



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date Thursday 8 September 2022

Time 9.30 am

Venue Committee Room 2, 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 on 27 June 2022 (Pages 3 - 10)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Horden Together Update (Pages 11 - 20)
 - (i) Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change
 - (ii) Presentation by Owen Cleugh, Public Protection Manager
7. Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and Safer Streets 4 Programme Update (Pages 21 - 38)
 - (i) Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change
 - (ii) Presentation by Owen Cleugh, Public Protection Manager
8. Open Water Safety Update (Pages 39 - 60)

- (i) Report of Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth
 - (ii) Presentation by Kevin Lough, Occupational Health and Safety Manager
9. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategic Group Update (Pages 61 - 66)
Report of Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change
10. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
31 August 2022

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

Councillor J Charlton (Chair)
Councillor P Heaviside (Vice-Chair)

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

Co-opted Members: Mr D Balls and Mrs A Paterson

Co-opted Employees/Officers: Superintendent N Bickford,
Chief Fire Officer S Errington and Deputy Chief Fire Officer S Helps

Contact: Scott Hutchinson Tel: 03000 269 706

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 **Monday 27 June 2022** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor J Charlton (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Members:

Mr D Balls and Mrs A Paterson

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Superintendent A Simpson and Chief Fire Officer S Errington

Also Present:

Councillor P Jopling

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2022 and 20 May 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that in relation to Counter Terrorism, information had been circulated to members as agreed. In addition to this, he confirmed that a response had been submitted to the service group and cabinet portfolio in relation to the civil contingency planning and Storm Arwen review.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest submitted.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

There were no items from co-opted members or interested parties.

6 Update on the work of Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Strategy Group 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health which provided an update of all activity relating to reducing alcohol and drug harms in County Durham during 2021/22, an update on the refresh of The Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Group (ADHRG) Plan on a Page (POP) and elements of the Action Plan for 2022-23, and provided an update on plans for the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTR) (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Charlton thanked the Public Health Strategic Manager Living Well, Aging Well (LW,AW) for the detailed report and passed on her thanks for the warm welcome she had received when attending the recent drug and alcohol event.

Councillor Nicholls noted that licensing was a problem, particularly with sales to underage persons. He further noted the scale of off licenses in the County and asked if statistics were available to indicate the number of warnings given to each off license. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) confirmed that this information could be obtained through the Consumer Protection Team.

Councillor Quinn referred to table 4 of the report and asked whether drugs other than opiates and crack could be included. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) explained it was challenging to detail other drugs in the table due to polydrug abuse and drugs that were also prescribed as medication, but confirmed that the table presented the main themes. She explained that the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service kept a record of all drugs taken.

Councillor Jopling thanked the Committee for inviting the members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. She referred to table 7 of the report and queried the correlation between homelessness and the use of drugs and alcohol. She emphasised the seriousness of this and asked what measures had been put in place for early intervention.

The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) advised that the group worked closely with the Housing Solutions Team and housing providers. She noted that the Dame Carol Black funding had enabled the group to expand on prevention and early intervention and that additional colleagues had been employed, one being a mental health nurse. She added that through the rough sleeping grant they had put in workers around domestic abuse and had put a specialist team in place who worked with the service provider, Harbour.

In response to a further question from Councillor Jopling regarding engagement with an individual and their family when suffering with mental health, The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) advised that they worked with the Mental Health Trust to provide support to individuals along with wrap around care for the families. She further advised that support could also be offered to families without the engagement of the individual and explained that this had opened the door for some individuals to engage themselves and were subsequently offered a wide variety of support.

Councillor Jopling praised the fantastic work.

Mrs Paterson asked whether the Recovery Centre was located within the same building as Horden Together. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) clarified that these were in separate buildings and explained that the Recovery Centre was previously used as a resource centre.

Mrs Paterson commented on the 396 on sales premises and noted that there was a great deal of local intelligence in the voluntary and community sector that could provide help with data and background. She asked whether there were any future plans to work with organisations such as Al-Anon who provided support to families. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) confirmed that they worked with a number of organisations that were not commissioned by Durham County Council as well as a range of charities. She further noted that they worked in partnership with community protection and believed that the level of local intelligence and the sharing of intelligence was high.

Councillor Sutton-Lloyd commented on the 24-hour availability of alcohol and questioned whether a stronger message needed to be given to Government regarding the extended hours granted for licenses. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) advised that they worked in partnership with the council's Consumer Protection Team and the Licensing Team and that Public Health sighted all licenses that were received and that these were monitored on a wider basis with Durham Constabulary.

Councillor Sutton-Lloyd believed that granting licenses for extended hours was a creeping problem and could be the cause of the issues and asked whether this should be considered. The Head of Community Protection Services noted that they had the power locally to make representations for all license applications submitted. She further noted that they regularly reviewed the policy for licensing and suggested that this could be reviewed again if members felt it was necessary. In terms of enforcement work she advised that a report had recently been submitted to cabinet and that it would be beneficial to share the report with the Committee.

Councillor Nicholls informed the Committee that the Police and Crime Commissioner had recently put in a bid for the Safer Streets fund which was targeted for Durham City and Darlington town centre to combat spiking. He advised that they will be informed of the outcome of this in the next quarter.

The Head of Community Protection Services advised that they had previously received funding from the Safer Streets fund and had utilised this to create a hub in the city centre which provided a refuge for young females whose safety was compromised. She commented that this had been a successful project and they did not want to lose the valuable service. She advised that the outcome for the next round of funding would be announced in September 2022.

Chief Superintendent A Simpson noted that the Safer Streets bid was not solely about spiking and included a whole range of measures to make town centres safer and protect vulnerable people.

Councillor Mavin expressed his frustration regarding the lack of response to the reporting of drugs in his area. Chief Superintendent A Simpson explained that it took a considerable amount of time to build up a package for a response and agreed to explain this in further detail to Councillor Mavin following the meeting.

