making.

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Staffing

Performance against a number of relevant corporate health indicators has been included to monitor staffing issues.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Reporting of significant risks and their interaction with performance is integrated into the quarterly performance management report.

Procurement

Not applicable.



Durham County Council Performance Management Report

Quarter Four, 2020/21



Connected Communities - Safer

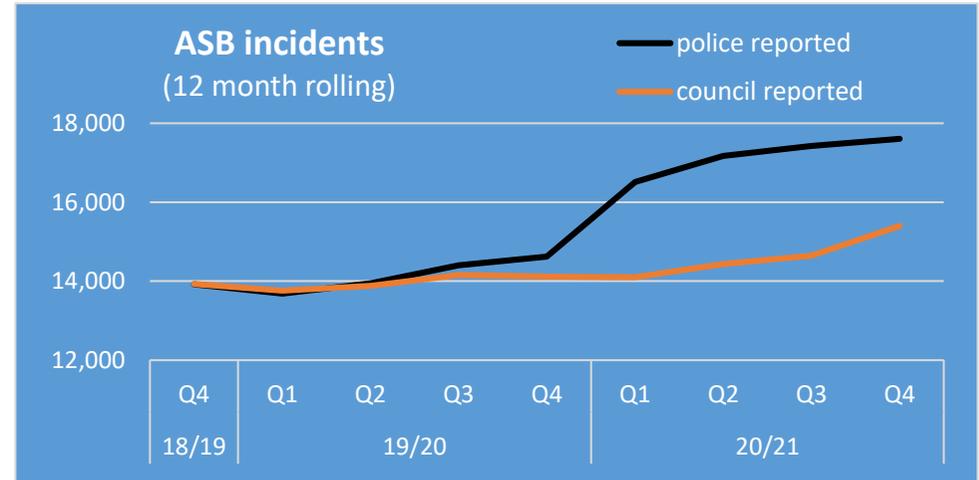
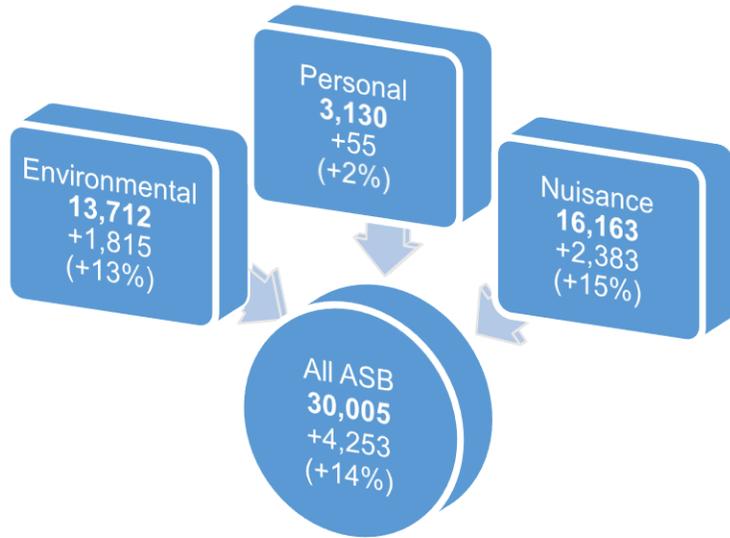
- 1 The ambition of Connected Communities – Safer is linked to the following key questions:
 - (a) How effective are we at tackling crime and disorder?
 - (b) How effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour?
 - (c) How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?
 - (d) How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child exploitation and radicalisation?
 - (e) How do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways?

How effective are we at tackling crime and disorder, and anti-social behaviour (ASB)?

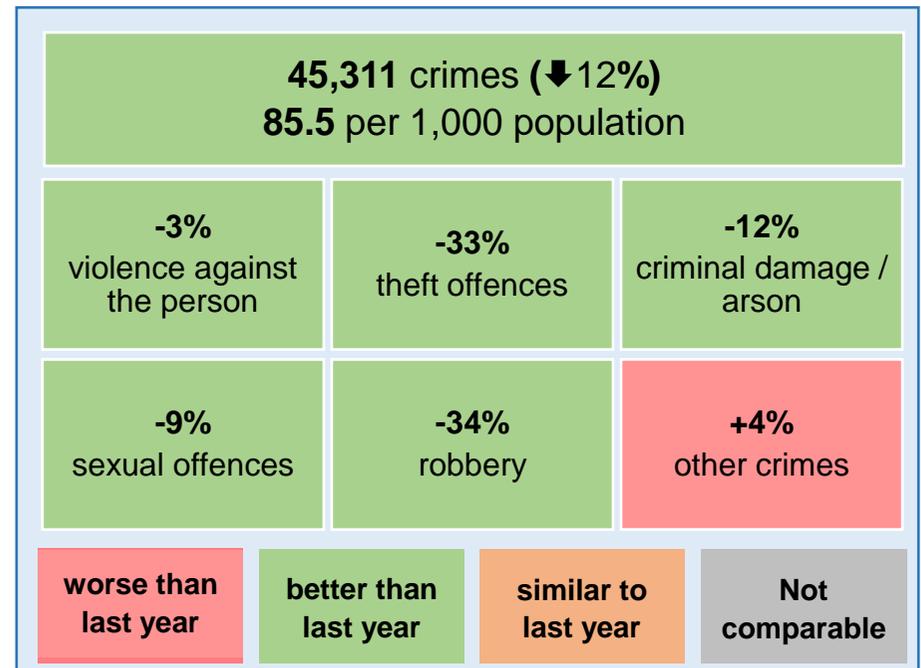
- 2 Throughout 2020/21, there was a 12% decrease in recorded crime compared to 2019/20, equating to more than 6,000 fewer crimes. Although, reductions were across all crime categories, the decrease was more noticeable across theft-related offences, including vehicle crime, burglaries and shoplifting, which have reduced by a third. The decreases reflect people spending more time at home, being fewer opportunities for theft in public spaces and the closure of non-essential retail/night time economy.
- 3 During the same period, ASB increased by 13% which equated to more than 4,000 additional incidents. The increase in environmental ASB was mostly driven by a 22% increase in reported fly-tips, which mainly occurred between April and June and coincided with the closure of the Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs). The increase in nuisance ASB was a combination of residents spending more time at home, not only witnessing and reporting events but also driving increases in areas such as noise complaints, and the enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions.
- 4 Although 23% of all ASB incidents reported to the police during 2020/21 were flagged as COVID related, it is important to remember some of these incidents, e.g. those relating to parties, might have been reported even if COVID restrictions were not in place.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SAFER: How effective are we at tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour?

