



Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date **Friday 19 June 2015**
Time **9.30 am**
Venue **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham**

Business

Part A

Items during which the Press and Public are welcome to attend. Members of the Public can ask questions with the Chairman's agreement.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held 23 March 2015 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations
7. County Durham Youth Offending Service - Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 - Progress Update 2014/15: (Pages 9 - 14)
 - (i) Report of the Director of Children and Adults Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Strategic Manager - County Durham Youth Offending Service, Children and Adults Services.
8. Novel Psychoactive Substances: (Pages 15 - 22)
Report of the Director of Public Health.
9. Safe Durham Partnership - Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy: (Pages 23 - 70)
Report of the Director of Public Health.

10. Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management Report: (Pages 71 - 86)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – presented by the Strategic Manager Performance and Information Manager, Children and Adults Services.
11. Review of the Committee's Work Programme 2015-16: (Pages 87 - 96)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
12. Overview and Scrutiny Review Report - Organised Crime: (Pages 97 - 126)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
13. Overview and Scrutiny Reviews Update:
 - 20 mph Zones and Limits
 - Drug Treatment CentresVerbal Update by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee.
14. Police and Crime Panel:
Verbal Update by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee.
15. Safe Durham Partnership Update: (Pages 127 - 132)
Briefing by the Community Safety Manager, Children and Adults Services.
16. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
11 June 2015

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

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)
Councillor T Nearney (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J Armstrong, J Charlton, J Cordon, S Forster, J Gray, C Hampson, M Hodgson, G Holland, S Iveson, H Liddle, J Maitland, N Martin, J Measor, K Shaw, W Stelling, P Stradling, F Tinsley, J Turnbull and C Wilson

Co-opted Members: Mr A J Cooke and Mr J Welch

Co-opted Employees/Officers: S Errington and Chief Superintendent G Hall

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 **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Monday 23 March 2015 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, J Charlton, P Conway, M Davinson, S Forster, J Gray, C Hampson, J Maitland, N Martin, T Nearney, K Shaw, P Stradling, J Turnbull, C Wilson and J Allen

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke and Mr J Welch

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

S Errington

Also Present:

Councillor J Allen

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Hodgson, G Holland and Chief Superintendent G Hall.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes of the Meeting held 16 February 2015

The Minutes of the meeting held 16 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Assistant Chief Executive's, Jonathan Slee noted that, in reference to the minutes, the response on behalf of the Committee had been submitted in respect of the consultations relating to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties

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

6 Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary, Michael Banks, who was in attendance to speak to Members regarding the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Deputy Chief Constable thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak on the topic of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Members were reminded of the Safe Durham Partnership's (SDP) priority of "Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism", noting that the nature of potential threats had changed considerably in the 6 years since the SDP was established. Councillors noted that the partnership working in County Durham was very good and formed a firm foundation on which to build. It was reiterated that the changing nature of potential threats meant that all partners needed to remain "fleet of foot" and resolved to making effective use of the resources available. The Committee learned that the Government's Counter-Terrorism Strategy was called "CONTEST" and had been in place since 2008, with a number of iterations since. It was added that the CONTEST Strategy had four objectives, the "4 P's", them being:

- Pursue – to stop terrorist attacks (being the remit of the Police and Security Services)
- Prevent – to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists
- Prepare – where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact
- Protect – to strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks

It was explained that there was a need to provide a "counter-narrative" to help prevent people become vulnerable to extremism, noting that the journey to becoming self-radicalised had shortened and the type of threats had changed from larger scale events to those of "lone actors" as seen recently in France, Belgium, US, Canada and Tunisia. Members noted that while Durham did have some iconic sites, the threat of a large-scale incident was low. The Deputy Chief Constable explained that a key challenge was countering extremist narratives, with guidance expected shortly from central Government.

The Committee noted that the SDP's CONTEST "Silver Group" had developed a 2014/17 Action Plan and was in the process of commissioning a Counter Terrorism Local Profile. It was noted that the 2-3 year Plan was a rolling programme and delivered against Protect, Prevent and Prepare. Councillors noted that the CONTEST Silver Group had several achievements and activities including: implications of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015; National Counter-Terrorism week; Prevent awareness week with partners and the public; "Trust Your Instincts" a video and e-learning course made available via the SDP website; and the Community Cohesion Toolkit, a resource for the Council and partners.

Members learned of the Channel process where a professional, or member of the public, could refer someone they believed to be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism to the Police. The Committee were reminded that the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 set out obligations and duties for “Specified Authorities”: Schools; the Police; Higher and Further Education; Health; Prisons and Probation; and Local Authorities. It was added that the CONTEST Silver Group had noted there would be increased demand placed upon those specified authorities and there would be need for people within those authorities to gain a level of knowledge to be able to meet those demands. Councillors learned that the Act provided the Secretary of State with the power of enforcement where a specified authority failed to discharge the duty imposed upon it.

The Deputy Chief Constable explained that in respect of the Prevent objective, Durham had effective leadership in place and good partnership arrangements with appropriate capabilities. In relation to the duties for Specified Authorities, the Deputy Chief Constable noted that a good model to follow could be that of the “Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat”. It was noted that having a consistent approach that was proportionate to any threat, while still being appropriate for each community was important and guidance from Government due in July 2015 should help to clarify how to approach this. Members were reminded that in addition to the CONTEST Silver Group, there was the Gold level, which was the Chief Executives of all the partner organisations, and a Bronze level, which was the operational level.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and asked Members for their questions on the report and presentation.