Councillor Charlton agreed that it was frustrating not to receive feedback as it was uncertain if the issue had been addressed. Chief Superintendent A Simpson appreciated the importance of feedback and agreed that he would look into this.

Councillor Charlton asked what was in place to continue the good work if they did not receive the funding in the 2023/25 round. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) advised that funding had been secured for a further two year period. She noted that it was a ten-year drug strategy but that it was difficult to predict what would happen with regards to funding after year three. She believed it was beneficial to apply and secure the funding and then to evaluate what worked well allowing them to build on this in the future and apply for the required funding from other sources if necessary.

Councillor Charlton referred to the Public Perceptions Survey on page 22 of the report and asked how many people were targeted for the survey and the method for targeting. The Public Health Strategic Manager (LW,AW) confirmed that the survey was taken through an organisation called Balance, who were funded by seven Local Authorities. She was unsure how many people were involved in the survey but noted they were highly skilled and had a great client, patient, and resident insight. She offered to seek the detail of the survey if required.

Resolved

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Note the content of the report and progress made during 2021/22 to reduce the harms from drug and alcohol within our communities.
- ii. Maintain oversight of the new funding to ensure multi-agency working to support all objectives.

7 Home Fire Safety

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided background information in advance of a presentation from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) on home fire safety (for copy see file of minutes).

The presentation delivered by the Director Community Risk Management provided members with an overview of community fire safety activity with a focus on home fire safety visits. He gave a detailed explanation on what was included in a home fire safety visit, advised how the service currently worked with partners, the plan for partnership working in the future and highlighted the achievements of the service.

Councillor Charlton thanked the Director Community Risk Management for the presentation and praised the service for their consistent work.

Councillor Atkinson commented on backyard fires and felt awareness needed to be raised regarding the dangers of these and the effect that they have on the environment. The Director Community Risk Management advised that this fell under the category of clutter and that advice on this subject was given during the home fire safety visits. He noted that the service worked with residents and the Local Authorities to try and target this issue and that any rubbish should be sent to the local recycling site.

Councillor Reed noted that the home fire safety visits in her area had been valuable commenting that a resident who had a visual and hearing impairment was provided with items from the sensory department which had been extremely helpful. She went on to ask whether there was a plan for the service to do re-visits as a resident had commented that their smoke alarm was no longer working. The Director Community Risk Management confirmed that there was a revisit programme in place but that it was only for those deemed high risk. He clarified that a smoke alarm should last for ten years and advised that there was a telephone number on their website for residents who required advice.

Councillor Nicholls raised his concerns with the use of emollient creams and hand sanitiser. The Director Community Risk Management confirmed that these were highly flammable but only posed a risk when in contact with a naked flame. Councillor Nicholls went on to ask about allotment fires, noting that although being deliberate, they were not done to cause harm. The Director Community Risk Management noted that external fires were a key area of work for the service and that they were being proactive with regards to this.

Councillor Nicholls went on to praise the Tik Tok account that had been set up by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and emphasised how well the service had engaged with the community. The Director Community Risk Management advised that the account had been set up by an operational member of staff and had received a great response.

Councillor McKenna referred to the recent gas explosion in Birmingham and asked how often gas related incidents occurred. The Director Community Risk Management confirmed that gas explosions were rare. He noted that advice was given to people that owned their homes and to landlords and added that information on carbon monoxide detectors was also given at home fire safety visits.

In reference to the fire at Lee House in Peterlee, Councillor Fenwick asked if there were any measures in place to secure vacant buildings to stop children from accessing them. The Director Community Risk Management confirmed that they were working with the Police and the Local Authorities to address this but that robust work also needed to be done with the owners of the buildings.

In response to a question from Councillor Nicholls regarding electrical fires, the Director Community Risk Management noted that information on electrical safety was included as part of the home fire safety visit and stressed that electrical devices should only be purchased from reputable providers.

Mrs Paterson asked whether community centres could be included as part of the visit programme as these buildings were sometimes used to house the public in cases of emergency. The Chief Fire Officer explained that a community centre would generally require a basic risk assessment, however he stated that this assessment would need to be enhanced if the centre was to house people overnight. He thanked Mrs Paterson for raising this and agreed to feed this back to the service.

Councillor Charlton asked whether clutter and hoarding outside of homes, such as within sheds, should be reported to the service. The Director Community Risk Management confirmed that the clutter and hoarding referenced in the report applied to the inside of homes and that problems externally should be reported to the council.

Councillor Charlton informed members that an informal session regarding arson suppression had been scheduled and details of this would be circulated to members.

Resolved

That the content of the report and presentation be noted.

8 Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Strategic Group

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change which provided an update on the re-established ASB Strategic Group, its priorities and work areas and the development of the ASB Strategy (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Community Protection Services delivered the report.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to paragraph seven of the report. He explained the definition of the word nuisance and was concerned that this title would downplay the significant issues that fell under this category. The Head of Community Protection Services appreciated his concern and agreed to feed this back to the group.

Councillor Sutton-LLOYD noted that ASB was a major problem and that the group was a very positive step forward. He stressed the need for the various agencies to engage so that a coordinated approach could be achieved and noted that he would report back to members with the results of the work that he was personally involved in.

Councillor Cairns raised concerns regarding youth and felt the group needed to be more proactive in this area. The Head of Community Protection Services gave assurances that this area was key but that they needed to be more innovative and creative.

Councillor Cairns raised further concerns regarding feedback, stating that no response was given to members following reports of ASB and that it was vital for members to be kept informed. The Head of Community Protection Services pointed out that this was often difficult due to the sensitive nature of the information but agreed that a mechanism needed to be put in place to provide re-assurance to members and build confidence with the public.

In response to a question from Councillor Quinn regarding where incidents of ASB should be reported, the Head of Community Protection Services explained that three organisations were involved: the Council; the Police; and social landlords. She acknowledged that the method for reporting was not clear, and a one stop shop for reporting would be more beneficial. She advised that this approach was to be considered going forward.