Police and council reported ASB



		2019/20	2020/21	Change	
Deliberate primary fires ¹	all	466	468	2	0%
	relating to road vehicles	283 (61%)	317 (68%)	34	12%
Deliberate secondary fires ²	all	1,763	1,737	-26	-1%
	relating to rubbish	1,030 (58%)	1,052 (61%)	20	2%



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¹ more serious fires that harm people or damage property
² generally small outdoors fires

- 5 During 2020/21, there was an increase in deliberate fires relating to road vehicles and those relating to rubbish increased slightly. The latter coincided with a period in which increased levels of household waste were generated, HWRCs were closed and other COVID restrictions were in place.

How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?

- 6 Following significant increases during the first half of 2020, police reported alcohol related ASB has significantly fallen to below pre-COVID levels. This was most noticeable in November and December.
- 7 Although domestic related violence against the person offences which are alcohol related has reduced compared to the previous quarters there continues to be an increase in the longer term trend.

How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation and radicalisation?

- 8 In line with the national picture, we noted increases in domestic abuse incidents (up 1.4%), 'Violence Against the Person' crimes (VAP) involving domestic abuse (up 5%) and alcohol-related VAP involving domestic abuse (up 12%). In addition, the number of individual victims increased by 6%.
- 9 It is likely the increase is due to increased reporting as people spend more time at home, rather than an increase in prevalence, and is likely a reflection of the intensity of the abuse as victims are no longer able to access their normal coping mechanisms, such as leaving the home, staying with family or friends, attending counselling.
- 10 This situation has increased demand for victim support services. Harbour, our specialist provider, recorded quarter on quarter increases throughout 2020/21 – with an annual increase in adult referrals of 26%. In addition, clients are presenting with more complex issues, especially mental health, so cases are taking longer to resolve.
- 11 On 29 April, the [Domestic Abuse Bill 2021](#) was signed into law. It aims to protect and support victims, transform the justice process, improve performance and promote awareness. It:
- provides a legal definition of domestic abuse – for the first time ever - incorporating abuses beyond physical violence, for example, psychological, emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse;
 - offers new protections and support so, for example, abusers can no longer cross-examine victims, and special courtroom measures will be taken to prevent intimidation such as protective screens, evidence via video link;

- gives new police powers of Protection Notices (so victims have immediate protection) and Protection Orders (so perpetrators take steps to change their behaviour, e.g. seeking mental health support or drug/alcohol rehabilitation) ;
 - extends the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse;
 - explicitly recognises children as victims if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse;
 - places a duty on local authorities to support victims in refuges and other safe accommodation;
 - automatically prioritises eligible homeless victims for homelessness assistance;
 - places the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ('Clare's law') on a statutory footing.
- 12 Daily multi-agency screening of all domestic abuse incidents continues to be jointly undertaken by children's services, child health and police staff from the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). Sharing information and decision making reduces any delay for children who need to be safeguarded.

How do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways?

- 13 Both water safety forums, responsible for managing water safety in the city centre and countywide, met during 2020/21.
- 14 The main focuses for the City Safety Group was addressing the various challenges of student induction week alongside the risks associated with COVID-19.
- 15 Countywide, an extensive open water safety campaign targeted 10 to 16 year olds during periods of warm weather, and featured the five-year anniversary of the death of Cameron Gosling, a local boy who tragically drowned in a cold water shock accident. The campaign was an alternative approach to previous years which involved sessions in school assemblies and other young people's settings.

