



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Monday 9 September 2024**
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 1 July 2024 (Pages 3 - 12)
- 4 Declarations of Interest, if any
- 5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
- 6 Hate Crime - Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services and presentation by Inspector Ian Bowden, Durham Constabulary (Pages 13 - 26)
- 7 Open Water Safety Update Report - Report of Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth (Pages 27 - 36)
- 8 Quarter Four, 2023/24 Performance Management Report - Report of Chief Executive (Pages 37 - 66)
- 9 Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Bradley
Director of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
30 August 2024

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

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

Councillors V Andrews, P Atkinson, D Boyes, R Crute, M Currah, L Fenwick,
C Hampson, N Jones, C Lines, D McKenna, L Maddison, E Mavin, J Miller,
D Nicholls, R Potts, J Quinn, A Simpson and D Sutton-Lloyd

Co-opted Members: Mr D Balls

Co-opted Employees/Officers: Chief Fire Officer S Helps,
Superintendent N Bickford and Assistant Chief Constable R Allen

Contact: Amanda Stephenson Tel: 03000 269703

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 1 July 2024** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor P Heaviside (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Charlton, V Andrews, P Atkinson, R Crute, L Fenwick, C Hampson, C Lines, E Mavin, J Miller, R Potts, A Simpson and D Sutton-Lloyd

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Fire Officer S Helps and Superintendent N Bickford

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Currah, D Nicholls and J Quinn.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2024 were agreed as correct and signed by the chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Fire Home Safety Update

The Committee received a report of the Corporate Director of Resources that provided background information in advance of the presentation (attached in Appendix 2) from County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) that gave an overview of community fire activity with a focus on home fire safety visits (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer gave a detailed presentation that focused on home fire safety visits that were carried out by operation crews and specialist teams that made the person centred and concentrated on nine key components:

- Home Fire Detection
- Kitchen Safety
- Fires and Heaters
- Smoking-Related Fires
- Electrical Safety
- Clutter and Hoarding
- Medicines and Medical Devices
- Escape Planning
- Arson/Deliberate Fires/ASB

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that smoke alarms were available to be fitted free of charge. Residents were educated on how most fires started in the kitchen, many when people got distracted elsewhere in the home whilst leaving pans on stoves. Residents were advised that oil filled radiators were the safest way to heat the home as an alternative to central heating, rather than halogen type heaters. Smoking was a major cause of fatalities in house fires when people fell asleep with lit cigarettes still burning. People were advised on safe smoking if they were unable to quit. Other areas that the visit covered were to do with unfit electrical goods if bought from unsafe sources, overloaded electrical sockets, medical equipment and hoarding that all increased the risks of fire in the home. Escape plans were discussed so people knew how to escape their property especially if a fire broke out during the night. There were issues with arson and deliberate fires that were mitigated with wheelie bins which were an easy target. Residents were told not to leave them out once the rubbish was collected. There were approximately 18,000 home fire safety visits per year therefore the service tried to take a measured approach and target the most vulnerable through 4 methods:

- Partner referrals
- Target address lists
- Self referrals
- Hot strikes (following an incident in an area)

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer stated that the Fire Service worked with various partners that created six referral pathways that were linked by the increased risk or health issues of vulnerable people. There were:

- Alzheimer's Society
- Age UK
- NHS Falls Team
- Stop Smoking Service
- Warmer Homes Scheme
- Alcohol Harm Reduction Team

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented graphs that showed the services current performance on the number of accidental dwelling fires and home fire safety visits for a period from 2004/05 to 2022/23, the fatalities and injuries from accidental dwelling fires, the number of accidental dwelling fire from Q1 to Q3 in 2023/04, the number of casualties from Q1 to Q3 in 2023/04 and the number of fatalities from Q1 to Q3 in 2023/04. He confirmed that there was constant internal learning after every serious incident and increased working with partners and the Adult Safeguarding Board. Data sharing was key although this had issues due to GDPR but protecting the vulnerable is at the forefront for the service. The Safer Durham Partnership had signed up to the Safer Homes Protocol and the Eyes Wide Open scheme that provided training to front line staff that had helped referrals for vulnerable clients.

Councillor J Miller thanked the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for an informative presentation. He referred to the increase in the number of fatalities that had increased from 2 to 7 last year and asked if there was further information as to what people were targeted, what the response times were and if there were any lessons learnt.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer responded that there was no correlation between each incident. Although monitored there were no issues with response times as Durham and Darlington Fire Service had the fastest response time in their family group. With all fatalities partner agencies were engaged with to encourage them to make more referrals and participate in more training.

N Bickford stated that there were opportunities to increase referrals from Durham Constabulary and he would discuss further with the Deputy Chief Fire Officers after the meeting.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer stated that referrals were from mixed sources but one in 20 referrals came in relating to health issues where residents required oxygen. The Fire Service wanted to see other partners referring more vulnerable people who had health issues to have home visits carried out to reduce fatalities.

Councillor E Mavin asked if the Fire Service carried out safety inspections on Community buildings and if so, were these automatic or did they need to be requested.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer responded that it was two fold in that legislation required public buildings to have safety inspections carried out however if premises were prone to high risk like hospitals or care homes extra visits could be carried out. He added that community centres were classed as a low risk but if anyone had any concerns about a building to contact the Fire service who generally responded to complaints/compliments from a member of the public within 48 hours.

Councillor R Crute asked if fire safety was linked to poverty and the prevention of fire due to poorer living conditions for example in the private sector. He queried if work was carried out in geographic area where people who potentially could not afford to run their central heating were at a higher risk of fire.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer acknowledged that there was a correlation between the more deprived areas and the number of fires. He advised that data was used to target people in these areas for planned home fire safety visits and some house fires in these areas were down to people using flame-based heaters such as halogen heaters when they struggled to heat their homes. Officers would offer safety advice, refer people to the warmer homes scheme and advise them to use oil heaters which were safer to use. He confirmed that work was carried out with housing providers like Livin and Believe and those private landlords who were part of the selective licensing scheme to offer advice and training. Further work was needed to engage with private landlords that were not part of the selective licencing programme where living conditions were worse and there was an increased risk of ill health.

Councillor J Charlton thanked the Deputy Chief Fire Officer for the presentation. She mentioned that there had been a fire in her village that had a fatality that she had been told had been caused by smoking in bed. She did not know how to stop people smoking in bed. She was interested in how these people would be engaged with especially if they had no family or smoke alarms in their properties if they used care services.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer explained that some care organisations engaged with the Fire service and others were a challenge especially those who had a high turnover of staff making it hard to provide training. He knew that some older people who had smoked all their life would find it difficult to stop. Therefore the fire service offered advice on how to smoke safely.

S Helps added that were four referrals a day on average through social care, police and domestic services. There were fewer referrals from GP surgeries and partners needed to work with the fire service to refer vulnerable people in the community to prevent seeing them in a crisis.

Resolved:

That the information contained within the report and presentation be noted.

7 Road Safety

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which provided background information in advance of a presentation (attached in Appendix 2) by the Road Safety Manager and Road Safety Team Leader, Regeneration, Economy and Growth' that gave an updated on activity by the Council together with partners on road safety that was a specific work area within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority 'Anti-social behaviour and crime that disrupts our communities' (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Road Safety Manager gave a presentation that provided feedback from the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Partnership and an update in relation to road casualty performance for 2022/23. She gave an understanding of the partnership and the area of work from the Safter Durham Partnership around Anti-Social behaviour and crime that disrupted communities. She noted that partnership working was vital to the joined-up work to raise public awareness to sustain transport.

The Road Safety Team Leader reviewed the dashboard data that showed the number of casualties, the different age groups, the severity of accidents, the road user groups and the locations of accidents. This was available on the webpage and agreed to share the link. Data was analysed over a five-year period and monitored to inform learning going forward to reduce casualties over time. He discussed the causation factors and the fatal four.

- Speeding
- Alcohol/Drugs
- Mobile phones
- No seat belt worn

The Road Safety Team Leader advised that education was undertaken by the Council and partner agencies through direct delivery of a wide range of interventions to all road user groups and by effective use of media including, TV, radio and social media platforms. Members were informed that the highest casualty rates for fatal or serious collisions were between in the ages of 16-20 and that within the past year a partnership initiative focused on Young Driver and Passenger safety has been launched in Sixth forms, colleges and business organisations. The Road Safety Team Leader informed Members that these sessions included pre and post assessments to which had evidence of improved post session learning.

P Tate, Durham Constabulary explained that enforcement was used to try to reduce the number of casualties. The police ran road safety events in relation to the national police council, some being mandatory and some were tailored to the area especially rural areas that had a high number of horse riders. Close pass educated drivers on how to pass horses safely in these areas. Drink/drive campaigns and speed cameras were used to reduce casualties. Operation tramline was used to target HGV lorry drivers who could potentially caused accidents if they used their phones whilst driving.

The Traffic Management Section Manager stated that as a local authority Durham County Council relied on the Road Traffic Act. His team looked at person injury data following accidents to investigate the causes and trends as to engineer roads to prevent casualties. He gave an example of where a pedestrian was hit on Cockton Hill Road in Bishop Auckland. In order to implement a safe crossing the team would look at the council's policies, government legislation and information that related to how busy the road was, road markings, signs, how many bus stops were in the vicinity, visibility, how many junctions there were and if there was a need to remove resident parking. The main focus would highlight on the accident and solutions put in place to engineer out the risk of a similar accident happening again in that area. It would be years of analysis of that area to check to see if the engineering had been successful.

The Road Safety Manager noted that the main objective moving forward was to collect, monitor and analyse data to look at priority areas to focus on. Young drivers who had passengers were targeted within the education programme to get the road safety message out. Road safety education was carried out in primary and secondary schools and the team continued to work well with the fires service. The main objective was to reduce casualties across all road user groups and target those road user groups that were of a high risk of having an accident. Over all the main purpose was to improve road safety for all road users.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd stated that road safety was a subject close to his heart and that partnership working was a great idea. He had major issues with Middridge Road which was a main road in his division due to what seemed to be a poorly engineered system as motorists raced along it at great speed. There were speed cameras into the village but they did not act as a deterrent.

P Tate, Durham Constabulary advised that there was a targeted area enforcement programme to try to reduce speed. If speed was raised as an issue on certain road it would be investigated by voluntary speed watches so enforcement letters could be sent out to drivers. Speed cameras were also a source to try to reduce speed. Communities were encouraged to take part in these programmes to reduce speed and change the behaviour of drivers.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd declared that there were also major issues with scrap yards in his division. They were positioned at either end of the village that saw huge wagons coming from both directions. He wanted the companies educated to encourage them to use more appropriate routes rather going through the village which was dangerous.

