



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Thursday 4 November 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 September 2021 (Pages 3 - 16)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Arson and Deliberate Firesetting (Pages 17 - 34)
 - (i) Report of the Corporate Director of Resources
 - (ii) Presentation by the Area Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
7. Overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Whole System Approach to Domestic Abuse (Pages 35 - 68)
 - (i) Report of the Director of Public Health
 - (ii) Presentation by the Public Health Strategic Manager – Living and Ageing Well, Public Health, Adult and Health Services
8. Quarter One, 2021/22 Performance Management Report (Pages 69 - 82)
Report of the Corporate Director of Resources – presented by the Corporate Scrutiny and Strategy Manager

9. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
27 October 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: Jo March

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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 **Thursday 9 September 2021** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Charlton (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors B Avery, V Andrews, P Atkinson, D Boyes, S Deinali, L Fenwick, C Hampson, P Heaviside, D McKenna, E Mavin, L Mavin (substitute for C Martin), D Nicholls, D Oliver, J Quinn, A Simpson and D Sutton-Lloyd

The Chair asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee to read a statement from Mr AJ Cooke, Co-opted Member thanking the Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Team for their support and in keeping him up-to-date with the work of the Committee.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cairns, M McGaun, C Martin and M Wilson and Chief Fire Officer S Errington.

2 Substitute Members

Councillor L Mavin substituted for Councillor C Martin.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 9 July 2021 and were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that questions had been raised relating to the Safe Durham Partnership and its structure, and flyposting with information to be shared with Members once received.

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

The Chair welcomed the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children, Martyn Stenton and the Youth Justice Service Manager, Dave Summers who were in attendance to provide the Committee with an overview presentation relating to the County Durham Youth Justice Service (CDYJS), their performance and Service Improvement Plan 2021/22 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children explained that the CDYOS was statutory partnership, from the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and that the principal aim was to prevent offending by children and young people. He noted there were a number of statutory partners, including the Police, Probation Service, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as well as non-statutory partners which included the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC), Public Health, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys (TEWV) NHS Foundation Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT), HFT and Humankind.

The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children noted information relating to out of court disposals, diverting young people from the criminal justice system, and the work undertaken in supporting the victims of crime and their families. Members were referred to governance arrangements, with a statutory, multiagency partnership board, with links to the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP), with the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children as the Chair of the CDYJS Management Board. The Committee were reminded of the Youth Justice Plan, which had recently been presented to Council in July 2021. It was explained there were 62 staff from the Council, alongside 12 staff seconded from partner organisations. The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children noted that there were 42 volunteers that also helped and worked with children, young people and their families.

Councillors learned as regards the voice of young people, families, victims and communities, structured feedback from all groups on the services delivered. Members were also informed as regards the national recognition the service had received, including Children and Young People Now awards for its Parenting Group and 'With Youth in Mind', and Investors in Children and Investors in Volunteers status.

The Youth Justice Service Manager referred Members to performance information and explained that it was pleasing to note the downward trend in relation to the rate of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System, with the Durham rate being lower than the England and North East regionally rates. He explained that the trend since 2014 had been a result of the work of the Council and partners in diverting young people away from the criminal justice system and permitting offences. He noted national measures, with the first time entrant rate being 179 per 100,000, the reoffending rate being 34.9 percent, down 8 percent year on year, and the custody rate per 1,000 being 0.24, up slightly and in line with the North East and national rates. It was noted this represented a small cohort of young people, eight this year.

In terms of local performance measures, the Youth Justice Service Manager noted 137 victims had been engaged with and 67 young victims had been supported. He explained that there had been 1,366 hours of reparations and with over £1,000 donated to charity through work such as garden ornaments, Christmas wreaths and "bling poppies" for the Royal British Legion. Members noted that 52 parents had also been supported.

The Committee were informed of the work undertaken in terms of the assessment of young people who offend, noting that around 80 percent had some level of speech, language and communication need. Members noted other issues included mental health and substance misuse. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted the interventions and risk management and the work undertaken with partners to support the young people in the service, who often had a range of vulnerabilities.

The Youth Justice Service Manager noted while performance was encouraging, the service was not complacent and the service had a number of areas as service improvement priorities for 2021/22, including: further improvements of assessments and plans; targeting resources on those offending the most; listening and responding to young people and their families; ensuring volunteering is a key component; and ensuring case management and administration provided the highest quality support for the work of the service, to the courts and for young people and our communities.

The Chair thanked the Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children and the Youth Justice Service Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor D Boyes noted the positive report, however, he did not recognise the same in the streets within his ward. He noted that out of court disposals and Checkpoint had been very successful in terms of petty crime, however, he noted a hardcore minority that believed they were immune. He noted a large increase in incidents of arson, anti-social behaviour with off-road bikes, including drug/drink driving. He noted several incidents and noted his disappointment that the hardcore element, where interventions were not working, were not being addressed.

The Youth Justice Service Manager noted there was a relatively, in comparison to other areas in the country, hardcore element that offended at a significant rate and noted there was an 'enhanced programme', both intervention and punishment based. He noted that custody was an option, though seen as a last resort as it was evidenced that those that young people who had been in custody were much more likely to reoffend. He reiterated that the service was fully committed to try and work with that hardcore of young people, adding that the service had been out and about throughout lockdown, continuing with their work, similar to colleagues from Police, Children's Social Care and other organisations.

The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children noted the issues of anti-social behaviour and arson as raised by Councillor D Boyes and added there was ongoing work with Chief Superintendent A Green and Superintendent N Bickford from Durham Constabulary in that regard. He noted that a workshop was being planned and organised for a future date to bring together colleagues from the Police and the Council, including Early Help from within the Children and Young People's Service and from other areas of the Council dealing with community safety, looking at anti-social behaviour and also arson suppression. He added those issues were recognised across the partnership.

The Chair noted the rise in anti-social behaviour during the pandemic and asked if there was any information as regards whether it was due to a perception from those engaged in anti-social behaviour that there would be no retribution. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted there was a school of thought that the greater the impact of a punishment then the greater the likelihood they would be deterred from carrying out such activities. He explained that the reality was very different, with many young people not considering that they would get caught. He added that the greater communities and partners worked together to catch those young people early, the greater the chance of being able to tackle the levels of anti-social behaviour, having the greatest impact at that point.

Mr D Balls noted the report highlighted great improvements, however, in reference to reoffending rates, he felt that one in three young people going on to reoffend was not successful. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that, while the figure was good compared to other areas, it was not a figure he was happy with. He added that Durham was one of the best areas in terms of preventing reoffending and the service was always looking to improve. He explained that the figures did not mean that 34 percent of the young people who were sentenced went on to reoffend, the way in which the data was collated by the Ministry of Justice was on a quarterly basis. He noted that if a young person reoffended in each quarter, that would count as four young people reoffending, rather than just one. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that therefore an estimate of reoffending would be around 26-27 percent, with persistent offenders skewing the figures. He noted that even at one in four young people reoffending it was an area the service was committed to improve upon by targeting resources on those young people causing the most impact within communities. He added that the detection rate by Durham Constabulary was the highest in the country.

Councillor P Atkinson echoed the comments of Councillor D Boyes as regards a hardcore element and noted the perception was things were not being done. The Chair noted that unfortunately the representative from the Police was not in attendance and explained the Overview and Scrutiny Officer was looking into issue of Police attending the meeting. Councillor J Quinn noted he represented the same ward as Councillor P Atkinson and noted he had attended a recent meeting with Police as regards issues, including anti-social behaviour. He noted that from his understanding the Police had less powers to arrest young people and that in cases of anti-social behaviour Police were filling out 'misc' forms, with 77 having been issued in the last year in his ward, with 13 being for the same individual. He added that, as he understood, if cases were taken to court then Police would subsequently have the power to arrest and asked why therefore more cases were not being taken to court. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that it was not an area for his service, in terms of looking to caution or prosecute, rather his service would become involved once a young person had gone through that process.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd noted a similar situation in his ward, with the public being frustrated and Members receiving negative feedback in that there seemed to be little action taken by the Police or the Council. He noted some frustrations in terms of not being able to pursue prosecution.

The Head of Early Help, Inclusion and Vulnerable Children noted that comments of Members as regards issue in their areas. He noted that many of the cases referred to were those not significant enough to then come through to the CDYJS and reiterated as regards a workshop session with Police colleagues. He added that Neighbourhood Inspectors were attending Area Action Partnership (AAP) meetings and forum in which Local Members could have those discussions as regards their areas. He added he was happy to speak to Members after the meeting as regards issues as they could help inform him in terms of his discussions with colleagues from the Police, however, he suggested it may be appropriate for Overview and Scrutiny to have discussions with the Police in addition. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that a lot of work was being undertaken with young people and he noted that Members were welcome to visit the service to see the work and the types of activities carried out.

Councillor B Avery noted the comments of his fellow Local Members and explained that it appeared to Councillors that very little was being done in terms of tackling the hardcore element, it having become radically worse over the last few years. He noted the issue had previously been looked at by the Committee and noted he did not know what the answer would be in terms of tackling anti-social behaviour. He added that the PCVC had attended a recent meeting of his local AAP and had received many comments as regards not seeing actions on the ground. He noted the hardcore element needed to be tackled and that element had not respect for the Police. The Chair noted there appeared to be an issue with a hardcore element in many Members areas and the issue was one that Police colleagues could respond to at a future meeting.

Councillor D Nicholls noted 80 percent of the young people going through the service had some form of speech, language or communication need and asked what the service was doing to help, working with schools and partners. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted ClearCut Communication, a part of the service, was a nationally recognised expert in terms of speech, language and communication need and had developed screening tools specifically for working with young people, much more young people and communication friendly. He explained that ClearCut Communications had developed a range of resources relating to speech, language and communication which, together with training, was provided across the country. The Youth Justice Service Manager explained that every young person coming into the service was screened for speech, language and communication needs and added that all staff were trained to be aware and recognise speech, language and communication needs and also to deliver interventions in a speech, language and communication friendly way. He noted lower-level needs could be dealt with by mainstream staff and explained that within the service's Health Team there were 2.5 full-time equivalent speech and language specialists that worked specifically to provide higher level interventions for those with the greatest need. He explained as regards work with schools and plans are developed with schools, post-16 providers or employers. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that many young people had gone through the school system without those needs being identified, in some cases the young people are quiet and not troublesome and that could lead to vulnerabilities around exploitation. He added that for some young people the issue can be seen as 'problem behaviour' rather than an issue with communication and therefore work is undertaken with schools. He noted that County Durham was a country leader in the area of working with young people with speech, language and communication needs within the Criminal Justice System.

Councillor L Mavin asked as regards young people that may have autism or Asperger's Syndrome. The Youth Justice Service Manager noted that was another element within the screening process, linking to the health provision within the service, another area in which the service was country leading. He added the service was looking to develop further understanding and skills to be able to deal with at a lower-level, with specialists to focus at the high level, as it was considered that nationally it was an issue within the Criminal Justice System.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the report and the work of the service be noted.
- (ii) That the comments from the Committee are collated by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer and shared with the Safe Durham Partnership, the Head of Service and colleagues from Durham Constabulary.

7 Open Water Safety Update

The Chair welcomed the Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Kevin Lough who was in attendance to provide the Committee with an update presentation relating to Open Water Safety (for copy see file of minutes).

The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted he had been involved with the work around open water safety for the last 7-8 years and now led on the matter and worked with colleagues within the Council alongside various partners. He referred Members to slides setting out the governance arrangements with the SDP and the Durham City Safety Group and the County Durham Open Water Safety Group. He noted the Durham City Safety Group was chaired by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change, Alan Patrickson and included representation from the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, University, Students' Union and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). He added that he chaired the County Durham Open Water Safety Group which included the Council, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Northumbrian Water and RoSPA. He added the inclusion of RoSPA helped to ensure the group were meeting national best practice.

Members were informed that nationally 632 people had lost their lives in 2020 in connection with open water, with a significant number of those being suspected suicide. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted it was an issue that the groups in Durham were aware of and there were links to colleagues in Public Health that worked in relation to suicide prevention. He noted the increase in inland drownings and that it tended to be a male dominated issue, with those aged 20-24 years old being most at risk, with alcohol and drugs being a factor in some instances. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted the majority of those that entered the water had no intention of doing so and had simply been walking or running next to the water.

The Committee were referred to a table setting out the statistics for Durham from 2013/14 to 2020/21, with the city centre and the rest of County Durham (excluding the city centre) set out. Members were asked to note the spike in incidents in 2015, with several of the incidents relating to students, with alcohol and being alone late at night a factor in some of the cases. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted that views of the Coroner as regards what actions should be taken had been taken on board by the Durham City Safety Group and work with RoSPA was undertaken to independently assess the full river corridor. He noted that work led to a significant scheme of investment works, identifying issues in relation to lighting, footpaths, fencing, barriers and the installation of lifesaving equipment. It was added that works were delivered within nine months and that there was monitoring in place to ensure the physical interventions were in good repair. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager explained that the physical works were alongside education and awareness raising as regards the risks associated with open water, alcohol and cold water shock. He noted that the process of repeating the process of education, not just for the public but also with local licenced premises, door staff, emergency services and other groups.

The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted statistics and added that, since 2015, there had been a decreasing trend in terms of the number of fatalities, injuries and near-misses. He added that last year there had been one fatality within the city centre, and two in the wider county. Members were asked to note the data was taken from emergency services along with information from the Council in addition.