The Committee asked questions in relation to: an additional security presence; would there be a risk to how organisations would be able to discharge their duties in 4-5 years’ time with continuing pressures on resources and budgets; how the radicalisation of prisoners would be tackled; and whether there was a communication strategy within the Prevent strand, especially in the context of schools, colleges and universities.

The Deputy Chief Constable explained that any additional security presence would be a proportional response to any intelligence received, and would more likely be an issue for larger cities, such as London. It was added that a National Decision Model was used as regards what methods and tactics would be employed, in conjunction with a Code of Ethics. The Deputy Chief Constable noted that reducing budgets was an issue, however, types of crime were changing with the rise of cybercrime and the reduction in other types. It was noted that terrorism was changing with a global dimension, though there was still the potential for lone actors that have self-radicalised.

Members noted that Prisons were a Specified Authority and the Police would work in partnership with Prisons and it was added there were some formal routes, such as licences, and other bespoke and innovated approaches. It was added that the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), Prisons and the Probation Service were involved in CONTEST and there were some established tactics and approaches. The Deputy Chief Constable explained that in terms of communication, there was the National Counter-Terrorism Awareness Week; the National Counter-Terrorism Hotline; and the Police themselves. It was added that it was one of the roles of the CONTEST Board to make sure that the issues were highlighted and that organisations and the public were “alert not alarmed” to the issues relating to terrorism.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Constable and noted that the appropriate links relating to further information could be circulated to the Committee.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That a further update report on Counter-Terrorism and Security Act be presented at a future meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7 Cybercrime

The Chairman thanked Acting Detective Superintendent Victoria Fuller, Durham Constabulary who was in attendance to give a presentation on the issue of Cybercrime (for copy see file of minutes).

The Acting Detective Superintendent explained that she was the force lead for cybercrime and set the context of the potential issues including: 2 Billion People access the internet worldwide; 93% of children in the UK aged 12-15 say they use the internet at home; and research suggested that the cost of cybercrime to the economy was an estimated £27 Billion.

The Committee noted that there were different crimes associated with the overall term “cybercrime”, with: “Dependent” crimes, meaning a computer connecting to a computer, high level activities such as distributed denial of services (DDoS) attacks; “Enabled” crimes, existing types of crime such as fraud or theft that are enabled via use of computer or information sourced from computers or social media; and “Facilitated” crimes, where criminal activities are organised or facilitated, such as drug sales. Members learned that fraud was the most prevalent form, accounting for 35% of all reported cybercrime, with most of that type being associated with online shopping.

The Committee noted the Government’s UK Cyber Security Strategy and activities undertaken to promote cybersecurity including Safer Internet Day, 10 February 2015 and activities to promote regular updating of operating systems, applications and anti-virus software, use of strong passwords, avoiding e-mail scams and to monitor your online privacy settings. Members noted that there was a Cybercrime Strategy for County Durham and a Cybercrime Working Group, which operated according to the “4 P’s” as previously mentioned: Pursue; Prevent; Prepare; and Protect, with an emphasis on prevention. It was explained that the Police had trained staff in respect of cybercrime prevention messages and that those messages were also spread by volunteers and officers from local Universities. It was noted that the message was consistent and bespoke activities would try to reach as many types of computer/internet user as possible. Members learned that there was a bespoke Cyber Unit at Durham Constabulary to provide advice and support, and Durham Constabulary was delivering a training programme to over 300 of their investigators over the next 12-18 months.

The Acting Detective Superintendent noted that a survey in relation to cybercrime had shown that, in County Durham, half of those surveyed noted they did not feel safe online and at moderate risk of cybercrime, with 11% feeling at high risk.

It was added that 78% noted that they had not been a victim of cybercrime, however, some people surveyed had experienced incidents online that potentially could have been a cybercrime. It was explained that of those surveyed, 62% did not know where to report cybercrime to or where to go to get information relating to cybercrime. Members noted that issues of cybercrime often did not relate to a technical point, rather a behaviour that led to information being vulnerable, and the point was made to “don’t do online what you wouldn’t do offline” in terms of sharing personal information.

The Chairman thanked the Acting Detective Superintendent and asked Members for their questions on the report and presentation.

The Committee asked questions in relation to increasing public awareness of issues, where to report and how to rectify problems and how internet service providers (ISPs) were helping in terms of removing or restricting access to inappropriate websites, for example those detailing self-harm.

The Acting Detective Superintendent explained that prevention of potential cybercrime was key, with a need to educate the public and those within the public sector as regards the importance of keeping personal data secure and to avoid scams and e-mail fraud. It was added that the promotion of good practice would be through the use of a partnership approach, with the message of enjoy using the internet, however, “don’t do online what you wouldn’t do offline”. Members noted that the Police did link in with ISPs where appropriate and always pursued issues where there was any element of criminality.

Resolved:

That the report and presentation be noted.

8 Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Management Report

The Chairman introduced the Performance and Data Services Manager, David Knighton and the Performance Manager, Durham Constabulary, Gary Pearson, who were in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 3 2014/15 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer theme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Performance and Data Services Manager referred Members to the report and noted key performance achievements, including: increased performance in terms of interventions for crime/anti-social behaviour (ASB); a reduced number of ASB incidents; a reduction in alcohol related ASB and alcohol related violent crimes; a decrease in the number of theft offences; and a reduction in reoffending.

It was noted that the key performance issues included: underperformance in relation to reoffending in the Integrate Offender Management (IOM) cohort; and a slight underperformance in respect of the number of people completing alcohol and drug treatment.