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SAFER: How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?

e 22

Alcohol specific mortality per 100,000 population 2017-19			
	All	Male	Female
England	10.9	14.9	7.2
County Durham	14.7	19.3	10.4
North East	16.0	21.3	11.0

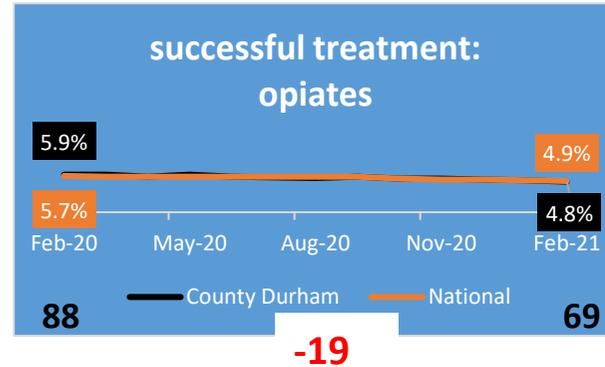
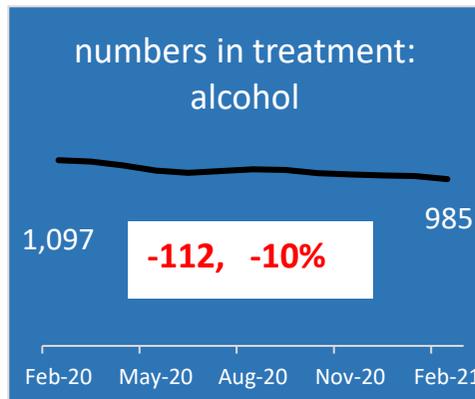
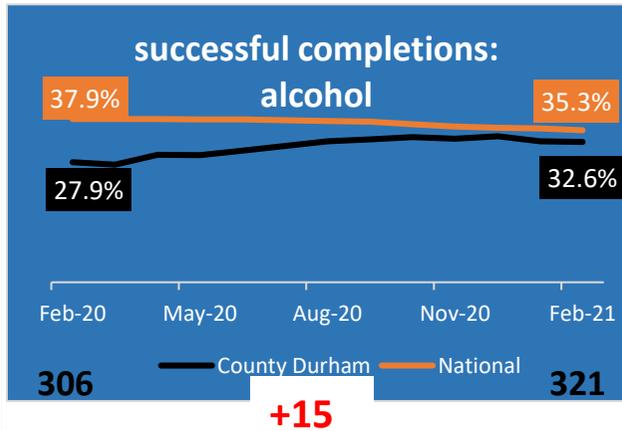
England
County Durham
North East

Our Performance is ■ better ■ similar ■ worse

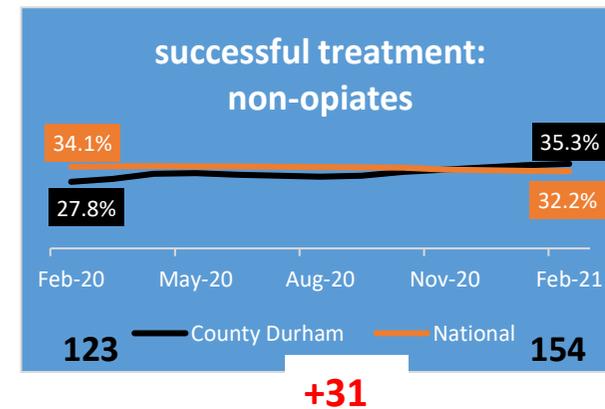
Deaths from drug misuse per 100,000 population 2017-19			
	All	Male	Female
England	4.7	6.8	2.6
County Durham	7.4	10.4	4.4
North East	9.1	13.4	5.1