The Committee were referred to information relating to Durham City, working proactively with partners and also developers and site managers. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted the work undertaken in terms of inspections, adding that reports from members of the public and Elected Members was always welcomed so that any issues can be looked at and acted upon as quickly as possible. In reference to the wider county, Members were reminded of the 'Dying to be cool' cold water shock campaign, which began in 2016, which had been impacted in the last year by the pandemic. It was explained that in normal circumstances, the Authority had provided assembly talks for secondary schools, and some primary schools, as regards the danger of cold water shock, with around 6,000 – 7,000 pupils engaged with over the period leading up to the school summer holidays. Members noted the Council worked with Fiona Gosling, who had lost her son Cameron as a result of cold water shock. It was explained she was able to deliver a powerful message to young people as regards the dangers of cold water shock and the message was also augmented with posters, including on phone boxes, as well as on social media channels, including those of County Durham schools.

Members were asked to note the work undertaken in 2015-16 in relation to where the risks relating to open water were within the County, with around 260 locations of interest identified, for example those close to schools and parks. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager explained that those locations were assessed and schools in those locations were given information as regards those risks to pass on to their pupils. It was explained those assessments were reviewed annually and there was focus on the major hotspots, for example, Chester-le-Street riverside, Durham City and Hardwick Park. It was added the Council worked with landowners to help make them aware of the risks. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager referred to the revised 2021 'Dying to be cool' campaign, which had been delivered remotely as a result of the pandemic. He added it was timely as a national spike in incidents had been noted in July 2021 and it was important to maintain the high profile each year with new starters at schools, colleges and the University.

The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted several elements looking forward, including: further work with schools, colleges and the University; governance and the risk based approach; a new Action Plan for the City Centre, via the City Centre Safety Group; and increased education and awareness, including new initiatives to target the 16-20 age group, building on the national "Don't drink and drown" campaign. Members noted work with the Royal Life Saving Society and also with the Police and the Fire and Rescue Service as well as with Public Health in terms of identifying trends and looking at root causes.

The Occupational Health and Safety Manager concluded by noting future work with designers and developers in relation to being fit for purpose in terms of safety and the regular monitoring and inspection of city centre routes and control measures.

The Chair thanked the Occupational Health and Safety Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor D Boyes noted the success of the work that had been undertaken, in response to a number of incidents in 2014-15 with four young people within the city centre having lost their lives. He added it was heartening to see all of the safety equipment and prevention measures in place and the reduction in incidents, including across the wider county was a success and was a credit to all the people, partners and organisations involved. Councillor B Avery agreed with the comments from Councillor D Boyes, noted an incident that had been reported early that morning and asked as regards preventative design. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted there were a number of areas that had been identified as potential risks, and where possible work would be undertaken to make it more difficult to enter the water at those places. He reiterated that it was important to keep up the education and support as regards the issue to help prevent as many incidents as possible.

The Chair noted the work undertaken prior to school summer holidays and noted that with increasingly mild spring weather, a similar activity prior to the Easter holidays may also be beneficial. The Occupational Health and Safety Manager noted the work was resource intensive and the summer holidays were targeted annually, including through national campaigns such as the two national drowning prevention weeks, adding that some of that work was earlier in the year. He added he would look at the possibility of such activities prior to the school holidays earlier in the year.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

8 Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group Update 2021

The Chair welcomed the Public Health Strategic Manager – Living and Ageing Well, Jane Sunter who was in attendance to take Members through the Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group Update 2021 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Public Health Strategic Manager thanked the Chair and Members and noted the report built upon the briefing session held for Members on the topic and linked to other areas of work across the Council and its partners, as highlighted by the previous two agenda items. She referred to statistics for County Durham and noted that for 2020-21 there had been one-fifth more deaths linked to alcohol harm than in 2019-20, a significant increase.

It was added that the North East average was significantly greater than the England average, and that the County Durham level was below the North East average. Members noted that most deaths were associated with long-term dependency, with liver disease accounting for around 80 percent with the bulk being within the most deprived areas. Members noted the number of seizures had reduced in 2020-21, however, admissions into hospital had increased since 2018-19, and therefore more work was needed with the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (CDDFT) and the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DARS) provider, Humankind.

In relation to drug harm, it was noted that there had been consistent numbers throughout the pandemic, with a hybrid/blended model being operated as a result of the pandemic. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) showed that the North East figure of 9.9 deaths per 100,000 population was greater than the England figure of 5 per 100,000. It was noted the figure was 8.3 per 100,000 for County Durham, the second lowest in the region, however this was sometime misreported in the press as Durham had the highest number of deaths, albeit also with a large population.

The Committee were informed as regards work relating to Coronavirus vaccine and vulnerable clients, and while those attending the DARS were not classified as vulnerable by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), many of the service's client also fell within identified vulnerable groups such as those that were homeless. Members were reminded that the that the County Durham Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Plan had been aligned with the SDP Plan and contained 86 actions, of which 61 had been completed, with 25 ongoing. It was added that the terms of reference and membership of the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group (ADHRG) had been updated.

The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the continued work with Balance, the North East Alcohol Office, in relation to alcohol misuse and explained as regards the recent hard-hitting 'Alcohol - not the answer' campaign, relaunched in February 2021 in response to concerns as regards increasing alcohol consumption during the pandemic. She explained as regards other campaigns such as 'What's the harm?' launched in May 2021, aiming to help parents to understand the Chief Medical Officer's guidance around children and alcohol. Members learned as regards a successful bid for Contained Outbreak Management Funding of £30,000 to be used to help amplify the Balance alcohol campaigns at a local level and support people in being able to access the DARS. Councillors noted the continued work with Balance in respect of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for alcohol and the information on the positive MUP had in after introduction in Scotland over the last two years.

In respect of Licensing, it was explained that Public Health worked with the Licensing Teams and while there had been a reduction in terms of capacity during the pandemic, numbers had been increasing, with 63 requests for new, or changes to existing, alcohol licences since March 2021.

With reference to the Holistic Needs Assessment (HNA) for long term opiate users, the Public Health Strategic Manager explained as regards the ongoing work and the increased naloxone supply across the county to help reverse opioid overdose. Councillors were referred to paragraphs 38 and 39 of the report which related to Substance Misuse Related Deaths (SMRDs) and the statistics for the North East which highlighted an aging cohort for drug users in County Durham, with Humankind looking at the issue as well as targeting those users' wider health. The Committee learned of Public Health England Universal Funding, which would further enhance the capacity for naloxone provision.

The Public Health Strategic Manager explained as regards the performance of the DARS, noting good performance during the pandemic period, working on a hybrid model, though maintaining the one-to-one relationships for those at high risk. It was noted that for Quarter Four 2020-21 there had been 2,866 clients in treatment, a reduction of 149 year-on-year. Members were referred to the number of successful completions as set out at Table 2 within the report noting opiate and alcohol completions being around the national level, with non-opiate completions being better than the national average.

The Committee were reminded of the work carried out following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection rating of 'requires improvement' in February 2018 and noted a further inspection had been scheduled for March 2020, though that had been cancelled as a result of the pandemic. It was explained that monitoring continued with quarterly contract meeting and that the CQC reported to be happy with progress. Members were informed of the new DARS centre at Horden, following the closure of the centre at Ridgemount House, Peterlee. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted the work in relation to the Women's Recovery Academy Durham (WRAD), with soft launch having taken place in February 2020. The Committee noted funding in the sum of £545,000 relating to helping to reduce crime in relation to drug use in County Durham, with colleagues from the Office of the PCVC, Probation, Humankind, and Public Health all involved in the bid. It was added there was also a bid for funding from Public Health England's (PHE) 'rough sleeper fund', as well as bid to PHE by Durham County Council on behalf of the LA9 Authorities in respect of commissioning inpatient detoxification beds.

The Chair thanked the Public Health Strategic Manager and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Councillor B Avery noted the impact of drugs and anti-social behaviour in his ward, with Councillor E Mavin agreeing it was a major issue with Police noting they needed more information as regards networks.

Councillor D Boyes noted that the report reflected the good news story in terms of the progress made by the DARS since 2015 from being well below national averages to now being around on par with those averages. He highlighted that it was an example of where being able to target Public Health grant locally helped to maximise the benefit for the area.

He noted that the issue of substance misuse was an increasing problem and noted his concern as regards the work of the Public Health Strategic Manager and her team if the Public Health grant was cut. He added that the impact in terms of both health and crime meant that it must be protected and ringfenced. He noted that 'post-pandemic' statistics would be more useful now in being able to look forward in terms of the service. The Public Health Strategic Manager agreed as regards having the most up-to-date statistics, though noted there were issues in terms of the most up-to-date figures from sources such as PHE, the Fingertips Database, and Durham Insight and assured Members would be provided with those facts and figures once obtained.

The Chair asked as regards the number of beds for the DARS. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that was no longer the primary model, rather community detoxification was used, with staff visiting the clients. She added that for the most complex clients, there was a commissioning arrangement with a number of external providers, outside of the region. She explained that in the last year there had been five inpatient requests, and while some would choose to access private treatment, the service could commission and refer to inpatient if appropriate.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd repeated his previous points as regards how important it was to get the Police involved within communities to tackle what appeared to be a lack of action in terms of drugs as it was having the effect that people were not willing to come forward with information as they felt no action would be taken. Councillor J Quinn asked if there had been a reduction in drug supply. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted there had been anecdotal evidence of a reduction during the lockdowns, though statistics would need to come from Durham Constabulary. Councillor J Quinn asked as regards how to encourage more people to access the DARS, especially in terms of alcohol, as many people may not perceive that they had a problem with alcohol. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted there were a range of interventions, to encourage people to look at their own alcohol intake, including the work of Balance in awareness raising, including an alcohol intake check when having a health check with GPs, which could include referral to Humankind if appropriate. She explained to the Committee that there was still a need for an individual to want to access the service and added that there was a 'drip-drip' effect of educating children and young people of the dangers of alcohol. She noted there were a number of other interventions, with reference to an app that showed level of intake and could help fast track referrals.

Councillor J Quinn asked as regards localised numbers for drug and alcohol misuse. The Public Health Strategic Manager noted that alcohol misuse was the larger issue, with data showing clear links between deprivation and alcohol misuse and poorer health. She noted she would speak to colleagues in Public Health as regards where people accessing the DARS were from, noting having that information at a postcode level was what had helped identify the need in terms of relocating the DARS to Horden.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the point raised by the Public Health Strategic Manager in relation to information available via Balance and Durham Insights and would circulate information to the Committee accordingly.

Resolved:

That the annual update on the progress of the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group be noted.

9 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny - Work Programme Update

The Chair asked the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to speak to Members in relation to an update on 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 reminded Members of the work programme as agreed at the July meeting of the Committee, noting that areas for consideration now had meeting dates aligned with the proposed items and was set out at Appendix 2 to the report. He noted issues included arson and anti-social behaviour, with work ongoing with Officers in those areas. It was added the work programme remained flexible to be able to accommodate any issues that may arise during the year.

Councillor J Quinn asked if, given the comments from Members at Committee, whether the issue of anti-social behaviour could be brought forward to the November meeting. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted he would speak with the relevant partners and Officers to check as regards availability and then speak with the Chair. The Chair noted there were many new Members and she felt additional briefing sessions would be beneficial in providing insight.

Resolved:

That the updated work programme for 2021/2022 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues be noted.

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

4 November 2021

Arson and Deliberate Firesetting



Report of Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with supporting information to a presentation to provide an overview on tackling arson within County Durham.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation delivered by Keith Wanley, Area Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) will aim to provide Members with an overview on the approach and future actions to tackle arson within County Durham.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 At its meeting in July 2021, the Committee agreed to include Deliberate Fires within its work programme. Information within the report is linked to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDP) priority 'Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community' to which comments from the committee will be shared with the SDP board.
- 5 Attached in Appendix 2 is a presentation to provide an overview on the partnership approach to tackling arson. The presentation includes Countywide data for primary and secondary fires, national benchmarking information and the approach through the arson suppression group within the east Durham area.
- 6 Keith Wanley, Area Manager, CDDFRS will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to deliver the presentation in Appendix 2 and respond to questions from the committee.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 7 Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the Safe Durham Partnership plan.

