



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

Date Thursday 9 September 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 9 July 2021 (Pages 3 - 10)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. County Durham Youth Justice Service - Overview, Performance and Service Improvement Plan 2021/22: (Pages 11 - 46)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Children and Young People Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable People / Chair of the County Durham Youth Justice Service Management Board and the Youth Justice Service Manager.
7. Open Water Safety Update: (Pages 47 - 66)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Occupational Health and Safety Manager.

8. Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group Update 2021:
(Pages 67 - 84)
Report of the Director of Public Health – presented by the Public Health Strategic Manager – Living and Ageing Well.
9. Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny - Work Programme Update: (Pages 85 - 96)
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources (Interim) – presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.
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
1 September 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 in **Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 9 July 2021** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Charlton (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors B Avery, V Andrews, P Atkinson, J Cairns, S Deinali, L Fenwick, C Hampson, P Heaviside, M McGaun, E Mavin, D Nicholls, D Oliver, J Quinn, D Sutton-Lloyd and M Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Balls

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D McKenna and C Martin and Chief Fire Officer S Errington, Chief Superintendent A Green and Mr A J Cooke.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 1 March 2021 and were agreed as a correct record and were 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 Quarter Four, 2020/21 Performance Management Report

The Chair asked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager, Tom Gorman to provide the Committee with an update in relation to the Quarter Four, 2020/21 Performance Management Report (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager thanked the Chair and referred Members to the information as set out within the report pack. He added that as the report related to Quarter Four it also represented a year-end position which would include any impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. He explained that the report included performance information relevant to the remit of the Committee, including community safety elements under the “Connected Communities” and substance misuse performance information relating to “People Live Long and Independent Lives”. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that in addition there was the role of the Committee in scrutinising the Safer Durham Partnership (SDP), with the Chair of the SDP, K Wanley being in attendance to give Members an update at the next item.

Councillors were referred to the information within the report and asked to note there was a 12 percent reduction in recorded crime, year of year, with around 6,000 fewer offences and with theft offences down by one-third. It was noted this was felt to be as a result of the pandemic, with fewer people moving about there were fewer opportunities for crime, less vehicle journeys, and with non-essential shops being closed and more people working from home shoplifting and burglary offences had reduced. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour (ASB), with a 14 percent increase in total, being ASB reported to the Police or Council. He added that some new offences as a result of the Coronavirus Act 2020 were recorded as ASB, with 23 percent of all ASB reported to the Police relating to the Coronavirus Act, for example illegal gatherings. It was noted that the increase in the reports to the Council mainly related to those associated with people being in their homes more, such as noise nuisance.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted fly-tipping had increased by 22 percent and explained the Council’s Household Waste Recycling Centres had been required to close in response to the first national lockdown and, upon reopening, social distancing had meant increased queues in order to access the centres.

In respect of deliberate fires, the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) area had the highest number of deliberate primary fires and the third highest number of secondary deliberate fires.

It was added that areas with the second and third highest number of primary fires were Tyne and Wear and Cleveland, with Cleveland and Tyne and Wear being first and second in terms of secondary deliberate fires, highlighting that it was also a regional issue. It was noted that within the CDDFRS area, 68 percent of deliberate primary fires related to vehicles, an increase of 12 percent from the previous year.

In respect of reducing substance misuse, it was noted that the Council's Drug and Alcohol Service had improved performance, with performance relating to alcohol just behind the national figures. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager explained that in relation to opiate drugs, performance was around the national level, and in relation to non-opiates there had been a similar improvement to that of alcohol services.

Members were referred to statistics relating to domestic violence and the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted that the number of incidents involving alcohol had increased. He explained that the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 was being considered by Parliament which looked to grant new powers for the Police and place new duties on Local Authorities. He noted that further information would follow once the Bill had obtained Royal Assent.

In relation to road safety, the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted figures for the last three years showed a variable picture, with a decreasing long-term trend in terms of the number of people killed or seriously injured. He added that the first national lockdown of the pandemic had seen a reducing of 22 percent in the number killed or seriously injured, likely as a result of decreased traffic. He noted, however, that one death was too many, adding the topic was one the Committee had looked at previously. Members were reminded that engineering works are very rarely needed, rather education was a key focus of the road safety partnership in terms of the "Fatal Four", use of mobile phones while driving, speeding, and drug/drink driving.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions, adding Members could submit any further questions they may have via e-mail should they wish.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

7 Safe Durham Partnership

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 and noted he was in attendance to provide the Committee with an update presentation as regards the work of the SDP.

The Chair, SDP thanked the Committee and referred to the presentation set out within the agenda papers. He noted how the SDP fitted in with the wider partnership picture in County Durham and how priorities were aligned with the three key ambitions from the County Durham Vision 2035, and elements supported by the SDP included: future free from harm due to drug and alcohol misuse; make sure Children and Young People are safe (alongside the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership); Support for victims to cope, recover and engage in the justice system; work with communities most affected by long term empty properties; approach to selective licensing of private landlords; tackle crime and ASB; address the underlying causes of crime and community tensions; actively take steps to encourage community cohesion; and provide a range of activities and opportunities to divert people away from crime and ASB.

Members noted that following feedback from the Committee, the SDP Vision had been updated slightly, 'To deliver outcomes to ensure 'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'. The Chair, SDP referred Members to a diagram highlighting how the SDP fitted in to the wider County Durham Partnership (CDP) and with links to wider partnership arrangements and links to other groups such as the Criminal Justice Board and the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillors were reminded of the sub-groups of the SDP, namely: Hate Crime Action Group; Silver Contest Group; Reducing Reoffending Group; Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG); County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership; and Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group. The Chair, SDP noted that the SDP was a statutory function as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with its membership being from Local Authority Members, with the Vice-Chair being the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety. It was explained that partners included: CDDFRS; Durham County Council, including Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from relevant Services; Durham Constabulary; Probation Service; Clinical Commissioning Group; County Durham and 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; and Chairs of SDP Board Sub-groups, when required.

The Chair, SDP noted responsibilities of the SDP included: 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 and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee; to commission Domestic Homicide Reviews; and to work in partnership, pooling resources where needed. He added that it was therefore important to have senior level involvement at the SDP Board to enable a good strategic overview. He noted that it was also important to be evidence based, with Durham Insight providing a wealth of statistics to help deliver against the SDP Plan and to monitor performance. It was explained that there had been a recent review of performance indicators, with some information having been provided in the report presented by the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager.

The Committee were informed that protocols and arrangements relating to information sharing were being refreshed and would be reported to the next meeting of the SDP Board. The Chair, SDP noted that the SDP Plan had been refreshed, including feedback from the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He noted that strategic priorities in terms of delivering against 'promote being safe and feeling safe in your community' included: ASB; arson / deliberate fires; safer homes; road safety; hate crime; and community tension. Members noted the Committee had asked for arson / deliberate fires to be listed separately from ASB so that each could be focussed upon. Members noted other strategic priorities included: support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm; Prevent Strategy: Countering Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (amended wording following feedback from Members); reduce reoffending; alcohol and substance misuse reduction; tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime.

The Chair, SDP noted that recent areas of focus had included: tackling ASB, investigating using a strategic place based model; developing the refreshed SDP Plan 2021-2025; 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 would affect service delivery; progress of the CONTEST Silver Group on preventing people being drawn into terrorism and the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks; progress of the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Action Plan; and the Road Safety Strategy and Casualty Reduction.

The Committee were informed that future agenda items included: 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, including - Private Landlord licensing, supported housing for rough sleepers, The Safe to Stay initiative and the work of the rough sleeper team; and the Safer Cyber Working Group Annual update.

The Chair thanked the Chair, SDP and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor L Fenwick asked why drug and alcohol misuse seemed to be low on the priority list, noting she felt many crimes in the area were linked to such misuse. The Chair, SDP noted that drug and alcohol misuse was cross-cutting with a number of issues, including ASB, arson, safer homes and domestic abuse. He noted the way in which the priorities were set out within the presentation was not an order of priority, with each being equally as important and having specific sub-groups to look at each area.

Councillor P Atkinson asked as regards any focus groups that were set up by the SDP, the frequency of their meetings and who those groups comprised of.

The Chair, SDP noted that the make-up of each would be different depending upon the specific issue, however, would look to include relevant partners that could add value to the process. He noted each would have a Chair and would meet as many times as required. He added that the SDP provided strategic leadership with the sub-groups reporting back to demonstrate they were delivering against the strategic priorities of the SDP Plan, as build into the performance framework to provide the opportunity for scrutiny, with the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager having given some details within his presentation. The Chair, SDP noted he could provide details of the groups for the Member.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd asked if any extra work was being undertaken in relation to suicide rates, as impacted upon by the pandemic. The Partnerships Team Leader, Andy Bailey noted that suicide prevention fell under the remit of the Health and Wellbeing agenda, alongside mental health issues. The Chair, SDP noted that was therefore a different board to the SDP, the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor D Nicholls noted he was impressed with the decision to separate arson and deliberate fires from ASB in order to get a more accurate picture of the situation, noting it was an issue in his Electoral Division with fires linked to fly-tipping. He noted reference within the presentation to Coronavirus matters being classed as ASB and asked if Members could be provided with a breakdown by area, as he noted several anti-vaccine / anti-guidance posters had been put up in certain areas. The Chair, SDP asked if the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager could provide more information. The Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager noted that the Council would have information relating to fly-posting and the Police would have ASB information, and he would look to provide Members with further details.

Resolved:

That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2021/22

The Chairman asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee 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 the links to the County Vision and the SDP and set out the work that had been undertaken by the Committee within the past year, including remote meetings, and also looked forward to the forthcoming year. It was added that the report referred to the link of the Committee with the Police and Crime Panel.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the report set out suggested areas for consideration within the Work Programme and he explained that Senior Officers or Chairs of the SDP sub-groups would attend Committee to report back on their specific areas. He added that the report referred to issues highlighted by the previous Committee as being possible areas for consideration in the Work Programme, including ASB linked to off-road bikes and substance misuse reduction. He noted that there had also been a suggestion to revisit previous areas of work, including the partnership work undertaken to tackle arson in the east of the County.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the future dates of the Committee meeting were yet to be finalised, however, the Work Programme would be flexible in order to include any items that may appear within the year.

The Chair thanked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and noted that if any questions came to Members after the meeting, they could contact the Overview and Scrutiny Officer directly.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree the Work Programme 2021/22 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

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

9 September 2021



**County Durham Youth Justice Service –
Overview, Performance and Service
Improvement Plan 2021/22**

Report of:

John Pearce, Corporate Director, Children & Young People's Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report presents an overview of the Youth Justice Service, including the latest Service/Partnership performance. It highlights key achievements during the previous year, along with areas for improvement which the service will be focussed upon during the next year alongside our ongoing work to recover from the coronavirus outbreak and its impact on the youth justice system.

Executive Summary

- 2 Youth Offending Services (referred to as Youth Justice Service in Durham) 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'. The Local Authority, Police, National Probation Service (NPS) and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation (through the secondment of staff). In Durham, additional, non-statutory, funding/support is provided by the Police & Crime Commissioner and Public Health.
- 3 The role of the Youth Justice Service is to:
 - Assess the suitability of, and provide relevant interventions for, young people receiving an 'Out-of-Court Disposal' (Pre-Caution Disposal, Youth Caution & Conditional Caution)
 - Case-manage young people remanded on bail and in custody whilst awaiting court hearings

- Advise the court on sentencing
 - Assess all young people sentenced by the court, manage the sentence and provide relevant interventions to prevent offending
 - Provide support to the families of young people who offend
 - Support all victims (young and adult) of youth crime and support young victims of all crime.
- 4 Key points about our current performance show that there were continued falls in first time entrants to the youth justice system and a low level for use of custody. The latest reoffending rate for young people (those who reoffend within 12 months of their last caution/sentence) shows Durham to be lower than the north east average and on a par with the national average.
- 5 As well as the performance covered above, during 2020/21 key achievements were:
- Working with 137 victims in restorative approaches
 - Young people who offend undertaking 1,366 hours of unpaid work in communities
 - Supporting 67 young victims of crime
 - Continuing full service delivery throughout all Covid lockdowns
 - Supporting 52 parents of young people who offend and receiving a C&YP Now national Award for our parent support programme
 - Working with 43 community volunteers to provide support and mentoring for young people and families
- 6 Service improvement priorities for 2021/22 are:
- (a) Further improving the interventions we complete with young people and the quality of our assessments and intervention plans;
 - (b) Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences;
 - (c) Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us;
 - (d) Continue to improve our service to victims – both adults and young people;

- (e) Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims;
- (f) 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 and comment on the contents of this report and the work of the service

Background

- 8 A briefing document on CDYJS is provided at **Appendix 2**. County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), a statutory multi-agency partnership, is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, and is managed by them on behalf of the partnership. Active links are maintained at both strategic and operational level to Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Children, Young People and Families arenas.
- 9 CDYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children, Durham County Council. The membership and terms of reference of the Management Board are reviewed annually. Membership is at appropriate Senior Officer level.
- 10 CDYJS is line-managed, on behalf of the partnership, by Durham County Council. The Service is part of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children Service (EHIVCS).
- 11 62 staff are employed by Durham County Council on behalf of the partnership and 12 full time equivalent staff are seconded/deployed from partners (Durham Constabulary, National Probation Service, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Mental Health Trust (TEWV) and Humankind. In addition, there are 40 volunteers working with the service.