The Performance Manager, Durham Constabulary explained that figures had shown a slight increase in the overall crime rate, though these figures were affected by investigations into historic offences and changes in recording practices as directed by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

It was added that the majority of crime types showed a decrease, with County Durham having one of the highest “solve rates” in the country, however shoplifting was noted as having increased.

The Chairman thanked the Performance and Data Services Manager and the Performance Manager, Durham Constabulary and noted that there would be further meetings of the Committee’s Working Group relating to the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centres in due course. The Chairman noted disappointment in the reoffending figures for the IOM cohort and asked whether the 40% stretch target was one that needed to be reviewed. The Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services, Peter Appleton noted that the cohort represented the most prolific offenders and “Transforming Rehabilitation” was still ongoing, with the Safe Durham Partnership to report back on this in due course.

Councillor N Martin noted that the graphs as set out in Appendix 4 to the report were confusing and that it would be beneficial to have all the scales within the graphs start at zero. Councillor N Martin added that it would also be helpful to have all of the numbers of successful alcohol and drug treatment completions listed alongside the graphs, the figures being required in order to work out those percentage figures as shown. Councillor N Martin asked whether the completion of such treatment courses was on a rolling basis and whether therefore the reporting by quarter was the best way to understand this information. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager, Tom Gorman noted the issues as regards the graphs for future reporting.

Councillors noted concern regarding an increase in the suicide rate and the Chairman noted that this was a cross-cutting issue with other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, and the work programme for the Committee would be refreshed after May. Chief Inspector C McGillivray noted that there was analysis in terms of the involvement of drugs and alcohol in suicide, and that there was work looking for early identification of those potentially at risk. Councillor C Wilson noted that mental health issues should also to be considered in this regard. The Head of Planning and Service Strategy noted that colleagues in Public Health may have more information on this issue, and also in the context of the Mental Health Action Plan.

The Head of Planning and Service Strategy added that in relation to ASB, a “confidence rating”, as obtained by survey, may be a useful addition to the performance report.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Draft Council Plan 2015-2018 - Refresh of the Work Programme

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Draft Council Plan 2015-2018 - Refresh of the Work Programme for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager explained that the report was the first stage in the usual annual process of setting the work programme for the Committee, in the context of the “Altogether Safer” priority theme as set out in the Council Plan 2015-2018.

Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Committee would consider a draft work programme and project plan, based upon the comments from Members brought forward at the meeting today. Councillors were informed that the meeting of Council to be held 1 April 2015 would consider Draft Council Plan, with the "Altogether Safer" section attached at Appendix 2 to the report in the agenda pack.

The Committee noted that the work undertaken by the Committee over the last year was set out within the report and it was for Members to suggest topics for further investigation, taking on board issues raised from performance reporting, upcoming legislation and issues discussed at the Committee.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that Paragraph 13 highlighted gaps within the work programme and noted comments from the previous agenda item in relation to suicide rates.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Improvement Manager and noted that any comments or suggestions for potential topics for future reviews could be forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer for inclusion in the report to be considered at the June meeting. Councillor J Armstrong reminded Members that reviews would need to be taken in the context of capacity and in terms of being achievable and adding value. The Chairman agreed noting that it was important that review activity had a positive impact.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Committee receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2015-2016.

10 Overview and Scrutiny Review Activity

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer thanked the Chairman and asked the Committee to note the Organised Crime Working Group would have a final meeting following the Committee meeting and would look at key findings to inform the draft report which would come back to Committee in due course. The Committee noted that a Working Group had been identified to look at the topic of 20mph Limits and meetings of this Group would take place in April, with an update to come back to Committee in June.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

11 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the report setting out the main issues discussed at the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted the main issues included:

- Reviewing the Police and Crime Plan 2015-17
- Revenue and Capital Budgets 2015/16
- HMIC Inspection Update
- Presentations on “Checkpoint”, Mental Health and interactive Public Performance Report

Members noted that Superintendent Kevin Weir, Durham Constabulary had provided two presentations on “Checkpoint” and Mental Health, with the former building upon restorative practices with the aim to reduce reoffending following “low-level crime”, thorough partnership working. It was explained that the Police and Crime Plan 2015-17 had been considered and the Plan and a public performance report were available to view via the Police and Crime Commissioner’s website.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That a link to the Police and Crime Plan and Performance Report be circulated to Members.

12 Safe Durham Partnership

The Chairman asked the Community Safety Manager, Caroline Duckworth to speak to Members as regards an update from the Safer Durham Partnership (SDP).

Members noted the information as regards: feedback from the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee being incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18; the “Blue Light” Project, to develop alternative approaches and care pathways for treatment resistant drinkers, linking to issues of domestic abuse; the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Action Plan, noting multi-agency working, key priorities and data sharing proposals.

It was added that 5 of the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) had agreed “Community Safety” as a priority, and all AAPs had considered: the SDP Plan 2015-18: the PCC’s Police and Crime Plan 2015-17: the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service’s (CDDFRS) Strategic Plan 2015-18; and the CDDFRS’ Safer Homes Project.

Members learned that the partner feedback from the Governance Review had highlighted the SDP could coordinate media and communications better and accordingly a Communication and Marketing Action Plan 2015/16 was set out, identifying joint working; key messages; methods of communication; and lead agency. The Committee noted that the Multi-Agency Interventions Service (MAIS) had a new information sharing agreement signed off by the SDP, which included support for case management and secure document sharing.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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



19 June 2015

**Youth Justice Plan 2014/16:
Progress Update 2014/15**

**Report of Gill Eshelby, Strategic Manager County Durham Youth
Offending Service**

Purpose of the Report

1. This report presents Members with an overview of performance, progress and achievements (2014/15) in the context of the Youth Justice Plan 2014/16.