Conclusion

- 8 The attached presentation provides an opportunity for Members to comment on activity of CDDFRS and partners within the SDP to tackling deliberate fires within County Durham.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Jonathan Slee

Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

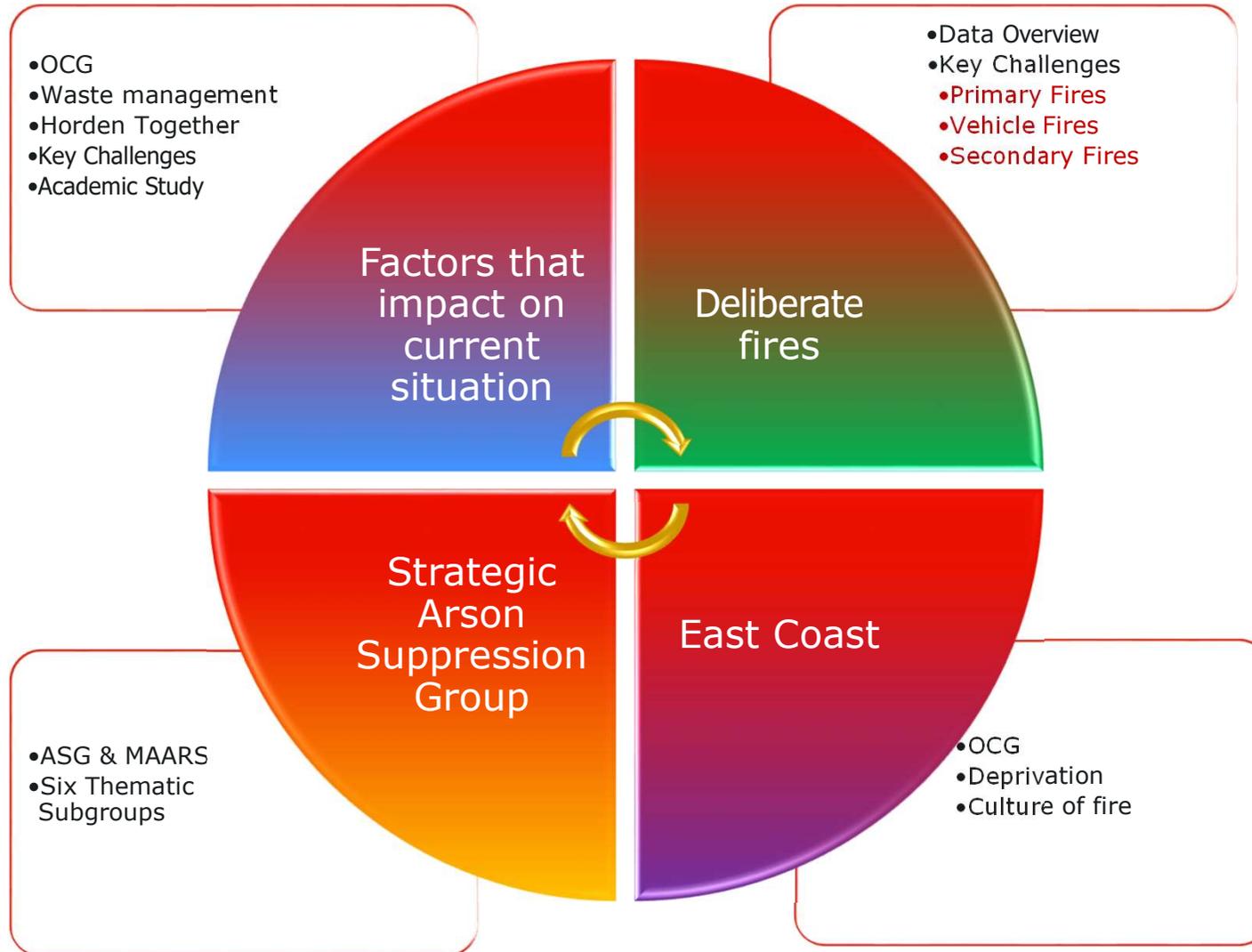
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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

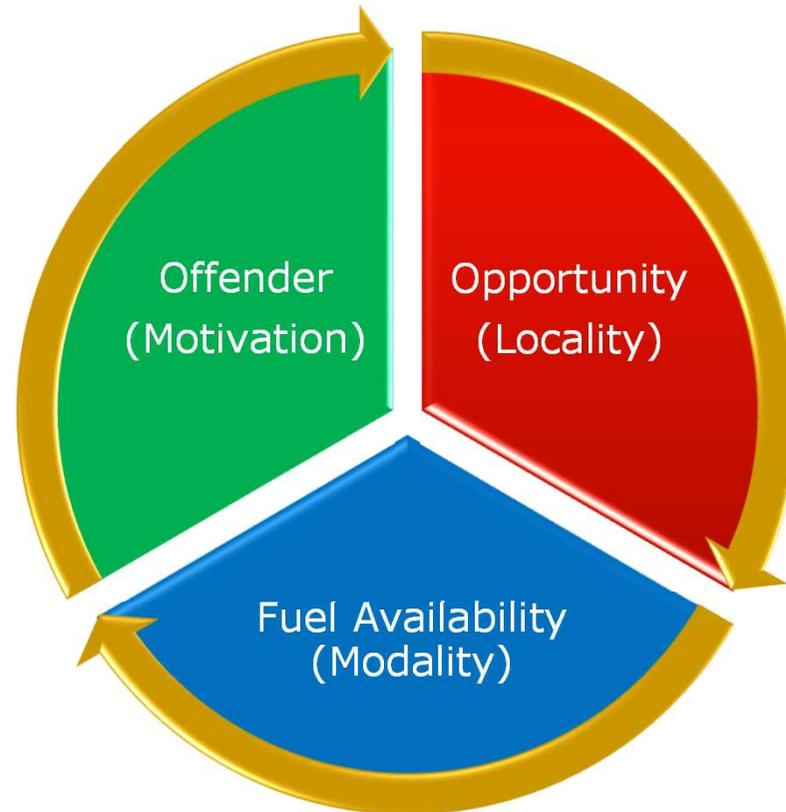
Arson and Deliberate Firesetting



Aims & Objectives



Arson / Firesetting Cyclic Paradigm



Data overview (North / South Divisions)

North Division

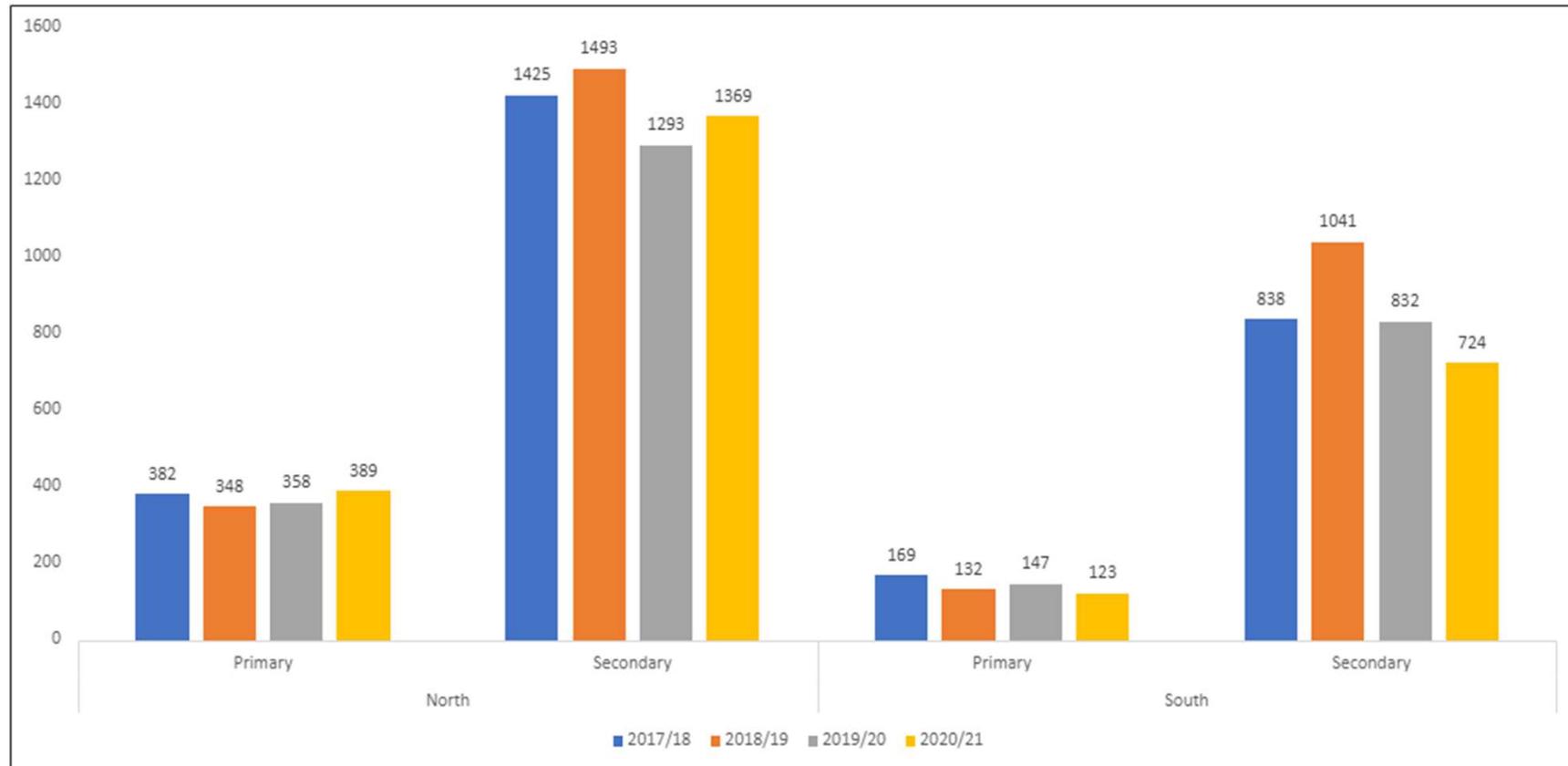
Station	Division	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		% change for 4 years	
		Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
Consett	North	41	158	52	205	35	123	35	114	-14.6%	-27.8%
High Handenhold	North	28	257	34	274	37	196	33	270	17.9%	5.1%
Seaham	North	22	148	25	162	25	158	17	129	-22.7%	-13.8%
Peterlee	North	177	515	139	478	160	469	207	521	16.9%	1.2%
Wheatley Hill	North	59	110	39	79	53	78	43	99	-27.1%	-10.0%
Durham	North	48	178	46	210	28	202	42	163	-12.5%	-8.4%
Stanhope	North	0	6	1	3	1	6	0	9	0.0%	50.0%
Crook	North	7	53	12	82	19	61	12	64	71.4%	20.8%
Total North Division		382	1425	348	1493	358	1293	389	1369	1.8%	-3.9%

South Division

Spennymoor	South	27	88	24	93	26	109	26	97	-3.7%	10.2%
Sedgefield	South	4	4	5	14	6	11	6	21	50.0%	425.0%
Newton Aycliffe	South	28	122	18	174	21	112	18	77	-35.7%	-36.9%
Bishop Auckland	South	44	255	49	325	35	234	29	192	-34.1%	-24.7%
Middleton-in-Tees	South	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	-66.7%	0.0%
Barnard Castle	South	6	7	5	7	20	7	1	0	-83.3%	-100.0%
Darlington	South	57	362	31	428	38	359	42	337	-26.3%	-6.9%
Total South Division		169	838	132	1041	147	832	123	724	-27.2%	-13.6%
Less Darlington		112	476	101	613	109	473	81	387		
Total Durham & Darlington		551	2263	480	2534	505	2125	512	2093	-7.1%	-7.5%
			2814		3014		2630		2605		-7.4%



Cultural impact, (Divisional representation)

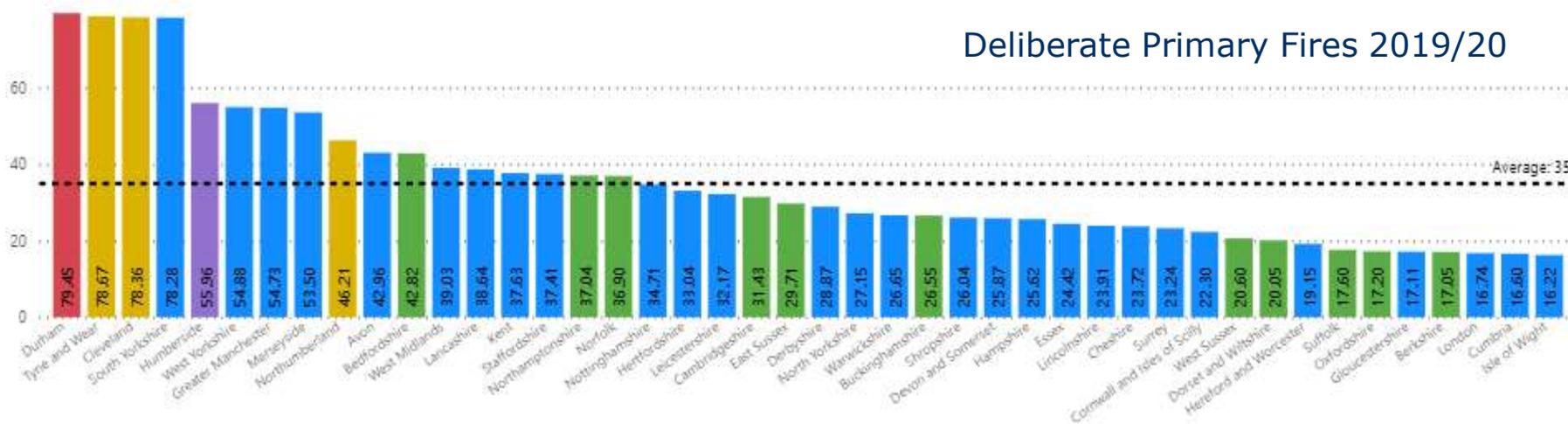


Precipitation: 2019/20 average rainfall 396.7mm
 Autumn of 2019/20 was the wettest since 2000
 (www.metoffice.gov.uk)