Current Performance Report:

(a) Performance against National Outcome Measures

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

The latest reported rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham is **179**, a 31% reduction on the previous year.

This is a pleasing further reduction and is significantly lower than both the national and North East regional rates.

- **Re-offending**

Latest Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (updated from document at appendix 2) shows a re-offending rate of **34.8%**. This is a reduction of 8 percentage points from the previous year performance.

This rate is lower than the regional rate and on a par with the national rate.

- **Use of Custody**

Custodial Sentences:

The rate of young people receiving a custodial sentence, per 1,000 10-17 years is **0.18**, a reduction of 75% on the previous year. This is on a par with both the National and North East with rates. 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: 92

This is a 69% reduction on the previous year. The bed nights refer to just 4 young people who all, ultimately, received a custodial sentence.

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

For the period 1.4.20 – 31.3.21, our work with the victims of youth crime has engaged **137** 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 **35** young people at any one time throughout the year (annual total of **67** young people). Young people who offend have also engaged in **1,366** 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 make donations to various charities (chosen by young people) of more than **£1,000**.

- 12 Along with all services of the Local Authority, CDYJS amended its service delivery methods in reaction to the demands of lockdown. However, we continued to provide a full service throughout all periods of COVID restrictions with staff managing both the risks presented by young people and their vulnerabilities. The Youth Justice Plan 2021/22 (endorsed by full Council on 14 July 2021) contains further details in respect of the Service's response to COVID restrictions.

The Voice of Young People, Families, Victims & Communities

- 13 CDYJS ensures that the views of young people, families, victims and communities continue to shape the things we do by:
- A structured process of feedback, for all groups, on the services we deliver
 - A Service consultation group of young people who are victims of crime
 - Structured feedback and support for community volunteers
 - Community volunteer oversight of the work of the Service
 - Elected Member discussions with the portfolio holder and presentation of reports to full County Council and Scrutiny
- 14 As a result of this work (and evidence that consultation has led to changes in the way we work), the Service has achieved national awards for our work with parents and our work with young victims. We have also been awarded 'quality marks' for 'Investing in Children' and 'Investing in Volunteers'.

Background papers

- CDYJS An Introduction (Appendix 2)

Contact: Dave Summers, YJS Manager **Tel:** 03000 265999

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications:

Statutory requirements placed on CDYJS and the Management Board include; complying with the statutory requirements laid out in s.38 to 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and other relevant sections of the Act; complying with National Standards for Youth Justice (including returning the annual National Standards audit); submitting required data to the YJB in adherence with the relevant YJB data recording guidance and approving the annual Youth Justice Plan.

Finance:

The Youth Justice Plan contains CDYJS partnership pooled budget and staff secondment arrangements for 2021/22. CDYJS budget comprises partnership funding, YJB funding and specific grant funding. The budget allocation is reviewed annually by CDYJS Management Board and all partners (Police, Probation, Health (CCGs) and Local Authority) agree funding contributions for the following year. Under the terms of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998; DCC, Durham Constabulary, the Probation Service and CCGs are required to both contribute staff and provide funding for a pooled budget for operating costs. The total budget for CDYJS for 2021/22 is £2,860,870. The total budget for CDYJS includes the cost of staff seconded/deployed to CDYJS from partners.

Consultation:

CDYJS Management Board, partners, staff, young people, parents/carers, victims and communities are regularly consulted.

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.

Climate Change:

None.

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 Youth Justice Plan (2021/22) provides detail on how the partnership will undertake those functions.

Staffing:

Staff establishment is included in the Youth Justice Plan (2021/22), in line with YJB requirements.

Accommodation:

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

Risk:

Risks to future delivery have been considered and are included in the Youth Justice Plan (2021/22).

Procurement:

Not applicable.



County Durham Youth Justice Service Introduction



County Durham Youth Justice Service

County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), a statutory multi-agency partnership, is part of Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council, and is managed by them on behalf of the partnership. Active links are maintained at both strategic and operational level to Criminal Justice, Community Safety and Children, Young People and Families arenas.

Strategic Purpose of CDYJS

- To prevent re-offending by children and young people;
- How the Youth Justice Service (YJS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
- To be achieved by delivering specialist interventions;
- Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection

*"I'm pleased I have apologised for what I did and had support to do it.
Thank you"*

(Young Person)

Governance – Management Board

CDYJS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children, Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council. The membership and terms of reference of the Management Board are reviewed annually. Membership is at appropriate Senior Officer level.

The Management Board consists of:

Children and Young People's Services, Durham County Council (DCC) - Chair;

Clinical Commissioning Group – Deputy Chair

Durham Constabulary;

National Probation Service;

Progression Team, DCC;

Office of the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (OPCVC);

Public Health, DCC;

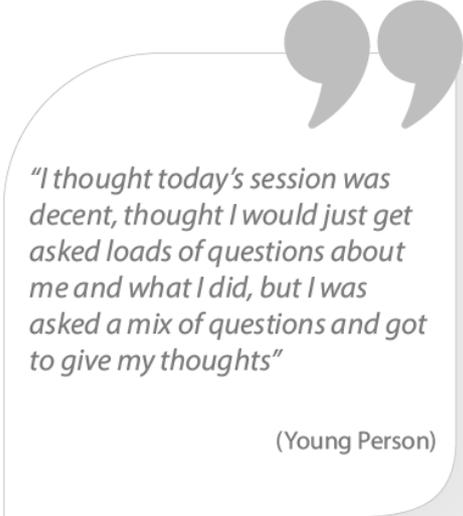
SEND and Inclusion, Education and Children's Social Care, DCC;

Equality & Strategy, DCC.

Membership of the Board is regularly reviewed and each year the Board participates in an annual development session where it analyses its structure and functions and develops an improvement plan. The last development session was undertaken in March 2021.

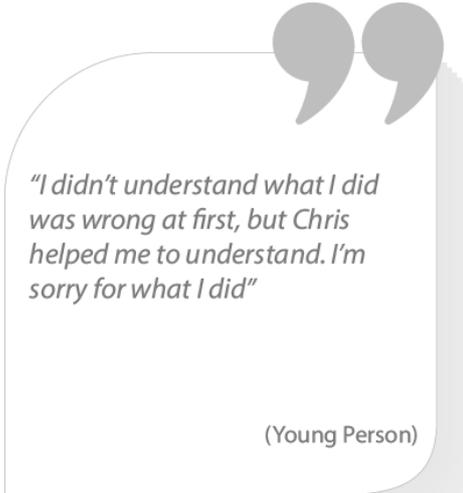
Members of the management board are also members of a range of other partnerships relevant to the work of CDYJS. Board members are required to ensure that they represent the views of CDYJS in those partnerships as well as their home agency. During the annual development session, board members consider how this can best be achieved and what support they require to undertake this role.

The YJS Manager and Chair of the Management Board provide regular formal reports and updates to many of the partnerships to enable them to monitor performance and contribute to the improvement of services for young people who offend, their families and victims. In addition, Durham County Council's Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee also monitor performance against the three national outcome measures and receive annual presentations from both the YJS Manager and Chair of the Board on current performance and progress against the Youth Justice Plan.



"I thought today's session was decent, thought I would just get asked loads of questions about me and what I did, but I was asked a mix of questions and got to give my thoughts"

(Young Person)



"I didn't understand what I did was wrong at first, but Chris helped me to understand. I'm sorry for what I did"

(Young Person)

Governance – Durham County Council

CDYJS is line-managed, on behalf of the Management Board, by Durham County Council. The Service is part of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children Service (EHIVCS), Children and Young Peoples Directorate. The Head of EHIVC is the Chair of CDYJS Management Board and the line manager of CDYJS Manager.

Agencies Staffing CDYJS

The following agencies/services deploy or second staff to CDYJS:

Durham County Council

Durham Constabulary

National Probation Service

Tees, Esk & Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by CCG)

Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by Public Health)

Humankind (Funded by Public Health)

North Tees & Hartlepool Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Funded by CCG).

Budget 2021/22

CDYJS budget is comprised of the following contributions:

- Partnership cash funding (DCC, Police, OPCVC, NPS, CCG)
- Partnership staff secondments/deployments (Police, NPS, TEWV, H&DFT, NTHFT, Humankind)
- Youth Justice Board (YJB) Grant
- Youth Custody Service (YCS) Remand Grant
- Specific Grant Funding

Each year the Management Board considers individual contributions and the budget for the following year is agreed.

For 2021/22 the total value (staff & cash contribution) of the pooled budget for CDYJS is: £2,860,870

The Management Board believe this represents very good value for money and well-developed use of its collective pooled resources. Since 2014 the service has achieved a 63% reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system (FTEs); a 56% reduction in the number of young people offending and a 47% reduction in the total number of offences committed. In addition, the service has reduced the rate of reoffending by young people already convicted of previous offending by 11 percentage points since last year.

Service and Staffing Structure

62 staff are employed by Durham County Council on behalf of the partnership and 12fte are seconded from partners (Durham Constabulary, National Probation Service, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT), Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Mental Health Trust (TEWV) and Humankind.

There are 40 volunteers working with the service to deliver:

Referral Order Panels

Mentoring

Work with Victims

Work with Parents

Independent visiting for children looked after

All staff and volunteers are trained in:

Restorative Approaches/ Restorative Justice

Safeguarding

Speech, language, and communication needs

The Service staffing fully complies with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, including:

Social Workers

Probation Officer (NPS)

Police Officers

Police staff

Health staff

Education/Employment Advisor.

There is a range of other staff, for example:

Managers

Youth Justice Consultants

Case Managers

Victim Liaison Officers

Family Support Officer

Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) Officer

Reparation Officer

Administration staff

Intervention Team staff who deliver a range of interventions with young people to reduce re-offending, including ISS, reparation, and out of court disposals

Management Information Analysts

In addition, we have a dedicated, multi-disciplinary health team, comprising:

0.6fte Speech and Language Therapist

1fte Specialist Public Health Children's Nurse

2fte Health & Wellbeing Support Worker

2fte Substance Misuse Worker

0.5fte Consultant Clinical Psychologist.

The Voice of Young People

Young people play an active role in the work of CDYJS. Their feedback and involvement have helped to shape the Service Improvement Plan 2021/22, our response throughout the Covid19 pandemic and the priorities included in this Youth Justice Plan.

The service has numerous ways of obtaining young people's views, including:

- E-survey for all young people working with CDYJS
- Feedback on each intervention undertaken
- Ad hoc feedback on specific themes
- Manager reviews of cases with young people
- Referral Order panel reviews with young people
- Every assessment includes a self-assessment by the young person
- Re-engagement Panels with young people (for those at risk of breach/non-compliance)
- With Youth in Mind – young victims' consultation and engagement group.
- Structured interviews with victims by CDYJS volunteers.

The active participation of young people in their own assessments and intervention plans is a theme running through all CDYJS quality assurance work and remains a priority in the Service Improvement Plan for 2021/22.

Through our extensive work to improve our understanding of young people's communication needs, we have shaped our approach to ensure that young people's experience of CDYJS is as positive as possible and really helps to improve their outcomes. We have transformed the way we work and developed our own resources which ensure all young people can contribute to the work we plan and undertake with them. We now share these resources nationally and share our expertise through the provision of training throughout the country.



*"The work today has taught me that it was wrong what I did and made me think of the consequences if I offended again, as peer pressure made me do it.
Lesson learnt!"*

(Young Person)

Work with victims, including young victims

Our work with the victims of youth crime in 2020/21 has engaged a further 137 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 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 around 35 young people at any one time throughout the year. Young people who offend have also engaged in 1366 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

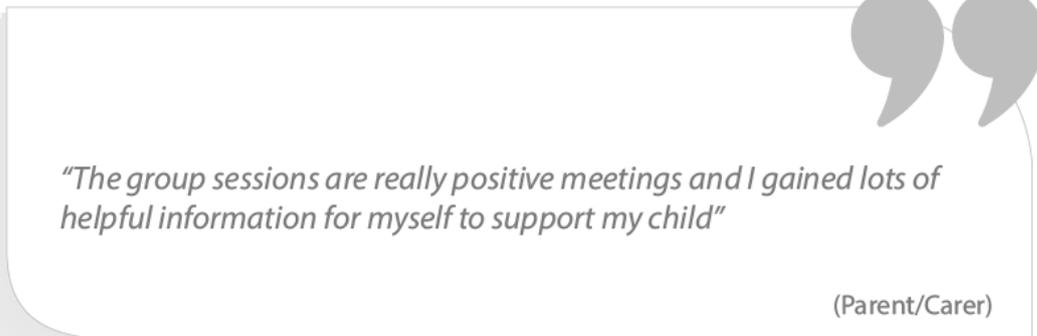


"Thanks for bringing Dan down. I'm glad to have met him and to see he is a young man who made a mistake. I didn't know much about this type of meeting (restorative conference) but it is definitely a good idea. Thank you"

(Victim of offending)

Work with Parents

CDYJS works with the parents of young people who have offended. We provide individual and group sessions for parents. All our work is based upon supporting parents and working in partnership, NOT blaming parents for their child's offending.