Councillor Quinn raised a further question regarding the eviction of tenants who had been identified with ASB one mile from their home. The Head of Community Protection Services noted that most landlords had information on ASB in the clause of their tenancy agreement. She further noted that under the selective licensing scheme, private landlords could lose their license if there were reports of ASB.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer informed the Committee that he would circulate information regarding the informal awareness sessions on Neighbourhood Wardens and ASB Performance dashboard.

Resolved

That the content of the report be noted.

9 Quarter Four, 2021/22 Performance Management Report

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided an overview of progress towards achieving the key outcomes of the council's corporate performance framework and highlighted key messages to inform strategic priorities and work programmes. The Corporate Policy and Performance Manager delivered the report which covered performance in and to the end of quarter four, January to March 2022 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved

That the content of the report be noted.

10 Work Programme 2022/23 for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Resources which provided the work programme for 2022/2023 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer delivered the report.

Resolved

The Committee agreed to:

- i. Receive and comment on the proposed SSC OSC work programme for 2022/23
- ii. Agree the SSC OSC work programme for 2022/23 and the flexibility it offered to respond to emerging issues.

Councillor Charlton informed the Committee that this was the last meeting for Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer. On behalf of the Committee, she expressed her sincere thanks to him for 13 years of dedicated service and wished him the best of luck in his new role.

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

8 September 2022

Horde Together Update



**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on Horde Together Initiative.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview of ongoing work Horde Together initiative including development of the Theory of Change work as part of the Partnerships for People and Places Programme.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with progress of the Horde Together project
- 5 The presentation provides an update on progress since the establishment of a place-based multi-agency approach and the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) initiative. The presentation also includes details on key deliverables including tackling ASB, crime and disorder and improving confidence in services.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

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

Conclusion

- 7 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to provide comment on current and future on community protection activity.
- 8 Background papers
- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Stephen Gwilym

Tel: 03000 268140

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

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

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Horden Together Initiative Presentation

Attached as a separate document



Developing a Place Based Approach

The Story so Far:

- DCC funding secured
- Base Established – Horden Miner’s Welfare Hall
- Strategic governance in place through to County Durham Together & Safe Durham Partnership
- Operational oversight with key partners and community groups
- Focus on Partnerships for People and Place



People

- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)
- Team Leader and 3 Community Navigators
- Seconded Recovery Worker
- > 100 referrals to date
- Links to Information, Advice and Guidance Network
- Community engagement forum and local surgeries
- Andy's Man Club



Place

- Senior Environmental Health Officer and 3 Community Protection Officers
- Key partners include Wardens, Housing Officers, Police and Fire & Rescue teams
- Five multi-agency Neighbourhood Resolution Plans in place to tackle local problems around ASB, waste vermin and secondary fires, blight properties and other housing issues
- Multi agency Tri-responders (Council, Fire and Police) initiative in development

Partnerships for People and Place

Recently awarded 100k funding as part of Government's PfPP programme over next 2 years.

'Theory of Change' exercise underway with workshops around Community; Places; People and our Strategy.

Participatory budget setting to deliver theory of change around 4 key outcomes:-

- 'Improved understanding of crime, ASB and safeguarding to better inform practice'
- 'Services are proactive and focus on prevention'
- 'There is an increased confidence and trust in key services'
- 'There are strong and effective partnerships and learning between central Government, strategic stakeholders, service delivery partners and our community that lead to visible change.'



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

8 September 2022



**Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and
Safer Streets 4 Programme update**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on the Durham City Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Initiative the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an update on the Durham City Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Initiative the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWAG) strategy was launched in July 2021 with the headline introductory statement 'The safety of women and girls, across the country is our priority'
- 5 In Early 2021, following the tragic rape and murder of Sarah Everard, the government launched its 'Call for Evidence' consultation to improve understanding of gendered violent crime and the impact they have on individuals and communities.

- 6 As a result of this consultation, the government received over 180,000 responses making this the largest ever consultation the government has run in this area. Responses from this informed development of VAWG strategy.
- 7 The SWAN fund was launched by Home Office, alongside the VAWG strategy to fund initiatives focussed on preventing violence against women and girls in public spaces at night including in the night-time economy, in venues and whilst using transport. The main aims of the fund being:
 - To reduce incidents of VAWG in public spaces at night, including within the night-time economy
 - Reduce fear of VAWG and improve feelings of safety in public spaces at night
 - Build an evidence base for what works in improving women's safety in public spaces at night, including in the night-time economy
- 8 The SWAN bid was submitted in July 2021 to the Home Office by members of Durham County Council's (DCC) Neighbourhood and Climate Change services. This bid was successful and DCC received an allocation of £109,302. The aim of the bid being to tackle violent crimes towards women and girls within the night-time economy of Durham City.
- 9 Whilst the initial funding for the initiative ended on 31 March 2022, further funding from Partners was made available to continue the project until the 4th round of the Safer Streets funding programme was determined.
- 10 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with an update of the work undertaken by the SWaN project and the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

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

Conclusion

12 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to provide comment on current and future on community protection activity.

13 Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

Contact: Stephen Gwilym

Tel: 03000 268140

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

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

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and Safer Streets 4 Programme presentation

Attached as a separate document.