England
County Durham
North East

Our Performance is ■ better ■ similar ■ worse

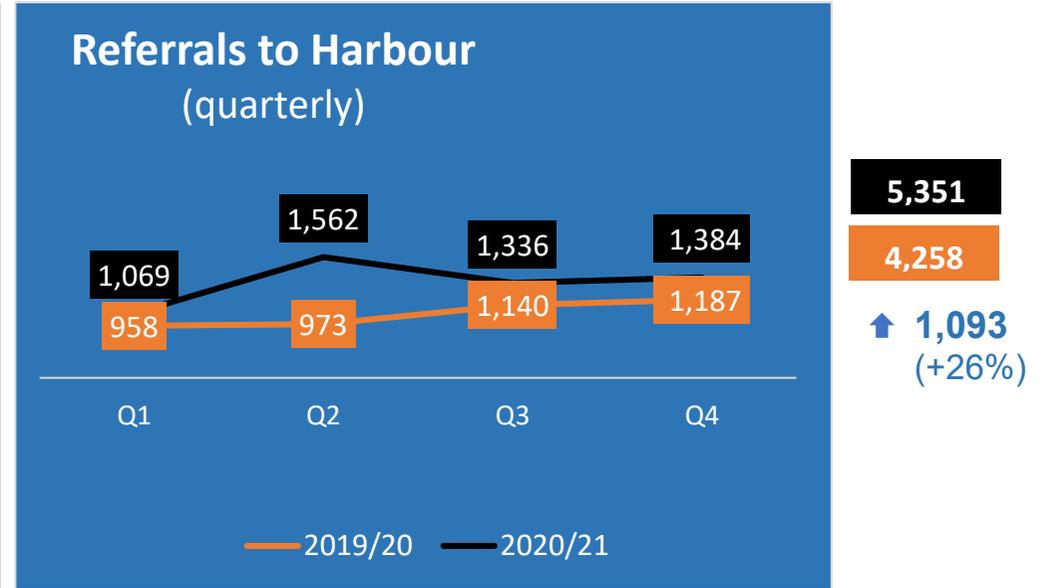
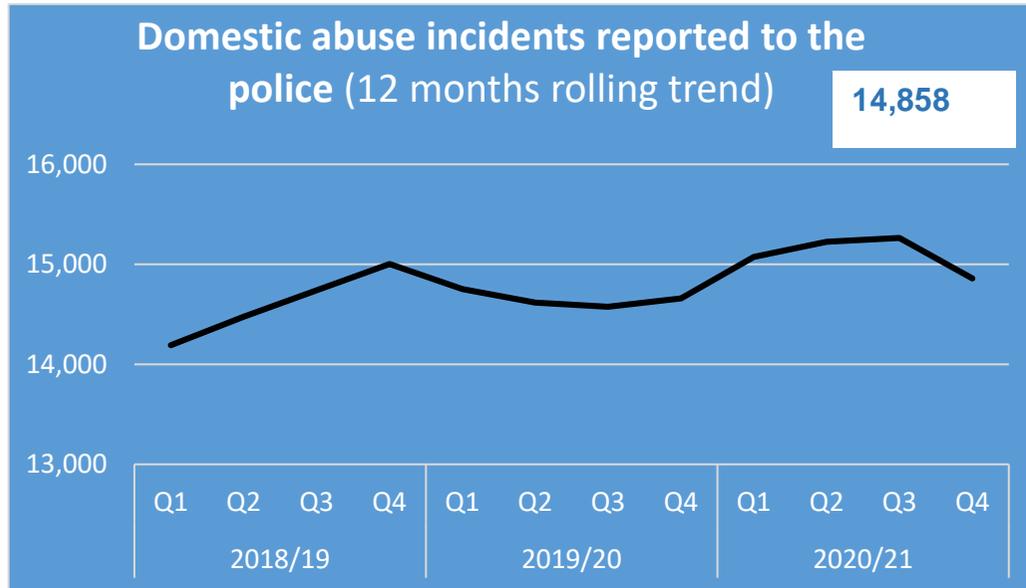


in treatment
Feb-20 Feb-21
1,489 1,446
-43, -3%



in treatment
Feb-20 Feb-21
442 436
-6, -1%

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SAFER: How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people?



Violence against the person crimes – Domestic Abuse

	2019/20	2020/21	Change
All	8,124	8,526	402 ↑5%
alcohol related	3,434	3,864	430 ↑12%

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES SAFER: How do we keep our environment safe including roads and waterways?

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Killed

Seriously injured

Slightly injured

All casualties
2020/21
(2019/20)

15
(19)

149
(203)

464
(659)

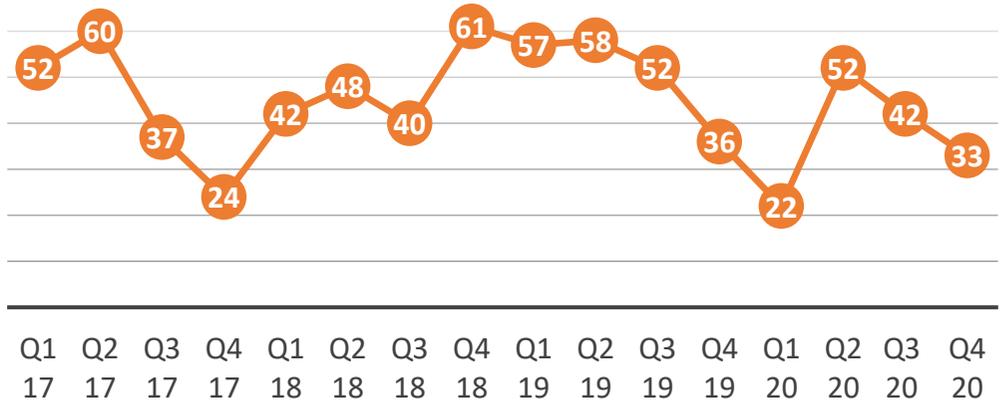
Children
2020/21
(2019/20)

0
(0)

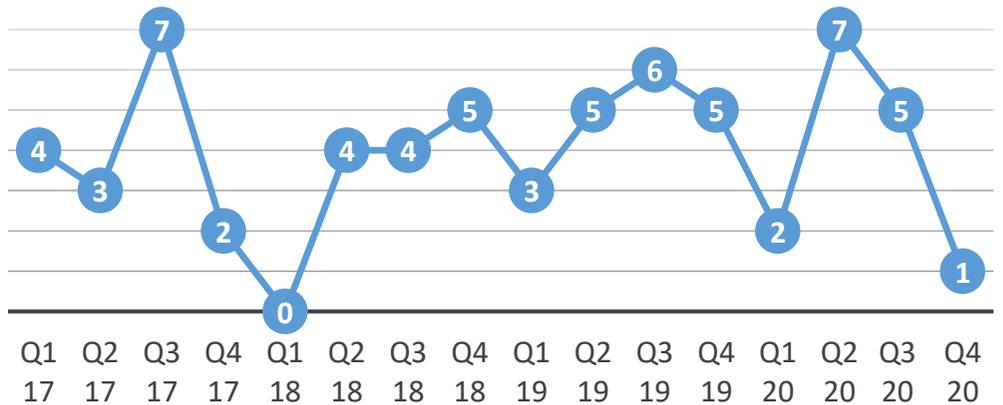
16
(31)

10
(53)

Serious Injuries



Fatalities



Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

- (a) Key target indicators – targets are set as improvements can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners; and
- (b) Key tracker indicators – performance is tracked but no targets are set as they are long-term and/or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners.