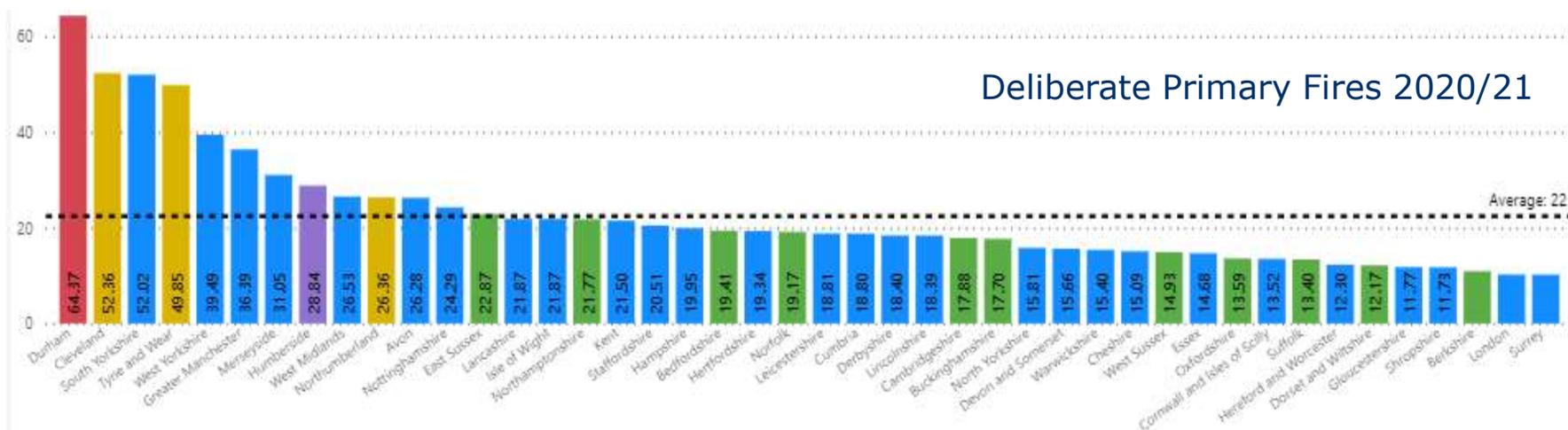


National Benchmarking (Primary fires)

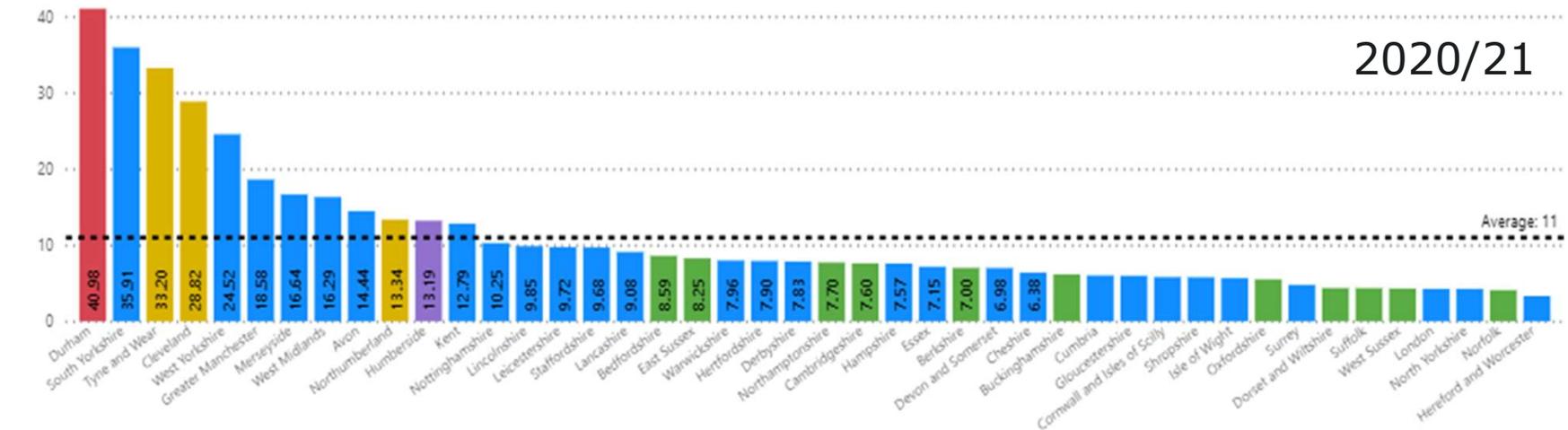
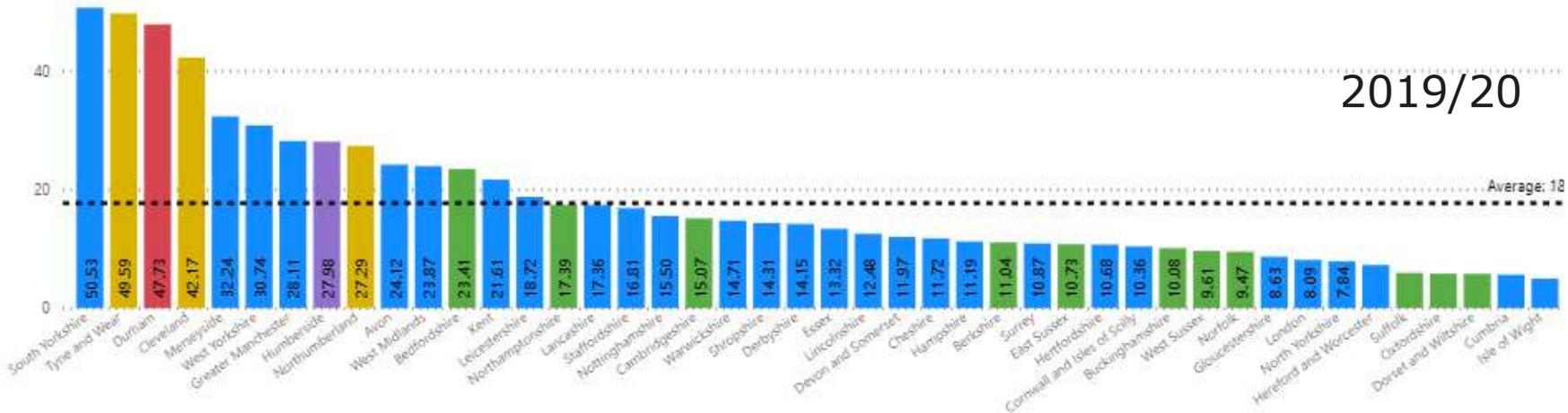
Deliberate Primary Fires 2019/20



Deliberate Primary Fires 2020/21



National Benchmarking (Primary Vehicle fires)



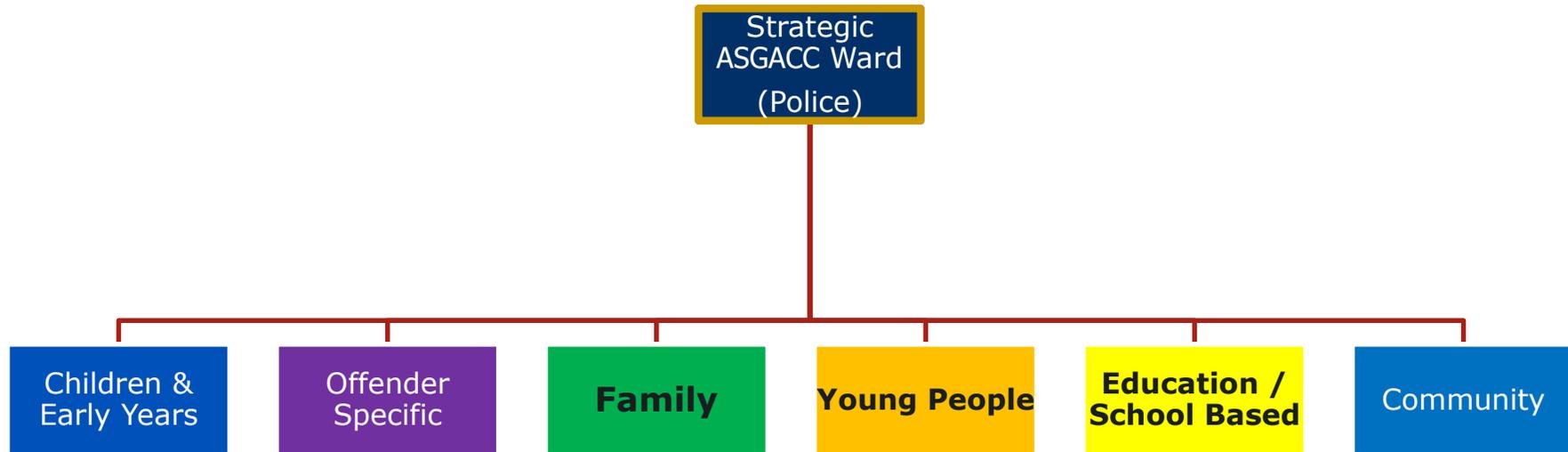
The East Coast

- **OCG:** Police intelligence indicates that OCG activities, (using arson as a tactic), accounts for less than 20% of the fires on the East Coast, however the scope & size of these incidents have a significant community impact. The Strategic ASG is focused on tackling these criminal elements.
- **Horden Together:** This project aims to bring multiple agencies together to improve the social fabric of the Horden village area & the numbered streets. CDDFRS is committed to support this project.
- **Key Challenges:** Education of Children & Young People as to the impact of arson and deliberate fire setting in high risk wards. Reduction of secondary fires & tackling Flytipping as a member of the Fly Tipping Task Force. Providing an avenue for anonymously reporting those responsible for deliberate car fires, (Firestoppers campaign).
- **Academic Study:** Dr Faye Horsley, Newcastle University, (Forensic Psychologist). Conducted an initial study: **Investigating Deliberate Firesetting in the North East of England.**

Getting to the underlying causes is the key for sustained change I would think. That includes examining a whole host of factors from psychological, individual, group, community, political, geographical, economic and even meteorological! (Dr F. Horsley, 14th Oct 2021)



Public Health Approach to Arson Suppression



Factors that impact the current situation on the East Coast

- Social deprivation & low educational attainment.
 - Cultural acceptance of fire.
 - OCG's behaviours within the community.
 - Learned behaviours & 'copy-cat' firesetting.
 - Flytipping & apathetic waste management leaving fuel accessible for Deliberate Secondary fires.
 - Grassland fires
- The Police & FRS are dealing with high profile, problematic, yet peripheral, issues of a cultural & societal discontent.
 - Multiple Agencies are actively delivering services into the East Coast area; but is this approach coordinated enough?
 - Given this context; should the question be:-
"When it comes to arson and fire setting. Are we addressing the problem or the symptom?"



Arson undermines societal cohesion

Research by the Arson Control Forum has shown that arson has a lasting effect on a community, leading to social decline and the loss of community cohesion & social investment. Businesses close, companies relocate, jobs are lost, and the cycle continues in a downward spiral.

Arson and the fire-setting seen on the East coast are symptoms of social decline; a demonstrative act of grievance against the situation & the environment the perpetrator experiences day-to-day.

All agencies need to recognise this, and the collaborative role they can play to tackle the underlying social issues, to come together and tackle the root causes as well as arson and its effects under a Public Health wholistic approach.





Safest People, Safest Places

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

4 November 2021



**Overview of the Domestic Abuse Act
2021 and Whole System Approach to
Domestic Abuse**

Report of Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSCOSC) with an overview of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and outline key implications for the local authority and its partners.

Executive summary

- 2 It is estimated that over 2.4m people are affected by domestic abuse each year in England and Wales. In order to tackle this the government has introduced The Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 3 This act aims to support victims, including children and young people to live lives free from abuse, coercion, and control.
- 4 The act received royal ascent on 29 April 2021 has introduced a range of legislative measures, as set out in detail in paragraph 17, to support victims of domestic abuse including their children.
- 5 Key changes include an update to the statutory definition of domestic abuse which now includes children and young people as victims in their own right and recognises emotional and economic abuse. It also places a statutory requirement on local authorities to provide residents of County Durham, and those who travel from different local authority areas, a range of safe accommodation options and broader wrap around support.