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Durham City SWaN Project

Owen Cleugh,
Public Protection Manager



Better for everyone

Safety of Women and Girls Strategy

- Sarah Everard death on 3 March 2021 and many others – concerns around day to day lives led to
- ‘Call It Out Survey’ – April to May 2021 (1295 responses)
- 33% responses from Durham (Darlington 13%) and residence area was split 60:40 urban and rural
- 99% female with age profile split fairly
- 70% felt unsafe in City Centres, 49% in local neighbourhood and 46% in a pub, club or bar
- Concerns included harassed, followed, attacked whilst alone males and being spiked

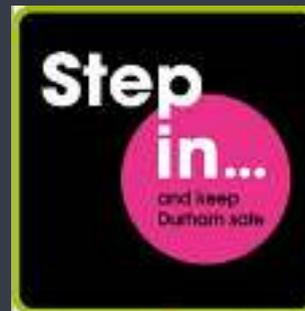


Better for everyone

SWaN = November/December 2021

4 key deliverables before 31 March 2022:-

- SWaN Hub Coordinator – Jacqui Toase, Community Protection
- SWaN Hub (Venue and staff/volunteers)
- Communications ('Step in and Keep Durham Safe')
- Training



Better for everyone

The SWaN Hub @ St Nicholas' Church, Durham

Launched 5 February 2022



Better for everyone

The SWaN Hub

- Open Wed, Fri and Sat 8pm until 3am
- DCC (Community Protection Staff)
- Volunteers (Citysafe Medics and StreetLights)
- 2 x Police 10pm until 3am
- Links with Licensed Premises, Door Supervisors, Taxi trade and Delivery drivers – Pub Watch
- Showsec SIA



Better for everyone



The SWaN Hub

- SSO and Medics often first on scene
- DCC info/intel – Highways, Street Lighting, ASB, Rough Sleeper Team etc
- Fire Safety concerns - premises
- Taxi Marshalls / Claypath Road Closure
- Clean and Green
- Hub Debriefs – counselling
- Police debriefs and intel from trust and being out on patrol
- Female 58.9% Male 41.1% - February to June 2022
- Lockdown impact



Better for everyone

SWaN Hub - Reported Incidents

Total incidents logged since 5 February 2022 to 20 June 2022 = 306

- Assault = 32
- Sexual Offence = 8;
- Drugs related offences = 15
- Concern = 13 (potential suicides)
- 8 claims of being spiked in drink (2 positive tests - taken to A & E and police informed and 6 negative tests = NFA)
- Theft = 0
- Missing persons = 5
- DV = 11
- Other = 222



Better for everyone

Next Steps..

- Funding for Swan ended in March 2022
- The SWaN project has continued to be supported through partnership funding (DCC, City of Durham Parish Council and Durham University) until Sept 2022.
- Further funding ask was included within the Streets 4th round bid submitted by the PCC.



Better for everyone

Safer Streets4 Funding

- The PCC submitted four successful bids to the fourth round of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund amounting to £1,469,169 to invest in safety improvements and crime prevention programmes across County Durham and Darlington over the next two years.
- Investment will concentrate on four key locations: Darlington East and North Road, Stanley and Ferryhill, Peterlee, Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre.
- Focus on reducing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crimes including burglary.
- In Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre, funding will be used to improve the safety of women and girls, reducing the opportunity of violence and street harassment and increasing women's confidence when using public places.



Better for everyone

Safer Streets 4 Funding

The funding bids comprise:

- £146,533 – Stanley and Ferryhill
- £447,660 – Peterlee
- £632,720 – Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre

Interventions including free home security, CCTV cameras, upgraded street lighting and additional schemes aimed at meaningful activities for young people.

In Durham City, the funding will be used to extend the work of the SWaN hub which will continue to operate September 2023.



Better for everyone

Any Questions?



Better for everyone



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

8 September 2022

Open Water Safety Update



**Report of Geoff Paul, Interim Corporate Director of Regeneration,
Economy and Growth**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

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

Executive summary

- 2 The city safety group and county wide open water safety group convened on a quarterly basis during the reporting period to review open water safety interventions.
- 3 A revised city centre action plan was progressed by the city safety group members and supplemented further following an independent assessment of the river corridor within the city centre by RoSPA. Assessments and inspections of county wide open water locations also continued to be undertaken.
- 4 A continuation of a proactive approach to open water safety education and awareness remains a crucial intervention and is being applied by both safety groups.
- 5 Statistically there has continued to be a positive trend in relation to the number of open water related incidents across the county.
- 6 There remains a positive approach to partnership working and collaboration amongst the safety groups, with new partners being identified and incorporated into activities.

Recommendation(s)

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

Background

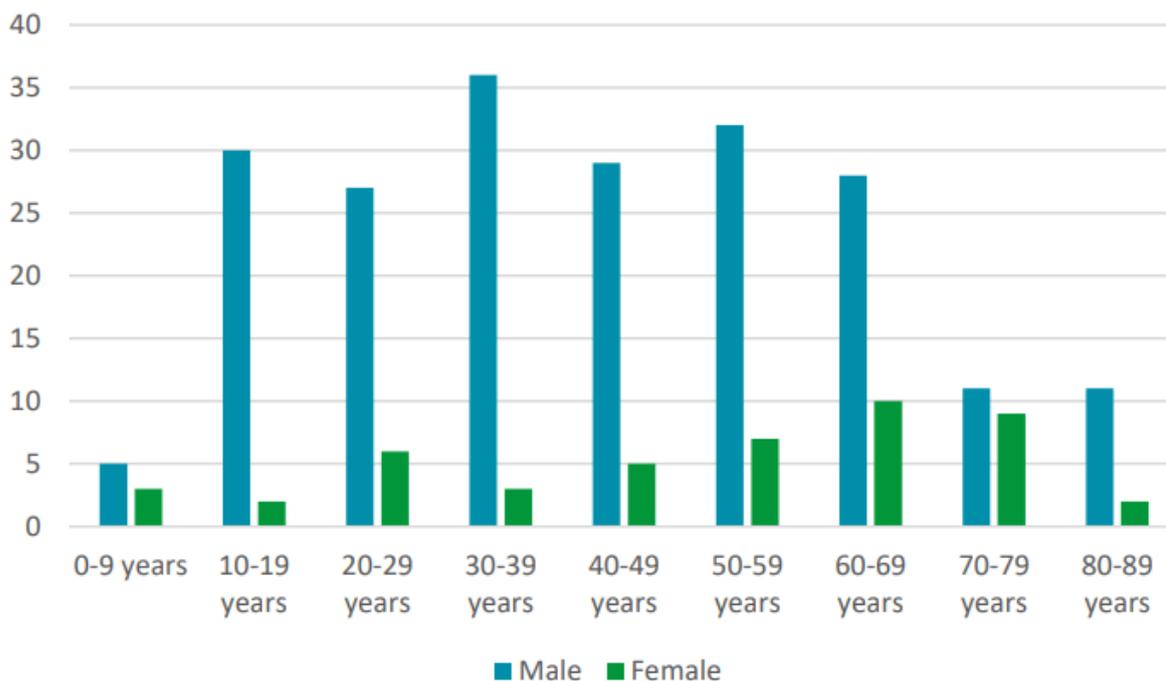
- 8 There are currently two multiagency water safety groups within County Durham. In terms of governance, both water safety groups report into the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) as required.
- 9 The City Safety Group (CSG) was formed in January 2015 and comprises of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Durham University, Durham Students Union, Durham Cathedral and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service. The CSG is now chaired by Alan Patrickson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change. The CSG continues to meet on a quarterly basis.
- 10 From a County wide perspective, the open water safety group (OWSG) is chaired by the Council's Corporate Health & Safety Manager. It was established in February 2015, with a remit of reviewing the Council's internal open water safety policy and focusing on safety relating to areas of open water (e.g., lakes, rivers, reservoirs) other than in Durham city centre. The OWSG also meets on a quarterly basis.
- 11 National guidance such as [Managing Safety at Inland Waters](#) and best practice has been used to form open water safety policy and risk assessment methodology across the County. Visits to other areas which have high risk profiles such as York, Manchester and Bath have been undertaken to benchmark safety control measures, learn from incident causation and use best practice approaches within the County. Engagement with independent bodies such as RoSPA, RLSS and National Water Safety Forum remains a key element of the approach to open water safety related risks.
- 12 Table 1 below indicates the number of non-fatal and fatal water related incidents in County Durham since 2013. This data has been validated using the national water accident & incident database (WAID), regional emergency service and Council incident reporting data.