"The group sessions are really positive meetings and I gained lots of helpful information for myself to support my child"

(Parent/Carer)

National Recognition

During 2020/21, CDYJS was awarded a Children & Young People Now Award for our service to parents of young people who are victims of their child's behaviour. We were praised for our innovation and dedication to providing support for parents who, otherwise, felt they were alone in their experiences. CDYJS allows parents the opportunity to share their experiences and learn, from each other, how to do things differently.

In addition, we have once again achieved the award of both Investor in Children and Investor in Volunteers

"I just wanted to thank you so much for your help and support with Sarah. It feels so good to have someone who I can talk to and feel reassured that there are people out there who care. Sarah is loving the support too"

(Parent of young victim of offending)



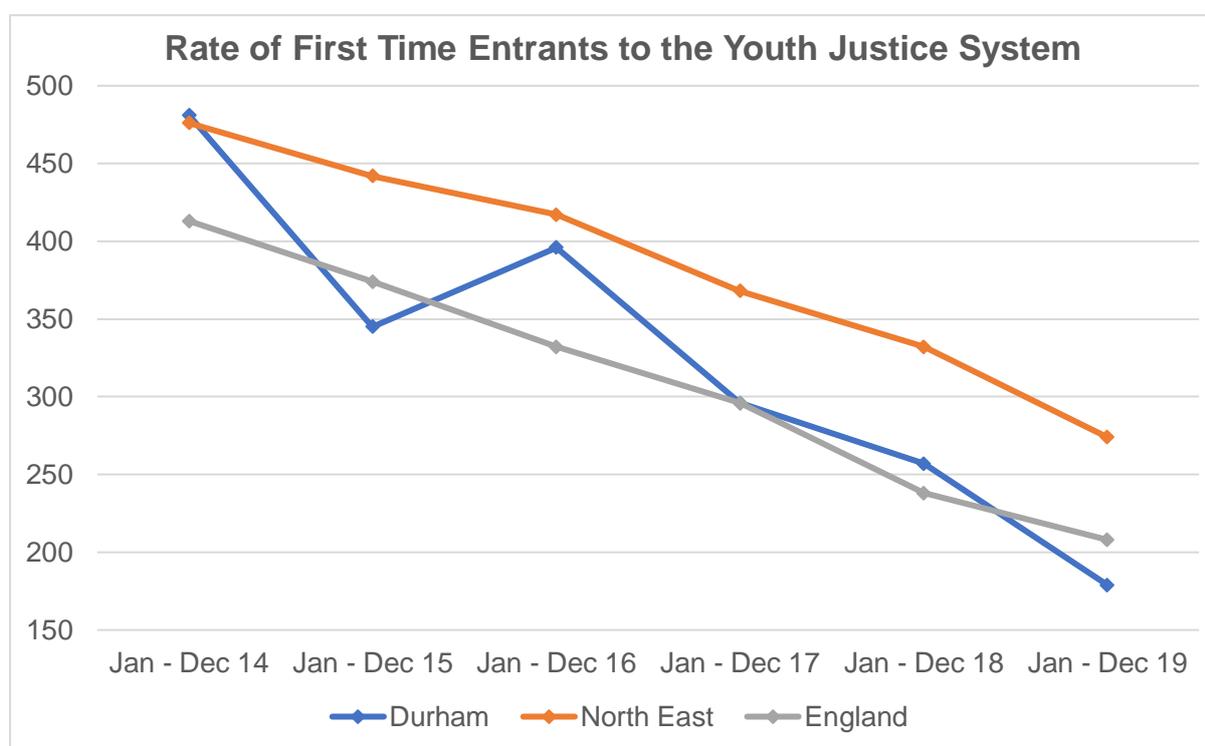
Current Performance

The performance of the Youth Justice Service and partnership is currently monitored by three nationally imposed measures and a range of local measures.

The three national measures are:

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

Between January and December 2019, the rate of FTEs per 100,000 10-17 years population in County Durham was 179, which is lower than both the England rate (208) and that of the North East Region as a whole (274).

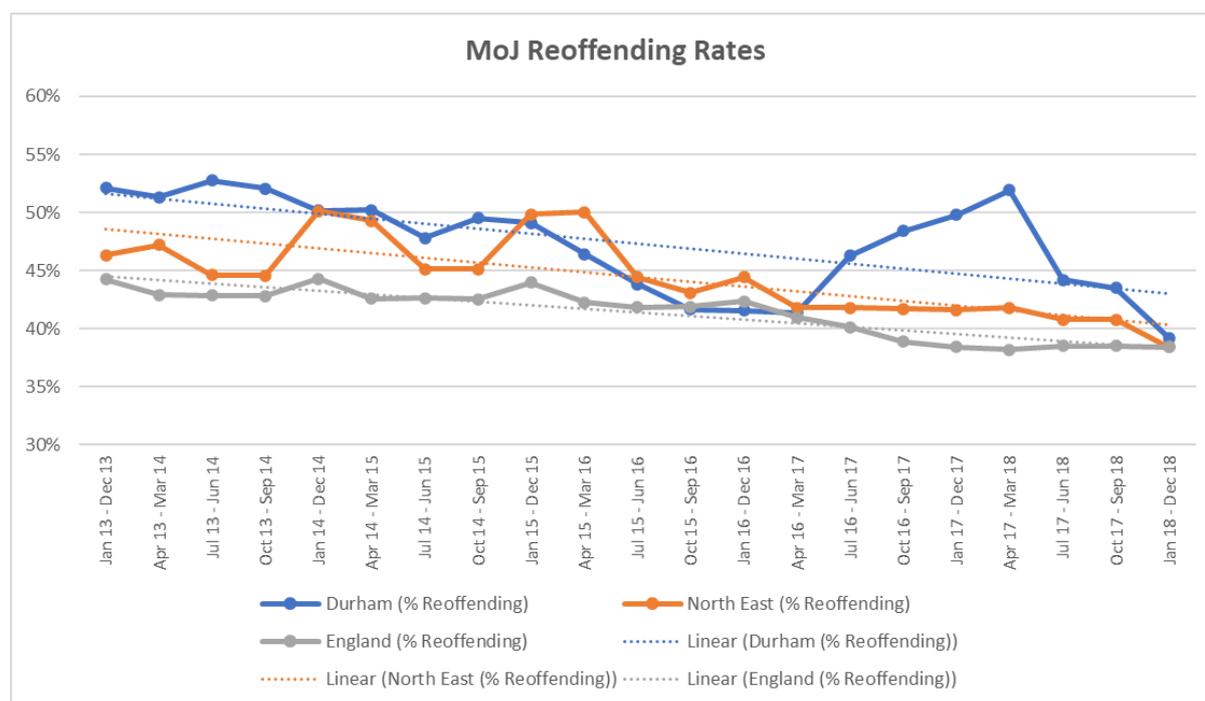


*"Just want to say thank you for your advice. I sent Mark a text yesterday praising him for something he'd done and I got a text back off him saying 'thank you mam love u'!
It's the little things!!*

(Parent)

Reducing Re-offending

Ministry of Justice data (Cohort derived January to December 2018) shows a re-offending rate of 39.2% which is a reduction of 10.6 percentage points compared to the previous year (49.8%). This rate is marginally higher than both the National and North East rate of 38.4% but shows a much greater rate of improvement.



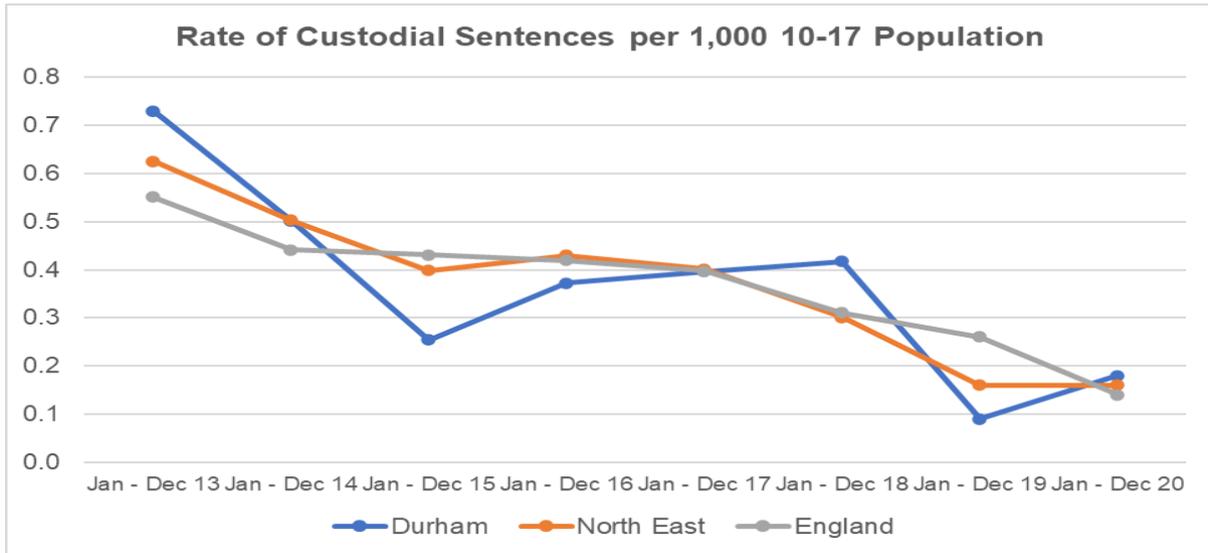
Reducing the Use of Custody

Custodial Sentences

County Durham Youth Justice System (CDYJS) performance has seen a big reduction in the last two years compared with previous years with a rate 0.18 per 1,000 10-17 year olds during January– December 2020 (compared with 0.42 in 2018). This is marginally higher than both the National and North East averages with rates of 0.14 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: 92

This is a 69% reduction on the previous year (295 nights). The 92 nights relates to just 4 young people, all of whom ultimately resulted in custodial sentences.

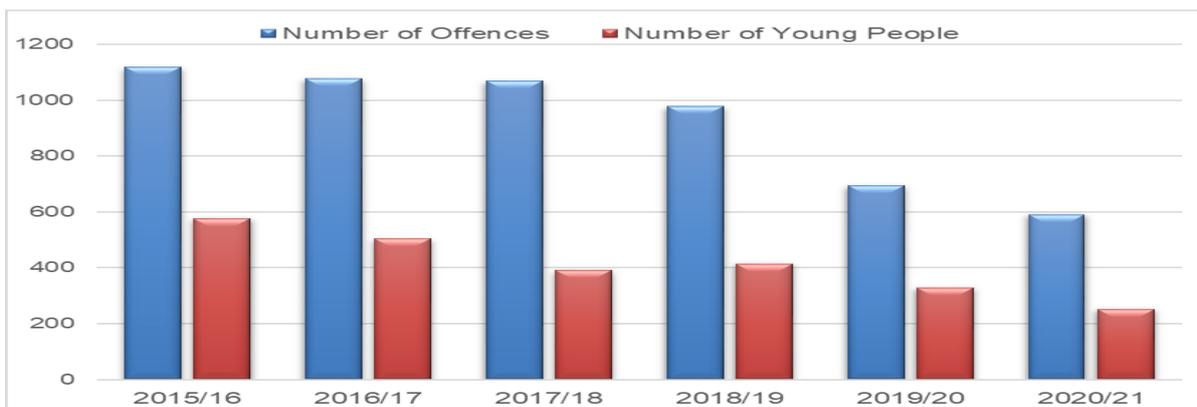


Work with victims, including young victims

Our work with the victims of youth crime in 2020/21 has engaged a further 137 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 around 35 young people at any one time throughout the year. Young people who offend have also engaged in 1366 hours of unpaid work in and across communities in County Durham as a means of reparation.

Number of Young People Offending and Offences Committed

We have achieved a **47.2% reduction** in the number of offences committed, from 1118 in 2015/16 to 590 in 2020/21, and an **56.4% reduction** in the number of young people offending, from 576 in 2015/16 to 251 in 2020/21. This includes **all** offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years, resulting in a Pre-Reprimand Disposal (PRD) 2008 - 2013 / Pre-Caution Disposal (PCD) 2013 onwards, out of court disposal or a court conviction.