- 6 Durham County Council (DCC) have received over £1.16m through the New Burdens Fund for financial year 2021/22 from the Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH) to ensure that the requirements of the act are successfully implemented.
- 7 It is unclear at this point what future years funding allocations will amount to making the commissioning of sustainable services more challenging; future funding allocation announcements are expected as part of the autumn spending review 2021.
- 8 Following the completion of the Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, a detailed commissioning plan will be developed and approved prior to spend commitment.
- 9 In order to meet the requirements of the act, members of County Durham's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group (DASVEG) are acting as the Local Domestic Abuse Partnership and will provide oversight and and governance for the work.
- 10 Timelines for implementation of the legislative changes as set out in paragraph 19 to paragraph 22, are challenging and will require multi agency support in order to be achieved.
- 11 All work to meet the requirements of the act will be carried out in line with the outcomes of the the following wider system developments, set out in more detail in paragraphs 41 - 57:
 - (a) Outcomes of the Budget Prioritisation
 - (b) Findings of the Health Needs Assessment
 - (c) Outcome of the Co-ordinated Community Response self-evaluation

Recommendation(s)

- 12 SSCOSC are asked to:
 - (a) Note the content of the report;
 - (b) Acknowledge the statutory requirements placed on the local authority and its partners;

Background

- 13 Domestic abuse (DA) is a serious crime that cross cuts across all geographical and cultural groups. It is a crime largely perpetrated in private, with few witnesses and as a consequence is under reported and under recorded.
- 14 Despite this, it is estimated that DA effects over 2.4 million people each year in England and Wales; two thirds of these are women and more than one in ten offences reported to the Police are domestic abuse related.
- 15 The impact of COVID 19, more specifically the stay at home order put in place to save lives and protect the NHS is still unknown. Nationally and locally there is emerging evidence that incidents of DA increased during this period due to the additional pressures placed on households and/or relationships.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

- 16 The current government's response to tackling DA is based upon the introduction of Domestic Abuse Act 2021; the key aims of the act are as follows:
 - (a) Protect and support victims
 - (b) Transform the justice system
 - (c) Improve performance; and
 - (d) Promote awareness
- 17 In order to meet the aims outlined in paragraph 9, the act has introduced legislative changes that will strengthen support to victims and increase measures to tackle perpetrators; a full range of these are listed in **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

Statutory Accommodation Duty

- 18 Durham County Council (DCC) is classified by government as a tier one local authority meaning that the introduction of the act places a number of requirements, they must comply with under the new Safe Accommodation Duty; this includes:
 - The development of a Local Domestic Abuse Partnership
 - Completion of Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUCH) needs assessment
 - Overarching domestic abuse strategy
 - Safe accommodation strategy
 - Annual performance reporting to national government
 - Commissioning plan/strategy

- 19 The Local Partnership Boards will be central to ensuring that local authorities set out a robust strategy for tackling domestic abuse based on an assessment of the needs of all victims in their local area.
- 20 The Local Partnership Boards will also be required to assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support for all victims in their area, including those who require cross-border support.
- 21 Tier one authorities will be required to deliver their strategy, and report back annually to Government. The annual reporting requirement will help the Government and others to monitor how the new duties on local authorities are working, understand where there may be challenges and how the funding is being used, and help identify and disseminate good practice.
- 22 The needs assessment was completed in September and will inform the future Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy due for publication no later than 5 January 2022.

Governance Structure

- 23 The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) have a remit to deliver a range of cross cutting objectives and subsequently form part of the council's delivery mechanism for the County Durham Vision 2035. The SDP, along with its subgroups take a lead on several the vision objectives.
- 24 DASVEG, a well-established subgroup of the SDP is responsible for providing the governance arrangements for the domestic abuse system across County Durham and Darlington.
- 25 The DASVEG reporting structure also ensures that as well as regular reporting to the SDP, strong links are in place with wider partnerships including the Durham Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

Service Provision Requirements

- 26 DCC, guided by DASVEG and informed by the outcomes of the need's assessment will be required to commission the the following provision:
 - (a) Refuge accommodation
 - (b) Specialist safe accommodation
 - (c) Dispersed accommodation
 - (d) Sanctuary scheme
 - (e) Move on and/or secondary accommodation
 - (f) Any other accommodation as identified by the need's assessment

- 27 In addition to the accommodation requirements, the act also places a responsibility on DASVEG to ensure that the following wrap around support is also made available to all victims, including children and young people housed within the various safe accommodation:
- (a) Advocacy support
 - (b) Management of services
 - (c) DA prevention advice and guidance
 - (d) Specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and complex needs
 - (e) Children and young people's support
- 28 It should also be noted that DCC and its partners have some safe accommodation provision already in place this includes:
- (a) Four women's refuge
 - (b) Domestic Abuse Navigator Service (DAN) for victims with complex needs
 - (c) Dispersed properties including some move on
 - (d) Sanctuary Scheme
- 29 Appropriate consultation that captured the lived experience of survivors has taken place with current providers and has formed part of the evidence base of the need's assessment process.

Funding

- 30 In January 2021 the Home Office released each a funding allocation of £50k to each tier one local authority. This money, the Capacity Building Fund is to be specifically used to build system capacity to ensure local authorities have resource to support them prepare to meet the requirements of the act and to contribute to the development of the needs assessment and strategy.
- 31 DCC, in line with local authorities across the country, have agreed to utilise their allocation of the Capacity Building Fund to employ on a short-term basis, a dedicated Domestic Abuse Commissioning Officer.
- 32 It should be noted that DCC will be required to report nationally on how their funding has been utilised and what impact it has had on system progress.
- 33 In addition, the Director of Public Health (DPH) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DLUCH in March 2021. This MOU has enabled the release of a further £1.6m New Burdens Funding (NBF).
- 34 The amount of NBF received was calculated using a national formula based on predicted need for the development and sustainability of a

broad range of safe accommodation options and the associated wrap around support across County Durham.

- 35 It is the intention of the Act to make NBF available each financial year however, further years funding will not be announced until the autumn of 2021, making the commissioning of quality services more challenging.
- 36 A detailed commissioning proposal informed by the need's assessment will be presented to DASVEG prior to the commitment of any NBF spend.

Progress to Date

- 37 County Durham and Darlington already benefit from a long-standing DA governance structure reporting to the SDP, therefore DASVEG will act as County Durham's local domestic abuse partnership for both local authority areas.
- 38 A multi-agency working group has been established to ensure that the remaining requirements of the act are met. Initially the focus of the group was the completion of the need's assessment within timescale and the completion of the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021 – 24.
- 39 Once the strategy has been endorsed further work will take place on the development of a Whole System Approach to Domestic Abuse Strategy due to be published in 2022.
- 40 It should also be noted that all development reports are informed by a range of complimentary Public Health led DA system improvements including;
- (a) Outcomes of the Budget Prioritisation work
 - (b) DA Health Needs Assessment
 - (c) Review of Co-ordinated Community Response

Wider Domestic Abuse System Improvements

- 41 In addition to the progress made in terms of DCC and its partners meeting their statutory duty as set out by the DA Act 2021, public health have led on a range of whole system improvement activity.

Budget Prioritisation Exercise

- 42 During August – September 2020 PH led on a system wide Budget Prioritisation (BP) process.

- 43 The BP framework encourages partners to think about how to get the best value for money. It does not prescribe how budgets should be allocated between programmes. Instead, it allows users to break down big decisions into smaller manageable pieces by considering:
- which programmes could offer the greatest value in the future
 - the current state of programmes that are being delivered
 - the budget currently divided across programmes
 - how easy it is for programmes to change
- 44 By thinking in this structured way, users of the prioritisation process will be able to make recommendations on whether to increase, decrease or maintain spend in each programme area.
- 45 The County Durham process to date has followed the national steps. Specific workshop activities have included:
- Confirming the overarching programme budget areas across the system. (Most of the budget is provided by Durham County Council, then the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner and then Durham Constabulary.)
 - Setting criteria by which to evaluate the potential value of programme spend
 - Weighting the chosen criteria based on their relative importance to one another
 - Completing evidence templates against the criteria
 - Scoring against the criteria based on the evidence presented
 - Completing current state templates and comparing current spend and outcomes to benchmarks if available; assessing the feasibility and opportunity for improvement
 - Determining direction of travel of spend based on the collation of all the above.
- 46 Outcomes:
- All areas have suffered historic disinvestment and programme budgets are built on non-recurrent funding. National recommendations for spend per head far exceed local spend.
 - Demand exceeds the current service capacity in all areas. All programme areas would benefit from an increase in budget, yet partners are realistic about organisational budget pressures.
 - Strong evidence base for a range of interventions and approaches.
 - All partners appreciated how interconnected the domestic abuse system is, and investment needs to be strategic to ensure stability throughout the system and for its vulnerable users.

- Partners developed an understanding of all programme areas, the evidence base and the current spend, which should ensure a more collaborative approach to commissioning going forward.
- Direction of spend (table below). Given the scale of need in County Durham there are no recommendations to reduce investment in a programme area as the risks were perceived to be too great.

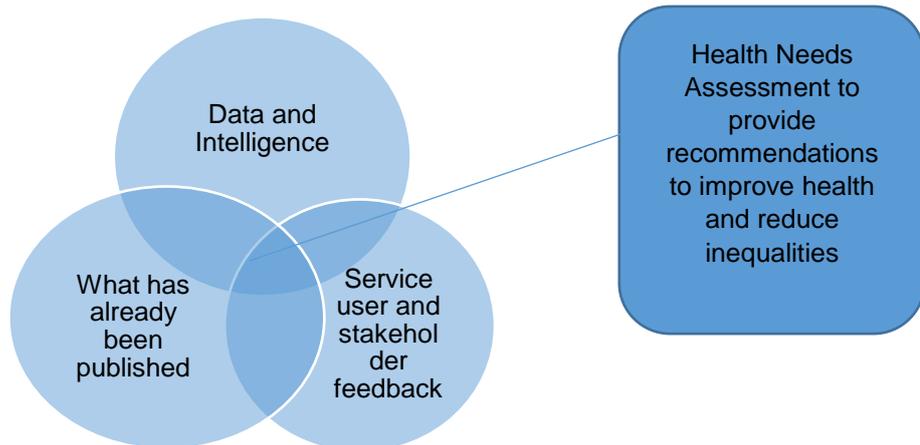
Programme Area	Direction of travel	Comments
Children and Young People - Prevention	Increase	Small investment with good outcomes currently. High feasibility to improve. Opportunity to impact adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
Children and Young People - Specialist	Increase	Outcomes good but investment small. Impact on ACEs. Modelling to predict increase.
Adults – Prevention	Maintain	Current programme DCC non recurrent funding, system wide investment required.
Adults – Specialist	Maintain	Requires mainstream investment otherwise lacks resilience. Excellent service outcomes.
Accommodation	Maintain	Current budget is favourable based on overall spend. Consider other models but maintain funding for vital crisis service.
Workforce	Increase	High feasibility scores. All agencies recognise importance but needs strategic support and investment.
Perpetrators	Maintain	Critical system interdependencies but requires investment from all partners.

Health Needs Assessment

- 47 During 2019 – 2020 Public Health have worked with partners to develop and a Domestic Abuse Health Needs Assessment (HNA).
- 48 The role of this HNA is to consider what we know, but also to think about what we should know about a population.
- 49 In a constantly evolving agenda is it critical to continual assess our knowledge and understanding of national policy which is implemented at a local level to best meet the needs of our residents. In a real-world context of limited resources, decisions need to be made about how and where those resources are allocated and areas with high need are likely to be prioritised.
- 50 The principle of the HNA is based upon three critical processes for gathering relevant information, as illustrated in Diagram 1 below.

51 A literature review was conducted to understand from published evidence what potential health inequalities may exist and be able to then compare this, utilising an epidemiological approach, to local intelligence and data. Lastly, a broad range of stakeholder engagement was carried out and thematically reviewed to capture the voice of victims and perpetrator through robust interviews and focus groups.

Diagram 1 – Health Needs Assessment



52 The systematic process of the HNA has allowed for the development of a range of key findings and recommendations covering the following DA system areas:

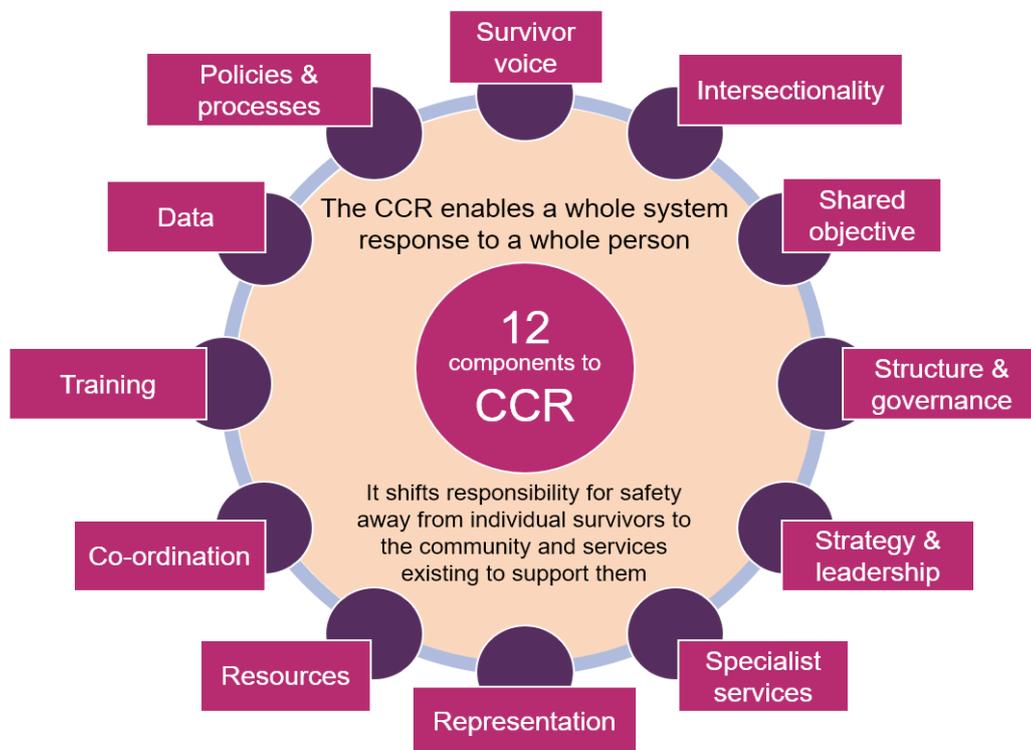
- System Review and Mapping: ensuring there is a collective understanding of interdependencies and partnership working
- Significant unmet need
- Demand led system/graded response
- Equity of access
- Prevention with a focus on the impact on children
- Older adults
- Mental health needs
- Learning from emerging practice

53 The detailed recommendations have been endorsed by members of DASVEG and will be considered when developing all future system work moving forward.