Background

2. County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) is a statutory multi-agency partnership, established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, with the principal aim of preventing offending by children and young people. Local Authorities are responsible for establishing a Youth Offending Team in their area. Police, National Probation Service and Clinical Commissioning Groups are statutorily required to assist in their funding and operation.
3. It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with partner agencies, to formulate and implement a statutory Youth Justice Plan setting out:
 - How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded;
 - How the Youth Offending Service (CDYOS) will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
4. The Youth Justice Plan outlines the work of the partnership to achieve its strategic purpose:
 - To prevent re-offending by children and young people
 - To reduce First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system
 - By delivering specialist interventions
 - Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection.
5. CDYOS is accountable to a multi-agency Management Board, chaired by the Head of Children's Services, DCC. Membership and governance are reviewed annually in line with 'Modern Youth Offending Partnerships – Guidance on Effective Youth Offending Team Governance in England' (MoJ/YJB, November 2013) to ensure they remain robust in a complex, changing operating environment.
6. The Youth Justice Plan, after approval by the Management Board, is presented to Cabinet and full Council for approval before submission to the YJB. After submission to the YJB, Youth Justice Plans are sent to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (lead for YOS inspections) and are sent to the House of Commons library for Ministers.

7. The Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 was approved by full Council in July 2014. It outlines key priorities, budget, staffing, and the service improvement plan.
8. The Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 will be presented to full Council in July 2015.

Key Achievements 2014/15

9. Progress against the national outcome measures: reducing First Time Entrants (FTEs) to the Youth Justice System; Reducing Re-offending; Reducing the Use of Custody is outlined in the following paragraphs. Progress against all is positive.
10. **First time Entrants (FTEs): 193**, our lowest ever, and a 8.1% reduction compared to 2013/14 (210 FTEs). Well below the locally agreed target (less than 310). **82.9% reduction in FTEs 2007/08 – 2014/15.** (Source: CDYOS case management system, April 2015)
11. **Re-offending:** Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data for re-offending (April 12 - March 13 cohort) shows a binary rate (proportion of young people re-offending) of **38.7%** and a frequency rate (number of offences per re-offender) of **1.25**. The slight increase is in line with other YOTs in the NE and reflects the significant decrease in the cohort size (see paragraph 14 below). It is the first increase since the April 10 – March 11 cohort.
12. **Use of Custody: 20** custodial sentences, a 20% reduction compared to 2013/14 (25 sentences). Only **15** young people were sentenced to custody in 2014/15 compared to 22 in 2013/14 (31.8% reduction). (Source: CDYOS case management system, April 2015).
13. **Remand bed nights: 354** bed nights in 2014/15 compared to 641 in 2013/14, a 44.8% reduction. Remands are used only when necessary

Impact of Diversion on Reducing Re-offending 2007/08 – 2012/13

14. The evidenced success of CDYOS pre-court/out of court systems in diverting young people from the criminal and justice system has resulted in:
 - 77.2% reduction in the number of young people in the MoJ cohort between 2007/8 and 2012/13 (from 2145 to 489)
 - 74% reduction in the number of young people re-offending (from 728 to 189)
 - 68.6% reduction in the number of re-offences (from 1950 to 612)
 (See table below)

Year	Number in the cohort	Number re-offending	Binary Rate	Number of re-offences committed	Frequency Rate
2007/08	2145	728	33.9%	1950	0.91
2008/09	1384	489	35.3%	1425	1.03
2009/10	944	393	41.6%	1150	1.22
2010/11	773	337	43.6%	1052	1.36
2011/12	631	239	37.9%	725	1.15
2012/13	489	189	38.7%	612	1.25

Key Achievements 2014/15

13. CDYOS:

- achieved a 53.1% reduction in the number of alcohol related offences committed (from 655 offences in 2010/11 to 307 in 2014/15) and a 41.1% reduction in the number of young people committing them (from 302 in 2010/11 to 178 in 2014/15)
- improved the quality and consistency of our work with victims, including increasing victim involvement in our work with young people
- implemented our service restructure, introducing new ways of working, and building resilience in the context of reducing resources - while improving performance

Reducing Re-offending

14. CDYOS:

- reduced offending by Looked After Children in Co. Durham
- identified a 'reducing re-offending cohort' and ensured they receive a comprehensive targeted package of interventions.
- allocated 3,420 hours of court ordered reparation
- expanded the use of restorative justice across all orders
- ensured feedback from young people, parents and carers improves service design and delivery
- embedded the Think Family approach across all our work
- further developed our range of intervention programmes

Reducing Use of Custody

15. CDYOS:

- improved the quality of work with Detention and Training Orders (DTOs), including resettlement after custody
- reviewed and improved our Intensive Supervision and Surveillance (ISS) programme (alternative to custody)
- implemented our Reducing Remand Bed Nights Strategy
- developed and implemented a protocol with Children's Services (former children's social care) regarding Remands to Youth Detention Accommodation.