CDYJS Statutory Functions

Provision of:

Case management of Court Orders (Community and Custody) in line with National Standards for Youth Justice

Out of Court Disposals

Specialist assessment based on criminogenic factors and desistance

Interventions to reduce re-offending

Court staffing (Youth, Crown, Remand Courts including Saturday and Bank Holiday working)

Bail Supervision functions

Appropriate Adult service for Police interviews (PACE)

Pre-Sentence Reports for Courts

Community Volunteers (Referral Order Panels)

Recruit, train, manage, supervise, and deploy volunteers to carry out statutory functions

Referral Order Panel Reports

'Prevention' services to prevent youth crime

Anti-Social Behaviour escalation supervision

Service to victims of youth crime (both young people and adults)

Delivery of court-ordered reparation to community and victims

Delivery of Unpaid Work requirements (16/17 years old)

Transition services to NPS/CRC

YJMIS data / management info to Youth Justice Board / Ministry of Justice regarding youth justice cases

Parenting Orders imposed in the Youth Court (Criminal Matters)

Case management of Harmful Sexual Behaviour – young people under 18

Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation (RYDA)

Resettlement of young people after custody

Duty to:

Comply with National Standards for Youth Justice

Comply with arrangements for multi-agency public protection (MAPPA)

Comply with relevant legislation

Cooperate with MAPPA/DSCP/SDP (CSP)

Provide and support a Management Board

Produce and deliver an annual Youth Justice Plan

Provide assistance to persons determining whether Youth Cautions or Youth Conditional Cautions should be given

Cooperate with Children's Services to improve wellbeing of children and young people in County Durham

Additional Functions

Provision of Out of Court Disposals (service delivery)

Provision of Think Family / Stronger Families

Manage safeguarding and risk management inherent in all the above

Team Around the Child (TAC) / Team Around the Family (TAF)

Assessment, Planning Interventions, Supervision (APIS)

Offending Behaviour Programmes (OBPs)

Contact Details

Youth Justice Service Manager - Dave Summers

dave.summers@durham.gov.uk



Chair, CDYJS Management Board – Martyn Stenton

martyn.stenton@durham.gov.uk



County Durham Youth Justice Service



Durham County Council
Council Offices
Civic Centre
North Terrace
Crook
DL15 9ES



Telephone:
03000 265 999

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County Durham Youth Justice Service

Martyn Stenton

Head of EHIVC & Chair CDYJS Management Board

Dave Summers

Youth Justice Service Manager



- **Introduction to the service** – role, governance, staffing, voice of young people, service recognition
- **Our performance**
- **How we work with young people**
- **Our service improvement priorities**

"I did the session on vehicle crime with my case manager. It was very helpful, couldn't ask for better people to help me"

(Young Person)

Introduction



- Statutory Partnership (Crime & Disorder Act 1998)
- Principle Aim – Prevent Offending by Children & Young People
- DCC responsibility to establish Youth Justice Service
- Statutory partners – Police, Probation Service, CCG
- Non-statutory partners – Police & Crime Commissioner, Public Health, TEWV, NTHFT, HFT & Humankind
- Statutory partners – second staff & contribute to pooled budget



Role of Youth Justice Service

- Assess the suitability of, and provide relevant interventions for, young people receiving an 'Out-of-Court Disposal' (Pre-Caution Disposal, Youth Caution & Conditional Caution)
- Case-manage young people remanded on bail and in custody whilst awaiting court hearings
- Advise the court on sentencing
- Assess all young people sentenced by the court, manage the sentence and provide relevant interventions to prevent offending
- Provide support to the families of young people who offend
- Support all victims (young and adult) of youth crime and support young victims of all crime.

Governance & Staffing

- Accountable to statutory, multi-agency Management Board
- Membership reviewed annually
- Links with other partnerships
- CDYJS Line-managed by C&YPS (EHIVC) on behalf of partnership
- Head of EHIVC is chair of Management Board
- Annual Youth Justice Plan
- 62 staff – DCC; 12 staff seconded from partners
- 42 community volunteers

Voice of Young People, Families, Victims & Communities

- A structured process of feedback, for all groups, on the services we deliver
- A service consultation group of young people who are victims of crime
- Structured feedback and support for community volunteers
- Community volunteer oversight of the work of the service

"I just wanted to thank you so much for your help and support with Sarah. It feels so good to have someone who I can talk to and feel reassured that there are people out there who care. Sarah is loving the support too"

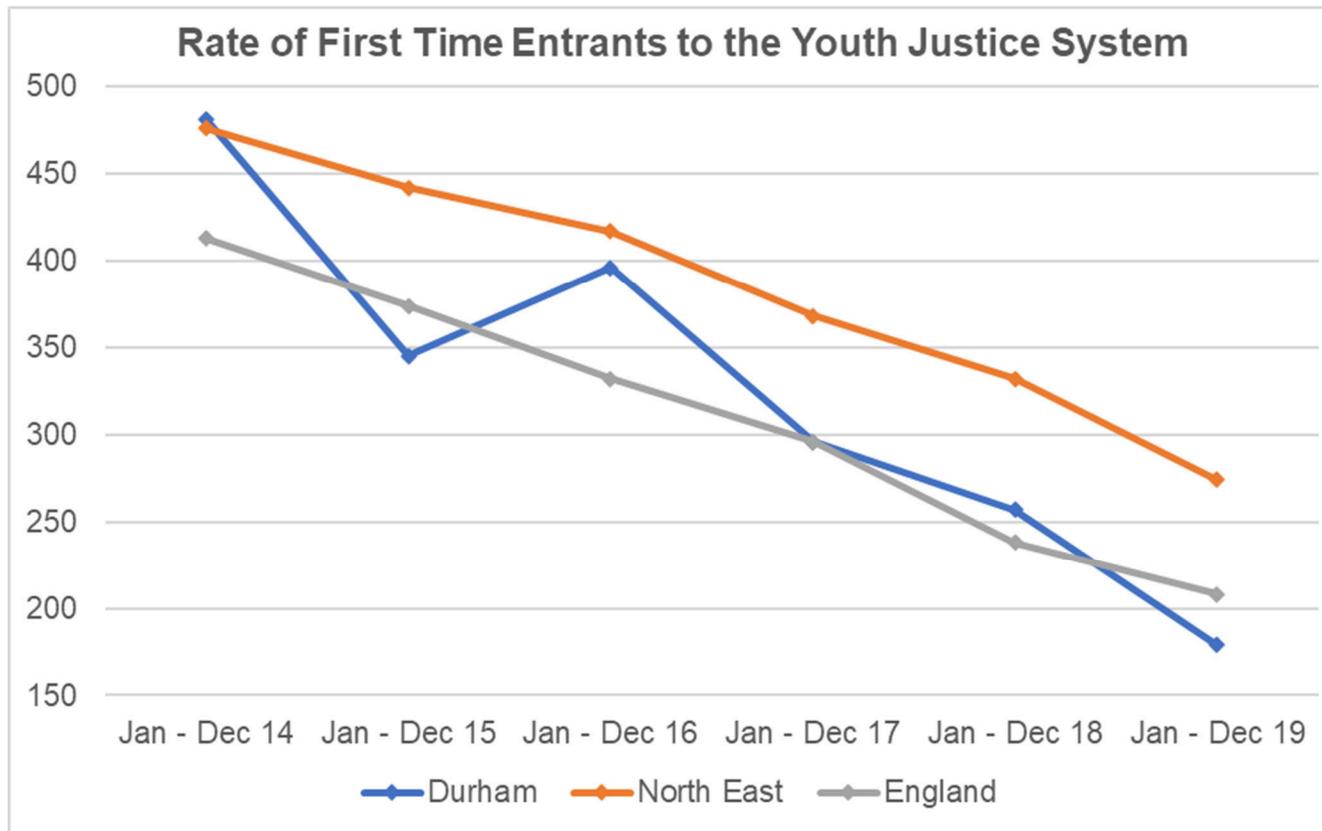
(Parent of young victim of offending)

Recognition 2020 - 2021

- C&YP Now Award – parenting group
- C&YP Now Award – ‘With Youth in Mind’
- Investing in Children
- Investing in Volunteers



Performance



Performance

National Measures:

- First time entrants (Rate per 100,000) – **179**
- Reoffending – **34.8%**
- Custody (Rate per 1,000) – **0.18**

Local Measures:

- Victims engaged – **137**
- Young Victims supported – **67**
- Reparation – **1,366 hours**
- Donation to Charity - **£1,000**
- Parents supported - **52**

What do we do?

Assessment of young person who offended:

- Factors against desistance
- Factors for desistance
- Health
- Screenings – Speech Language and Communication Needs, Mental Health, Substance Misuse

Victim:

- Support
- Restorative approaches

"Thanks for bringing Dan down. I'm glad to have met him and to see he is a young man who made a mistake. I didn't know much about this type of meeting (restorative conference) but it is definitely a good idea. Thank you"
(Victim of offending)

What do we do?

Interventions:

- Health: Trauma, Substance Misuse, Mental/Emotional, General
- Consequences
- Offence Specific
- Healthy Relationships
- Victims

Risk Management:

- Reoffending
- Harm
- Vulnerability

Improvement Priorities 2021/22

- Further improving the interventions we complete with young people and 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.

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

9 September 2021

Open Water Safety Update



Report of:

Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources (Interim)

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the committee with information regarding the actions taken by Durham County Council (The Council) and its partners in relation to Open Water Safety.

Executive Summary

- 2 The city safety group and county wide open water safety group convened during the reporting period to review open water safety interventions.
- 3 A new city centre action plan was developed and agreed by city safety group members, with assessments and inspections of county wide open water locations continuing to be undertaken.
- 4 A continuation of a proactive approach to open water safety education and awareness remains a crucial intervention and is being applied by both safety groups.
- 5 Statistically there has continued to be a positive trend in relation to the number of open water related incidents across the county.
- 6 There remains a good approach to partnership working and collaboration amongst the safety groups, with new partners being identified.

Recommendation

- 7 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
 - a. Note the reported progress made to date by CSG and OWSG

Background

- 8 There are currently two multiagency water safety groups within County Durham. In terms of governance, both water safety groups report into the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP).
- 9 The City Safety Group (CSG) was formed in January 2015 and comprises of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Durham University, Durham Students Union, Durham Cathedral and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. The CSG is now chaired by Alan Patrickson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change. The CSG continues to meet on a quarterly basis.
- 10 From a County wide perspective, the open water safety group (OWSG) is chaired by the Council Occupational Health & Safety Manager. It was established in February 2015, with a remit of reviewing the Councils internal open water safety policy and focusing on safety relating to areas of open water (e.g., lakes, rivers, reservoirs) other than in Durham city centre. The OWSG also meets on a quarterly basis.
- 11 Table 1 below indicates the number of non-fatal and fatal water related incidents in County Durham since 2013. This data has been validated using the national water accident & incident database (WAID), regional emergency service and Council incident reporting data.

Table 1- Open Water Incident Statistics 2013/14- 2020/21

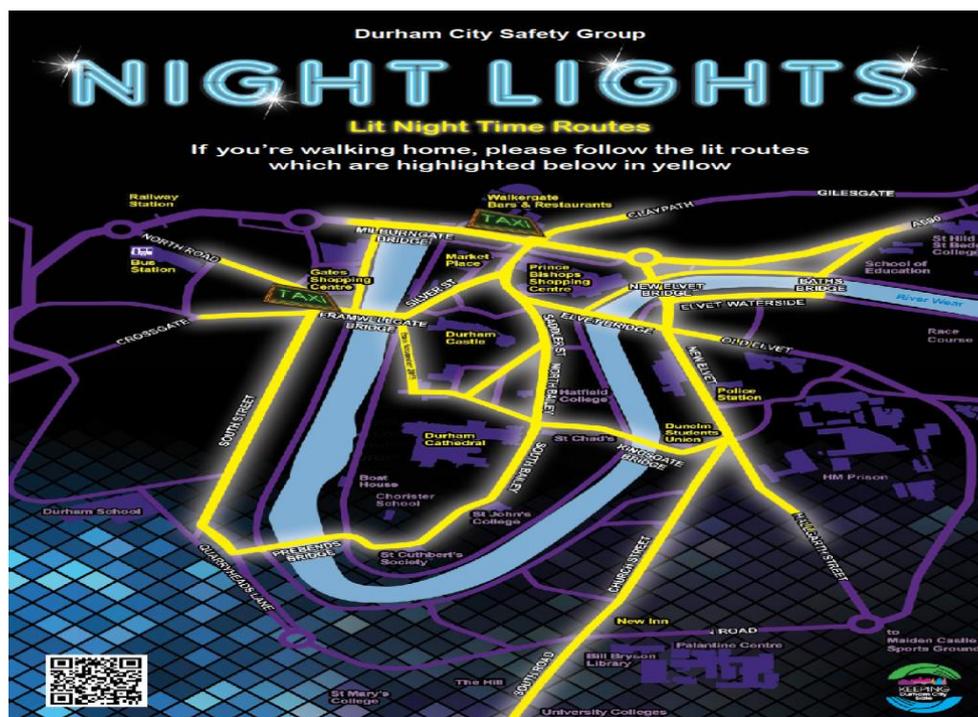
Year	Durham City Centre			County Durham (Exc. Durham City centre)		
	Near miss	Injury	Fatality	Near miss	Injury	Fatality
2013/14	13	1	1	3	1	2
2014/15	5	1	4	5	2	3
2015/16	3	1	0	8	5	2
2016/17	2	1	0	1	2	1
2017/18	2	3	0	3	5	0
2018/19	3	6	1	1	1	2
2019/20	2	4	0	6	3	1
2020/21	2	0	0	8	3	2

- 12 Fatal incidents have been subject to scrutiny by HM Coroner for Durham and Darlington in terms of prevention of future deaths. Updates have been provided by CSG and OWSG on an ongoing basis to keep HM Coroner up to date with progress being made in relation to water safety within the County.
- 13 It is apparent from analysis of incident statistics that mental health and self-harm are an emerging cause of water related incidents within the city centre and county wide. Work with public health mental health and suicide prevention colleagues has been undertaken to ensure that multiagency support and interventions are in place and continue to be reviewed for any specific locations or cohorts in the county.