P Tate, Durham Constabulary commented that there was little that could be done about the wagons on the roads. However if there were concerns raised regarding the weight of the vehicles this could be investigated and vehicles stopped and weighed as it was an offence to drive vehicle through restricted areas where the vehicle exceeds the weight limit of the road.

Councillor R Crute suggested that within the enforcement section work should be carried out to protect horse riders. He mentioned that every September there was a pass wide and slow campaign in his area but he was not aware if this was a high-profile event to raise awareness of the terrifying issues that horse riders encountered whilst using the roads. There were concerns regarding buses when they passed horse riders in parts of the County.

The Road Safety Manager responded that partnership working with the horse society was part of their remit. Information was shared on social media to for driver education and how to pass safely. She agreed to speak to her colleagues to see how they could support the weekend in September.

Councillor J Miller thanked officers for the presentation. He commented that community speed watch numbers were a problem in some areas as they could not get volunteers for fear of repercussions. He queried how many collisions/knock downs happened outside schools due to the parking issues and whether there was a point to aiming road safety education at young people as primary school children could not drive.

The Road Safety Manager explained that collisions and injuries outside schools were infrequent. She added that a lot more happened to children and teenagers during their out of education times, at weekends, and in October/November time with the onset of darker nights. Not all education was attributed to just schools as primary school children were accompanied by adult/carers who were residents so they educated the family and communities. There was a tool kit that had been made that was used in talks in schools that were free for school to have that contained prepared lesson plans to use in school on how travel to school in sustainable and safe ways. She added that social media was important to get the message out whether it was to schools or the wider community. It was also important to share information with partners and police to enforce and regulate work regarding civil enforcement from parking services to get to the grassroot of the parking problems outside schools.

Councillor L Fenwick questioned what was being done regarding young people who rode off road bikes without any helmets or any plates who ride on pavements.

P Tate, Durham Constabulary noted that it was a big county wide problem. The police had launched Operation Endurance that looked at young people not wearing helmets and the risk associated with this along with trying to find the location as to where off road bikes were stored. He remarked that young people goaded police to give pursuit but as they were vulnerable police did not give chase. It could be that bikes were unfit for purpose and if pursued they could fall off and hurt themselves. The police relied heavily on information from the public or Councillors on sightings of offroad bikes. There were various ways that information could be reported into the police that included the 101 number or via an online chat. There was a need to locate where bikes were stored as by time incidents were reported to the police the bikes had moved on and more often than not there were different people on different bikes as wanted to conceal their identity.

Councillor R Potts thanked officers for the presentation. He proposed that young people in 6th form should be educated on road safety as they needed to know how to be safe on roads. He mentioned that more was needed to be done to engineer information on partnership working as he was aware that there had been 33 abandoned calls to 101 that meant that lot of information was missing and not recorded. He added that the way in which things were recorded should be addressed to gather information on non-injury accidents that just went through insurance companies to be resolved but as this was not recorded did reflect areas/roads that had issues.

The Road Safety Manager was aware that there was an under reporting on non-injury collisions as Officers relied upon local intelligence from councillors or social media for information. Intelligence gathered on clusters of non-injury collisions formed part of the bigger picture on accident analyses. She advised that 6th form students were educated but a different format was followed to that what was given to young people in schools.

The Road Safety Team Leader confirmed that presentations had been given to several 6th form students across county Durham and this work would be followed up next year with contact being made with all schools.

Councillor E Mavin mentioned that there was an unsuitable crossing in the High Grange Estate, Belmont that caused a lot of anxiety. He had suggested that a roundabout should be installed near Belmont Community Centre to help with the traffic and people crossing.

The Traffic Management Section Manager agreed that there was a history with this area and the issues were being investigated.

Councillor D Sutton-Lloyd stated that there was a national issue with off road bikes. He added that an operation was to be launched for drones to be bought and training given to help find out where the bikes were stored.

Resolved:

That the information contained within the report and presentation be noted.

8 Refresh of the Work Programme 2024/25 for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which provided the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC) work programme for 2024/2025 that reflected the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer had identified the context of the work programme for scrutiny based on the three strategic ambitions of the shared Durham County vision, the Council Plan and the six strategic priorities of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. The strategy had been agreed and was a huge influence on projects for the committee. He referred to appendix two of the report which gave details of the proposed work programme for the year that identified what items would be brought to committee and when.

Councillor R Potts referred to paragraph 11 of the report referencing the “Connected Communities” ambition and suggested that the committee might examine the independent review of children that went missing from Care homes and subject to sexual exploitation by organised networks as part of its work programme.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer agreed to liaise with the Scrutiny Officer for the Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee as this would overlap with their work. He noted that work had been carried out jointly around children’s homes and would take this forward on the work programme. He also stressed that the context within which this work could be undertaken needed to be carefully considered so that the OSC did not stray into the remit of the Police and Crime Panel.

Councillor R Crute agreed that this cut across the two scrutiny committees along with sexual abuse. He mentioned that work had been carried out in the past on civil contingencies on how to prepare for emergencies like freak weather and gave the example of Storm Arwen to ensure that the public were protected. He suggested that this work was revisited to ensure all partners were prepared if any event came up as preventative work.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer acknowledged that the committee had received three reports from the Civil Contingency Unit in conjunction with partner agencies in the events following Storm Arwin and other storms that had showed work was being carried out collaboratively and information being shared. He agreed to discuss this with the service.

Councillor J Charlton asked if there would be anything to be presented on community protection in relation to fake goods and the dangers. She was concerned that people could be exploited in certain areas due to increase in the cost of living.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer confirmed that a report was due from the Public Protection Service on 13 December 2024 that would cover illicit goods and illegal tobacco. Councillor J Charlton asked if this could be brought forward to get the message out to the community well in advance of Christmas when fake goods in circulation would be at its peak. The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer agreed to liaise with the service to see if the item could be brought forward in the work programme.

Councillor R Crute confirmed that the Public Protection Service gave regular updates to the Management Board covertly where intelligence looked at shops selling illegal vapes for the public to see what happens in real time.

Councillor P Heaviside agreed that the work programme would be fluid to create the agenda items to ensure topics were properly scrutinised.

Resolved:

- i) That the proposed SSC OSC work programme for 2024/25 be received.
- ii) That the SSC OSC work programme for 2024/2025 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues be agreed.

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

9 September 2024

Hate Crime



Report of Director of Legal and Democratic Services

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 from Durham Constabulary on hate crime.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 will provide members with an overview of hate crime.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 Information within this presentation is linked to the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy's ambition that 'Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe'.
- 5 At the meeting of SSC OSC on 16 April 2024, the refreshed and streamlined Safe Durham Partnership Strategy (SDP) 2024 – 2029 was presented as part of their consultation process. The Strategy was agreed at the County Council meeting on 26 June 2024.
- 6 Three priorities were identified within the Strategy as follows:
 - Anti-social behaviour and crime which disrupts our communities
 - Hate crime and building community cohesion
 - Sexual violence and other violent crime
- 7 These priorities have been split between areas of focus whereby the SDP will work with delivery groups to focus efforts and target resources and areas of assurance where the SDP will have ongoing oversight with regular assurance from established groups.
- 8 Hate crime was identified as an area of focus for the SDP and members of the SSC OSC agreed to include it in their work programme to help them understand, recognise and support their communities in facing issues with hate crime.
- 9 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide members with a definition and examples of hate crime, how to report hate crime, statistics on recorded hate crime in County Durham and the SDP's approach to hate crime issues.
- 10 Inspector Ian Bowden, Durham Constabulary will be in attendance to deliver the presentation attached in Appendix 2 and respond to questions from the committee.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 11 Information within this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership strategic ambition that Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- [Safe Durham Partnership Strategy 2024 - 2029](#)

Contact: Clare Luery

Tel: 03000 265978

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 strategic ambition: Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe.

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None



Inspector Ian BOWDEN

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Durham Constabulary.

What is a hate crime?

The law recognises five types of hate crime on the basis of:

- Race
- Religion
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender identity



Any crime can be prosecuted as a hate crime if the offender has either:

demonstrated hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or transgender identity.

Or

been motivated by hostility based on race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or transgender identity.

Someone can be a victim of more than one type of hate crime.



Even if the crime doesn't initially appear to be prejudicially motivated, with further investigation it could be (previous crimes/incidents at the same location/the suspect and previous reports relating to them etc). Is there a pattern?

What is a non-crime hate incident (NCHI)?

This is where behaviour has taken place which, although motivated by hostility or prejudice, does not amount to a criminal offence.

For example, someone refusing to work with a colleague because they are from a specific background, or a hotelier refusing to allow someone to stay in their hotel because they're LGBT+.

Examples of Hate Crime

- physical assault
- verbal abuse
- criminal damage to property or possession
- harassment
- murder
- sexual assault
- theft
- fraud
- burglary
- hate mail (Malicious Communications Act 1988)
- causing harassment, alarm, or distress (Public Order Act 1986).
- online abuse for example on Facebook or Twitter
- displaying or circulating discriminatory literature or posters
- graffiti
- arson



When something is classed as a Hate Crime, the court can impose a tougher sentence on the offender under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Criminal Justice Act 2003.



Hate crime can be reported to Durham Police via various channels.

999 in an emergency (on-going incident requiring immediate police response)

101 when it's not an emergency

Online via the force website.

These apply to victims or witnesses.

[Home](#) > [Report](#) > [Hate crime](#)

How to report hate crime

You can:

- report a hate crime directly to the police
- get support with making your report

Report a hate crime directly to the police

If you're not sure whether the incident you're reporting is a hate crime, read [what is a hate crime](#).

You can report a hate crime, including online hate crime and planned marches or events online.

[Start](#)

Alternatively you can:

- call 101
- visit a police station

**Hate
Crime
Hurts.
Stop
It
Here.**

Recognise it.
Report it.

If you witness or are victim of Hate Crime call 101 or 999 in an emergency or visit report-it.org.uk.

**HATE
HURTS**

**County Durham & Darlington
United Against Hate Crime.**



CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.