Co-ordinated Community Response

- 54 In July 2020, with support from the newly appointed Domestic Abuse Commissioner, leading national organisation Standing Together published the report *In Search of Excellence* which examines the effectiveness of Co-ordinated Community Response's (CCR) from across the country.
- 55 National and international best practice identifies that each local authority area should have a Co-ordinated Community Response (CCR) (Diagram 2) in place.

Diagram 2: Co-ordinated Community Response



- 56 After considering the findings of this report, public health with the support of DASVEG, have instigated a system leadership self-assessment process by developing an audit tool designed to identify strengths and weaknesses across 12 key component sections of the CCR system.
- 57 Once completed, this will be considered alongside the requirements of the DA Act 2021, the outcome of the BP exercise and the findings of the HNA to enhance our CCR and approach to tackling da as a whole system.

Main implications

- 58 Failure to meet the deadlines set by DLUCH will result in DCC not meeting requirements of the MOU and may result in government scrutiny.
- 59 In addition, if appropriate services are not commissioned within the timeframe required the level of funding that the local authority has received, and future funding allocations may be affected.

Conclusion

- 60 Tackling DA remains a priority for DCC and its partners. The implementation of the requirements of the DA Act 2021 will ensure that victims, including children and young people receive the support they need to live free from violence and abuse.
- 61 In conclusion members of SSCOSC are asked to:
- (a) Note the content of the report;
 - (b) Acknowledge the statutory requirements placed on the local authority and its partners;

Author(s)

Helen Riddell

Tel: 03000 268630

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 places a statutory duty on the local authority in relation to the provision of suitable safe accommodation to residents of County Durham and those from other areas.

Finance

DCC have received £1.16m New Burdens Funding in order to meet the needs of the Safe Accommodation requirements of the DA Act 2021. Failure to appropriately allocated spend may impact on future funding agreements.

Consultation

N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Climate Change

N/A

Human Rights

N/A

Crime and Disorder

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will impact on policing and will be a focus of work for the Safe Durham Partnership

Staffing

N/A

Accommodation

The local authority has a statutory responsibility to house victims of domestic abuse

Risk

There are a number of risks associated with failure to comply with the requirements of the Act including financial

Procurement

There are procurement implications as there is a requirement to commission/procure a range of suitable accommodation based and support services for victims of domestic abuse in this financial year and future years.

Appendix 2: Support for Victims

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will:

- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse;
- create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation;
- extending the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse;
- extend the ‘revenge porn’ offence to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress;
- clarify the law to further deter claims of “rough sex gone wrong” in cases involving death or serious injury;
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link);
- establish in law the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse;
- place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation;
- provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing;
- ensure that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy;
- provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;
- stop vexatious family proceedings that can further traumatise victims by clarifying the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989;
- prohibit GPs and other health professionals from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid

Appendix 3: Measures for tackling perpetrators

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 will:

- prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in family and civil courts in England and Wales;
- bring the case of R vs Brown into legislation, invalidating any courtroom defence of consent where a victim suffers serious harm or is killed;
- enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody;
- extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences;
- provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order, which will prevent perpetrators from contacting their victims, as well as force them to take positive steps to change their behaviour, e.g. seeking mental health support;
- Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences;
- Introduce a statutory duty on the Secretary of State to publish a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy (to be published as part of a holistic domestic abuse strategy).

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OVERVIEW OF DOMESTIC ABUSE SYSTEM UPDATES



Better for everyone



The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Act aims to:

- Protect and Support Victims
- Transform the Justice Process
- Improve Performance
- Promote Awareness



Better for everyone

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

New legislative measures:

- Introduce a new statutory definition
- Establish a DA Commissioner in law
- Create new DA protection notice and order
- Special measures for victims in criminal proceedings
- Prohibiting perpetrators to cross examine victims in family court proceedings
- Extending the extra territorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts to cover further violent and sexual crimes
- Safe Accommodation Statutory Duty



Better for everyone

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Requirements of a Tier 1 LA:

- Domestic Abuse Local Partnership
- Overarching Domestic Abuse Strategy
- System Needs Assessment
- Safe Accommodation Strategy
- Accommodation Needs Assessment
- Co-operate with Tier 2 LA
- Report Annually to government



Statutory Duties

Local Needs Assessment

- Tier 1 LA's must conduct a needs assessment to determine level of need for safe accommodation
- Annual refresh
- Full assessment every 3 yrs
- Consider the needs of residents and out of area clients
- Informed by specialist services
- Understand the barriers



Better for everyone

Timeline

- MOU with LA signed March 2021
- Royal Ascent was granted on 29th April 2021
- Needs Assessment/Draft Strategy October 2021
- Commissioning plan in place 2021/22
- Final Safe Accommodation Strategy January 2022



Whole System Approach

Shifting to system working

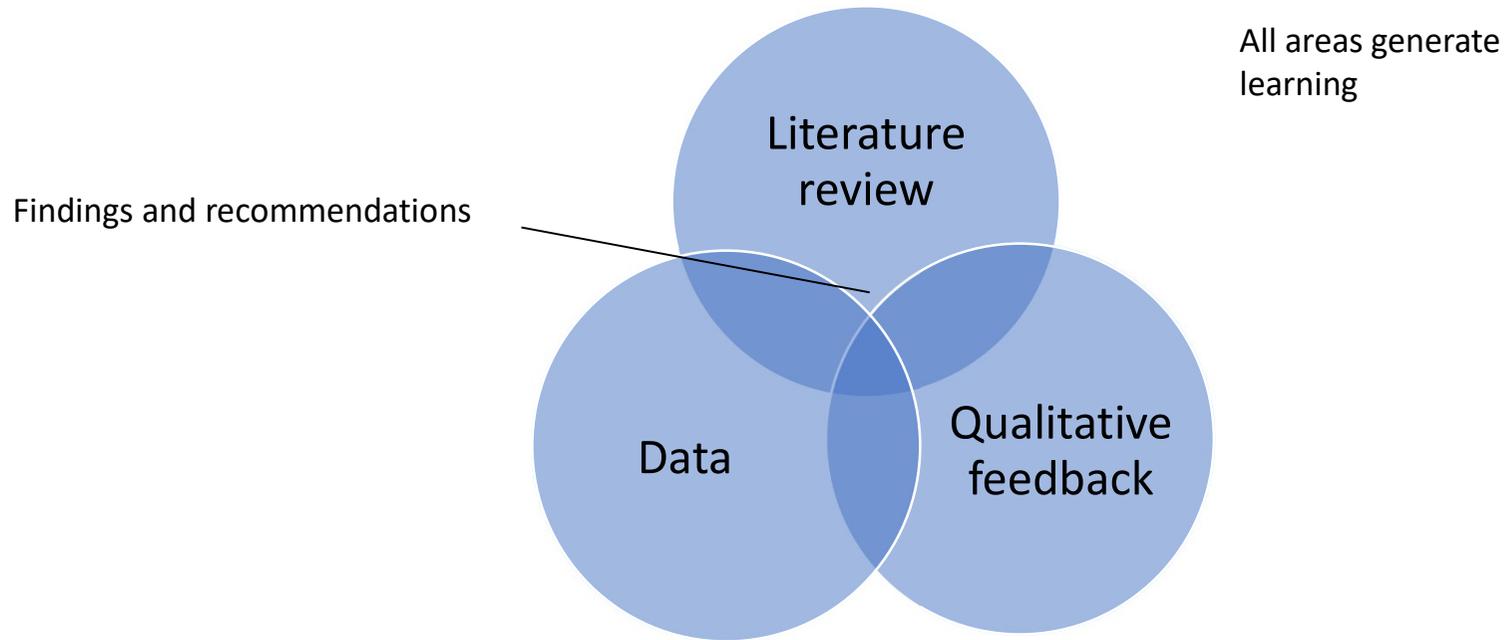
There is no one solution to tackle complex public health issues.



Figure 1: Shifting from traditional working to systems working. (PHE, Whole system approach to obesity)

(Rutter)

Health Needs Assessment



Literature review – hidden populations

- Family abuse and underreporting
- Older people, disability, LGBT+, rural areas
- These aren't one set of people
- Risk falling between the system gaps DA services and safeguarding
- Not every individual will identify the abuse
- Co-ordinated response



Better for everyone

Potential numbers applied to County Durham Adults

	Percentage impacted	Possible number in County Durham
Prevalence incident or crimes in a year	6%	23424
Any DA from the age of 16	21%	81983
Female victim	75%	17568
Male victim	25%	5856

Taken from National estimates and applied to the County Durham Population



Better for everyone

Potential numbers in County Durham – vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups	% of population (general)	Possible numbers in County Durham
General population	14%	10376
Older adults	25%	2594
Living with abuse over 20 years	6%	23424
Disability (x2 as likely)	12%	14554
LGBTQ (2% of population)	11%	859
Transgender (% unknown)	28%	-

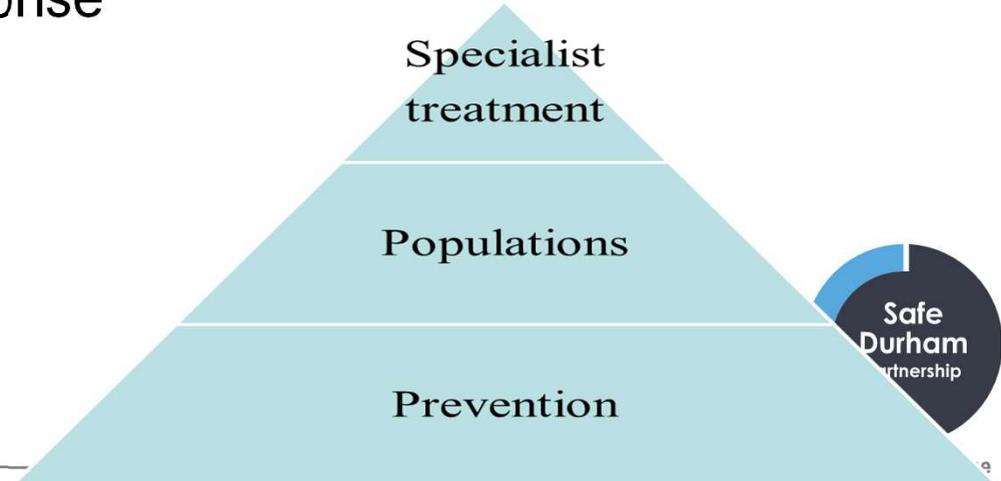
Potential numbers – CYP's

Experienced psychological abuse as a child	19%	74,174
Had witnessed domestic violence or abuse in the home	8%	31,231
Had experienced physical abuse	7%	27,327
Had experienced sexual assault	7%	27,327



Considerations

- Are we data-led or system-led?
- How do we scale-up our approaches?
- Review and understand the system
- Demand led/Graded response
- Equity of access
- Prevention
- Older adults
- Mental Health needs

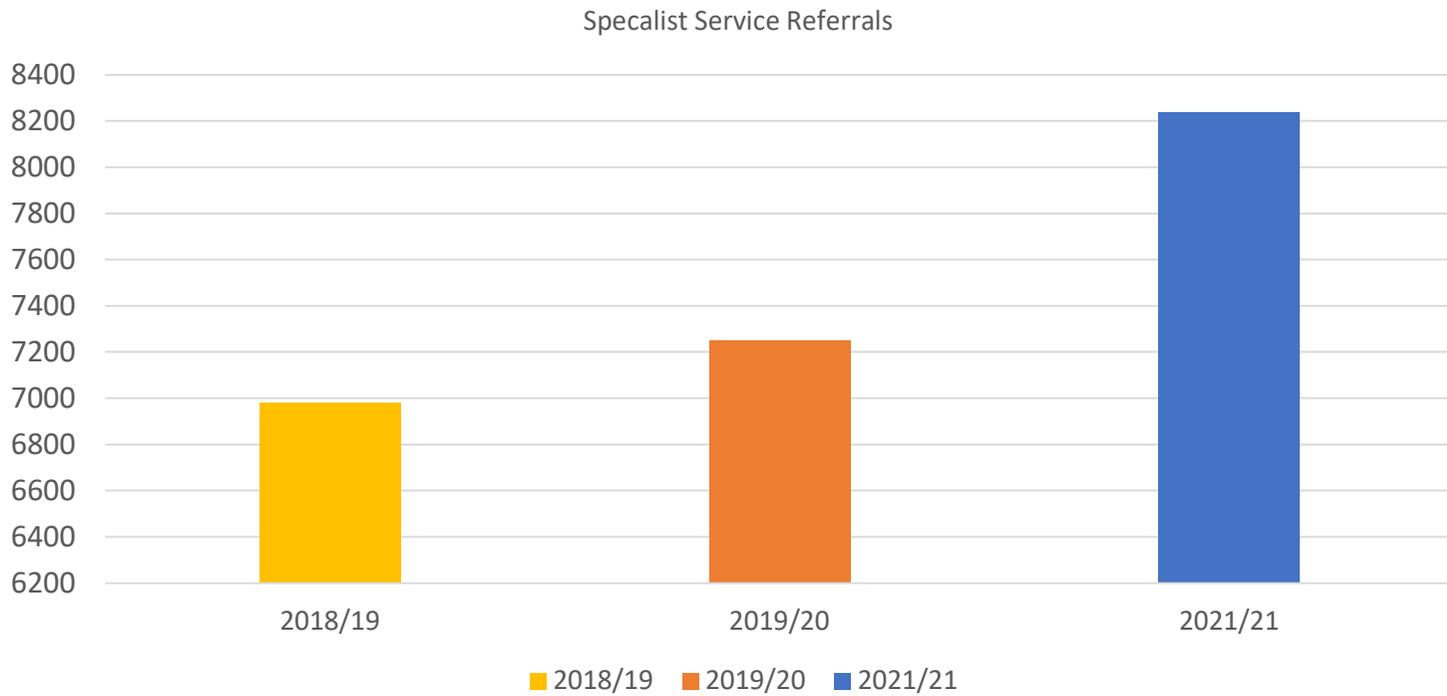


Budget Prioritisation Outcomes

Programme Area	Direction of travel	Comments
Children and Young People - Prevention	Increase	Small investment with good outcomes currently. High feasibility to improve. Opportunity to impact adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).
Children and Young People - Specialist	Increase	Outcomes good but investment small. Impact on ACEs. Modelling to predict increase.
Adults – Prevention	Maintain	Current programme DCC non recurrent funding, system wide investment required.
Adults – Specialist	Maintain	Requires mainstream investment otherwise lacks resilience. Excellent service outcomes.
Accommodation	Maintain	Current budget is favourable based on overall spend. Consider other models but maintain funding for vital crisis service.
Workforce	Increase	High feasibility scores. All agencies recognise importance but needs strategic support and investment.
Perpetrators	Maintain	Critical system interdependencies but requires investment from all partners.