A guide is available which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2020/21 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet or can be requested from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

KEY TO SYMBOLS

	Direction of travel	Benchmarking	Performance against target
GREEN	Same or better than comparable period	Same or better than comparable group	Meeting or exceeding target
AMBER	Worse than comparable period (within 2% tolerance)	Worse than comparable group (within 2% tolerance)	Performance within 2% of target
RED	Worse than comparable period (greater than 2%)	Worse than comparable group (greater than 2%)	Performance >2% behind target

National Benchmarking

We compare our performance to all English authorities. The number of authorities varies according to the performance indicator and functions of councils, for example educational attainment is compared to county and unitary councils however waste disposal is compared to district and unitary councils.

North East Benchmarking

The North East figure is the average performance from the authorities within the North East region, i.e. County Durham, Darlington, Gateshead, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-On-Tees, South Tyneside, Sunderland.

More detail is available from the Strategy Team at performance@durham.gov.uk

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SAFER

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How effective are we at tackling crime and disorder?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
77	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17)	176	2019/20	Tracker	262 (green)	220 (green)	303 (green)	231 (green)		No
78	Overall crime rate per 1,000 population	84.5	2020/21	Tracker	97.3 (green)	77.0 (red)				Yes
79	Rate of theft offences per 1,000 population	18.41	2020/21	Tracker	27.52 (green)					Yes
80	Proportion of all offenders who re-offend in a 12 month period (%)	30.6	Apr-Jun 2019	Tracker	30.8 (green)	31.7 (green)	35.7 (green)	30.0 (red)	2016/17	No
81	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%)	51.9	2017/18	Tracker	41.4 (red)	38.4 (red)	41.8 (red)			No

How effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
82	Satisfaction with the way that the council and police are dealing with local concerns about ASB and crime issues in your area.	56.4	Mar 2020	Tracker	50.1 (red)			53.7 (red)	Jun 2019	No
83	No. police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	17,606	2020/21	Tracker	14,626 (red)					Yes
84	No. council reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	15,399	2020/21	Tracker	14,115 (red)					Yes

How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
85	% of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment	33.9	Dec 2019-Nov 2020	Tracker	28.7 (red)	35.9 (amber)	31.2 (amber)			No
86	% of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates	5.1	Dec 2019-Nov 2020	Tracker	5.6 (green)	5.0 (amber)	3.9 (amber)			No
87	% of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates	33.9	Dec 2019-Nov 2020	Tracker	27.8 (red)	32.6 (amber)	27.3 (red)			No
88	% of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related	15.0	2020/21	Tracker	15.0 (green)					Yes
89	% of violent crime that is alcohol related	32.1	2020/21	Tracker	31.1 (amber)					Yes
90	Alcohol seizures	194**	Apr-Jun 2018	Tracker	398 (green)					No

**under review

How well do we tackle abuse of vulnerable people, including domestic abuse, child exploitation and radicalisation?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
91	Building resilience to terrorism (self-assessment). Score - level 1(low) to 5(high)	3*	2017/18	Tracker	3 (green)					No
92	No of individuals with a referral for 1:1 CSE Support from Supporting Solutions Team**	375	2020/21	Tracker	new**					Yes

*under review ** New definition – Includes all children - High/Medium/Low Risk (Previously only High-Risk referred to Supporting Solutions)

How do we keep our environment safe, including roads and waterways?

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Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
93	No. of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents - No. of fatalities - No. of seriously injured	164 15 149	2020/21	Tracker	222 (green) 19 146					Yes
94	No. of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents - No. of fatalities - No. of seriously injured	17 1 16	2020/21	Tracker	31 (green) 0 31					Yes

Other additional relevant indicators

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

Are children, young people and families in receipt of universal services appropriately supported?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
27	Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s (rate per 100,000)	52.8	2017/18-2019/20	Tracker	54.7 (green)	30.7 (red)	55.4 (green)	55.3 (green)		Yes
28	Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000)	361.2	2019/20	Tracker	354.3 (red)	439.2 (green)	536.6 (green)	656.3 (green)		Yes

Are our services improving the health of our residents?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
41	Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population	13.4	2017-19	Tracker	12.8 (red)	10.1 (red)	11.6 (red)	12.3 (red)		No

Are people needing adult social care supported to live safe, healthy and independent lives?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
49	% of individuals who achieved their desired outcomes from the adult safeguarding process	95.0	2020/21	Tracker	95.1 (amber)	92.2	85.4	92.1*	2019/20	Yes

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

9 July 2021

Safe Durham Partnership



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

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 an overview of the Safe Durham Partnership and its activity.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview of the Safe Durham Partnership including its role, responsibilities and strategic priority areas. Information within this report will be of interest to members in considering the Committee's work programme for 2021/22.