City Safety Group

- 14 Throughout 2020/21 the CSG has been continuing to monitor the riverside development projects to ensure that any public safety issues and impacts were identified with the developers. Further work is scheduled in relation to engaging ROSPA independent consultants to review the riverside developments when they are nearing completion and are accessible to the public.
- 15 A review of the City Safety group action plan was undertaken and agreed by group partners. This action plan will incorporate several proactive interventions aimed at reducing open water related risks amongst other city centre risks and will be monitored via the multiagency group. All previous control measures including lighting, physical barriers, safety signage, public rescue equipment and licensed premises training, awareness initiatives and public safety campaigns will be reviewed and/or redelivered as part of the new action plan.
- 16 A monthly cycle of inspection and monitoring continues in relation to the completion of all physical safety infrastructure works in the city centre. This provides the CSG with assurance that the control measures identified in 2016/17 remain effectively in situ and proactively identifies any further actions required.
- 17 The CSG has once again reviewed arrangements for student induction weeks to ensure that appropriate arrangements had been put in place and partners were working in collaboration. A specific student induction task and finish group was established and work was undertaken in quarter two of 2020/21 to ensure that safety related controls were in place for Sep 2021 induction week.

- 18 Student induction week planning involves collaborative work with the police, university, business and licensed premises. The work particularly focused on the high footfall night-time economy areas within the City and it was positive that the activities went safely and without incident. COVID related restrictions were in place during the freshers week period and this impacted on footfall levels and license premise activity.
- 19 The university continues to embed the student alcohol awareness and personal safety as part of induction and use the alcohol awareness and use policies which focus on making students aware of the potential effects of alcohol, particularly as they can relate to health, behaviour, safety and academic performance and to establish guidelines for its proper use. The nightlights safety map (below) has also been cascaded throughout the university colleges and used as part of induction. It is downloadable via a QR code on all marketing materials and published on a variety of web sites. This information is also available through a 'student app' which has recently been developed. This is also displayed in licensed premises and student bars.



- 20 It is positive to report that since the formation of the CSG, there have been a continued reduction in water related incidents within the city centre and zero in 5 of the 6 reporting periods. Whilst the introduction of physical safety improvements cannot be attributed in isolation to the reduction in incidents, these have had a significant impact in conjunction with the broader range of educational and awareness initiatives.

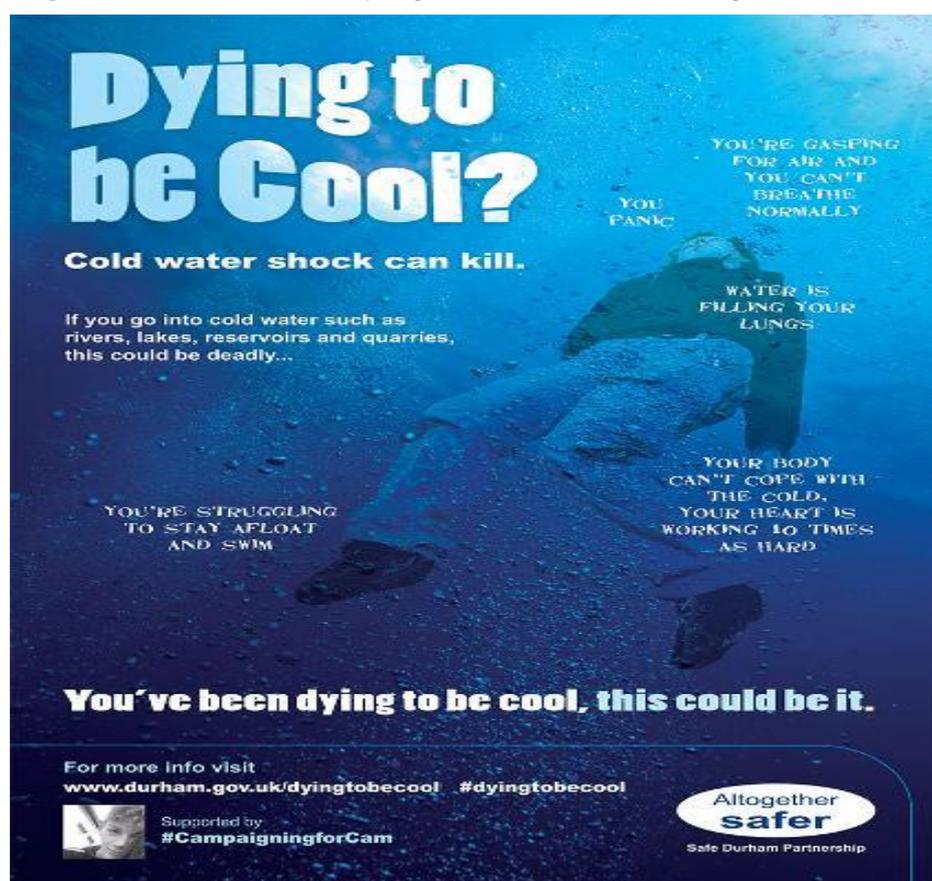
- 21 The CSG are looking to reinstate the best bar none scheme, which will support all Durham city licensees to improve guardianship arrangements in the city. The aim of this is to prevent people who are vulnerable due to alcohol consumption from being left to walk home alone. Plans are also being made to undertake further alcohol retail training to all new staff working in student union bars.
- 22 The Durham university night bus has been replaced with shuttle vehicles which support the 'get home stay safe scheme' and support vulnerable students in an emergency situation by helping them get home safely if they have no funds to pay for their fare. Students can also use a taxi firm, which is a member of the scheme as an alternative means of safe transport.
- 23 Licensed premises in close proximity of the River corridor adjacent to Old Elvet Bridge are also going to be approached as part of the revised action plan to review risk assessments of their public realm spaces in relation to water safety. Previous risk assessments have resulted in physical safety improvements to four licensed premises in a higher risk location of the river corridor within the city centre. Safety improvements introduced by licensed premises include introduction of physical barriers, improved lighting, public rescue equipment and water safety signage.

Open Water Safety Group

- 24 The OWSG continues to manage and monitor County wide open water safety risks. A schedule of monitoring and reassessment of priority risk locations identified in the initial county wide assessment process continues to be applied in order to provide assurance. The OWSG has incorporated new partners to the group from Northumbrian water in order to enhance and provide consistent water safety campaigns and messaging across the county.
- 25 Following an initial risk identification and analysis exercise, risk assessments, using RoSPA assessment methodology, were completed for 256 priority locations across the county. Despite COVID restrictions, reassessments of priority locations prior to the summer holiday periods are routinely completed to ensure that safety controls remain in situ.
- 26 The assessments of priority locations completed to date have resulted in physical safety improvements to fencing and barriers at high footfall foreseeable risk locations, installation of improved public rescue equipment, hazard warning signage and footpath resurfacing.

- 27 The OWSG were responsible for planning and implementation of water safety educational campaigns throughout 2020/21. Whilst these were significantly impacted during the reporting period in terms of not being able to deliver assemblies and undertake some promotional activities, there remained a range of awareness activities delivered.
- 28 Education campaigns included promotions of national drowning prevention weeks and once again the annual 'dying to be cool' cold water shock safety campaign through a variation of social media, posters and alerts at high footfall open water sites across the county.
- 29 Campaign materials include are provided via a water safety webpage, <http://www.durham.gov.uk/watersafety>, water safety video, poster, campaign video and social media supporting information. The campaign was again endorsed and supported by Fiona Gosling, mother of Cameron Gosling who tragically died from cold water immersion shock in July 2015 at Witton-le-Wear.
- 30 Work is ongoing to further promote water safety messages to primary age children via the youth groups of the police (mini police) and rescue services (young fire officers). Options to fund further water safety initiatives are also currently being explored. Promotion of water safety messages to local communities through the Durham County News, Area Action Partnerships and Town and Parish Councils has also taken place.

Image 2 – example of 'Dying to be Cool' campaign material



Conclusions

- 31 Recent national statistics in June and July 2021 have indicated that open water safety related risks very much remain and there is a requirement on responsible organisations to impart risk based educations and awareness into their communities and settings.
- 32 Statistics indicate that the formation of CSG and OWSG has had a positive impact in terms of a reduction in non-fatal and fatal incidents involving open water. However, it remains the view of both groups that even one fatality is always one too many in terms of the devastating impact on families, friends and the community. It places a significant burden on society both in terms of direct costs and the years of life that are lost.
- 33 The characteristics and factors regarding drowning risks remain complex and multi-factorial. It is unequivocal that drowning prevention cannot be achieved by the introduction of physical safety controls in isolation. Focus must remain on a long term strategy of education and awareness, particularly at high risk groups, to ensure that fatalities and life changing injuries are minimised as much as possible.
- 34 The CSG and OWSG will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and monitor and review the physical and cultural safety improvements introduced. In terms of the OWSG, collaborative working with partner organisations will continue in 2021/22 and beyond, with particular emphasis being placed on preventative and educational initiatives for local schools and to ensure key water risk are appropriately managed and communicated to stakeholders. The development of a calendar of water safety initiatives and events for 2021/22 will be effective in coordinating approaches and avoidance of duplication of campaigns and activities.

Background Papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Kevin Lough, Occupational Health and Safety Manager
Tel: 03000 263381

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Compliance with statutory legislative requirements reduce risks of enforcement action and/or prosecution against the council or individuals. It will also assist in defending civil claims against the council from employees and members of the public, including service users.

Finance

Compliance with legislative requirements will reduce increased service delivery costs, financial penalties associated with H&S sentencing guidelines 2016 and successful civil claims against the council. Financial costs may be insured to some degree and uninsured in some cases, with poor outcomes possibly leading to increased insurance premiums. Financial implications also include staff absence associated with physical and mental ill health, staff training, retention, recruitment and productivity.

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Climate Change

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

This report considers physical and psychological risks to member of the public, employees and service users. Risks also relate to the failure to comply with statutory legislative requirements, which may result in civil action being brought against the Council and enforcement action, including prosecution against the Council or individuals. These enforcement actions may result in financial penalties, loss of reputation and reduction in business continuity.

Procurement

Minimal procurement and supplier related issues which are associated with purchase and maintenance of safety related infrastructure in city centre and county wide locations.

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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Open Water safety Update
September 2021