**DIVERSITY, EQUALITY
& INCLUSION TEAM**



DARLINGTON
Borough Council



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

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



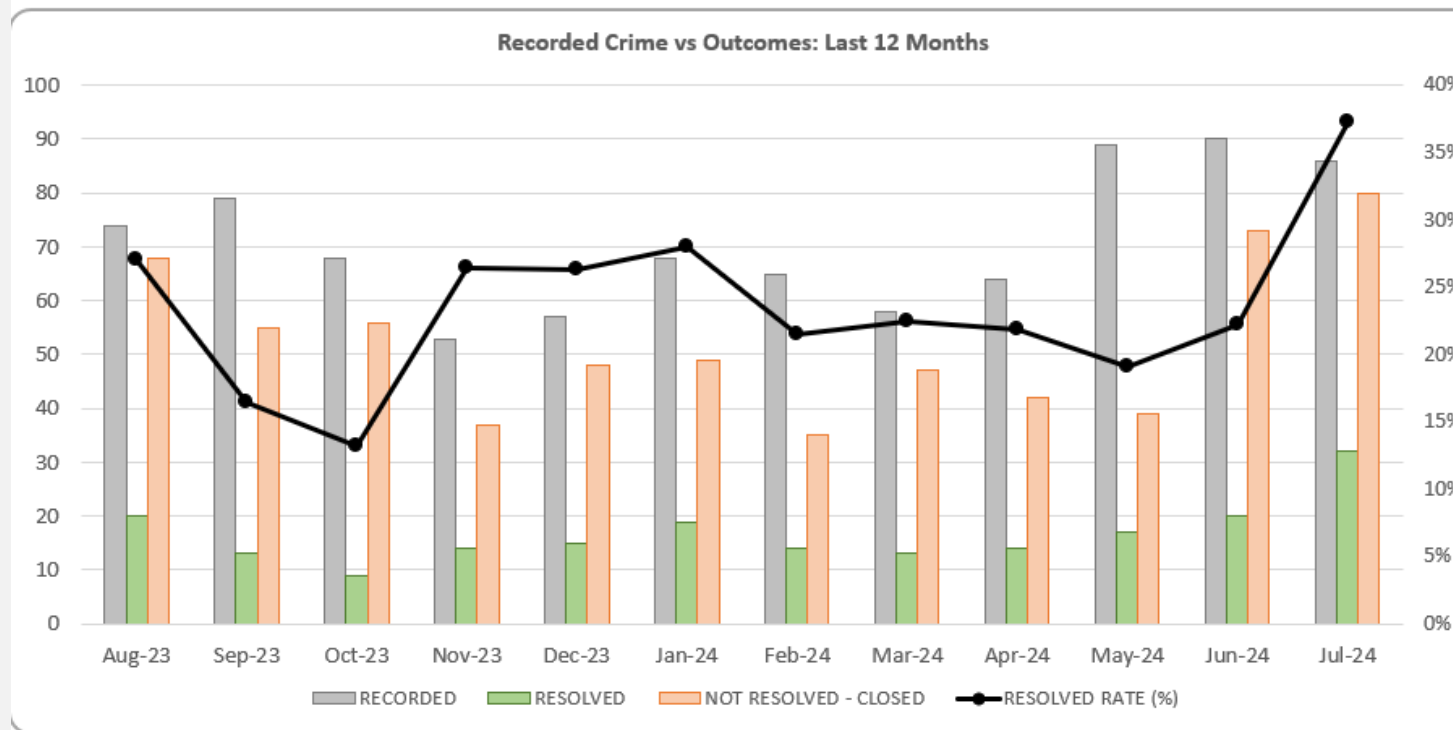
Count of Crime		Mtl							
Locality		Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Total
East Durham		21	26	15	24	25	29	29	169
Darlington		17	17	17	16	22	25	18	132
South Durham		18	10	15	10	26	19	20	118
West Durham		12	11	11	14	16	16	19	99
Unknown			1				1		2
Total		68	65	58	64	89	90	86	520

Count of Crime		Mtl							
Home Office Category		Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Total
Other Crimes Against Society		36	33	26	28	48	50	54	275
Public Order Offences		35	33	26	26	45	50	52	267
Miscellaneous Crimes against Society		1			2	3		2	8
Violence Against the Person		30	31	27	33	37	37	29	224
Violence without Injury		28	29	25	33	35	34	29	213
Violence with Injury		2	2	2		2	3		11
Criminal Damage & Arson		2	1	5	2	4	3	3	20
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage		1	1	2	1		2	1	8
Damage to Dwellings				1	1	2	1	1	6
Other Damage		1		1		1			3
Damage to Vehicles				1					1
Arson								1	1
Damage to Other Buildings						1			1
Theft Offences					1				1
All Other Theft Offences					1				1
Total		68	65	58	64	89	90	86	520

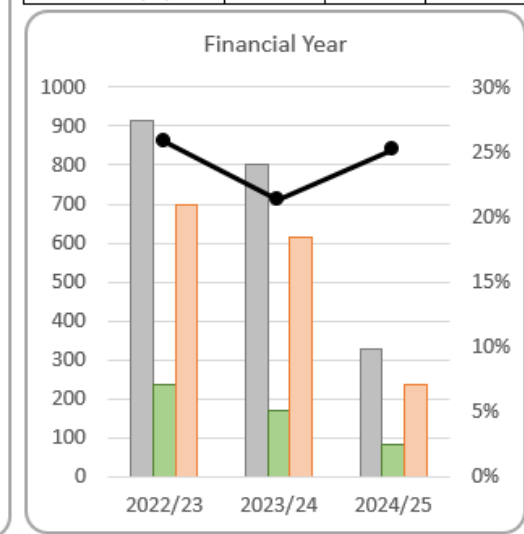


**HATE CRIME: RECORDED, RESOLVED AND NOT RESOLVED - CLOSED
(LAST 12 MONTHS)**

<i>All - All</i>	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	TOTAL
RECORDED	74	79	68	53	57	68	65	58	64	89	90	86	851
RESOLVED	20	13	9	14	15	19	14	13	14	17	20	32	200
NOT RESOLVED - CLOSED	68	55	56	37	48	49	35	47	42	39	73	80	629
RESOLVED RATE (%)	27.0%	16.5%	13.2%	26.4%	26.3%	27.9%	21.5%	22.4%	21.9%	19.1%	22.2%	37.2%	23.5%



<i>FIN YR</i>	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
RECORDED	914	804	329
RESOLVED	236	171	83
NR - CLOSED	697	616	234
RATE (%)	25.8%	21.3%	25.2%





Any Questions?

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

9 September 2024

Open Water Safety Update Report

Ordinary Decision



**Report of Kevin Lough, Corporate Health, Safety and Wellbeing
Manager, 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 (CSG) and county wide open water safety group (OWSG) continue to convene on a quarterly basis during the reporting period to review open water safety interventions and risk mitigation.
- 3 Durham city centre continues to be subject to proactive inspections of public realm spaces, footpaths and public rescue equipment in close proximity of the river corridor. This approach is also undertaken right across the county following annual risk profiling.
- 4 A continuation of a proactive approach to open water safety education and awareness remains a crucial intervention and is being applied by both open water 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. Of note there remains to be an increase in mental health related open water safety incidents.
- 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 continues to be 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 and Compliance 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 from groups such as national water safety forum 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. There were two fatal incidents relating to water in separate areas of the county on land not belonging to the council, with no trends identified and currently subject to HM coroner inquests.

Table 1- Open Water Incident Statistics 2013/14- 2023/24

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
2022/23	2	0	1	7	5	3
2023/24	6	1	0	5	1	2

13 The county durham incident data is analysed annually in order to:

- determine the nature and outcome of drowning related incidents
- identify populations, activities and/or locations at risk
- identify underlying causes of incidents, and incident trends
- identify and monitor potential and emerging risks
- inform the development and targeting of prevention interventions
- track the impact of prevention activities and strategies
- communicate/raise awareness of trends, risks and other factors related to fatal and non-fatal water-related incidents

14 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 for 2023 are:

- There were 236 water-related fatalities in the UK in 2023.
 - There were 208 suicide suspected fatalities at or near water in the UK.
 - Of the 236 drownings, 157 were in England; 47 in Scotland; 28 in Wales; and 4 in Northern Ireland.
 - Males continue to over represent, with 83% of accidental fatalities.
 - Everyday activities, such as walking and running, accounted for 48% of accidental fatalities.
 - Males aged 60-69 were the highest group for accidental fatalities.
 - 63% of accidental fatalities happened at inland waters.
 - Recreational activities accounted for 44% of accidental fatalities.
 - 32 accidental fatality reports noted the presence of alcohol.
 - The rate of accidental water-related fatalities has increased slightly since 2018 (0.40 per 100,000) to 0.35 in 2023.
- 15 Whilst walking and running close to open water remain the highest cause of accidental drowning in the UK accounting for 48%, swimming (which includes open water swimming) accounts for a significant proportion also. 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 Similar to national statistics, it is apparent from analysis of an increase in mental health related incidents which continue to be a lead cause of water related incidents within the city centre and county wide. This reflects the national picture in terms of in excess of 200 suicide suspected fatalities at or near open water. 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.
- 18 A paper on suicide prevention from public health is being prepared and is based on Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) to reduce access to means of suicide. Other potential high frequency locations for suicide have been identified and assessed on OHID guidance. Newton Cap Viaduct has had suicide prevention measures installed to reduce the access to means of suicide by jumping from a

height. Work on Newton Cap viaduct was originally initiated via a request made by HM Coroner. Since then, no further requests have been made by HM Coroner regarding any other high structures in County Durham.

- 19 The suicide prevention alliance continues to meet quarterly, and the county's suicide prevention plan has been peer reviewed by the local government association. Further community development work is also ongoing in a number of targeted areas in county durham.

City Safety Group

- 20 The CSG was chaired throughout 2023/24 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.
- 21 Throughout 2023/24 the CSG has been continuing to monitor the progress of 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 across the city centre river corridor. This provides the DCSG with assurance that the control measures implemented previously in response to HM coroner concerns remain effectively in situ and assists in proactively identification of any further actions required.
- 22 Although there were no fatalities, there continued to be a number of incidents within the city centre, primarily near various bridges, associated with mental health and emergency services being called out to assist individuals in mental health crisis requiring support which was provided.
- 23 Following a series of incidents in the city in and around the river and several bridges, a request was made by city hub team members for water safety awareness and rescue training to be provided along with the provision of throw line rescue equipment. As a result, two sessions were held during quarter one and attendees included hub staff, police, neighbourhood wardens and licensed premises management. The training was hosted by CDDFRS and incorporated general water safety awareness, rescue methods and deployment of throw lines for river rescue scenarios. Throw lines were then provided to attendees for use in emergency situations and first responder scenarios.