Table 1- Open Water Incident Statistics 2013/14- 2021/22

Year	Durham City Centre			County Durham (Exc. Durham City centre)		
	Near miss	Injury	Fatality	Near miss	Injury	Fatality
2013/14	13	1	1	3	1	2
2014/15	5	1	4	5	2	3
2015/16	3	1	0	8	5	2
2016/17	2	1	0	1	2	1
2017/18	2	3	0	3	5	0
2018/19	3	6	1	1	1	2
2019/20	2	4	0	6	3	1
2020/21	2	0	0	8	3	2
2021/22	9	4	0	7	1	1

13 UK statistics indicate that there are on average 650 water related fatalities per year, of which an average of 200 are suicide related incidents. Other key national headlines are:

- 83% of accidental fatalities were male;
- Males 30 -39 were the highest group for accidental fatalities;
- 62% of accidental fatalities happened at inland waters;
- Change from previous years which has seen most accidental fatalities at the coast;
- Recreational activities accounted for 55% of accidental fatalities;
- 68 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of drugs or alcohol;
- The rate of accidental drowning has increased slightly since 2017 (0.38 per 100,000) to 0.41 per 100,000;
- When considering rates, those aged 60-69 were the highest at-risk group



- 14 Compared to national statistics, County Durham has a significantly lower fatality rate of 0.19 per 100,000 compared to 0.41 per 100,000 at a UK level in 2021. County Durham has an average 3-year accidental drowning fatality rate of 1 per year compared to 6 in the North east as a region and 244 overall in the UK.
- 15 Whilst walking and running close to open water remain the highest cause of accidental drowning in the UK, swimming (which includes open water swimming) accounts for 61 in the latest year compared to 44 in the previous 3-year average in the UK. Given the widespread media and leisure industry reports regarding the psychological and physical benefits of open water swimming as a recreational activity, this is an area that requires monitoring in County Durham going forward.
- 16 Fatal incidents are, where appropriate, subject to scrutiny by HM Coroner for Durham and Darlington in terms of prevention of future deaths. Updates have been provided by CSG and OWSG, where required, to keep HM Coroner up to date with progress being made in relation to water safety within the County.
- 17 It is apparent from analysis of incident statistics that mental health and self-harm continue to be a lead cause of water related incidents within the city centre and county wide. Work with public health mental health and suicide prevention colleagues has been undertaken to ensure that multiagency support and interventions are in place and continue to be reviewed for any specific locations or cohorts in the county. There is a

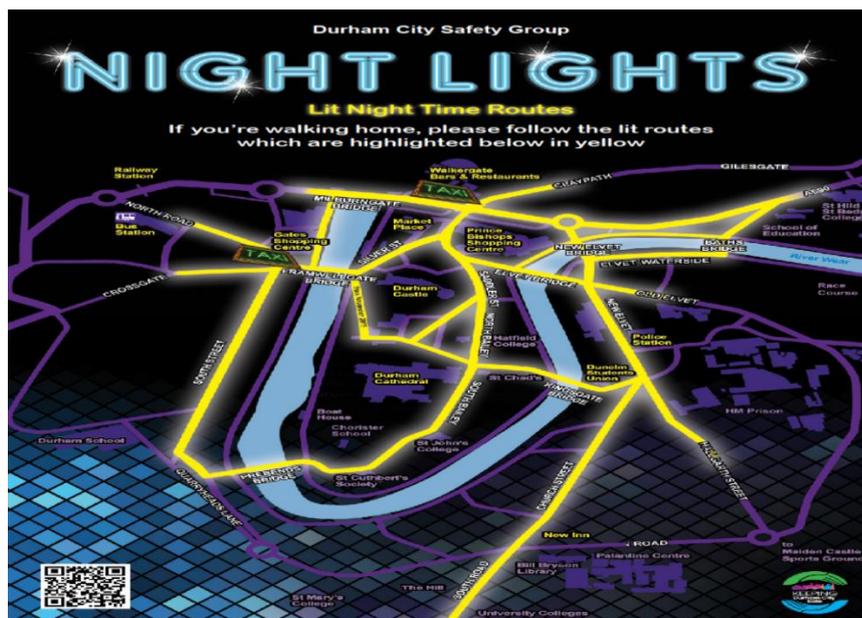
known number of hotspots across the County where suicides tragically occur and work continues with public health and other partners regarding these locations within the County.