16. CDYOS is particularly proud of:

- improving performance in two of the three national outcome measures (First Time Entrants and Use of Custody); reducing remands to youth detention accommodation (both number of young people and bed nights); and reducing the number of young people reoffending and offences committed
- our work on resettlement: 100% of young people leaving custody in 2014/15 had appropriate accommodation available prior to release
- our work to support victims of youth crime
- embedding new roles for volunteers in service delivery and having 70 trained active volunteers
- our partnership work with North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust to enable the secondment of a Speech and Language Therapist to CDYOS to improve how we work with young people with speech, language and communication needs

- our work to become communication friendly, including the development of a range of innovative resources to address young people’s speech, language and communication needs
- the development of ClearCut Communication resources – the income from which will be used to improve outcomes for young people who offend and young victims in Co. Durham
- exceeding our targets for Stronger (Troubled) Families
- implementing new ways of working to ensure value for money – while still improving performance
- leading the Safe Durham Partnership (Community Safety Partnership) work on Integrated Restorative Practice – which was runner up in the Howard League Community Programmes Awards (RJ Category) 2014
- being awarded County Durham Young Carers Charter for how we support young people who offend who are also young carers
- our staff and volunteers’ hard work and continued commitment to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody; their work to improve outcomes for young people, families, victims and communities; and their willingness to adapt to new challenges.

Conclusions and Next Steps

17. The Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 outlines our strategy and partnership work to reduce first time entrants, re-offending and the use of custody. It was approved by CDYOS Management Board on 1 June and will be presented to Council for approval in July.

Recommendation

18. Members are recommended to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report.
- (ii) Request an update in 12 months.
- (iii) Receive the Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 in due course.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Gill Eshelby, Strategic Manager, County Durham Youth Offending Service,
Tel: 03000 295 989 Email: gill.eshelby@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – This work continues to evidence significant savings to the Criminal Justice System

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – This work is a crucial part of the Reducing Re-Offending Strategy and has implications for all partners (CDYOS Management Board, the Safe Durham Partnership, Children and Families Partnership and the County Durham Partnership).

Human Rights – None

Consultation – Statutory partners have been consulted

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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



19 June 2015

Novel Psychoactive Substances

Report of Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health, County Durham

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the use of legal highs otherwise known as new (or novel) psychoactive substances (NPS).

Introduction

2. Nationally since around 2008, there has been a growing interest in, and availability of, a new generation of drugs called NPS.
3. The arrival of NPS has been something of a 'game-changer' in that traditional models of drug supply have been joined by the internet as a new supply route. Many NPS are also available in high street retail outlets without legal restraint. However, following on from the recommendations of the Home Office NPS Review Panel and recent local court judgements, the high street sale and distribution of NPS will become increasingly difficult.¹

Legal Issues

4. The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) defines NPS as "psychoactive drugs which are not prohibited by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs or by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and which people in the UK are seeking for intoxicant use".²
5. The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) has sharpened the definition slightly to include those substances not included in the UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances, but from an international perspective this still leaves a number of substances which are controlled in the UK, but outside of the international control mechanisms. This explains why in some international reports, drugs such as ketamine and GHB/GBL can be classed as NPS.³

¹ Drugscope, NPS not for human consumption, 2015

² ACMD, Consideration of the novel psychoactive substances ('legal highs') October 2011

³ EMCDDA, Responding to new psychoactive substances, Drugs in Focus briefing 2011

6. However, the biggest challenge facing the UK has been to determine the most effective legislative framework for controlling the supply and distribution.
7. The arrival of mephedrone was a game-changer; for the first time, a drug that was being widely used and heavily publicised, remained legal for around 12-18 months before it was controlled. But, following its classification as a Class B drug in 2010, a now familiar cycle was initiated of new (legal) products appearing almost immediately after one was banned. The mechanisms to bring a substance under legislative control were just not nimble enough. The government then introduced a system of Temporary Class Banning Orders (TCDO) which penalises supply, but not possession and lasts a year to allow for ACMD deliberations.
8. Trading Standards Legislation is usually used against those trying to defraud customers. In this case, the customer is not being defrauded and is actually colluding with the retailer. Packaging may claim 'not for human consumption', they both know what the product is going to be used for. The 'not for human consumption' label is an attempt to sidestep the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (into which the Medicines Act is now subsumed) and general product safety rules and regulations. The only way to get round this legal loophole without legislative change is through case law which has started to happen recently.



9. Cases brought to trial in Kent and Belfast in 2014 obtained forfeiture orders under General Product Safety Regulations (GPSR) as the prosecution was able to prove that the products were unsafe if used in the way that was intended (consumed) - you don't go into a head shop to buy plant food or bath salts.¹
10. In May 2015 the Queens Speech highlighted new legislation in relation to NPS. A new bill will be included during the current Parliament to control NPS.

Psychoactive Substances Bill

11. This Bill will introduce a blanket ban on the sale of psychoactive substances, or 'legal highs' by making it an offence to produce, supply, offer, possess with intent, import or export psychoactive substances. A psychoactive substance will be any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect, with alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, food and medical products excluded from the scope of the offence. It will include prohibition notices and prohibition orders to enable the police and councils to adopt a proportionate response to the supply of psychoactive substances.

What are NPS?