- 24 A multi-agency group was convened again to review student activity during student induction week. This was to ensure so far as reasonably practicable that appropriate control measures were put in place to manage nighttime economy related activities and any associated risks such as the river corridor. The group worked with university representatives to understand the volume of students during each particular day of the week and key factors such as the capacity of licensed premises, security and queue management arrangements in place. Guardianship and safeguarding arrangements were also reviewed to ensure safety controls were in place
- 25 There was a social media launch of the Royal Life Saving Society's national Don't Drink and Drown water safety campaign during December 2023. The campaign which was supported by the city safety group members and promoted directly by the council, encourages smart decision-making whilst being drunk or under the influence of alcohol in and around water. It is aimed at targeting individuals to be responsible for their friends if they have had too much to drink; helping them to return home safely.

Open Water Safety Group

- 26 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.
- 27 From a county wide perspective, the reassessments of priority risk open water locations commenced with a view to completion before the summer holiday period when weather temperature increases and at risk groups such as young persons are likely to frequent locations during summer schools holidays.
- 28 The council and partners promoted various national water safety campaigns in the form of world drowning prevention day, drowning prevention week and drowning prevention day. The councils communications team linked with counterparts at the Police and CDDFRS communications teams around these. The council, via its schools aquatic manager, has also been involved in a national group in developing the information for water safety to be added into the school's curriculum. The 'dying to be cool' cold water shock safety campaign was also launched ahead of the summer holiday period through a

variation of social media, posters and alerts at high footfall open water sites across the county.

Conclusions

- 29 Recent national statistics from 2023 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. It is apparent from city centre and county wide incidents that mental health and suicide related incidents are increasing, in line with the national statistics also.
- 30 Statistics indicate that the formation of CSG and OWSG continue to play an important role in terms of reducing risks and subsequent 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.
- 31 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.
- 32 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 2024/25 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 2024/25 will be effective in coordinating approaches and avoidance of duplication of campaigns and activities.

Background papers

- None.

Other useful documents

- None.

Author(s)

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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
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

9 September 2024

**Quarter Four, 2023/24
Performance Management Report**

Ordinary Decision



Report of John Hewitt, Chief Executive

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To share information about our performance with members, senior managers, employees and the public.
- 2 The report tracks our progress towards achieving the strategic ambitions and objectives set out in our 2023-27 council plan. It contains the most recent performance data available on 31 March. Contextual information relates to activity and events taking place in the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (January to March). It provides insights into what is going well and the issues we are addressing.

Executive Summary

- 3 We are a key player within the County Durham Together Partnership and are working with our partners to deliver the [County Durham Vision 2035](#). This vision sets out what we want the county to look like over the next decade and beyond. The overall vision is for:

a place where there are more and better jobs, people live long, and independent lives and our communities are well connected and supportive.

- 4 Our [Council Plan](#) sets out how we will contribute to achieving this vision, while continuing to effectively deliver our day-to-day services.
- 5 We refresh our Council Plan every year. Council has now approved the plan for the forthcoming four years ([Council Plan 2024-28](#)). We will commence reporting performance against our ambitions, objectives and priorities for this plan from 1 April.
- 6 We continue to be a 'well-functioning council' in relation to performance. We operate to the characteristics set out in guidance from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)¹. And we are continuing to

¹ [Best Value standards and intervention](#)

develop the following through our performance management processes and the wider Corporate Business Intelligence Review:

- (a) A council-wide approach to continuous improvement, with frequent monitoring, performance reporting and updating of the corporate and improvement plans;
- (b) A Council Plan that is evidence based, current, realistic and enables the whole organisation's performance to be measured and held to account;
- (c) Clear and effective mechanisms for scrutinising performance across all service areas. We regularly report our performance to the public to ensure citizens are aware of the quality of services being delivered.

7 The government has established an Office for Local Government (Oflog). Oflog aims to increase understanding about the performance of local authorities, warn when authorities are at risk of serious failure, and support local government to improve itself.

8 Oflog is bringing together existing data in an informative way through the [Local Authority Data Explorer](#). Their suite of metrics is being continually expanded and will eventually cover all local government responsibilities. The next tranche of data will be added later in the year. We will also add the new metrics to our performance framework and include in our reporting process.

Context

9 We are a large organisation providing a broad range of services. Our operating environment can at times be challenging, influenced by various interconnected factors including inflationary and demand pressures, demographic shifts and the changing needs of our residents, economic uncertainties, and the ongoing impacts of global events.

10 The overall crime rate in County Durham has fallen and compares favourably with many council areas in the region. Domestic abuse incidents reported to the police remained static, however, the number of victims referred to our support services increased by 15%. The number of eligible private sector rented properties which are fully licensed or where legal proceedings have been instigated under the selective licensing scheme is now at 48%. Serious casualties from road traffic accidents have increased. We continue to support a reduction in road traffic casualties through road improvements and campaigns.

Recommendation

11 Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the overall position and direction of travel in relation to quarter four performance (January to March), and the actions being taken to address areas of challenge.

Background papers

- County Durham Vision (County Council, 23 October 2019)
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s115064/Draft%20Durham%20Vision%20v10.0.pdf>

Other useful documents

- Council Plan 2023 to 2027 (current plan)
<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/34954/Durham-County-Council-Plan-2023-2027/pdf/CouncilPlan2023-2027.pdf?m=638221688616370000>
- Quarter Two, 2023/24 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s183015/Q2%202023-24%20Corporate%20Performance%20Report.pdf>
- Quarter One, 2023/24 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s178933/Q1%202023-24%20Corporate%20Performance%20Report%20-%20Cabinet%2013.09.23.pdf>
- Quarter Four, 2022/23 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s174900/Item%204%20Q4%202022-23%202%201.pdf>
- Quarter Three, 2022/23 Performance Management Report
<https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/documents/s166398/Corporate%20Performance%20Report%20Q2%202022-23%20v2.1.pdf>

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable.

Finance

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

Consultation

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

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

Climate Change

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

Human Rights

Not applicable.

Crime and Disorder

A number of performance indicators and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with the Safe Durham Partnership and its sub-groups.

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.



Corporate Performance Report

Quarter Four, 2023/24



Contents (blue text links to sections of the report)

	➤ Executive Summary	
Our Communities	➤ Our Communities Performance Report	
	Performance Dashboards	➤ Road safety
		➤ Crime
		➤ Theft
		➤ Protecting vulnerable people from harm
		➤ Anti-social behaviour
	➤ Data Tables	
	➤ Glossary	

Executive Summary

- 1 This report shows how we are performing against the priorities set out in our Council Plan 2023-27.
- 2 We are reporting performance on an exception basis with key messages structured around the five thematic areas of, our economy, our environment, our people, our communities, and our council.
- 3 We are reporting the most recent performance available as at 31 March. Contextual information relates to activity and events taking place in the fourth quarter of the 2023/24 financial year (January to March).

Our communities

- 4 The aim of this priority is to ensure our communities are well connected and supportive of each other, with vibrant and accessible towns and villages which are well-used, clean, attractive and safe. We will support our most vulnerable residents, particularly those isolated or financially vulnerable. We will maintain a strong focus on tackling poverty throughout the cost-of-living crisis.

Issues we are addressing

- 5 Forty eight percent of private rented sector properties covered by the selective licensing scheme are either fully licenced, in the process of being licenced, or have had legal proceedings instigated. Our enforcement team continue to target all properties not yet licensed.
- 6 Serious casualties from road traffic accidents have increased. We continue to support a reduction in road traffic casualties through a range of education programmes and campaigns. £2.94 million has been awarded for improvements on the A690 between Crook and Neville's Cross.

Risk Management

- 7 The government's statutory guidance for best value authorities sets out the characteristics of a well-functioning authority. This details the arrangements that councils should have in place for robust governance and scrutiny including how risk awareness and management should inform decision making. The latest [Strategic Risk Management Progress Report](#) provides an insight into the work carried out by the Corporate Risk Management Group between October and December 2023.

Our Communities

Priority Aims:

Durham is a great county in which to live, with flourishing communities which are connected and supportive of each other. We aim to,

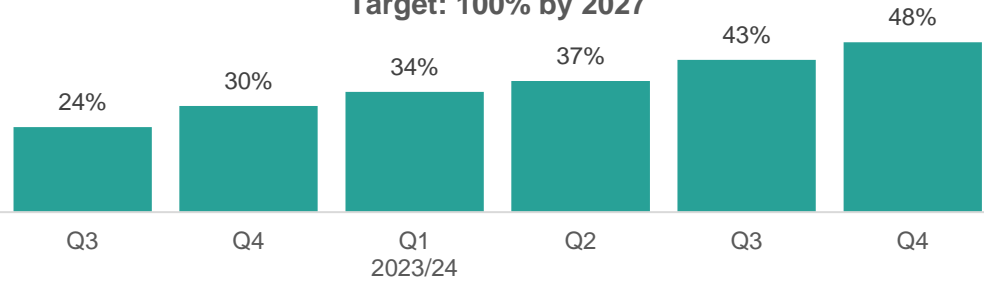
- ensure standards will be maintained or improved across County Durham's housing stock
- have towns and villages which are vibrant, well-used, clean, attractive and safe
- ensure people will have good access to workplaces, services, retail and leisure opportunities
- ensure communities will be able to come together and support each other
- deliver new high-quality housing which is accessible and meets the needs of our residents
- ensure our rural communities will be sustainable whilst maintaining those characteristics which make them distinctive
- narrow the inequality gap between our communities
- build inclusive communities

Housing Standards Dashboard

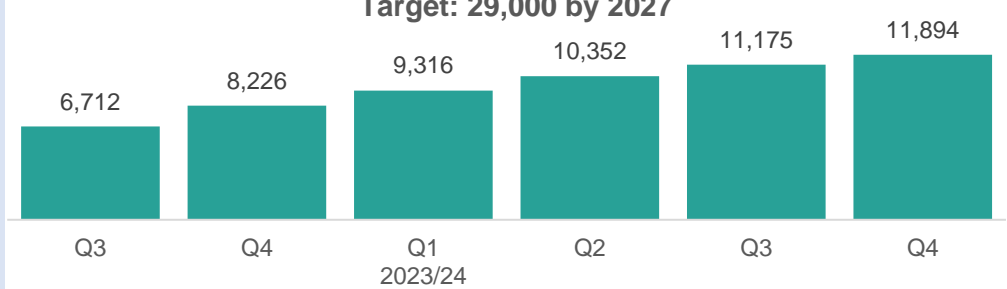
(discrete quarterly data / as at 31 March 2024)

Selective Licensing (Private Rented Sector properties - PRS)

% of PRS properties covered by SL scheme that are fully licenced or legal proceedings instigated (YTD)
Target: 100% by 2027



No. PRS properties covered by Selective Licence Scheme that are fully licenced (YTD)
Target: 29,000 by 2027



Selective Licensing

- 8 As at 31 March 2024, of the estimated 29,000 private sector properties covered by the scheme, 11,894 (41%) are now fully licenced. A further 1,302 (4%) applications were being processed and four live temporary exemptions and 347 family exemptions are in place.
- 9 A further 424 properties are under investigation for not having a licence. Four prosecution files relating to 11 properties, are being progressed, with one successful prosecution and one going to retrial. As at 31 March, eight civil penalties had been issued and 64 notices of intent to issue a civil penalty served.
- 10 14,071 (48%) of private rented sector properties covered by the scheme are either fully licenced, in the process of being licenced, or have legal proceedings instigated.
- 11 We continue to target private rented sector modelled properties that have not yet been licenced. Staff are in place to focus on identifying landlords of unlicensed properties using numerous data sources and carry out enforcement proceedings. We are also focusing efforts in Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) where licence numbers are lower. A new financial penalty policy is now in place to assist with enforcement action (as an alternative to prosecution) and encourage unlicensed landlords to apply.