Open Water Safety Governance



Durham City Safety Group

Durham
County Council

Altogether Better Policing

Durham
University

DURHAM STUDENTS' UNION
Enabling Students

DURHAM CATHEDRAL
THE MIND OF THE CITIES

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

County Durham Open Water Safety Group

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Service

Durham
County Council

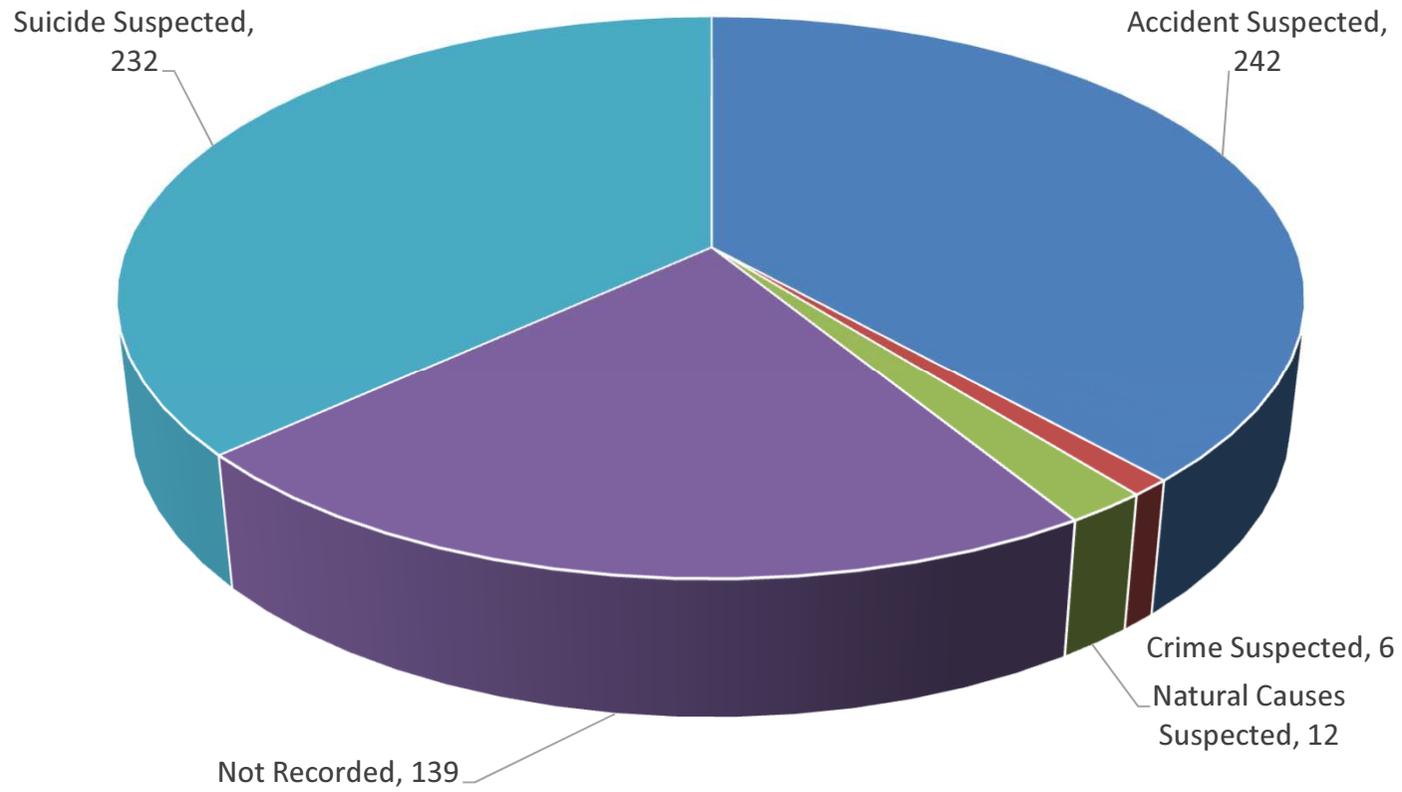
NORTHUMBRIAN WATER

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

The national picture

- Figures indicate that a total of 631 people lost their lives in 2020, of which 232 were suspected suicide.
- Inland drowning (e.g. lakes, reservoirs, rivers etc) remains the common cause in terms of location.
- Drowning is a male dominated issue, with a ratio of seven males to one female losing their lives to drowning.
- The most prevalent age group for drowning victims was 20-24.
- Drownings of individuals with alcohol or drugs in their system were 69 for 2020.
- The most startling fact is that the largest 'grouping' of people losing their lives in 2020 was once again, those people who had no intention of going into the water and were walking or running close to water

2020 UK Drowning causes

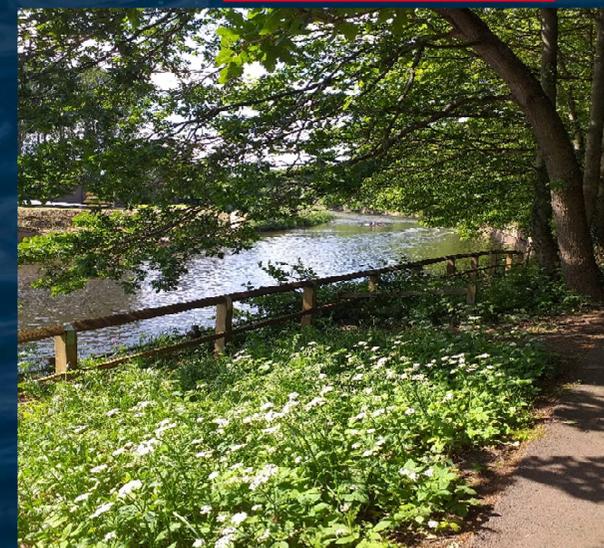


County Durham

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2018/19	3	6	1	1	1	2
2019/20	2	4	0	6	3	1
2020/21	2	0	0	8	3	2

Durham City

- Continued emphasis on partnership working and collective responsibility
- RoSPA commissioned to undertake further independent reviews of new city developments pre and post completion
- Work with developers and site managers
- Considering other relevant aspects that impact on city centre safety
- New works undertaken to further enhance safety in city river corridor
- Investigations of incidents and near misses to ensure controls remain effective
- Regular monitoring and inspection of city centre river routes and control measures

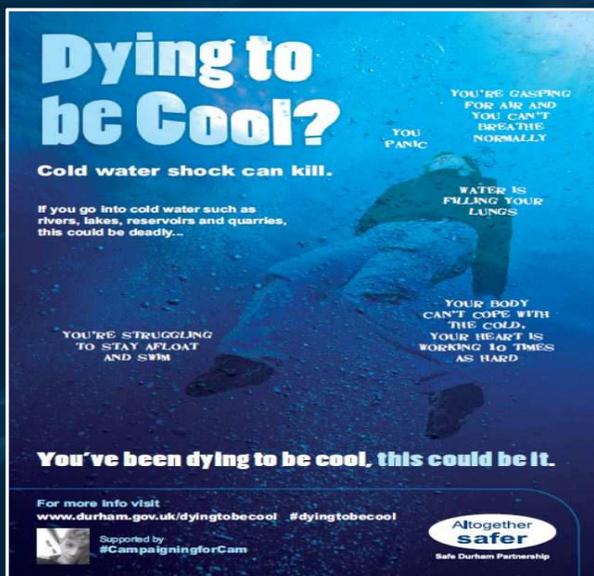


County Wide

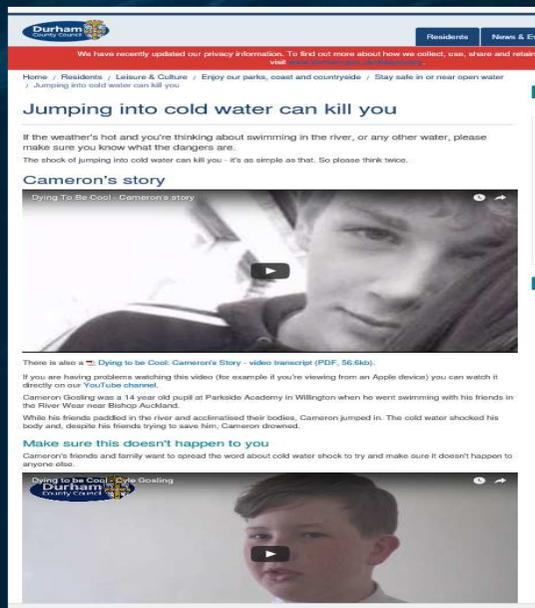
- ✓ Cold Water Shock 'Dying to be cool' Campaign delivery
- ✓ Cinema/Bus stop advertising
- ✓ Extensive social media at risk periods
- ✓ Plan for education and awareness again in 2021/22
- ✓ Re-assessment of priority locations
- ✓ Investigations and assessment of public safety concerns raised
- ✓ Monitoring of high footfall locations in peak periods
- ✓ Work with landowners to ensure public safety standards and common approach



2021 'Dying to be Cool' campaign



- Relunched May –August 2021
- Pre-summer period focus
- Partner comms and promotion
- Fiona Gosling fronted the remote campaign.
- Local and regional media engagement



Looking Forward

- Strengthening of partnership approach
- Continued leadership, governance and risk based approach
- Revision of action plans
- Education, awareness and new initiatives, using existing campaign materials
- Ongoing assessment of current risk and assessment where potential new risks and trends emerge
- Investigation of all incidents and near misses
- Identification of new and emerging trends and causation factors
- Working closely with public health around suicide prevention and mental health
- Influencing designers and developers to reduce risk to a tolerable level
- Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of existing controls
- Regular monitoring and inspection of city centre river routes and control measures

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

9 September 2021

**Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction
Group Update 2021**



Report of Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Durham County Council

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update of all activity relating to reducing alcohol and drug harms during 2020-21, the year of the pandemic.
- 2 To update on the refresh of The Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction group (ADHRG) Plan on a Page (POP) and Action Plan for 2021-22.
- 3 To reflect on the impact and consequential developments during COVID-19.

Executive summary

- 4 The report covers the work of a range of partners engaged in the ADHRG to reduce the impact of alcohol and substance misuse harm and includes updates on:
 - The impact of COVID-19 on alcohol and drug related harms. Nationally and locally alcohol related deaths have increased during the pandemic. Local Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services (DARS) have maintained the vast majority of clients engaged throughout the pandemic which is encouraging.
 - The County Durham Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group (ADHRG) Plan on a Page (POP) 2021-2025, Action Plan 2021-22 and Terms of Reference (TORs) have been reviewed and updated in line with the SDP Plan 2021-25.

- County Durham continue to manage the Balance contract during 2021-22 with Balance's footprint remaining as seven Local Authority areas. Campaign materials from Balance continue to be adopted by County Durham and cascaded to partners to maximise impact at a local level.
- Public Health continue to support licensing to utilise innovative approaches to licensing, which promote Public Health objectives including the vision of an Alcohol Free Childhood.
- The recommendations from the 2017/18 Health Needs Assessment (HNA) on long-term opiate users were reviewed in May 2021. Progress has been made to review medication and offer opportunities for further input from a mental health perspective for opiate clients. Success has been reflected in the increase in Opiate Successful Completions.
- The ADHRG continue to meet quarterly to review substance misuse related deaths (SMRD's) and implement any learning: including increased naloxone provision across the county. County Durham has the lowest rate of drug related deaths per 100,000 population in the North East region.
- The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) has performed well over the pandemic, maintaining the majority of clients and improving successful completion rates across all drug and alcohol treatments to above national levels.
- The Women's Recovery Academy (WRAD) has been approved and has been running 3 days a week from Eden House, Consett since March 2021. A timetable of work has been developed and women have been recruited to the programme.
- Opportunities to attract new funding from Public Health England (PHE) has resulted in 3 partnership submissions.
 - i) Universal Funding has been secured (£545k) to help reduce crime in relation to drug use in County Durham.
 - ii) County Durham has led a sub-regional consortia of LAs for commissioning inpatient detoxification beds at a value of £580,000. This programme aims to bring inpatient detoxification options to the LA9 areas.
 - iii) The outcome of a bid for £274,000 to address homelessness prevention, rough sleeping and substance misuse is pending.

- A collaborative partnership approach to tackle drug and alcohol related harm in County Durham has been maintained and developed during 2020/21. All meetings have continued virtually with engagement from partners increasing on last year due to no travel commitments.

5 The are no areas of work that are highlighted as a risk or require an exception report.

Recommendation(s)

6 Members of the Committee are recommended to:

- (a) Note the content of this report as an annual update on the progress of the ADHRG.

Background

- 7 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and subsequent legislation requires responsible authorities in Local Authority areas to develop and implement a Partnership Plan. In County Durham this partnership is called the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 8 The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Plan highlights alcohol and substance misuse related harm as a priority and has brought together a range of stakeholders engaged in alcohol and drug harm reduction to oversee the work in this area.
- 9 This report provides the HWB with an update on all activity relating to reducing alcohol and drug harms in 2020-21, during the year of the pandemic and highlights new developments to address need in local communities.

Impact of Covid-19 on Alcohol and Drug Harms

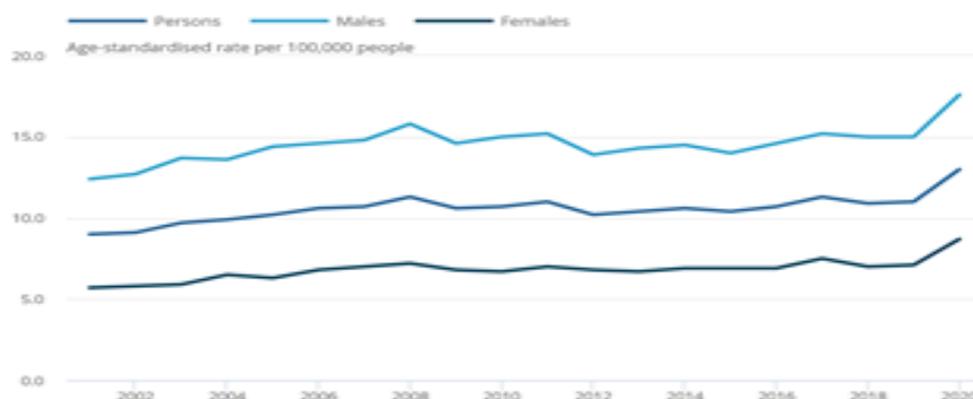
Alcohol Harms

- 10 An Office for National Statistics report has revealed there were 7,423 deaths linked to drinking last year, which was a fifth more than in 2019 and the highest number since records began in 2001. Provisional data for England and Wales show there were 5,460 deaths related to alcohol-specific causes registered in the first three quarters of 2020 (Jan to Sept during the commencement of the Covid-19 pandemic), a 16.4% increase compared with the same nine-month period in 2019.