12. NPS can be sub-divided roughly into the following categories:

- **Synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs):** traded under such names as Clockwork Orange, Black Mamba and Exodus Damnation. These bear no relation to the cannabis plant except in that the chemicals which are blended into the plant matter, act on the brain in a similar way to cannabis.
- **Stimulant-type drugs:** e.g., BZP, mephedrone, MPDV, NRG-1, Benzo Fury, MDAI, ethylphenidate. The effects of these drugs replicate across the range, those encountered with amphetamine and MDMA.
- **Hallucinogenic:** e.g., 25i-NBOMe, Bromo-Dragonfly and the more ketamine-like methoxyetamine.
- **Opiates:** There are some opiate type NPS in Europe such as kratom, but no evidence of a significant UK presence, although there was a recent reported UK death caused by a synthetic morphine product called AH-79217. O-desmethyl tramadol, an opioid analgesic (and the main active metabolite of tramadol) has been offered for sale, but now controlled. W 15 7 and W 19 both potent μ -opioid agonists have also been seen.

13. There are currently over 450 NPS being monitored by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.⁴

Patterns of Use

14. While NPS are readily available online, only a minority of NPS users acquire their drugs through online sources.⁵ Instead, NPS users reported purchasing from friends, dealers and headshops.⁶

⁴ European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, New psychoactive substances in Europe: An update from the EU Early Warning System, March 2015

⁵ European Commission (2014) Flash Eurobarometer 401: Young People And Drugs Available: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_404_391_en.htm

⁶ The Home Office, New Psychoactive Substances in England: A review of the evidence, October 2014

15. Estimating the prevalence of use of new psychoactive substances is often a challenge, especially through general population surveys. One insight is provided by the 2014 Flash Eurobarometer, a survey of just over 13 000 young adults aged 15–24 in the EU Member States, which asked about the use of new psychoactive substances. It found that 8 % of respondents had used a new psychoactive substance at least once, with 3 % using them in the last year. The highest levels of use in the last year were in Ireland (9 %), Spain, France (both 8 %), and Slovenia (7 %), with the lowest reported by Malta and Cyprus (0 %). Most respondents who had used new substances in the last year either bought them from, or were given them by, a friend (68 %). Just over a quarter (27 %) bought them from a drug dealer, while 10 % purchased them from a specialised shop and 3 % bought them on the Internet (multiple answers were possible).⁴

16. However, existing data is self-reported by those with a higher level of drug use than the general population, e.g. those attending festivals and clubs. Secondly, once a substance is banned, it can easily appear repackaged as a different (and allegedly legal) product. In essence, it is unlikely that most NPS users can be certain what it is they have taken – although this is not an unusual state of affairs on the illicit drug market.¹

Harmful Effects of NPS

17. The key harms associated with NPS use include:¹

- Overdose, temporary psychotic states and unpredictable behaviours;
- Attendance at A&E and some hospital admissions;
- Sudden increase in body temperature, heart rate, coma and risk to internal organs;
- Hallucination and vomiting;
- Confusion leading to aggression and violence;
- Intense comedown that can cause users to feel suicidal.

Use was also associated with longer term health issues:

- Increase in mental health issues including psychosis, paranoia, anxiety, ‘psychiatric complications’;
- Depression;
- Physical and psychological dependency happening quite rapidly after a relatively short intense period of use (weeks).

NPS Data for County Durham

18. The data for County Durham is limited and the information in this section must be read with caution. The Drug Strategy partnership is currently working on the reporting systems and prospective data collection for NPS.

19. Durham Constabulary data shows that between January 2014 and January 2015, there were 67 reported episodes of NPS use. Fourteen of these cases were from Darlington and three were Force Wide which could include Darlington. Four were out of the Force Area. Crook had the highest number with ten reported cases. The commonest substance reported was herbal cannabis.

20. The drug and alcohol data reporting system (POPPIE) does not currently have a specific field to capture information on NPS use. Therefore any data must be regarded with caution. Between June 2013 and May 2015 there are 36 clients where NPS was reported to have been used. In 16 cases NPS was reported as the main drug of choice, most of which were stimulants, two hallucinogenic and three cannabinoids. The client ages ranged between 18 and 52 years.
21. The County Durham Substance Misuse Related Death Group led by Public Health had no reported deaths caused by NPS use during 2014-15. However there was one reported adult suicide where NPS was related but not the cause of death.
22. The lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community (LGB&T) service in County Durham have reported that “a noticeable percentage of young people are taking legal highs especially bubble (methadone): “Young people are experiencing loss of appetite, low moods, anger, selling personal things and weight loss”. The service reports that users believe it is safe to take and are confident that they ‘know’ the drug. The street value per gram is £15-20.
23. The Durham Drug Strategy action plan aims to work with partners to enhance the knowledge and evidence on NPS. This is difficult as intelligence is mainly self-reported. The partnership is currently seeking to collect data from a range of sources including the drug and alcohol service, sexual health services, probation service, suicide data, police reporting, and environmental health and consumer protection intelligence.

The Challenges

24. There are currently no known shops (known as head shops) selling NPS in County Durham although there is believed to be a market in Newcastle, Sunderland and Darlington. The growth of the market in NPS via internet sales will continue to pose a range of challenges for public health and drug policy. The major drivers of many of these are the speed at which they appear, their open sale, and that there is little or no information on their effects and harms.
25. Local information on NPS must be collected to enable people to take personal responsibility for their decisions.
26. The Drug Strategy partnership will make full use of the legislative framework and strengthen the enforcement response to NPS.
27. The Home Office report the following gaps in the evidence for NPS:⁶
 - the prevalence of use of NPS, and a total measure of NPS use;
 - the use of NPS among subgroups other than NTE participants;
 - the long-term health harms of NPS use;
 - acute health harms of NPS use;
 - the extent to which NPS use drives social harms;
 - the impact and effectiveness of legislation;
 - the motivations for the use of NPS other than mephedrone;
 - the exact factors and mechanisms that affect displacement and supplementation; the extent to which individuals within social groups purchase online and then distribute within their social group.