ASB in Selective Licensing Areas

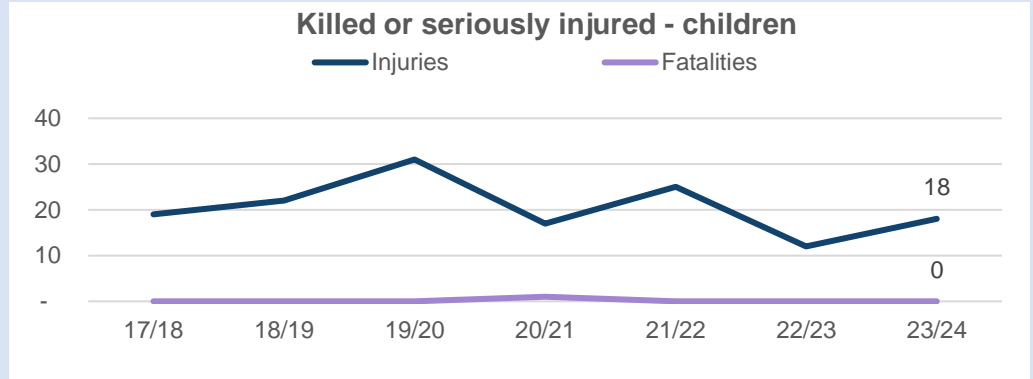
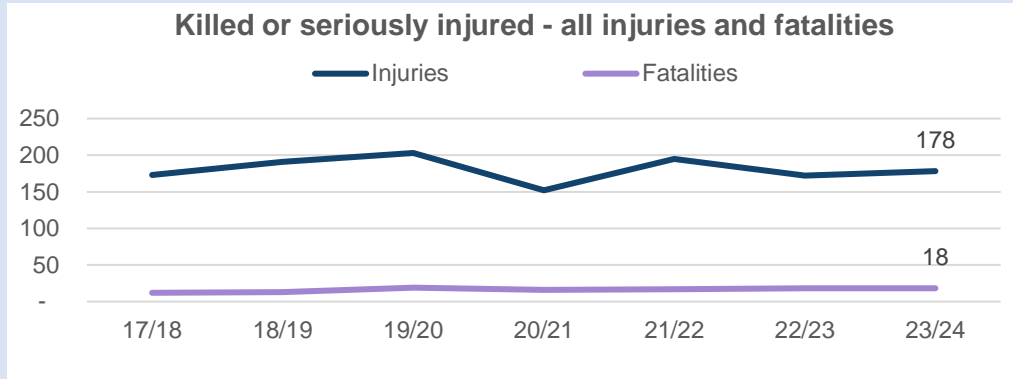
- 12 We continue to experience issues with one element of our ASB recording system so are unable to provide an update in relation to this indicator. We are working to resolve the issue. If a resolution cannot be found the baseline will need to be reset based on the remaining elements of the available ASB data.

Road Safety Dashboard

(12 month rolling trend)

Road Safety

Data for 2023 and 2024 is provisional and subject to change.



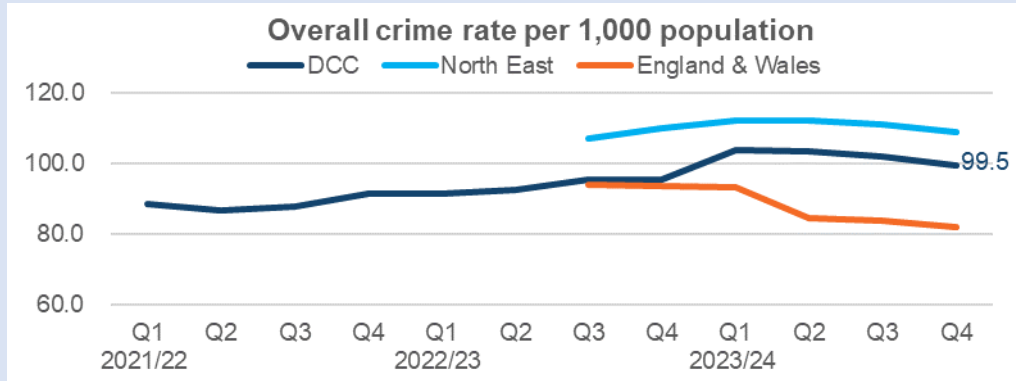
Road Safety

- 13 We have been awarded £2.94 million from the Department of Transport's (DfT) Safer Roads Fund for improvements on the A690 between Crook and Neville's Cross. Aimed at improving safety for all road users, but with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists, the works will include:
- A new shared path for cyclists and pedestrians between Holy Well Lane in Crook and Red House Gardens in Willington.
 - Improved road markings between Willington and Brancepeth to make drivers more aware when they are nearing the kerbside at night and in poor weather.
 - New traffic lights and a pedestrian crossing at the junction of the A690 and St John's Road in Meadowfield.
 - Improvements for pedestrians on Langley Moor High Street.
 - Road surface improvements at various locations along the route.
- 14 Comparing 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024) to 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023) indicates an equal number of fatalities and an increase of six serious casualties.
- 15 The age group with the highest number of casualties in 2023/24 (April 2023 to March 2024) was 16 to 20, the same as 2022/23 (April 2022 to March 2023). Although there was an increase of seven casualties in 2023/24.
- 16 In terms of road user groups, car occupants, motorcyclists and pedestrians account for the most casualties in both years. Across all casualties and age groups, increases were seen in car occupants (+4) and a reduction in goods vehicle occupants (-6). In relation to children, there was a slight increase in car occupants (+4).
- 17 Collision hotspot areas are linked to more urban areas, including Bishop Auckland, Peterlee, Chester-le-Street, Consett and Stanley.
- 18 We continue to support the reduction of road traffic casualties through a series of education programmes, training courses and road safety campaigns. During quarter four (January to March 2024):
- 990 Bikeability cycle training places were delivered;
 - 2,066 children received face-to-face visits and activities;
 - a further 276 pupils completed Child Pedestrian Training sessions; and
 - 465 aged 17-18 year olds took part in the new young driver and passenger workshop sessions, facilitated by the council and Durham Constabulary.
- 19 Campaign work during quarter four (January to March 2024), complimented and supported the work undertaken by our local and regional road safety partners. This focused on speeding, at work drivers, motorbikes and cyclists and included weather/winter messaging, distraction and seatbelts.
- 20 In addition, our Road Safety Facebook Page continues to grow, with 24 posts, reaching an audience of 22,579.

Crime Dashboard

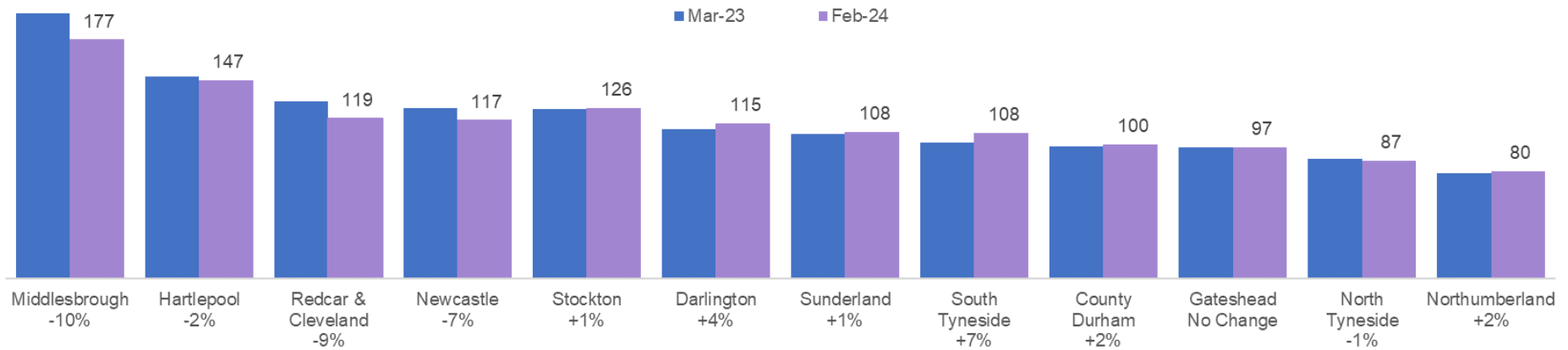
(12 months ending 29 February 2023)

Crime rate in County Durham



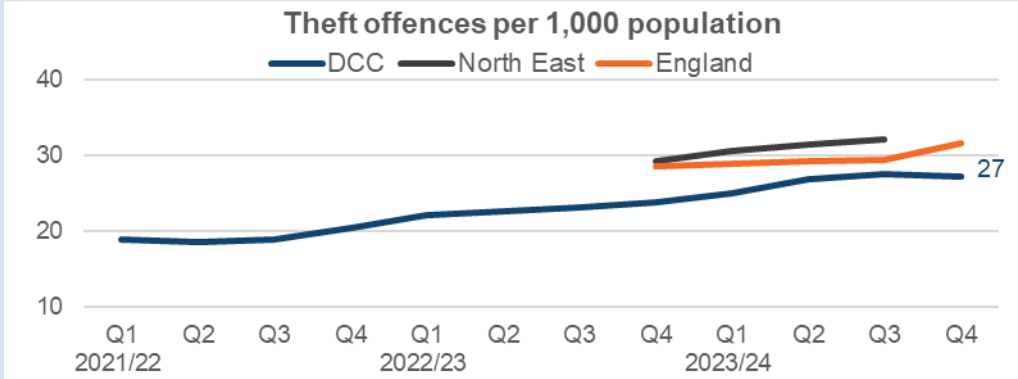
Overall crime rate has increased by 4% compared to the same period last year.