City Safety Group

- 18 The CSG was chaired throughout 2021/22 by the Council's Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change and continues to have representation from the Council, emergency services and riparian landowners such as Durham University and Cathedral. Durham University student union is also a key member of the CSG.
- 19 Throughout 2021/22, the CSG has been continuing to monitor the riverside development projects to ensure that any public safety issues and impacts were identified with the developers. A monthly cycle of inspection and monitoring continues in relation to the completion of all physical safety infrastructure works in the city centre. This provides the CSG with assurance that the control measures identified in 2016/17 remain effectively in situ and proactively identifies any further actions required.
- 20 Additional works have been undertaken in relation to the independent assessment of the river corridor and new developments within the city that may have an impact on river related safety. The CSG commissioned the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) in 2021/2022 to undertake a further assessment of river corridor related risks. The scope of the assessments included safety reviews of the new Milburngate development, wider city centre and the river corridor following previous assessments in 2015 and 2018. These assessments were completed in December 2021 and subsequent reports were provided to the DCSG members in early 2022 for consideration and an action plan has been derived from the inspections undertaken.
- 21 The CSG has once again reviewed arrangements for student induction weeks to ensure that appropriate arrangements had been put in place and partners were working in collaboration. A specific student induction task and finish group was established and work was undertaken to ensure that safety related controls were in place for freshers week. This involved collaborative work with the police, university, business and licensed premises. The work particularly focused on the high footfall night-time economy areas within the city and it was positive that the activities went safely and without incident.
- 22 A review of the CSG group action plan was undertaken and agreed by group partners. This action plan will incorporate several proactive interventions aimed at reducing open water related risks amongst other

city centre risks and will be monitored via the multiagency group. All previous control measures including lighting, physical barriers, safety signage, public rescue equipment and licensed premises training, awareness initiatives and public safety campaigns will be reviewed and/or redelivered as part of the new action plan.

- 23 The university continues to embed the student alcohol awareness and personal safety elements as part of student induction. It also uses alcohol awareness and use policies which focus on making students aware of the potential effects of alcohol, particularly as they can relate to health, behaviour, safety and academic performance and to establish guidelines for its proper use. The nightlights safety map (below) has continued to be cascaded throughout the university colleges and used as part of induction. It is downloadable via a QR code on all marketing materials and published on a variety of web sites. This information is also available through a 'student app' which has recently been developed. This is also displayed in licensed premises and student bars.



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

- 25 The CSG is looking to reinstate the best bar none scheme, which will support all Durham city licensees to improve guardianship arrangements in the city. The actions regarding reinstatement will be progressed through the city safety group action delivery plan. The aim of this is to prevent people who are vulnerable due to alcohol consumption from being left to walk home alone. Plans are also being made to undertake further alcohol retail training to all new staff working in student union bars.
- 26 Licensed premises in close proximity of the river corridor are also going to be approached as part of the revised action plan to review risk assessments of their public realm spaces in relation to water safety. Previous risk assessments have resulted in physical safety improvements to four licensed premises in a higher risk location of the river corridor within the city centre. Safety improvements introduced by licensed premises include introduction of physical barriers, improved lighting, public rescue equipment and water safety signage.

Open Water Safety Group

- 27 The OWSG continues to manage and monitor County wide open water safety risks. A schedule of monitoring and reassessment of priority risk locations identified in the initial county wide assessment process continues to be applied in order to provide assurance. The OWSG has incorporated further partnership work with Northumbrian water in order to enhance and provide consistent water safety campaigns and messaging across the county.
- 28 The OWSG was responsible for planning and implementation of water safety educational campaigns throughout 2021/22. Whilst these were significantly impacted during the reporting period in terms of not being able to deliver assemblies as in previous years, there remained a range of awareness activities delivered. These included promotions of national drowning prevention weeks and once again the annual 'dying to be cool' cold water shock safety campaign through a variation of social media, posters and alerts at high footfall open water sites across the county.
- 29 Further interventions, particularly regarding education and awareness for young people in the Chester-le-Street riverside complex area, were progressed following an incident in that area in 2021. With the support of AAP coordinators, local councillors and residents, group leaders delivered plans to provide all schools in this area with the opportunity to have open water safety assemblies. These were delivered by Council officers, emergency services and featured the Council's dying to be cool

campaign, supported by Fiona Gosling who assisted in the presentations.

- 30 Work has been undertaken in Shotton to address regular anti-social behaviour that has been affecting provision of public rescue equipment at Shotton pond. Local youths have, over a prolonged period of time, been deliberately setting fire to life rings installed at the pond. Clean and Green colleagues have been replacing this equipment on an ongoing basis for a number of years. A life ring was deployed by a 12-year-old boy to assist in saving a man at this location in 2017 and therefore it has been essential that damaged equipment has been replaced. Such has been the frequency of damage, a decision has been taken to install alternative vandal resistant equipment in the form of throw lines which are secured within metal cabinets in order to prevent arson attacks. These will be installed in September 2022 and users of the equipment will be required to call 999 and ask for the fire and rescue service to provide a code to gain entry and access to the lifesaving equipment. It is hoped that this approach will reduce the risks of life saving equipment not being available and reduce replacement costs for damaged life rings that have been incurred during the last few years. Communications have been issued regarding this with the AAP coordinators and with local councillors.

Conclusions

- 31 Recent national statistics in June and July 2022 have indicated that open water safety related risks very much remain and there is a requirement on responsible organisations to impart risk-based education and awareness into their communities and settings.
- 32 Statistics indicate that the formation of CSG and OWSG has had a positive impact in terms of a reduction in non-fatal and fatal incidents involving open water. However, it remains the view of both groups that even one fatality is always one too many in terms of the devastating impact on families, friends and the community. It places a significant burden on society both in terms of direct costs and the years of life that are lost.
- 33 The characteristics and factors regarding drowning risks remain complex and multi-factorial. It is unequivocal that drowning prevention cannot be achieved by the introduction of physical safety controls in isolation. Focus must remain on a long term strategy of education and awareness, particularly at high risk groups, to ensure that fatalities and life changing injuries are minimised as much as possible. A return of an offer for water safety assemblies within county schools in 2023 is crucial in terms of educational impact.