Recommendations

28. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of this report;
- (ii) Note the Drug Strategy Partnership (multiagency) is collating local information on NPS and this is included in the action plan.

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Tel: 03000 267 680 **E-mail:** lynn.wilson2@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No implications.

Staffing

No implications.

Risk

No implications.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications.

Accommodation

No implications.

Crime and Disorder

NPS action is included in the County Durham Drug Strategy action plan.

Human Rights

No implications.

Consultation

No implications.

Procurement

No implications.

Disability Issues

No implications.

Legal Implications

New legislation proposed in the Queens speech to Parliament on 27 May 2015.

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Safer Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 June 2015



Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Report of Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to inform the Safer Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee on draft proposals for the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (AHRs) 2015-20 and to seek their feedback and comments on the draft document.

Background

2. The Safe Durham Partnership launched its initial three-year Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy in July 2009 which was refreshed in 2012. This report introduces the third iteration of an Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for County Durham.
3. A multi-agency Alcohol Harm Reduction Group was established to drive forward the implementation of the strategy. The group is accountable to the Safe Durham Partnership, but also reports bi-annually to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Children and Families Partnership. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy was underpinned by an action plan which has been reviewed annually.
4. In 2014 the County Durham Partnership identified alcohol as a cross cutting theme. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy has been reconfigured around all five of the Altogether themes.
5. In February 2015 members of the Safer Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee were amongst the first to be consulted on the development of the draft alcohol harm reduction strategy. At this time members supported the continued vision within the proposed strategy and the alignment to the wider 'Altogether' themes of the County Durham Partnership. The committee also unanimously support continued lobbying for minimum unit pricing.
6. The consultation for the draft strategy continues until 12th July 2015. Management teams within the authority, and wider stakeholders have now had an opportunity to shape the document into its current form.
7. The draft vision of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy remains unchanged:

“To change the drinking culture in County Durham to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities while ensuring that adults who choose to drink alcohol are able to enjoy it responsibly.”

8. The draft vision is underpinned by six draft key objectives related to the five Altogether Themes:
 - Altogether Safer
Objective 1: To reduce the harm caused to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability.
 - Altogether Healthier
Objective 2: To improve health inequalities and reduce early deaths in County Durham by reducing alcohol consumption across the population
 - Altogether Better for Children and Young People
Objective 3: To build resilience and develop a culture where children and young people choose not to drink alcohol; and to reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families through parental alcohol use.
 - Altogether Wealthier
Objective 4: To increase the number of competitive and successful people in the County Durham workforce by reducing the negative impact that alcohol has on work attendance and productivity, and,

Objective 5: To expand the night time economy offer through the promotion of responsible drinking practices and through the development and promotion of alcohol free alternatives.
 - Altogether Greener
Objective 6: To reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham.
9. There are three strategic actions which cut across each of the key objectives relating to minimum unit price for alcohol, restricting alcohol advertising and changing the licensing legislation.
10. There is a further period of consultation on the draft document until 12th July 2015. Durham County Council's Cabinet will formally endorse the document on 21st October 2015.
11. It is proposed that Task Groups will be established under each of the Altogether themes to drive forward the implementation of the strategy. A senior member of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Group will lead on each Altogether theme. Each Task Group will develop an action plan based on the high level actions included in the "to achieve our objectives we will" section of the strategy.

Recommendations

12. The Safer Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:
- (i) Read and discuss the draft strategy; and
 - (ii) Provide comments, amendments or omissions in relation to the draft document to Kirsty Wilkinson (kg.wilkinson@durham.gov.uk) by 12 July 2015.

Contact:	Kirsty Wilkinson	Lynn Wilson
Tel:	03000 265 445	03000 267 680
Email:	kg.wilkinson@durham.gov.uk	lynn.wilson2@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Additional resources will be used to implement the strategy

Staffing

No adverse implications

Risk

No adverse implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

A Full EIA has been complete.

Accommodation

No issues

Crime and Disorder

Implementation of the alcohol harm reduction strategy will have positive impacts on the reduction of alcohol related crime and disorder.

Human Rights

No adverse implications

Consultation

A full plan for consultation has been developed.

Procurement

No issues

Disability Issues

No issues

Legal Implications

No issues

The Safe Durham Partnership

Altogether safer

DRAFT

Reframing Alcohol:
Alcohol Harm Reduction
Strategy
2015-2020

Version 8

Altogether
safer

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Forward

Councillors Lucy Hovvels, Portfolio Holder for Healthier Communities, Joy Allen, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health

This is the third Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for County Durham and aims to build upon the success of previous strategies. We would like to commend the hard work and dedication of all of those involved in alcohol harm reduction in County Durham over the last few years as we begin to see the benefits of our collective efforts. We have begun to see some success in the reduction of alcohol related hospital admissions for both adults and young people and our alcohol related crime rates remain some of the lowest in the country, but there is more to do.

For the first time, alcohol harm reduction has been identified as a cross-cutting priority by County Durham Partnership. This signifies its importance, not only on health, crime and disorder and on children and families, but also on the County Durham workforce and their productivity as well as its impact on the local environment.

Although the general picture for alcohol consumption is one of decline; as a nation we are still drinking more than we did in the 1980's. Historic trends show that a decline in consumption correlates to recessions and times of austerity. We need to continue to work closely together to make sure that alcohol related harm does not increase when we return to economic prosperity.