Overall crime rate per 1,000 population compared to North East Local Authorities

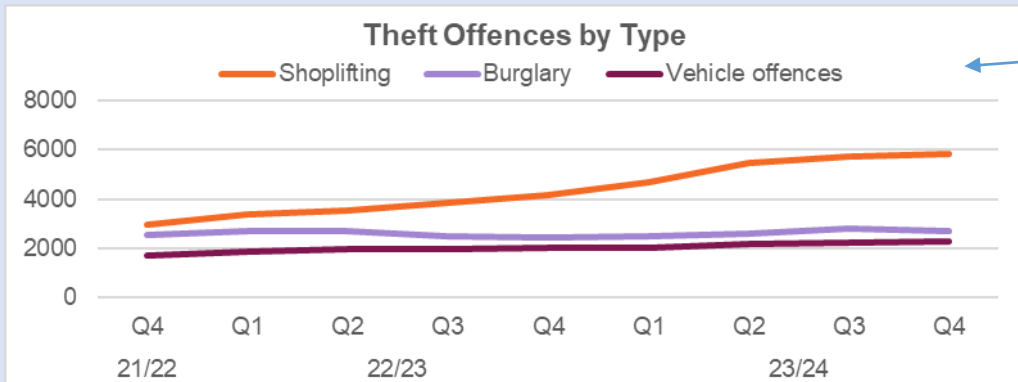


Theft Dashboard

(12 months ending 31 March 2024)



Increases recorded in shoplifting, residential burglary and vehicle crime.



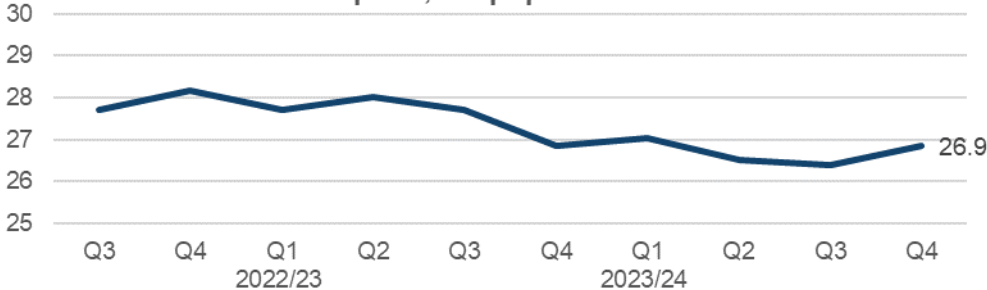
Shoplifting, Burglary and Vehicle offences are responsible for 74% of all theft crimes in the last 12 months ending 31 March.

Shoplifting has experienced the biggest increase, with 1,652 (+40%) more incidents than the same period last year

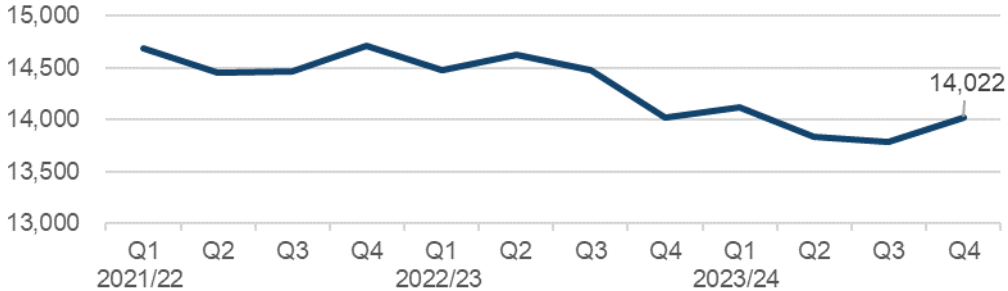
Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm Dashboard

(12 months ending 31 March 2024)

Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the police per 1,000 population

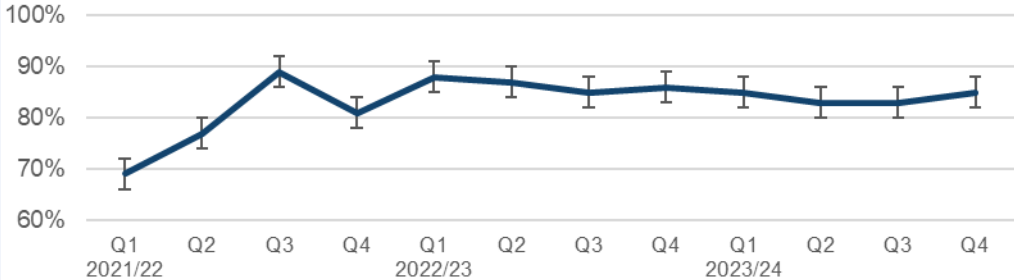


Domestic abuse incidents

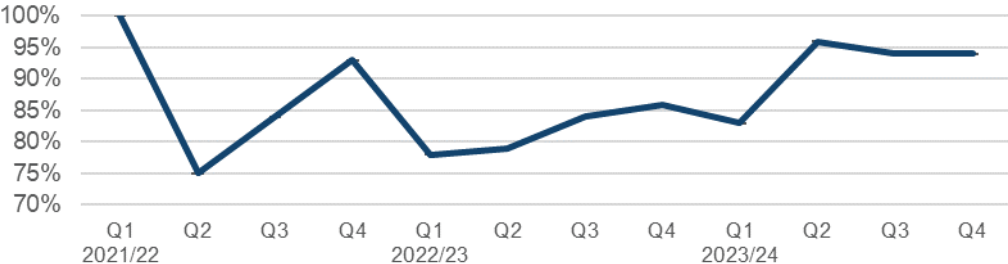


Harbour Support Services – feeling safer

Harbour clients who reported feeling safe at case closure



% of children and young people completing an intervention with Harbour and reporting feeling safer



Crime

- 21 The overall crime rate increased compared to last year, remaining higher than the England and Wales average, but lower than the North East average.
- 22 There were increases in the crime of theft, particularly in shoplifting, residential burglary and vehicle crime, with these three areas accounting for 74% of all theft crimes. Shoplifting offences increased by 40% over the last year.

Domestic Abuse

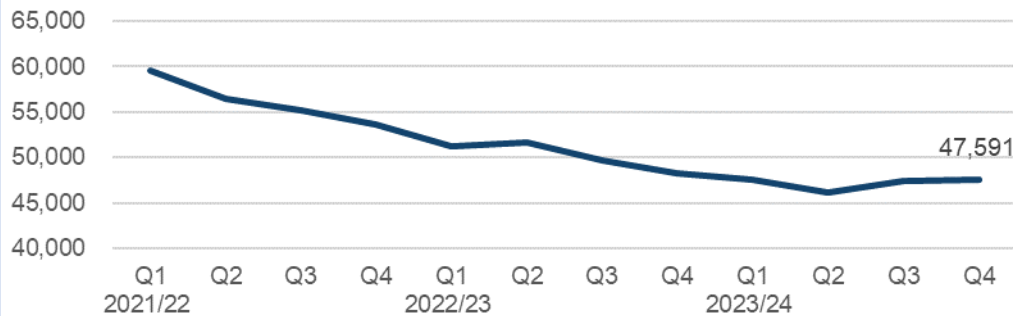
- 23 Domestic abuse incidents reported to the police in the 12 months ending March 2024 remained static compared to the previous year, however, the number of victims referred to Harbour Support Services increased by 15% over the same period.
- 24 The increase in referrals to Harbour may be linked to the improved identification of victim vulnerability through Durham Constabulary's newly introduced victim needs assessment. It is also complemented by continuous professional development delivered to officers through the forces investigative strategy Operation Crystal covering referrals into support services led by the Victim Care and Advice Service.
- 25 During quarter four of the 1,715 domestic abuse victims referred to Harbour Support Services, 89 of these were considered at a high risk and 295 had been referred to Harbour at least twice in the previous 12 months.
- 26 On average, a victim experiences domestic abuse for four years before accessing help from Harbour.
- 27 The proportion of those reporting feeling safe after involvement with Harbour remains stable at more than 80% and in recent months, we have seen the majority of children completing an intervention with Harbour indicating they feel safer. This is excellent progress and a significant improvement on the previous financial year. We will continue to monitor this in the future.

Anti-Social Behaviour Dashboard

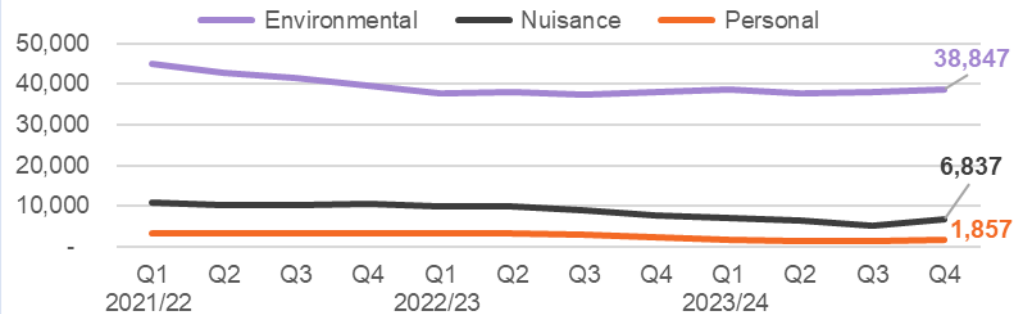
(12 months ending 31 March 2024)

	Last year	This year	change	
Environment ASB	38,039	38,847	+808	+2%
Nuisance ASB	7,760	6,837	-923	-12%
Personal ASB	2,430	1,857	-573	-24%
All ASB	48,256	47,541	-715	-1%

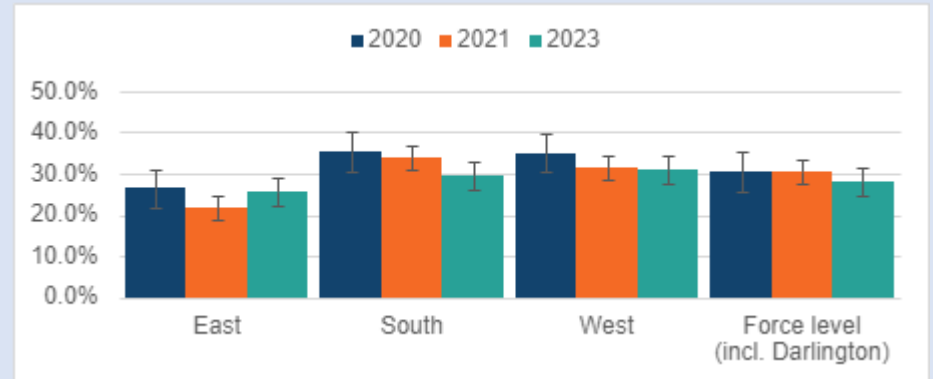
Reports of anti-social behaviour



Reports of ASB by type



Proportion of respondents who agree that the police and local authority are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to them



No significant change

Q: What do you feel is the single, biggest issue, negatively impacting on your local community at this time?