Recommendation

- 3 Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to
 - (a) Note information contained within the presentation from the Safe Durham Partnership and comment accordingly.

Background

- 4 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP), within County Durham, this is known as the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 5 There are currently five 'responsible authorities' on the Safe Durham Partnership, who have a legal duty to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other

behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and to reduce re-offending.

- 6 The five responsible authorities are Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service and NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group. The partnership also has additional members from the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, HMP Durham and East Durham Trust.
- 7 The Safe Durham Partnership Chair is Keith Wanley, Area Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.
- 8 The Safe Durham Partnership have a statutory duty to publish a plan that sets out its priorities and how these are to be effectively implemented through joint working by the responsible authorities. This plan is known as the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and a [link](#) of the latest plan covering the period 2021-2025 is provided for reference . The plan has the following six priority areas:
 - (a) Strategic Priority 1: Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community
 - (b) Strategic Priority 2: Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm
 - (c) Strategic Priority 3: Prevent Strategy: Countering terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism
 - (d) Strategic Priority 4: Reduce Reoffending
 - (e) Strategic Priority 5: Alcohol and substance misuse reduction
 - (f) Strategic Priority 6: Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime
- 9 It is to note that following public consultation in early 2021, the plan was agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board in March 2021 and the Council's Cabinet and County Council in June 2021.
- 10 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006 to scrutinise work of the Safe Durham Partnership. Within this context, the Committee provided comment on the consultation of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan at its meeting in March 2021 and activity within its work programme has been closely linked to priority areas within the plan. It is to note that within its response, the Committee suggested that arson and deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour caused by off road

motorcycles and quads be included as specific areas of focus and were subsequently agreed by the SDP Board and included within the plan.

- 11 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation that provides an overview of the Safe Durham Partnership, including its structure, role and responsibilities and strategic priority areas. The presentation will be delivered by Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager – Partnerships, Durham County Council who supports the work of the Board.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 12 Information within this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Safe Durham Partnership Plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Conclusion

- 13 The attached report and presentation provide an opportunity for Members to receive an overview of the Safe Durham Partnership and its strategic priorities and identify any areas to be considered within the Committee's work programme.

Background papers

- [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25](#)

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 provides an overview of the Safe Durham Partnership and its strategic priorities.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

SAFE DURHAM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Andrea Petty – Strategic Manager – Partnerships
Durham County Council



Better for everyone

County Durham Vision 2035 - objectives led by the Safe Durham Partnership

2.4	Future free from harm due to drug and alcohol misuse
3.1	Make sure Children and Young People are safe (Alongside the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership)
3.2	Support for victims to cope, recover and engage in the justice system
3.3	Work with communities most affected by long term empty properties
3.3	Approach to selective licensing of private landlords
3.6	Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
3.6	Address the underlying causes of crime and community tensions
3.6	Actively take steps to encourage community cohesion
3.6	Provide a range of activities and opportunities to divert people away from crime and ASB



Better for everyone

Safe Durham Partnership Vision

To deliver outcomes to ensure **'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'**



Better for everyone



Membership



- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
- Durham County Council inc. Councillor (Portfolio Holder) and senior officers from relevant services
- Durham Constabulary
- Probation Service
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- HMP Durham
- Office of the Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner
- Voluntary and Community Sector
- Chairs of SDP Board Sub-groups when required



Probation
Service



Better for everyone

Responsibilities include...

- **To provide strategic level leadership for community safety**
- **To commission and co-ordinate the strategic assessment (evidence base)**
- **Delivering on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan**
- **To oversee and monitor performance**
- **To ensure information sharing protocols are in place**
- **To consult the community to inform the Partnership Plan**
- **To work with the Council's Safer Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee**
- **To commission Domestic Homicide Reviews**
- **To work in partnership, pooling resources where needed.**



Better for everyone



The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-2025 Priorities:

- Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community
- Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm
- Prevent Strategy: Countering Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism
- Reduce reoffending
- Alcohol and substance misuse reduction
- Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime



Recent areas of focus

- Tackling Anti-social Behaviour – Investigating using a strategic place based model.
- Developing the refreshed Safe Durham Partnership Plan 21-25.
- The work of the newly formed Arson Suppression group and the implementation of the Arson Reduction Strategy.
- Understanding the changes within the new Probation service and how this will affect service delivery.
- The progress of the CONTEST Silver Group on preventing people being drawn into terrorism and the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks.
- The progress of the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Action Plan.
- The Road Safety Strategy and Casualty Reduction.



Better for everyone

Future agenda items

- A deep dive into Hate crime.
- Referral routes from MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference for domestic abuse).
- Work of the MAPS (Multi-agency Problem Solving groups.)
- Nuisance motorcycle and quad bikes action plan.
- Housing update inc. Private Landlord licensing, supported housing for rough sleepers, The Safe to Stay initiative & the work of the rough sleeper team.
- Safer Cyber Working Group Annual update.