Image 1: The alcohol-specific death rate for 2020 was 18.2% higher than the previous year

Figure 1: The alcohol-specific death rate for 2020 was 18.2% higher than the previous year

Age-standardised alcohol-specific death rates per 100,000 people, by sex; England and Wales, deaths registered between 2001 and 2020



- 11 In the North East death rates from alcohol rose from 16.6 per 100,000 people in 2019 to 20.0 per 100,000 people in 2020 – a rise of around 20.5%. Alcohol specific deaths rose quickly from April 2020 as the pandemic resulted in the first national lockdown.
- 12 Most deaths were related to long-term drinking problems and dependency – with alcoholic liver disease making up 80 per cent of cases. This may be due to a lack of willingness to access treatment, or an increase in alcohol intake. Men living in the most deprived areas were four times more likely to die from alcohol than men living in the most affluent areas.
- 13 Unfortunately as with Covid-19, the bulk of alcohol harm falls on the most deprived people in our communities and this is particularly worrying in the North East where, even before Covid-19, the North East already suffered from the highest rates of alcohol-related death and illness in England.
- 14 The number of alcohol seizures (all ages) has seen a reduction throughout 2020-21 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions – however this area of work is expected to be reinstated more heavily later in 2021.
- 15 Admission episodes to hospital for alcohol-specific conditions in County Durham has risen over the last 5 year period to a rate of 696 per 100,000 population in 2019/20. This is lower than the North East regional average of 936 per 100,000 population but significantly worse than the national average of 644 per 100,000 population.
- 16 A similar picture is shown when looking at admissions to hospital in County Durham for alcohol-related conditions (narrow) in 2018/19. The rate locally is lower than the regional average but higher than the England average. The figure of 758 per 100,000 is similar to recent years for County Durham. The North East sits at 908 per 100,000 and the England average is 664 per 100,000.

Drug Harms

- 17 Numbers in treatment during the pandemic have remained consistent; this is in contrast to other local areas. Spring 2020 did not see a drop in numbers or referrals as predicted. The latest figures for numbers in treatment and successful completions are presented later in the report under the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service update.
- 18 Police reported incidents which were drug related increased to 3.5% in 2020/21 compared to 2.8% in 2019/20. Anti-social behaviour which was drug related reduced however to 1.4% in 2020/21 from 1.6% in 2019/20.

- 19 Office of National Statistics (ONS) drug related death data 2018-2020 registrations was related on 3 August 2021. The North East continues to have the highest rate of deaths relating to drug misuse with 9.9 deaths per 100,000 population compared to the national England average of 5.0 per 100,000 population.
- 20 County Durham's **rate** is 8.3, the second lowest in the North East region. However, this can be misreported in the press as County Durham has the highest **number** of deaths due to the size of the population. Please see further detail in the SMRD section of the report.
- 21 Work is on-going to address Covid-19 vaccine inequality in County Durham. DARS clients are not classified as an eligible group by the the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in terms of attending an addiction service. However, many clients fall into eligible generic cohorts as a result of long-term conditions or homelessness. The service has segmented these clients and successfully supported them to access the vaccine. Spectrum have also accessed training to be in a position to deliver the vaccine should the JCVI position change.

Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group Update

- 22 The County Durham Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Plan on a Page (POP) 2021-2025 has been refreshed and aligned to the Safer Durham Partnership plan 2021-25. 61 of the 86 actions from the 2020/21 action plan have been completed and 25 are ongoing. New programmes of work from all partners on the group have also been included. The action plan is a collaborative multi-agency document that is updated quarterly and provides the group with clear objectives.
- 23 The Terms of Reference and membership have been updated: all tabled at the ADHRG meeting in June 2021. The refreshed performance indicators for the group continue to be well received; they provide a narrative alongside the figures to support partners' understanding of them in practice.
- 24 The Alcohol Declaration 2015 is to be reviewed and updated by the group in 2021/22.

Balance – The North East Alcohol Office

- 25 County Durham continued to manage the Balance contract during 2021-22 with Balance's footprint remaining as seven Local Authority areas. Campaign materials from Balance continue to be adopted by County Durham and cascaded to partners to maximise impact at a local level.

26 **“Alcohol - Not the Answer”** re-launched in February 2021 in response to increasing concerns about rising levels of alcohol consumption during Covid-19, particularly amongst people who were already drinking above the Chief Medical Officer’s low risk guidelines, and who were likely to be drinking even more as a result of pressure and anxiety during the pandemic. The campaign underlined the broad range of physical and mental health problems alcohol causes, why it is important to reduce drinking, and was targeted at men and women of all ages who are drinking more during Covid-19, with a focus on C2DE socioeconomic groups.



- **“What’s the harm?”** In May 2021, Balance launched the next phase of this campaign aimed at helping North East parents to understand Chief Medical Officer guidance around children and alcohol. The summer is often a peak time for teenage alcohol consumption, but the easing of lockdown has moved some of the issues usually experienced during the summer holidays forward in some local areas. The 2021 **“What’s the Harm”** campaign key messages highlight how alcohol consumption before the age of 18 can harm the developing body and brain, raise depression and anxiety and lead to risk taking behaviour.



- DCC’s communications and marketing approach has highlighted key messages; trying not to stockpile alcohol and limit the amount of alcohol bought, opting for non-alcoholic drinks to help stay within the 14 unit low-risk weekly guidelines, the importance of being a good role model to your kids around alcohol, which includes how often and how much alcohol is consumed.

- A funding award given to Public Health by the Contained Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) of £30k will enable the council to amplify the Balance alcohol campaigns at a local level. This activity will help to raise continued awareness about alcohol harms and promote referral and mechanisms helping people to access the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS).
- 27 Balance will continue to work on behalf of the seven local authorities for broader advocacy activity to promote evidence-based policy change. Advocating for action around alcohol pricing, particularly the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) in the North East and increases in alcohol duty in England.
- 28 A study led by researchers from Newcastle University was published in *The Lancet Public Health* on 28 May 2021. It showed a minimum unit price (MUP) policy for alcohol introduced in Scotland in 2018 continues to have a positive impact more than two years on. The study also found that a more-recently introduced MUP policy for Wales has had a similar impact on heavier drinking households – despite the policy being launched in March 2020 at the start of the national Covid-19 lockdown period, where many adults were reportedly drinking more at home. The greatest reductions overall were seen in the purchase of ciders and spirits.
- 29 The ADHRG continues to support the introduction of a North East MUP and, with Balance, are working to communicate the benefits and gain local support.
- 30 In February 2021 the ADHRG were called to action by Balance to advocate for a 2% increase in alcohol duty by joining members of the Alcohol Health Alliance to take and share the *email-your-MP action*.

Alcohol licensing in Durham

- 31 In response to the Covid-19 lockdown the capacity for alcohol licensing teams has been reduced. However, work is now stepping back up. Since March 2021 Durham has seen 63 requests for new or changes to alcohol licences.
- 32 Public Health shares recommendations for off-license information provided by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) guidance on alcohol harms. Information is displayed in at least one prominent point on the shop floor or point of sale, unit information is displayed in the alcohol aisle, alcohol will not be displayed adjacent to, or beside products aimed at children.

- 33 Premises are also asked to ensure free (tap) water is available, the offer is visible to customers, and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) guidance on alcohol related health is displayed in at least one prominent point per floor. In the premises, unit information and calorie data (if available) has to be displayed on any drink menu available
- 34 Public Health continue to support licensing to promote innovative approaches to licensing, which promote public health objectives including the vision of an Alcohol Free Childhood.
- 35 Trading Standards activity relating to underage sales is beginning to recommence, and the police pathway into Humankind for under 18's Alcohol Seizures is also being reinstated.

Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) For Long Term Opiate Users

- 36 The recommendations from the 2017/18 HNA were reviewed in May 2021. Work has been completed and to date this includes a full review of prescribing practice in the DARS, increased bespoke support for families and women, work with primary care to ensure responsible prescribing practices, a Heroin Assisted Treatment cost benefit analysis and increased naloxone supply across the county.
- 37 Ongoing work towards meeting the health needs of opiate users from the original recommendations made in the 2018 report and emerging themes since continues. This focuses on strengthening partnership working across the sector and working towards a whole systems approach to harm reduction and recovery.

Substance Misuse Related Deaths (SMRD)

- 38 The SMRD process continues to follow the five key stage process – Notification & Information gathering / Analysis / Lessons Learnt / Implementing change / Accountability and governance.
- 39 Office of National Statistics (ONS) drug related death data 2018-2020 registrations was released on 3 August 2021. The North East continues to have the highest rate of deaths relating to drug misuse within 9.9 deaths per 100,000 population compared to the national England average of 5.0 per 100,000.
- 40 County Durham's rate is 8.3, the second lowest in the North East region. However, this can be misrepresented in the press as County Durham has the highest number of deaths due to the size of the population. Please see table below.

Table 1 Number of deaths and age-standardised mortality rate for deaths related to drug misuse, persons by North East local authority, England and Wales, deaths registered between 2018-2020, ONS 2020

Area Codes	Area Names	2018-20			
		Deaths	Rate ¹	Lower Confidence Limit ²	Upper Confidence Limit ²
E92000001	ENGLAND	8,185	5.0	4.9	5.1
E12000001	NORTH EAST	731	9.9	9.1	10.6
E06000047	County Durham	117	8.3	6.7	9.8
E06000005	Darlington	33	10.8	7.4	15.2
E06000001	Hartlepool	42	16.3	11.7	22.1
E06000002	Middlesbrough	63	16.9	12.9	21.7
E06000057	Northumberland	61	7.0	5.4	9.1
E06000003	Redcar and Cleveland	35	9.6	6.6	13.3
E06000004	Stockton-on-Tees	48	8.5	6.3	11.3
E11000007	Tyne and Wear (Met County)	332	10.2	9.1	11.3
E08000037	Gateshead	66	11.3	8.7	14.4
E08000021	Newcastle upon Tyne	98	11.9	9.6	14.6
E08000022	North Tyneside	39	6.4	4.5	8.8
E08000023	South Tyneside	53	12.6	9.4	16.4
E08000024	Sunderland	76	9.8	7.7	12.3

- 41 Whilst County Durham has the highest number of deaths in the region (117), the rate per 100,000 head of population indicates the county has one of the lowest death rates when considering its population size (per 100,000 head of population).
- 42 Drug-related deaths have been on an upward trend for the past decade. The reasons behind this are complex and differ by drug type. The overall trend is driven primarily by deaths involving opiates, but also by an increase in deaths involving other substances like cocaine.
- 43 There is an ageing cohort of drug users, likely to be suffering from the effects of long-term drug use and becoming increasingly susceptible to a fatal overdose. Rates of drug-misuse death continue to be elevated among those born in the 1970s, with the highest rate in those aged 45 to 49 years.
- 44 Also new trends in taking specific drugs including gabapentinoids and benzodiazepines alongside heroin may increase risk of overdose.
- 45 Anecdotal data suggests that COVID 19 lockdowns have increased isolation and driven up drug deaths but further research is needed on this theory.
- 46 An SMRD review meeting is held quarterly for County Durham, co-ordinated and chaired by County Durham Public Health. This meeting is to understand the local picture and review a snapshot of the deaths to support learning to prevent future SMRDs.

- 47 Preventative measures implemented from the learning of reviewing deaths in this group include an increase in naloxone provision within sheltered accommodation, Durham Constabulary and pharmacies as well as work with primary care to ensure responsible prescription of gabapentinoids.

Naloxone

- 48 Work has been ongoing to extend the availability of naloxone, including for service users, their family members and carers and other key stakeholders, such as the police, involved in the management of substance misusers.
- 49 Newly acquired Public Health England Universal Funding, will enhance the capacity for naloxone provision and extend its use in police first responders. This provision will include a nasal spray to help encourage front line officers to feel confident with its administration.
- 50 66 Naloxone kits were supplied across the county in 2021/22 Q1.

The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS)

- 51 The Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) provides a holistic approach for any local resident using substances across County Durham across the life course. All clients are assessed by the DARS for their needs when accessing support should their substance misuse escalate, or personal circumstances change. The DARS provides a family focus for anyone entering treatment and also has a bespoke service for children and young people.
- 52 The DARS maintained its service delivery throughout Covid-19. Utilising a blended approach to engaging clients which included virtual-means for those who were stable and for more complex clients a retention of 1-1 support, meant a high level of clients were retained.
- 53 Prescriptions were dispensed over longer time periods due to lockdown requirements. Despite initial concerns, clients reported a new sense of stability in their clinical supervision. This will be taken forward as learning by the DARS as the clinics return to business as usual.
- 54 The performance of the DARS continues to do well. There were 2,866 clients in treatment in Q4 2020/21. This is a small reduction of 149 clients on the same time period last year. In light of the pandemic the maintenance of the majority of clients is excellent.
- 55 The table below breaks this number down into months and treatment type.

Table 2. Numbers in treatment for DARS (January 2021 – March 2021)

Numbers in Treatment Q4 2020/21			
	January 2021	February 2021	March 2021
Opiates	1451	1446	1446
Non-opiates	419	436	428
Alcohol	1003	985	992

56 Successful completions for all drug treatments within DARS have increased. Opiates successful completions are above the national average at 5.1%. Non-opiate successful completions have been rising since August 2020 and are also reflective of the national average at 33.9%. This is the first time since 2015 that non-opiate successful completions have risen to this level. See graphs below.