The main theme was ASB (including youth-related and drug-related). The top three issues identified as having the greatest negative impact on individuals were speeding and driver related ASB, general negative view of the police and police behaviour, and off-road bikes.

Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

- 28 Decreases in Police ASB incidents are because of improved compliance with National Crime Recording Standards, with ASB incidents increasingly categorised as a crime, leading to a reduction of traditional ASB data indicators. Essentially, reports that were previously categorised as an ASB incident are now being categorised as a crime, for example harassment or public order, and therefore do not appear in ASB incident data statistics.

Public confidence that the Police and Local Authorities are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to them

- 29 Data from the most recent survey shows a smaller proportion of respondents agree that the police and the council are dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to them. However, the rate is an estimate from a sample survey and as it is within the estimated confidence intervals of +/-3.5pp it is possible the decrease is due to random sample variation.
- 30 East, South and West are the three police localities that make up County Durham. With the exception of the East in 2021, there has been no significant difference between each of these areas over the last three years.
- 31 The latest survey is currently being analysed. Key findings will be included in the next performance report.

Community Safety Activity

- 32 In response to issues of anti-social behaviour the Community Action Team (CAT), have revisited and reviewed three previous projects at Spennymoor, Wheatley Hill and Coundon and Leeholme. Utilising community engagement and partner intelligence:
- One hundred and thirty-three pieces of casework were identified and actioned from review walkabouts at the three locations. This is a reduction of 52% from the original projects when 280 pieces of casework were identified. Issues such as empty properties, fly-tipping and rubbish accumulations continue in all areas but at a lesser extent than previously.
 - A high proportion of properties (46%) where issues were identified also had issues during the original project. The Selective Licensing and Empty Property Teams are working with landlords to reduce the levels of repeat offender properties.
 - Eleven legal notices were issued to remedy defective state of premises and for the removal of noxious matter.
- 33 The CAT are currently working with partners and the local community at Annfield Plain. Priorities have been determined as rubbish accumulations, anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. A further update on progress will be provided in the next report.
- 34 Our community safety teams have also been in local communities addressing residents' concerns about a range of anti-social behaviour issues. Liaising with residents and partners, issues have included:
- dealing with reports of fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour by young people;
 - liaising with property owners re empty properties;
 - carrying out work to limit access to off-road bikes;

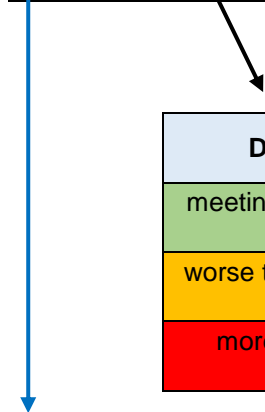
- dealing with access to empty properties;
- responding to incidents of unauthorised encampments;
- supporting vulnerable people;
- tension monitoring; and
- responding to concerns of rough sleepers.

Horden Together

- 35 The Horden Together project is a place-based partnership project aiming to improve public safety by offering support with a broad range of issues, including emotional health, crime, anti-social behaviour, housing, drugs and alcohol and environmental issues.
- 36 Through Making Every Adult Matter, 19 clients have been accepted in the quarter (January to March 2024), bringing the current caseload to 46. The main focus of engagement has been food, finance, mental wellbeing and housing.
- 37 During the same period, we have responded to reports of issues relating to properties being open to unauthorised access, drainage, noise, nuisance, pests, public health, housing and other accumulations. As a result of further investigations, we served 73 notices on properties.

Data Tables

D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
				Household waste re-used, recycled or composted	Oct 22 – Sep 23	36.5%	Tracker	37.7%	April 21 – March 22	38.1%	42.5%	33.5%	Yes	Yes



D = Direction of Travel	T = compared to target	C = compared to England average	G = Gap between our performance and England average
meeting or exceeding the previous year	Meeting or better than target	meeting or better than the England average	The gap is improving
worse than the previous year but is within 2%	worse than but within 2% of target	worse than the England average but within 2%	The gap remains the same
more than 2% worse than the previous year	more than 2% behind target	worse than the England average	The gap is deteriorating

This is the overall performance assessment. Its calculation is dependent upon whether the indicator has an agreed target.

Key Target Indicator	Key Tracker Indicator
targets are set as improvements, can be measured regularly and can be actively influenced by the council and its partners. When setting a target, the D, C and G have already been taken into account.	no targets are set as they are long-term and / or can only be partially influenced by the council and its partners. Therefore, D, T, C and G are used to assess overall performance
better than target	Direction of Travel (D) is meeting or exceeding the previous year AND the gap with England (G) is improving
worse than but within 2% of target	Direction of Travel (D) is worse than the previous year OR the gap with England (G) is deteriorating
more than 2% behind target	Direction of Travel (D) is worse than the previous year AND the gap with England (G) is deteriorating

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

Our Communities: summary data tables

Housing Standards KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Properties covered by Selective Licence Scheme that are licensed, or legal proceedings instigated	Jan-Mar 2024	48%	100% (by 2025)	30%					Yes	No
					ASB incidents per 10,000 population within the Selective Licensing Scheme	Jul 2022-Jun 2023	212.97	224.28	287.7					No	No

Road Safety KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Road traffic accidents: fatalities	Jan-Mar 2024	2	Tracker	6					Yes	No
					Road traffic accidents: seriously injured	Jan-Mar 2024	23	Tracker	27					Yes	No
					Road traffic accidents: fatalities (children)	Jan-Mar 2024	0	Tracker	0					Yes	No
					Road traffic accidents: seriously injured (children)	Jan-Mar 2024	2	Tracker	3					Yes	No
					Road traffic collisions per billion vehicle miles – all	2022	186.86	Tracker	204.5	2022	186.86	352.07	255.65	No	No
					Road traffic collisions per billion vehicle miles – fatal	2022	5.90	Tracker	4.42	2022	5.90	4.86	4.36	No	No

Protecting Vulnerable People from harm KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
Page 57					Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police per 1,000 population	2023/24	26.9	Tracker	26.8					Yes	No

				Harbour clients feeling more confident on case closure	Jan-Mar 2024	86%	Tracker	81%					Yes	No
Page 58				Harbour clients feeling their quality of life has improved on case closure	Jan-Mar 2024	83%	Tracker	82%					Yes	No
				Children and young people completing an intervention with Harbour and reporting feeling safer	Jan-Mar 2024	94%	Tracker	86%					Yes	No
				Children and young people reviewed as at risk to Child Sexual Exploitation			Tracker						No	No

Crime KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	England and Wales average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Respondents who agree that police and LA are dealing with ASB and crime issues that matter to them. <i>(confidence intervals +/-3.5pp)</i>	2023	28.2%	30.7%	30.7%					No	No
					Crime rate per 1,000 population	2023/24	99.5	Tracker	95.4	Apr 23-Mar 24	99.5	81.8	109	Yes	No
					Theft offences per 1,000 population	2023/24	27.3	Tracker	23.91	Jan-Dec 23	27.5	31.7		Yes	No
					Offenders who re-offend in a 12 month period	2021/22	27.9%	Tracker	28.7%	Apr 21-Mar 22	27.9%	25.2%	28.1%	No	No
					Proven re-offending by young people	2021/22	41.5%	Tracker	39.0%	Apr 21-Mar 22	41.5%	32.2%	32.6%	No	No
					First time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 per 100,000 population aged 10 to 17	2022	146	Tracker	141					No	No
					Violent crime incidents which were alcohol related	Jan-Mar 2024	35.2%	Tracker	32.2%					Yes	No

Anti-Social Behaviour KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
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				Reports of anti-social behaviour	2023/24	47,541	Tracker	48,256					Yes	No
				Reports of environmental anti-social behaviour	2023/24	38,847	Tracker	38,039					Yes	No
				Reports of nuisance anti-social behaviour	2023/24	6,837	Tracker	7,760					Yes	No
				Reports of personal anti-social behaviour	2023/24	1,857	Tracker	2,430					Yes	No
				Anti-social behaviour incidents which were alcohol related	2023/24	10.98%	Tracker	7.05%					Yes	No
				ASB enforcement action taken	Jul 2022-Jun 2023	6,069	Tracker	5,057					No	No

Our People: summary data tables

Adult Social Care KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services	2023/24	87.6%	84.0%	84.1%	Apr 22-Mar 23	84.1%	82.3%	83.1%	Yes	No

Public Health KPIs

	D	T	C	G	Performance Indicator	Period	Performance	Target	12 months earlier	Benchmark period	DCC	National average	NE average	updated	Oflog
					Suicide rate per 100,000 population	2020-22	16.8	Tracker	15.8	2020-22	16.8	10.3	13.5	No	No
					Successful completions of those in alcohol treatment	Sep 2022-Aug 2023	35.3%	Tracker	29.5%	Sep 22-Aug 23	35.3%	34.1%		Yes	No
					Successful completions of those in drug treatment: opiates	Sep 2022-Aug 2023	5.7%	Tracker	5.4%	Sep 22-Aug 23	5.7%	5.1%		Yes	No
					Successful completions of those in drug treatment: non-opiates	Sep 2022-Aug 2023	36.3%	Tracker	32.4%	Sep 22-Aug 23	36.3%	30.0%		Yes	No