Better for everyone

Interface with SSC Overview & Scrutiny Committee

- Consultation on Safe Durham Partnership Plan and Priorities
- O&S work programme development – aligned to SDP
- Deep dive activities – previously include fly tipping, arson, cybercrime
- SDP Chair / officer attendance at committee to provide updates on priority areas



Any questions



Better for everyone

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

9 July 2021



**Refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22
for the Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Report of Paul Darby Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC) with an updated work programme for 2021/2022.

Executive summary

- 2 SSC OSC review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed SSC OSC work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham Vision 2035 based on the three strategic ambitions of 'more and better jobs', 'long and independent lives' and 'connected communities'.
- 4 Overview and scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible to accommodate items which may arise throughout the year. This flexibility is particularly important as we make our way along the government's roadmap out of lockdown. We will consider how best to enable the scrutiny function to respond in these times of continuing uncertainty.

Recommendations

- 5 SSC OSC is recommended to:
 - a) Receive and comment on the proposed SSC OSC work programme for 2021/22
 - b) Agree the SSC OSC work programme for 2021/2022 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 6 Scrutiny committee meetings have recently returned to meeting in person following the use of remote arrangements under COVID-19 emergency regulations. During the lockdown period work programmes were reviewed to enable remote meetings to focus on matters of the highest priority. As a result, regular overview reports were circulated to members via email for comment.
- 7 The number of meetings in the corporate calendar available to overview and scrutiny were also been substantially reduced in 2020/21 due to staff capacity to support virtual meetings. At this point we are unsure how many meetings we will be allocated for 2021/22 and will reprioritise work programmes if circumstances change. Any review of work programmes will take place with the chair and vice chair and in consultation with the committee.
- 8 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
 - Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - County Durham Vision for 2035
 - Partnership plans and strategies
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Local priorities
- 9 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 based on a strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and developed following extensive consultation with the public. This sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
 - More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities

- 10 These remain the strategic ambitions in our response to the COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing, and communities. They will also remain key as restrictions ease and we move along the roadmap from national lockdown and we continue with our restoration and recovery.
- 11 Scrutiny work programmes also focus on the four priorities of the Council's transformational projects:
- Redesign our services to better meet the customer's needs at reduced cost to the Council
 - Help communities become more resilient and self-reliant
 - To move our partnership working from good to great
 - To become renowned for our skilled and flexible workforce and our employee engagement.

Council Plan 2020 - 2023

- 12 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the county council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake over the coming three years to help achieve these priorities.
- 13 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions which are mentioned above. An additional ambition of an excellent council has been developed for the Council Plan to capture the corporate initiatives that the council has identified and wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.
- a) Connected Communities
- (i) All children and young people will have a safe childhood
 - (ii) Victims of crime will have access to the right level of support, with services available to address their needs
 - (iii) Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well used, clean, attractive and safe.
 - (iv) Communities will come together and support each other

Safer and Stronger Communities OSC

- 14 In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the council, SSC OSC is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Committee is therefore responsible for scrutinising the work of the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 15 At its meeting in March 2021, the Committee considered and provided comment on the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan. It is to note that within its response, the Committee suggested arson and deliberate fires and anti-social behaviour caused by off road motorcycles and quads be included as specific areas of focus and were subsequently agreed by the SDP Board and included within the plan. Following publication of the plan, the Committee's work programme is closely linked to priority areas and associated actions within the plan.
- 16 During 2020/2021, SSC OSC prioritised items to be considered at a reduced number of formal meetings due to the coronavirus pandemic. Reports on other items were circulated via email to members. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings the committee has undertaken review activity, responded to consultations, undertaken performance monitoring and considered overview presentations and reports in relation to the following areas:
- a) Scrutiny Review
 - (i) Road Safety Strategy
 - b) Overview activity
 - (i) Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - (ii) Safe Durham Partnership Board – Impact of COVID19
 - (iii) Community Protection Services
 - (iv) Public Protection Services
 - (v) County Durham Youth Justice Service Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and Service Improvement Plan 2020/21
 - (vi) County Durham & Darlington Hate Crime Action Group
 - (vii) Probation Programme 'Plans for future model
 - (viii) Bonfire period and arson
 - c) Briefing reports
 - (i) Open Water Safety
 - (ii) Off Road Bikes
 - (iii) Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction
 - (iv) Reducing Re- Offending

- d) Consultations
 - (i) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Services Community Risk Management Plan – Three Year Consultation
 - (ii) Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25

Police and Crime Panel

- 17 The Committee has a joint working arrangement with the Durham Police and Crime Panel (PCP) that is crucial to provide a communication between the PCP and the Committee. This arrangement includes receiving update reports from the PCP at each Committee meeting and prior to undertaking an in-depth study into a crime and disorder issue, discussion takes place between both the Chairs of the PCP and Committee and Secretariat to avoid duplication of effort and resources.