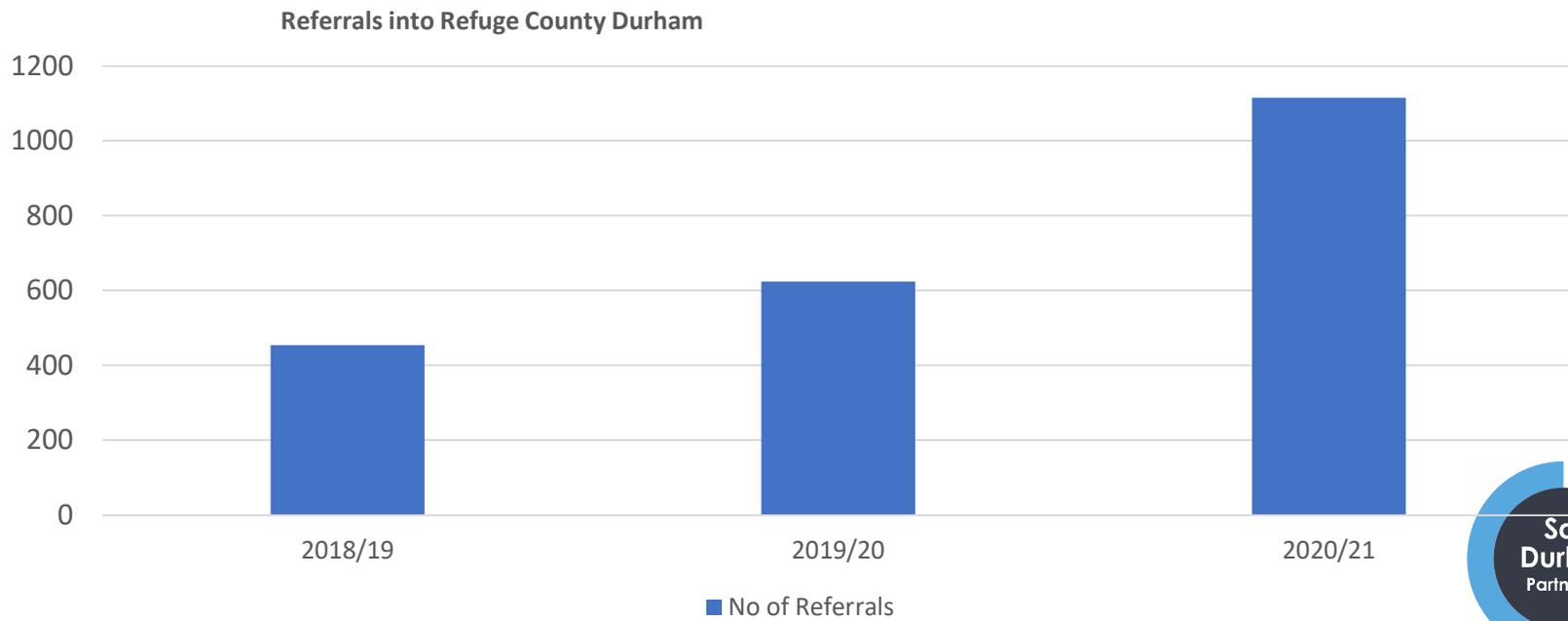


Countywide Specialist Service Referrals



Better for everyone

Refuge Referrals



Better for everyone

Next Steps

- Recommendations of BP and HNA implemented
- Strategy development and publication
- Joint commissioning plan



Better for everyone

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**Safer and Stronger
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

4 November 2021

**Quarter One, 2021/22
Performance Management Report**



Paul Darby, Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To present an overview of progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework and highlight key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes.
- 2 The report covers performance in and to the end of quarter one, April to June, 2021.

Performance Reporting

- 3 The performance report is structured around the three components.
 - (a) High level state of the County indicators to highlight areas of strategic significance. These are structured around the [County Durham Vision 2035](#).
 - (b) Council initiatives of note against the ambitions contained within the vision alongside a fourth 'excellent council' theme contained within our [Council Plan](#)¹.
 - (c) A long list of key performance indicators against the themes of the Council Plan.
- 4 It also includes an overview of the continuing impact of COVID-19 on council services, our staff, and residents.

Connected Communities

- 5 Reduced overall crime rates continued throughout quarter one, more noticeably across theft-related offences, which fell by a quarter, and may reflect people spending more time at home, with fewer opportunities for theft in public spaces and the closure of non-essential retail and the night-time economy.

¹ approved by full council October 2020

- 6 Anti-social behaviour has also increased, mainly litter related incidents, but also driven by more residents spending more time at home (thereby witnessing and reporting events, as well as driving increases in areas such as noise) and the enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions.

The impact of COVID-19

- 7 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented health emergency across the globe. [Restrictions](#) to contain the virus, minimise deaths and prevent health and social care systems being overwhelmed remain in place, and are continuing to impact our everyday lives, our health and the economy.
- 8 However, roll-out of the UK's vaccination programme, which has reduced both hospital admissions and deaths, has allowed the government to implement plans for a [gradual and phased route out of lockdown](#).
- 9 Working with government organisations and within the context of national developments, we continue to protect our communities, support those affected by the pandemic, and develop plans for future recovery.
- 10 The COVID-19 surveillance dashboard can be accessed [here](#).

Risk Management

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

Recommendation

- 12 That Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter one performance, the impact of COVID-19 on performance, and the actions being taken to address areas of underperformance including the significant economic and well-being challenges because of the pandemic.

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

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

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Climate Change

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

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

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

Staffing

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

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

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

Procurement

Not applicable.



Durham County Council Performance Management Report

Quarter One, 2021/22



Connected Communities

- 1 The ambition of Connected Communities is linked to the following key objectives:
 - (a) Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe;
 - (b) Communities will come together and support each other.

National, Regional and Local Picture

- 2 Parliament has debated a petition calling for more water safety content as part of the curriculum and swimming lessons. The petition calls on the government to “review and enhance curriculum content on water safety, so schools are required to ensure that all children know about and know how to deal with issues such as cold water shock and rip currents”. Through representation on the Local Government Association (LGA) the council has previously pushed for water safety to be taught in schools and also led the Safe Durham Partnership’s Dying to be Cool² campaign.
- 3 Throughout 2020/21, there was a 6% decrease in recorded crime compared to the previous year, equating to more than 2,700 fewer crimes. Although, reductions were across most crime categories, the decrease was more noticeable across theft-related offences, including vehicle crime, which has reduced by more than 10%.

Council Services

Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe

- 4 Both water safety forums, responsible for managing water safety in the city centre and countywide, met during quarter one 2021/22. The multi-agency groups reviewed risk assessments and planned controls for open water across the county, with a particular focus on Durham City centre.
- 5 The City Safety Group reviewed its action plan and reiterated its commitment to interventions that reduce risks associated with open water. These interventions include proactive assessment of new developments within the city centre and implementing control measures prior to student induction week.
- 6 In advance of the summer holiday period, the countywide Open Water Safety Group reviewed its risk assessments for higher risk locations across the county.

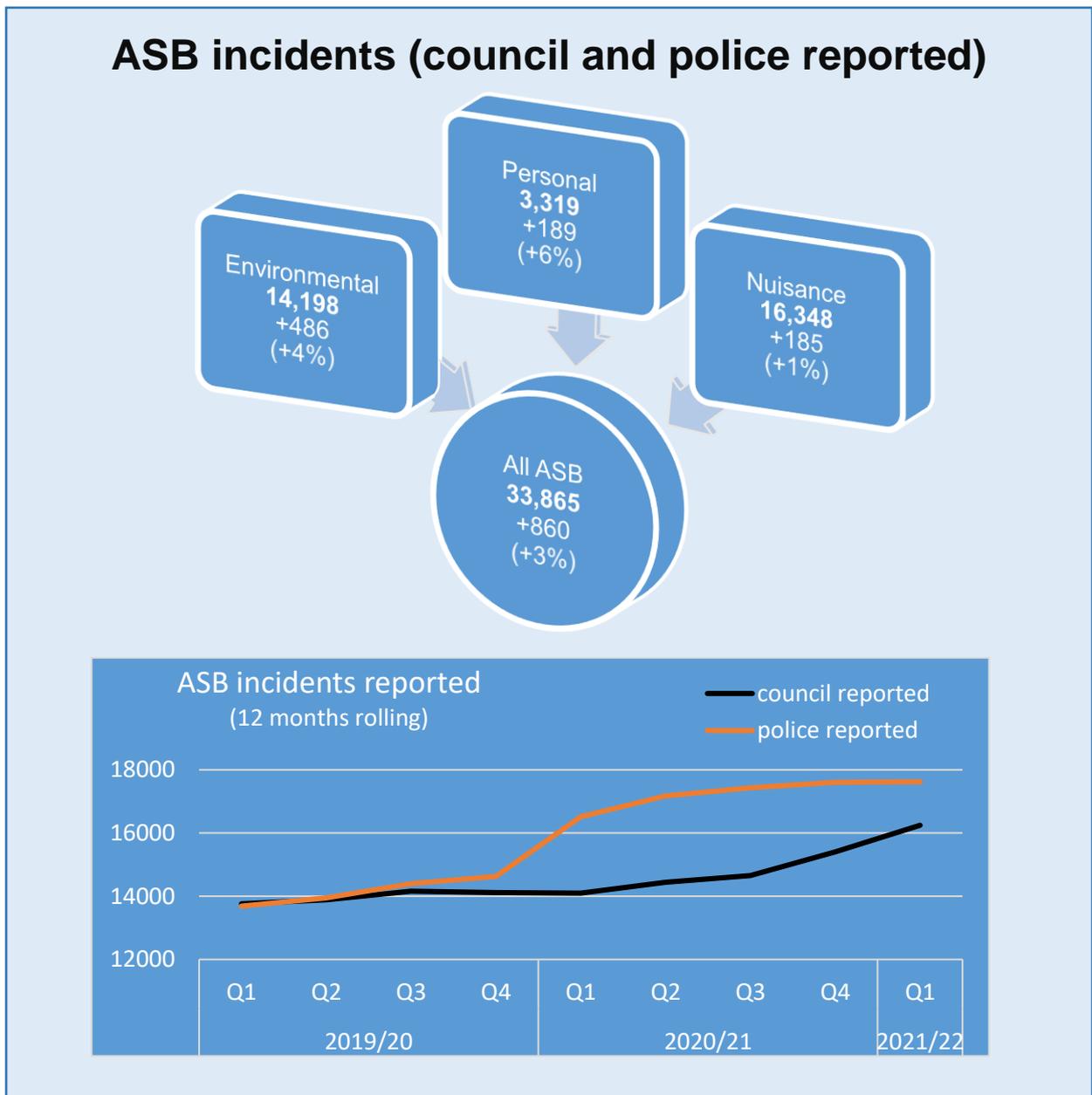
² Which/ aim to raise more awareness in 10-16 year olds of cold water shock and the risks of going into water without acclimatising first.

The group also started work to increase awareness of the risks linked to open water – with particular focus on the council’s dying to be cool campaign.