Glossary

Term	Definition
ACD	<p>Automatic Call Distribution</p> <p>Telephone calls are received either through our Automatic Call Distribution system, which routes calls to groups of agents based on a first-in-first-answered criteria, or directly to a telephone extension (non-ACD). Only calls received via our ACD system are included in our telephone statistics.</p>
AQMA	<p>Air Quality Management Area</p> <p>A geographical area where air pollution levels are, or are likely to, exceed national air quality objectives at relevant locations (where the public may be exposed to harmful air pollution over a period of time e.g., residential homes, schools etc.).</p>
ASB	Anti-social behaviour
ASCOF	<p>Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework</p> <p>measures how well care and support services achieve the outcomes that matter most to people (link)</p>
BATH	<p>Bishop Auckland Town Hall</p> <p>A multi-purpose cultural venue situated in Bishop Auckland market place. It offers regular art exhibitions, live music, cinema screenings and theatre performances, as well as a library service.</p>
BCF	<p>Better Care Fund</p> <p>A national programme that supports local systems to successfully deliver the integration of health and social care.</p>
B2B	<p>Business to Business</p> <p>B2B refers to selling products and services directly between two businesses as opposed to between businesses and customers.</p>
CAP	<p>Customer Access Point</p> <p>A location where residents can get face-to-face help and information about council services. There are eight CAPs across County Durham.</p>
CAT	<p>Community Action Team</p> <p>A project team which includes members of our community protection service, planning, neighbourhood wardens and housing teams, who work alongside police and community support officers and fire and rescue teams and residents to tackle housing and environmental issues in a specific area by identifying local priorities and making best use of resources.</p>
CDP	<p>County Durham Plan</p> <p>Sets out the council's vision for housing, jobs and the environment until 2035, as well as the transport, schools and healthcare to support it (link)</p>
CED	Community Economic Development

Term	Definition
CERP	<p>Climate Emergency Response Plan</p> <p>A community-wide call to action to help align all sectors on the actions required to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve our resilience to the impacts of climate change.</p>
Changing Places toilet	<p>Toilets meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. These toilets provide the right equipment including a height adjustable adult-sized changing table, a tracking hoist system, adequate space for a disabled person and carer, a peninsular WC with room either side and a safe and clean environment including tear off paper to cover the bench, a large waste bin and a non-slip floor.</p>
CLD	<p>Client Level Dataset</p> <p>A national mandatory person-level data collection (to be introduced) that will replace the existing annual Short and Long Term (SALT) Support data collected by councils. CLD will be added to the single data list and will become mandatory for all local authorities.</p>
CNIS	<p>Child Not In School</p>
CPN	<p>Community Protection Notice</p> <p>Can be issued to anyone over the age of 16 to deal with a wide range of ongoing anti-social behaviour issues or nuisances which have a detrimental effect on the local community. There are three stages: the first stage is a written warning (CPW), the second a notice (CPN) the third is an FPN or further prosecution for failure to comply with the previous stages</p>
CRM	<p>Customer Relationship Management system</p>
CS&T	<p>Culture, Sport and Tourism</p>
CTR	<p>Council Tax Reduction</p> <p>Reduces council tax bills for those on low incomes</p>
DCC	<p>Durham County Council</p>
DEFRA	<p>Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p> <p>A ministerial department, supported by 34 agencies and public bodies responsible for improving and protecting the environment. It aims to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. It also supports our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries (link)</p>
DHP	<p>Discretionary Housing Payments</p> <p>Short term payments which can be made to tenants in receipt of the housing benefit element of Universal Credit, to help sort out housing and money problems in the longer term.</p>
DHSC	<p>Department of Health and Social Care</p> <p>The DHSC supports the government in leading the nation's health and care system.</p>

Term	Definition
DLE	Daily Living Expenses Available for those whose circumstances have changed unexpectedly. Payments can be made for up to seven days to help with food, travel and some clothing (restrictions apply).
DoLS	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards A set of checks that are part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which applies in England and Wales. The DoLS procedure protects a person receiving care whose liberty has been limited by checking that this is appropriate and is in their best interests.
EAP	Employee Assistance Programme A confidential employee benefit designed to help staff deal with personal and professional problems that could be affecting their home or work life, health, and general wellbeing.
EET	Employment, Education or Training Most often used in relation to young people aged 16 to 24, it measures the number employed, in education or in training.
EHCP	Education, Health Care Plan A legal document which describes a child or young person's (aged up to 25) special educational needs, the support they need, and the outcomes they would like to achieve.
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund Funding that helps to create economic development and growth; it gives support to businesses, encourages new ideas and supports regeneration. Although the United Kingdom has now left the European Union, under the terms of the Withdrawal Agreement, EU programmes will continue to operate in the UK until their closure in 2023-24.
EHE	Elective Home Education A term used to describe a choice by parents to provide education for their children at home or in some other way they desire, instead of sending them to school full-time.
ETA	Extension of Time Agreement An agreement between the council and the customer submitting a planning application to extend the usual deadline beyond 13 weeks due to the complex nature of the application.
FPN	Fixed Penalty Notice Is a conditional offer to an alleged offender for them to have the matter dealt with in a set way without resorting to going to court.
FTE	Full Time Equivalent Total number of full-time employees working across the organisation. It is a way of adding up the hours of full-time, part-time and various other types of employees and converting into measurable 'full-time' units.
GVA	Gross Value Added <i>The measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.</i>

Term	Definition
HSF	Household Support Fund Payments support low income households struggling with energy and food costs, or who need essential household items.
ICO	Information Commissioner's Office The UK's independent body's role is to uphold information rights in the public interest (link)
IES	Inclusive Economic Strategy Sets a clear, long-term vision for the area's economy up to 2035, with an overarching aim to create more and better jobs in an inclusive, green economy (link)
JLHWS	Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy The Strategy (2023-28) supports the vision that County Durham is a healthy place where people live well for longer (link)
KS2	Key Stage 2 The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages.' At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess each child's performance. KS2 refers to children in year 3, 4, 5 and 6 when pupils are aged between 7 and 11.
KS3	Key Stage 3 The national curriculum is organised into blocks of years called 'key stages.' At the end of each key stage, the teacher will formally assess each child's performance. KS3 refers to children in year 7, 8 and 9 when pupils are aged between 11 and 14.
LGA	Local Government Association The national membership body for councils which works on behalf of its member councils to support, promote and improve local government (link).
LINKCD	A programme that brings together a number of delivery partners to support people with multiple barriers to address these underlying issues and to move them closer to or into the labour market or re-engage with education or training.
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategies Propose how and where to recover nature and improve the wider environment across England.
MMB	Managing Money Better A service offered by the council which involves visiting residents' homes to carry out a free home energy assessment. In addition to providing advice on energy bills, the service can provide financial advice through referrals to benefits advice or help with a benefits appeal and other services for advice on benefit entitlements.
MTFP	Medium Term Financial Plan A document that sets out the council's financial strategy over a four year period
MW	MegaWatt is one million watts of electricity

Term	Definition
NESWA	North East Social Work Alliance A social work teaching partnership made up of 12 North East councils and six Higher Education Institutes. The Alliance is one of several teaching partnerships across the country which were created to improve the quality of practice, learning and continuous professional development amongst trainee and practicing social workers.
NQSW	Newly Qualified Social Workers a social worker who is registered with Social Work England and is in their first year of post qualifying practice.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification The NVQ is a work-based qualification that recognises the skills and knowledge a person needs to do a job.
Oflog	Office For Local Government The vision for Oflog is for it to provide authoritative and accessible data and analysis about the performance of local government and support its improvement. Oflog is part of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities .
PDR	Performance and Development Review Is an annual process which provides all staff with the valuable opportunity to reflect on their performance, potential and development needs.
PRS	Private Rented Sector This classification of housing relates to property owned by a landlord and leased to a tenant. The landlord could be an individual, a property company or an institutional investor. The tenants would either deal directly with an individual landlord, or alternatively with a management company or estate agency caring for the property on behalf of the landlord.
PSPO	Public Space Protection Order Are intended to deal with a nuisance or problem in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community.
QoL	Quality of Life
RIDDOR	Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations A RIDDOR report is required for work-related accidents which result in a reportable injury. The definition of a reportable injury can be found here
RQF	Regulated Qualifications Framework The RQF helps people understand all the qualifications regulated by the government and how they relate to each other. It covers general and vocational in England, and vocational in Northern Ireland. Link
SALT	Short and Long Term Relates to the annual Short and Long Term (SALT) Support data collected by councils. It is to be replaced by a national mandatory person-level data collection (Client Level Data).

Term	Definition
SEN	<p>Special Educational Needs</p> <p>The term is used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for children to learn than most children of the same age. Children with SEN are likely to need extra or different help from that given to other children their age.</p>
SEND	<p>Special Educational Needs and Disabilities</p> <p>SEND can affect a child or young person's ability to learn and can affect their;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ behaviour or ability to socialise (e.g., they struggle to make friends) ▪ reading and writing (e.g., because they have dyslexia), ▪ ability to understand things, ▪ concentration levels (e.g., because they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) ▪ physical ability
SG	<p>Settlement Grants</p> <p>Help people stay in their home or move back into housing after living in supported or unsettled accommodation (such as leaving care or being homeless). They provide help towards furniture, white goods, flooring, curtains, bedding, kitchen equipment, removal costs etc.</p>
SME	<p>Small to Medium Sized Enterprise</p> <p>A company with no more than 500 employees.</p>
Statistical nearest neighbours	<p>A group of councils that are similar across a wide range of socio-economic.</p> <p>Durham County Council uses the CIPFA nearest neighbours model which compares us to Northumberland, North Tyneside, Barnsley, Rotherham, Wakefield, Doncaster, Redcar and Cleveland, Wigan, St Helens, Cornwall, Sefton, Sunderland, Wirral, Plymouth and Calderdale</p>
UASC	<p>Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children</p> <p>Children and young people who are seeking asylum in the UK but who have been separated from their parents or carers. While their claim is processed, they are cared for by a council.</p>
UKSPF	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>Part of the government's Levelling Up agenda that provides funding for local investment to March 2025. All areas of the UK receive an allocation from the Fund to enable local decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK that will lead to tangible improvements to the places where people work and live.</p>
WEEE	<p>Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment</p> <p>Any electrical or electronic waste, whether whole or broken, that is destined for disposal. The definition includes household appliances such as washing machines and cookers, IT and telecommunications equipment, electrical and electronic tools, toys and leisure equipment and certain medical devices.</p>
Yield	<p>Proportion of potential income achieved</p>

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