Areas for Consideration in the SSC OSC Work Programme

- 18 Paragraph 16 of this report identifies the activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee is asked to consider areas for further progress updates and review topics to be included in the work programme for 2021/2022 in light of the current Council Plan, Safe Durham Partnership Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035.
- 19 At its meeting in March 2021, the committee considered a report titled 'Refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22' and requested that the work programme includes ASB linked to off-road vehicles and post-meeting a suggestion was received for the inclusion of Alcohol and Substance Misuse harm reduction. These areas are listed within Appendix 2. In addition, a suggestion was received to revisit previous work by the committee to review the partnership approach to tackle arson within the East Durham area.
- 20 Members of the SSC OSC are asked to agree the proposed work programme for 2021/22 that has been prepared and is attached at appendix two. The work programme is very comprehensive drawing on topical areas across the remit of the committee and it should be noted that it is also flexible.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 21 Information with this report aims to contribute to activity to reducing crime and disorder within the county.

Conclusion

- 22 The work programme report identifies areas of work that fall within the remit of SSC OSC

Background papers

- [Council Plan 2020 - 2023](#)
- [A Vision for County Durham 2035](#)
- [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25](#)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to activity to reducing crime and disorder within County Durham.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements.

Procurement

None

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<p>Overview and Scrutiny Draft Work Programme 2021/22</p> <p>Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Lead Officer: Tom Gorman</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Jonathan Slee</p> <p>IPG Contact: Andrea Petty</p>	<p>Note:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Review – A systematic six monthly review of progress against recommendations/action plan</p> <p>Scrutiny/Working Group – In-depth review/light touch review</p> <p>Overview/progress – Information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review</p> <p>Performance/Budget – Ongoing quarterly monitoring performance reports/budgets</p>
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Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review				
Scrutiny/Working Group (light touch / in-depth review)				
Tackling Arson in the East Durham Area		Safe Durham Partnership	Revisit previous activity by the Committee to gain an understanding and provide elected member comment on partnership approaches to tackling	Subject to agreement by the Committee on 9 July 2021

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
			arson in the East Durham area.	
Overview/Progress				
Safe Durham Partnership – Overview	9 July 2021	Andrea Petty	To provide the Committee with information and activities of the Safe Durham Partnership and its delivery of its priority areas.	Presentation will support consideration of items within the Committee's work programme.
Community Protection Service		Joanne Waller	Members to consider and opportunity to comment on delivery service and partnership activity in relation to ASB, Place based multi-agency approach, making every adult matter initiative and area based interventions.	Report/presentation to provide progress from report to SSC OSC in November 2020.

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
Deliberate Fires		Steve Helps, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service	To provide comment to SDP on tackling arson across the County	Suggested by the Committee for inclusion within the SDP plan.
Road Safety Strategy		Dave Wafer	To receive the Road Safety Strategy and provide comment on activity of the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership and delivery of Strategy's Action plan.	In 2020/21, the Committee provided comment on development of the Road Safety Strategy.
Joint Hate Crime Action Plan		Hate Crime Action Group	To receive progress update on activity of the Hate Crime Action Group and its action plan.	Linked to activity within the SDP plan and report to SSC OSC in November 2020.

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Group (DASVEG) Action Plan		Chair DASVEG	Members are to consider a report on activity of the Safe Durham Partnership DASVEG. Report will also include details of responsibilities within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence is a key area within the SDP Plan.
Organised Crime/Countylines/Modern Slavery		Safe Durham Partnership Steve Thubron	To gain an understanding of partnership approaches to tackling these areas.	Sensitive subject area and to consider holding a development session.
Open Water Safety		Kevin Lough	Members will receive a progress update on activity on Open Water Safety within the County.	Information will build upon the report circulated to Members in September 2020.

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
Reducing Re-offending Strategy		Chair of the SDP Reducing Re-offending Group	To consider and comment on progress of the Reducing reoffending group and action plan.	Identified as a key area within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.
Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Strategy		Jane Sunter	To consider and comment on progress of the Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Strategy.	
Prevent Strategy: Countering terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism		Police with support from Andrea Petty/SDP Lead officer	Committee to receive report on the partnership's progress in meeting the statutory duties contained within the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and an update on partnership working.	

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
Off Road Vehicles - ASB		Joanne Waller /Safe Durham Partnership leads	To provide the committee with an overview and enable comment from Members to a SDP initiative to tackle associated ASB caused by off road vehicles (motor bikes) and quads within Co. Durham.	Identified as an area of concern by SSC OSC in March 2021 and included within the SDP plan.
County Durham Youth Justice Services - Annual report and Service Improvement Plan		Martyn Stenton/Dave Summers	To appraise members on activity of the Youth Justice Services.	
Probation Programme	Early 2022	Kay Nicolson, Probation Service	To received progress on transition and activity of the National Probation Service.	

Item	When subject to confirmation of OSC meeting arrangements	Who	Outcome	Comment
Public Protection Service – Enforcement and Intervention Activity		Owen Cleugh	Report on enforcement and intervention activity by the Public Protection Service	
County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)		CDDFRS	Members to consider and provide a response to consultation the CRMP	
Performance				
Performance Quarterly reporting	2020/21 – Q4 report - July 2021 2021/22 Q1 – TBC Q2 – TBC Q3 - TBC	Tom Gorman (Resources)	To provide members with progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council’s corporate performance framework	Summary information to Members

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