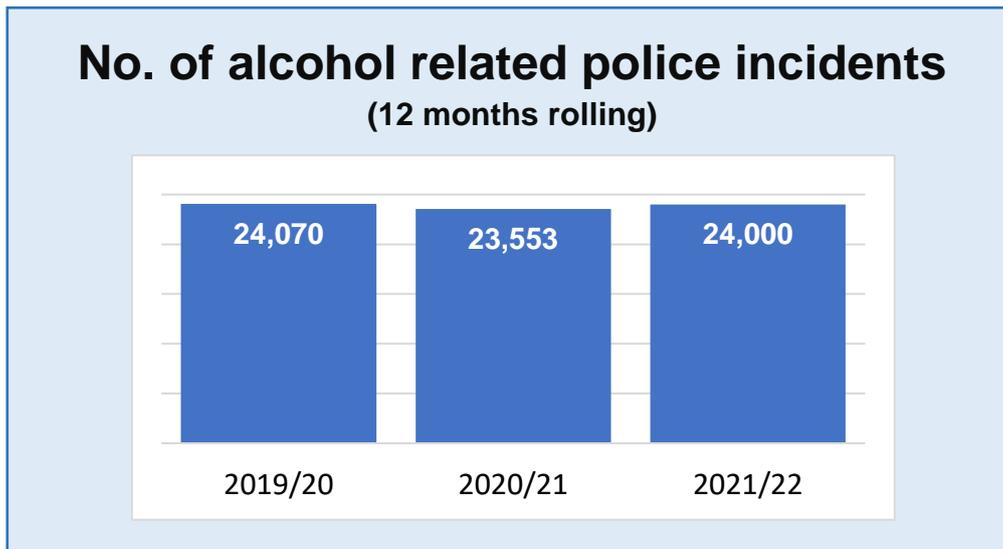
- 7 All partners worked together to promote national drowning prevention week (12 to 19 June) and increase community awareness.

Communities will come together to support each other

- 8 The issue of nuisance motorcycles and quad bikes was highlighted by the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a particular gap, which has now been included within the anti-social behaviour work area. Actions will include developing a partnership action plan to tackling nuisance motorcycles and quad bikes which will include actions from a range of partners including the Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, Neighbourhood Initiatives team, Highways and Crimestoppers.



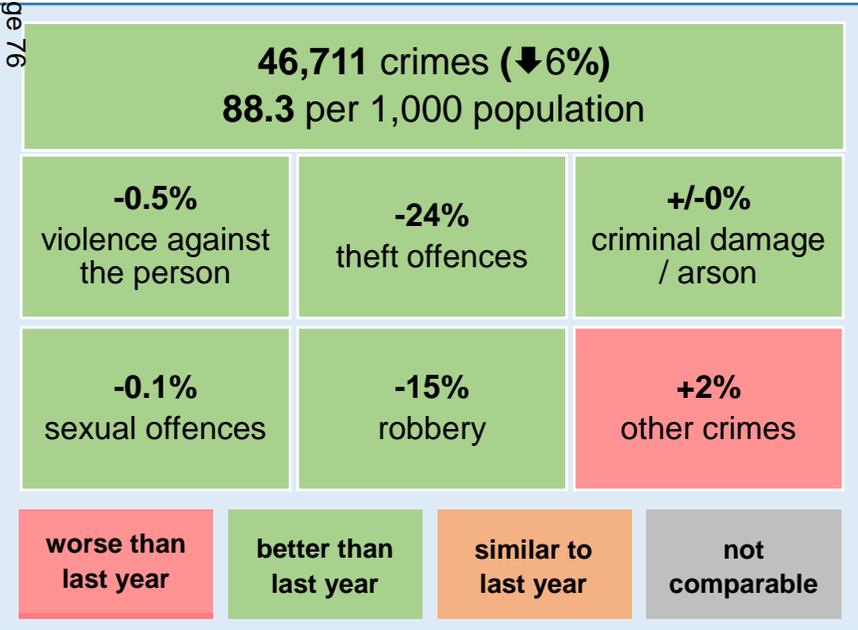
- 9 Over the last 12 months there has been an increase of approximately 14% in the number of ASB incidents reported to the council, equating to over 2,000 additional incidents. Most of this increase has been within nuisance, mainly noise incidents and enviro-crime, mainly litter incidents.
- 10 Following significant increases during the first half of 2020, police reported alcohol related ASB has significantly fallen to below pre-COVID levels most noticeable between November and December. However, since then, these incidents have increased month on month with quarter one being higher than the last two years.



- 11 Daily multi-agency screening of all domestic abuse incidents continues to be jointly undertaken by children's services, child health and police staff from the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH). Sharing information and decision making reduces any delay for children who need to be safeguarded. Over 6,000 incidents have been triaged in the last 12 months.
- 12 Following concerns raised by local residents, a bus-gate has been installed on a section of road near the primary school in Coxhoe aimed at improving road safety. It will be monitored with an approved camera to help enforce the restrictions, there is a £60 fine (discounted to £30 if paid within 14 days) for non-compliance.

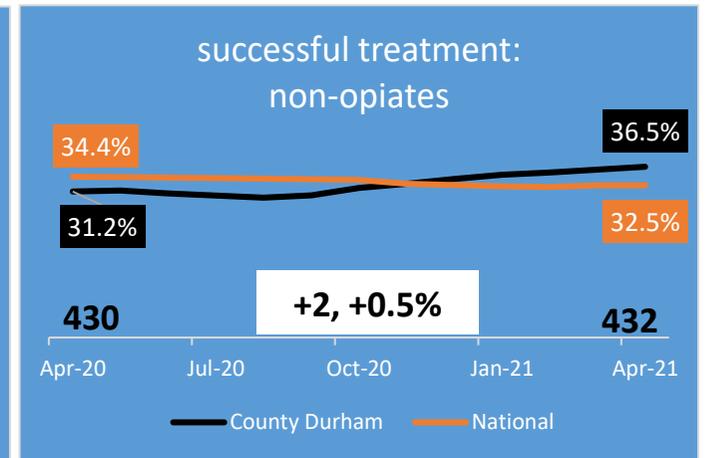
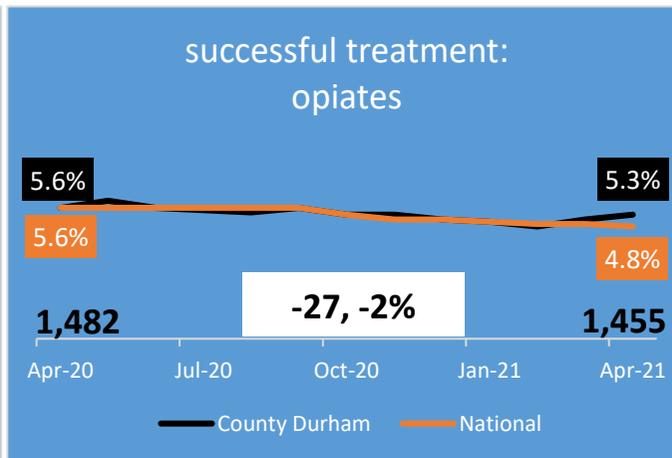
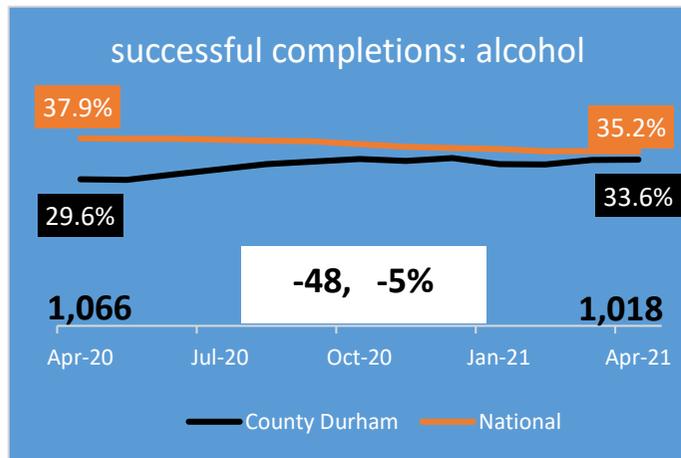
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

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		12 months ending		Change	
		Jun 20	Jun 21		
Deliberate primary fires ¹	all	455	454	-1	0%
	relating to road vehicles	319 (70%)	272 (60%)	-47	-15%
Deliberate secondary fires ²	all	2,085	1,836	-249	-12%
	relating to rubbish	1,188 (57%)	1,047 (57%)	-141	-12%

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



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

No. of domestic abuse incidents reported directly to the police (12 months rolling)



Referrals to Harbour (quarterly)



Road traffic collisions

- Killed
- Seriously injured
- Slightly injured

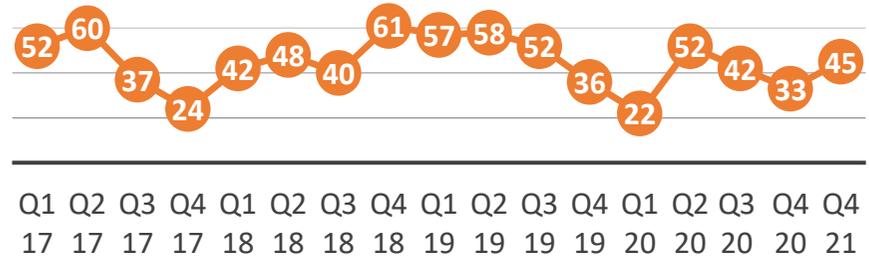
All casualties Jul 20-Jun 21 (Jul 19-Jun 20)

- 16 (18)
- 175 (168)
- 499 (565)

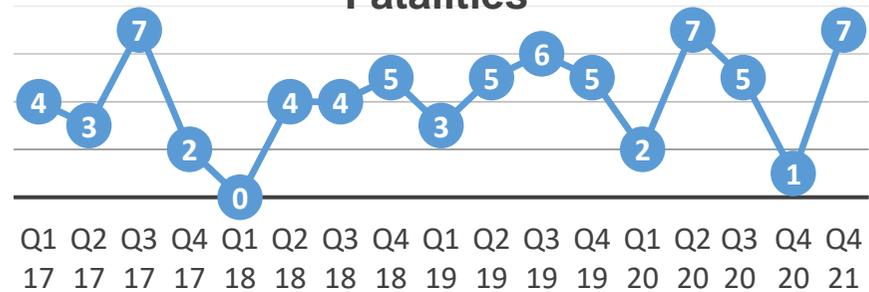
Children Jul 20-Jun 21 (Jul 19-Jun 20)

- 1 (0)
- 20 (21)
- 71 (42)

Serious Injuries



Fatalities



Key Performance Indicators – Data Tables

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There are two types of performance indicators throughout this document:

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

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

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

National Benchmarking

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

North East Benchmarking

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

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

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – SAFER

How effective are we are tackling crime and disorder?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
77	First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17)	176	2019/20	Tracker	262 (green)	220 (green)	303 (green)	231 (green)		No
78	Overall crime rate per 1,000 population	88.1	2020/21	Tracker	93.3 (green)	77.0 (red)				Yes
79	Rate of theft offences per 1,000 population	18.7	2020/21	Tracker	24.5 (green)					Yes
80	Proportion of all offenders who re-offend in a 12 month period (%)	30.6	Apr-Jun 2019	Tracker	30.8 (green)	31.7 (green)	35.7 (green)	30.0 (red)	2016/17	No
81	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%)	51.9	2017/18	Tracker	41.4 (red)	38.4 (red)	41.8 (red)			No

How effective are we at tackling anti-social behaviour?

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
82	Satisfaction with the way that the council and police are dealing with local concerns about ASB and crime issues in your area.	56.4	Mar 2020	Tracker	50.1 (red)			53.7 (red)	Jun 2019	No
83	No. police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	17,621	Jul 20 - Jun 21	Tracker	16,511 (red)					Yes
84	No. council reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	16,244	Jul 20 - Jun 21	Tracker	14,101 (red)					Yes

How well do we reduce misuse of drugs and alcohol?

Page 80 Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
85	% of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment	33.6	May 2021-Apr 2021	Tracker	29.6 (green)	35.2 (amber)	31.2 (green)			Yes
86	% of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates	5.3	May 2021-Apr 2021	Tracker	5.6 (amber)	4.8 (green)	3.9 (green)			Yes
87	% of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates	36.5	May 2021-Apr 2021	Tracker	29.6 (green)	32.5 (green)	27.3 (green)			Yes
88	% of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related	15.7	2020/21	Tracker	18.7 (green)					Yes
89	% of violent crime that is alcohol related	32.1	2020/21	Tracker	31.1 (amber)					No
90	Alcohol seizures	194**	Apr-Jun 2018	Tracker	398 (green)					No

**under review

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

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
91	Building resilience to terrorism (self-assessment). Score - level 1(low) to 5(high)	3*	2017/18	Tracker	3 (green)					No
92	No of individuals with a referral for 1:1 CSE Support from Supporting Solutions Team**	61	2020/21	Tracker	new**					Yes

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

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

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

Other additional relevant indicators

LONG AND INDEPENDENT LIVES

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

Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
27	Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s (rate per 100,000)	52.8	2017/18-2019/20	Tracker	54.7 (green)	30.7 (red)	55.4 (green)	55.3 (green)		No
28	Young people aged 10-24 admitted to hospital as a result of self-harm (rate per 100,000)	361.2	2019/20	Tracker	354.3 (red)	439.2 (green)	536.6 (green)	656.3 (green)		No

Are our services improving the health of our residents?

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

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

Page Ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	12 months earlier	National figure	North East figure	Nearest statistical neighbour	Period covered if different	updated this quarter
49	% of individuals who achieved their desired outcomes from the adult safeguarding process	95.1	1 Apr-16 Jun 2021	Tracker	94.5 (green)	92.2 (green)	85.4 (green)	92.1* (green)	2019/20	Yes

*unitary authorities