- 34 The CSG and OWSG will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and monitor and review the physical and cultural safety improvements introduced. In terms of the OWSG, collaborative working with partner organisations will continue in 2022/23 and beyond, with particular emphasis being placed on preventative and educational initiatives for local schools and to ensure key water risks are appropriately managed and communicated to stakeholders. The development of a calendar of water safety initiatives and events for 2022/23 will be effective in coordinating approaches and avoidance of duplication of campaigns and activities.

Background papers

- None.

Other useful documents

- None.

Author(s)

Kevin Lough

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

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

Finance

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

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Climate Change

None.

Human Rights

None.

Crime and Disorder

None.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

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

Procurement

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

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Open Water safety Update
September 2022



Open Water Safety Governance



Durham City Safety Group

Altogether Safer Policing

DURHAM STUDENTS' UNION
Enabling STUDENTS

County Durham Open Water Safety Group

The national picture

- Figures indicate that a total of 616 people lost their lives in 2021 (down from 631 in 2020), of which 195 were suspected suicide.
- Inland drowning (e.g. lakes, reservoirs, rivers etc) remains the common cause in terms of location. There has been an increase in coastal related fatalities.
- Drowning is a male dominated issue with 83% of last years fatalities male.
- The most prevalent age groups for drowning victims was 60-64 and 30-64 year olds.
- Drownings of individuals with alcohol or drugs in their system were 68 for 2021.
- The most startling fact is that the largest 'grouping' of people losing their lives in 2020 was once again, those people who had no intention of going into the water and were walking or running close to water

County Durham

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2021/22	9	4	0	7	1	1

County Durham vs National Statistics

- Lower fatality rate of 0.19 per 100,000 compared to 0.41 per 100,000 at a UK level in 2021
- Average 3-year accidental drowning fatality rate of 1 per year compared to 6 in the North east as a region and 244 overall in the UK.
- Zero fatalities related to with alcohol or drugs in their system compared to 0.10 per 100,000 at a UK level in 2021
- Zero fatalities in Summer period 2022 despite a spike of fatalities in July across the UK due to heatwave (at least 13 fatalities in July)
- Zero coastal fatalities despite nationally accounting for 38% of all accidental drowning deaths
- No known open water swimming related fatalities- given the widespread media and leisure industry reports regarding the psychological and physical benefits of open water swimming as a recreational activity, this is an area that requires monitoring in County Durham going forward.

Durham City

ROSPA
The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents

- Continued emphasis on partnership working and collective responsibility
- RoSPA (completed Dec 2021) independent reviews of previous river corridor risk assessments and new city developments pre and post completion
- RoSPA related action plan adopted by City Safety Group and actively resolving recommendations
- Continued investigations of incidents and near misses to ensure controls remain effective
- Regular monitoring and inspection of city centre river routes and control measures

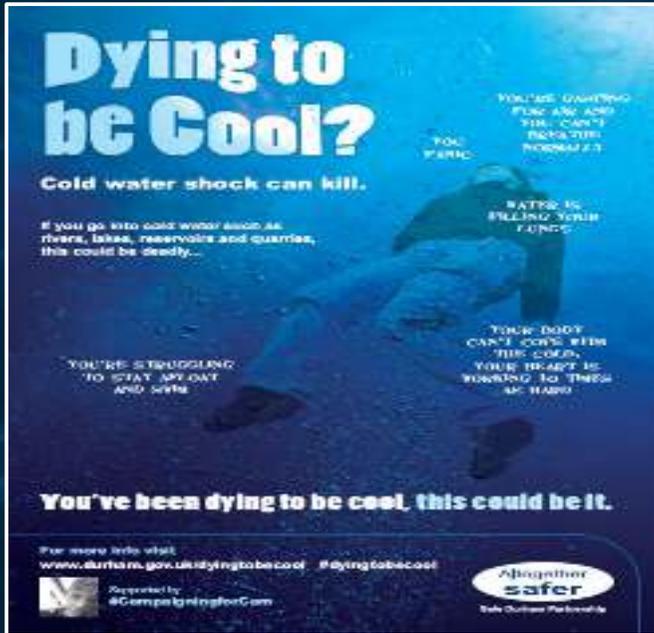


County Wide

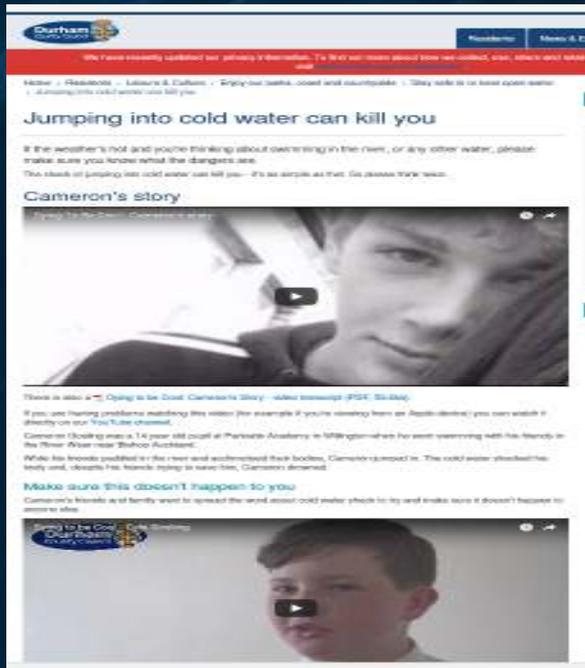
- ✓ Cold Water Shock 'Dying to be cool' Campaign delivery in limited areas in 2022
- ✓ Promotion of national campaigns
- ✓ Extensive social media activity at risk periods
- ✓ Plan for education and awareness again in 2022/2023
- ✓ Re-assessment of priority locations across county
- ✓ Investigations and assessment of public rescue equipment
- ✓ Monitoring of high footfall locations in peak periods
- ✓ Throw line training pilot by CDDFRS
- ✓ Upgrading of public rescue equipment