Image 2: Successful completions for Opiates in County Durham compared to national figure 2020/21

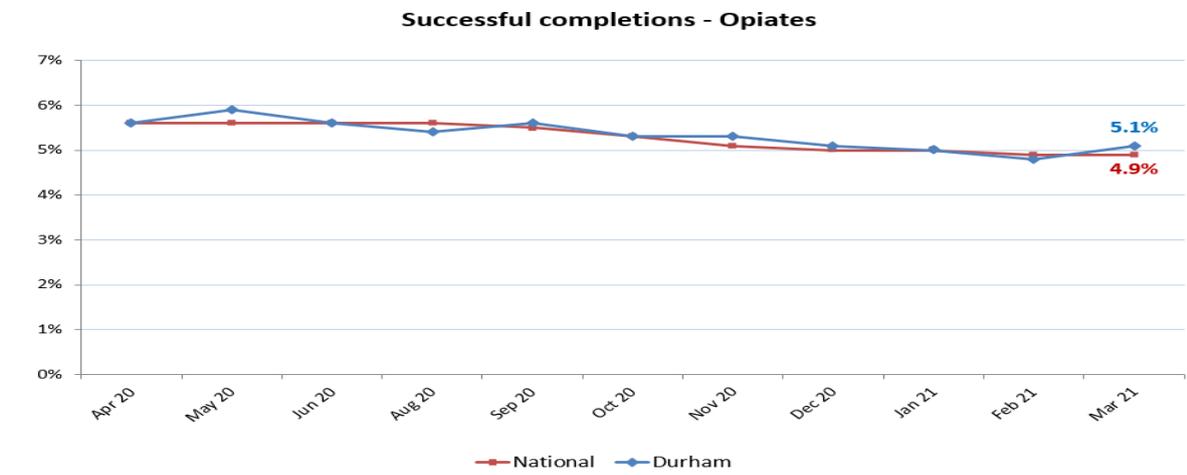
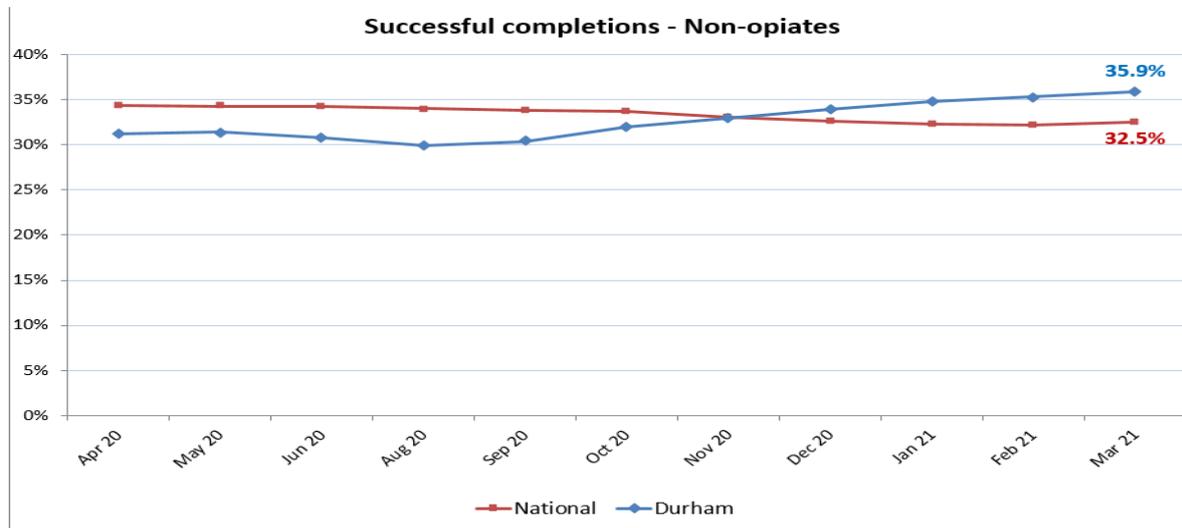
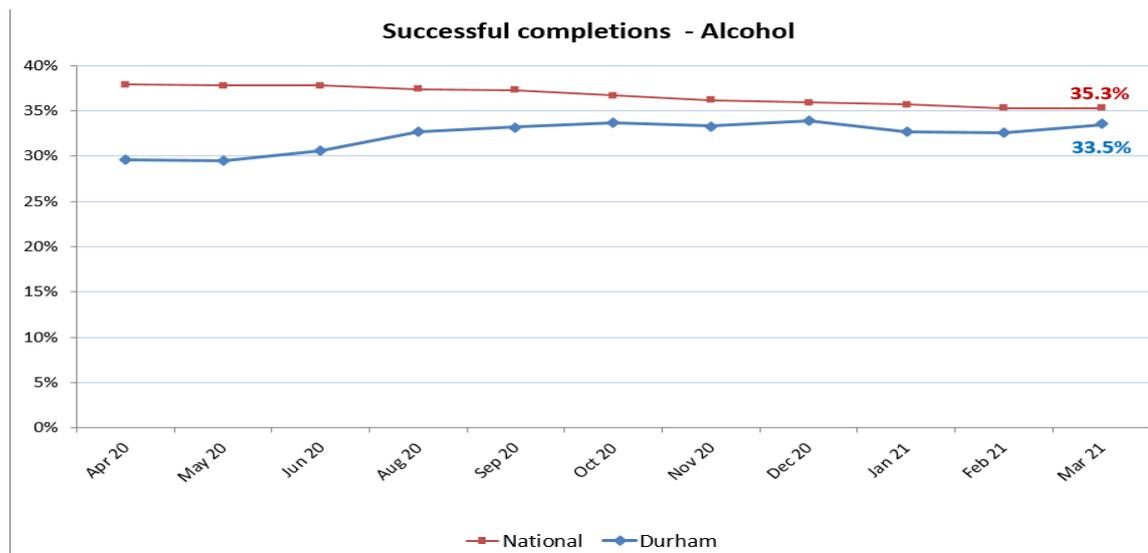


Image 3: Successful completions for Non-Opiates in County Durham compared to national figure 2020/21



57 Alcohol successful completions are narrowing the gap to the national level, at its highest point since 2015 also at 33.9%. The national figure is 35.9%. See graph below.

Image 4: Successful completions for Alcohol in County Durham compared to national figure 2020/21



- 58 Following the development of an improvement action plan due to the 'requires improvement' rating of the DARS in the CQC inspection (Feb 18), a further inspection was expected in March 2020. This has been postponed due to Covid-19; monitoring of its implementation continues to take place as part of the quarterly contract meetings and the CQC report to be happy with progress.
- 59 The CQC national team have been approached by Public Health to schedule a reinspection to help reflect the significant service improvement. The outcome of this discussion is pending (July 2021).
- 60 Work continues to deliver DARS services differently in East Durham following the termination of the lease at Ridgemount House. This includes a new recovery centre in Horden. The work is aligned to the Making Every Adult Matter programme (MEAM) pilot in the Horden area as part of the Horden Together work.
- 61 The DARS developed a new website aimed at encouraging people to assess their own alcohol consumption levels. The website is www.drinkcoach.org.uk
- 62 In Quarter 4 2020/21, 2,359 people visited the website leading to 1,467 completing the AUDIT tool. Of those, 32% were low risk drinkers, 44% had increasing risk, 13% were high risk drinkers and 15% had possible dependence. 60 referrals into service have been generated since the launch of the website.
- 63 The DARS service specification is currently being reviewed with a view to procure a new service in February 2022.

Women's Recovery Centre (WRAD)

- 64 The Women's Recovery Academy Durham (WRAD) has been approved. A contract modification was agreed in February 2020 for the service to utilise Eden House, Consett, from 1 April 2020 for a WRAD for three days per week and a generic (mixed-sex provision) drug and alcohol recovery service for two days per week.
- 65 The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the launch of the WRAD being delayed but the DARS has developed a programme of work and recently began a soft launch.
- 66 The innovative WRAD project will see services including police, probation, children's and adults' social care, debt advice, domestic abuse support, and the DARS work together to meet the needs of the most disproportionately effected clients.

- 67 The probation service has provided additional funding towards the WRAD demonstrating their support and commitment to the project.

Newly Funded Services

Public Health England Drug Crime and Harm Reduction Funding

- 68 In March 2021, the government announced an additional £80 million to fund drug treatment in 2021/22 as part of a funding package for reducing crime. The funding has been made available through the Section 31 grant provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 69 A bid was submitted for the Universal Funding element of the grant with Public Health working with PCVC, Humankind and Probation colleagues to design and submit a bid proposal for £545k to help reduce crime in relation to drug use in County Durham. The grant has now been approved and plans are in place to implement delivery.
- 70 The focus of the funding is to add value to the current criminal justice team working within DARS by providing additional posts to create and ensure a whole systems approach. This includes court and custody leads, ION/checkpoint workers and specific harm reduction posts to reach the system from beginning to end.

Public Health England Rough Sleeper and Drug and Alcohol Grant

- 71 During 2019 there were around 35 rough sleepers verified in and around the Durham City area. A dedicated rough sleeper team was established and during 2020 there were over 250 reports of rough sleepers across the county, with the team providing accommodation to 163. As part of this initiative a dedicated Rough Sleeper Substance Misuse (RSSM) Worker based within the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) was recruited to provide direct support to rough sleepers helping to engage them in drug and alcohol treatment and build their recovery capital
- 72 PHE approached County Durham to bid for funding to address homelessness prevention, rough sleeping and substance misuse. Adding to the current worker model, but extending the services reach into East and South Durham, formed the model for the bid of £274,000. To address complexity and entrenched behaviours' of the client group, 3 mental health nurses were also included in the bid, plus a Domestic Abuse Recovery Worker to enhance the connectivity into the domestic abuse system for both victims, perpetrators and their children. The outcome of the bid is expected in July 2021.

LA9 Inpatient Detoxification Unit

- 73 PHE also allocated funding as part of the drug treatment grant for all regions to benefit from funding awarded to regional or sub-regional consortia of LAs for commissioning inpatient detoxification beds. In total funding for up to £10million, ranging from approximately £0.7m to £1.7m has been allocated depending on size of treatment population per region. The spend has been granted for a 12-month period only.
- 74 Following initial discussions with PHE regional teams Durham County Council was identified as the lead LA to commission the beds across a footprint of nine LAs, as a single commissioning consortium. DCC will hold the funds on behalf of the NE region (the other 3 LAs in the north are working in partnership to commission services via their own arrangements). The LA9 which are part of this arrangement are Durham, Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Darlington.
- 75 Negotiations are currently taking place to secure beds on behalf of the LA9 Consortia within North Tees NHS Foundation Trust. A service specification has been issued to the Trust and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is being developed with partners from Humankind to ensure all beds are allocated based on clinical need.

Conclusion

- 76 A collaborative partnership approach to tackle drug and alcohol related harm in County Durham has been maintained and developed during 2020/21. All meetings have continued virtually with engagement from partners increasing on last year due to no travel commitments.
- 77 The reduction of alcohol and drug related harms caused to individuals, families and local communities remains a significant priority for the ADHR Group under the governance of the SDP.

Other useful documents

- Previous Cabinet reports

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Tel: 03000 265478

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

No issues identified.

Finance

No issues identified.

Consultation

Public Health will continue to consult with partners in the development and delivery of identified actions to reduce alcohol related harm.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Actions from this report are targeted to reduce the health inequalities of these people suffering from or impacted by alcohol related health harm.

Climate Change

No issues identified.

Human Rights

No issues identified.

Crime and Disorder

Actions from this report are targeted to reduce alcohol related crime and disorder.

Staffing

No issues identified.

Accommodation

No issues identified.

Risk

No corporate risk issues Identified.

Procurement

The report encourages economies of scale and to make best use of available resource and capacity.

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

9 September 2021



**Work Programme update
2021/22**

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 The report provides an update on dates and anticipated items to SSC meetings during 2021/22.

Recommendations

- 3 SSC OSC is recommended to:
 - a) Note the updated work programme for 2021/2022 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 4 At its meeting on 9th July 2021, the SSC OSC agreed its work programme for 2021/22. It was noted within this report that dates for the Committee's meetings were to be confirmed and any review of work programmes will take place with the chair and vice chair and in consultation with the committee.
- 5 Dates for SSC OSC meetings during 2021/22 have now been agreed and are scheduled to take place at 9.30 am, Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on the following dates:
 - Thursday 9 September 2021
 - Thursday 4 November 2021
 - Monday 6 December 2021
 - Wednesday 2 March 2022
 - Thursday 21 April 2022
- 6 Appendix 2 provides members with an updated work programme and dates of when items are scheduled to be considered at the Committee's meetings during 2021/22. It is to note that some dates are to be confirmed with officers and the work programme remains flexible to accommodate any additional items that are identified throughout the year.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

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

Conclusion

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

Background papers

- None

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	Jonathan Slee	Tel: 03000 268142

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 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	TBC	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	6 December 2021 (TBC)	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	4 November 2021	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. If practicable, hold a joint session with Environment & Sustainable OSC with links to secondary fires and waste (flytipping)
Road Safety Strategy	2 March 2022	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	2 March 2022 (TBC)	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	4 November 2021	Jane Sunter	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	TBC	Safe Durham Partnership	To gain an understanding of partnership approaches to tackling these areas.	Sensitive subject area and to consider holding a development session.
Open Water Safety	9 September 2021	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	2 March 2022	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	9 September 2021	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	21 April 2022 (TBC)	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	6 December 2021 (TBC)	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	9 September 2021	Martyn Stenton/Dave Summers	To appraise members on activity of the Youth Justice Services.	
Probation Programme	21 April 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	6 December 2021	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)	TBC	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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