2022 'Dying to be Cool' campaign



- June-July 2021 in Chester-le-Street
- Pre-summer period focus
- Work with local AAP coordinators
- Coincided with national drowning prevention week and world drowning prevention day
- Partner comms and promotion
- Fiona Gosling fronted the campaign along with police and fire and rescue officers



Looking Forward

- Continued partnership approach important
- Revision of action plans at city centre and county wide level
- Education, awareness and utilising national campaigns and initiatives
- Re-assessment of previous risk assessments
- Investigation of all incidents and near misses
- Identification of new and emerging trends and causation factors
- Working closely with public health around suicide prevention and mental health
- Working with developers and designers to ensure water safety related risks are managed
- Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness of existing controls
- Review of public rescue equipment and provision of training for first responders, businesses and communities

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

8 September 2022

**Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Strategic
Group**



**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the ongoing work of the ASB Strategic Group.

Executive summary

- 2 It was requested by Committee that a report be brought to every meeting on the progress of the work of the ASB Strategic Group.
- 3 The report provides an opportunity for Members to receive an overview of the ASB Strategic Group priorities and work areas and the development of the ASB Strategy.

Recommendation

- 4 Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:
 - (a) Note information contained within the report from the ASB Strategic Group and comment accordingly.

Background

- 5 At the SDP board meeting on the 18th November 2021, it was agreed that the ASB Strategic Group would be re-established.
- 6 The group have agreed Terms of Reference and continue to meet every two months.
- 7 The aims of the ASB Strategic Group are to:
 - Provide strategic leadership and direction, co-ordination and oversight for the Safe Durham Partnership's response to anti-social behaviour across County Durham.
 - Deliver the strategic outcomes under the Safe Durham Partnership Plan that promote being safe and feeling safe in your community specifically focusing on the work area of anti-social behaviour.
 - Ensure the actions of the group positively impact on residents and the wider communities in:
 - (i) being and feeling safe and that those actions improve their emotional and physical wellbeing.
 - (ii) improving personal resilience and overall community's resilience, confidence and cohesion.

Key Actions

- 8 At the last meeting of the group on the 27th July 2022 further consideration was given to a number of key areas for action including:-

Governance Arrangements

- 9 A review of the relevant sub groups currently reporting to the ASB Strategic Group is underway. A meeting has taken place between the Chair of the ASB Strategic group and Chairs of the sub groups to consider areas of overlap and duplication and further consideration will be given to whether the current sub groups can be streamlined and repurposed.
- 10 The outcome of these discussions will inform new governance arrangements which will be presented to the Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) at their next meeting on 19 September 2022 and once agreed we will update the SS OSC on the revised arrangements.

ASB Strategy

- 11 At the last meeting, the group considered the latest draft of the ASB Strategy and this has now been presented to the appropriate Senior Management Teams within the Council for further comment and will be presented to the SDP at their next meeting for approval prior to consultation.
- 12 The ASB Strategy timeline has now been agreed for a 6 week public consultation on from the 26th September 2022 and the final Strategy to be agreed at the SDP Board on the 27th January 2023.
- 13 As part of the consultation process a special SSOSC ASB Awareness session has been organised to consider the Safer Durham Partnership's ASB strategy to be held on Tuesday 11 October 2022 at 1.00 p.m.

ASB Data and Performance Management

- 14 The ASB Data and Performance Group continue to develop the ASB dashboards which are being used as both a performance and analytical tool by partners.
- 15 On going development will include for the inclusion of overlays identifying the Multi Agency Problem Solving group (MAPS) as well as outcomes which will assist in the evaluation of ASB interventions and associated confidence measures.
- 16 As the data and performance management tools are developed, work is also ongoing to ensure that all partners have ready access to the tools available and that the data analysis and emerging trends are highlighted and reflected in local action/intervention plans.

Safer Streets 4 Bid

- 17 A bid by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has secured further funding to support interventions to tackle anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood crime - and boost women's safety as part of the fourth round of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund.
- 18 In Durham City Centre and Darlington Town Centre, funding will be used to improve the safety of women and girls, reducing the opportunity of violence and street harassment and increasing women's confidence when using public places.

- 19 Investment will concentrate on key locations within County Durham and Darlington including Stanley and Ferryhill, Peterlee, and lastly Durham City Centre.
- 20 The funding will be spent on a mixture of practical interventions including free home security, CCTV cameras, upgraded street lighting and additional policing resources and diversionary schemes that provide young people with meaningful activities to alleviate boredom and develop their interests and skills to prevent further problems.
- 21 In addition part of the funding will be used to support the continuation of the Safety of Women at Night project which will be extended until September 2023.

Review of Mediation Services

- 22 The PCC commissioned Restorative Hub has ceased to operate as a neighbourhood resolution pathway. This has prompted a review of the future provision of mediation services which have been available to deal with issues such as neighbour disputes, community or familial conflict as a tool for early intervention and an alternative approach to enforcement action.
- 23 We have commenced a short consultation with partners to determine the value and need for mediation services within County Durham.
- 24 A further report on the outcome of the consultation exercise will be presented to SDP and included with the update to SS OSC at a future meeting.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

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

Conclusion

- 26 The report provides an opportunity for Members to receive an update on the work of the ASB Strategic Group and feed into the relevant processes.

Background papers

- [Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Duty to consider crime and disorder implications.

Finance

None.

Consultation

Consultation will take place on the developing Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

Information with this report provides an overview of the newly re-established ASB Strategic Group, a sub group of the Safe Durham Partnership and the actions agreed from the discussion items within the agenda to help positively impact on Crime, Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour within the County.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.