Alcohol is more available in County Durham than ever before with the balance between on and off sales tipping in favour of off-sales. This, in turn influences home drinking where there are unlimited servings with unlimited measures. The problems with alcohol are becoming increasingly hidden and widely dispersed.

The affordability of alcohol is also something that is of concern with alcohol being available in the County for as little as 15p per unit in the Bishop Auckland area. We know that exposing children and young people to alcohol advertising is linked to early onset drinking and those who drink alcohol to drink more. Children and young people are influenced by the environment around them and what they see.

We recognise that the world around us has changed significantly in recent times. Public Health, who led so successfully on the strategies in the past, are now within the local authority following the abolition of the Primary Care Trusts in 2013. Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS England and the Police and Crime Commissioner are new to the partnership landscape particularly around the commissioning of alcohol services in acute settings, primary care and in the criminal justice system. Probation Services have also been reshaped.

All public sector organisations within the North East continue to face a financial squeeze which means that prevention of alcohol related harm is now more important than ever, which is why, through the course of this strategy we will:

- Continue to use all of the powers currently available to us to restrict the expansion of alcohol availability and advertising, ensure that we enforce existing alcohol legislation and advocate changes to the licensing legislation to make them more useful for us to use effectively at a local level;
- In the absence of national legislation on a minimum unit price for alcohol we will work with regional partners, and those in the North West, to explore the feasibility of implementing a more local minimum unit price of at least 50p per unit.

Durham County Council, and its partners, during the course of this strategy will commit to a declaration on alcohol which includes:

- Influencing national government to take the most effective, evidence-based action to reduce alcohol harm, particularly via the introduction of greater regulations around the price, promotion and availability of alcohol;
- Influencing national government to rebalance the Licensing Act in favour of local authorities and communities, enabling local licensing authorities to control the number, density and availability of alcohol according to local requirements;
- Developing evidence-based strategies and commissioning plans with our local communities and partners including the local NHS Acute Trust, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the police;
- Ensuring that public health and community safety are accorded a high priority in all public policy-making about alcohol;
- Making best use of existing licensing powers to ensure effective management of the night-time economy;
- Raising awareness of the harm caused by alcohol to individuals and our communities, bringing it closer in public consciousness to other harmful products, such as tobacco; and
- Continuing to work with our partners to deliver the outcomes agreed in the County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

This strategy sets out what all partner agencies within County Durham will do over the next five years to reduce alcohol related harm.

Executive Summary

Vision

The vision, agreed by all partner organisations is to:

To change the drinking culture in County Durham to reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities while ensuring that adults who choose to drink alcohol are able to enjoy it responsibly.

Key objectives

To achieve the vision there are six key objectives:

1. To reduce the harm caused to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability;
2. To improve health inequalities and reduce early deaths in County Durham by reducing alcohol consumption across the population;
3. To build resilience and develop a culture where children and young people choose not to drink alcohol; and to reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families through parental alcohol use.
4. To increase the number of competitive and successful people in the County Durham workforce by reducing the negative impact that alcohol has on work attendance and productivity;
5. To expand the night time economy offer through the promotion of responsible drinking practices and through the development and promotion of alcohol free alternatives.
6. To reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham.

Key performance indicators

- Alcohol related violent crime
- Percentage of children becoming the subject of an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) as a result of parental alcohol misuse
- Alcohol related admissions to hospital per 100,000 (narrow measure/PHOF)
- Number of people in treatment where alcohol is identified as a primary substance
- Number of people in recovery services where alcohol was identified as their primary substance
- Alcohol related under 18 hospital admissions

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Introduction

The harm caused by alcohol impacts upon crime, health and social services and the workplace. Dealing with the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption costs the people of County Durham in the region of £212million each year (Balance, 2014). The total cost of alcohol related harm in County Durham accounts for almost a fifth of the cost across the North East region.

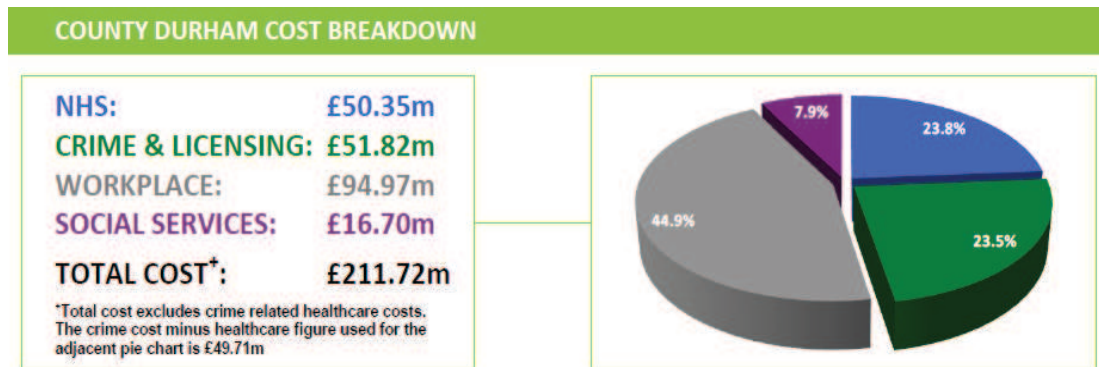


Figure 1: County Durham Cost Breakdown 2012/13

Alcohol is more available and accessible than ever before. As of January 2015 there were a total of 1706 licenced premises in County Durham. There were 354 on-licenced premises, 503 were off-licence premises and 849 were licenced for sales both on and off the premises.

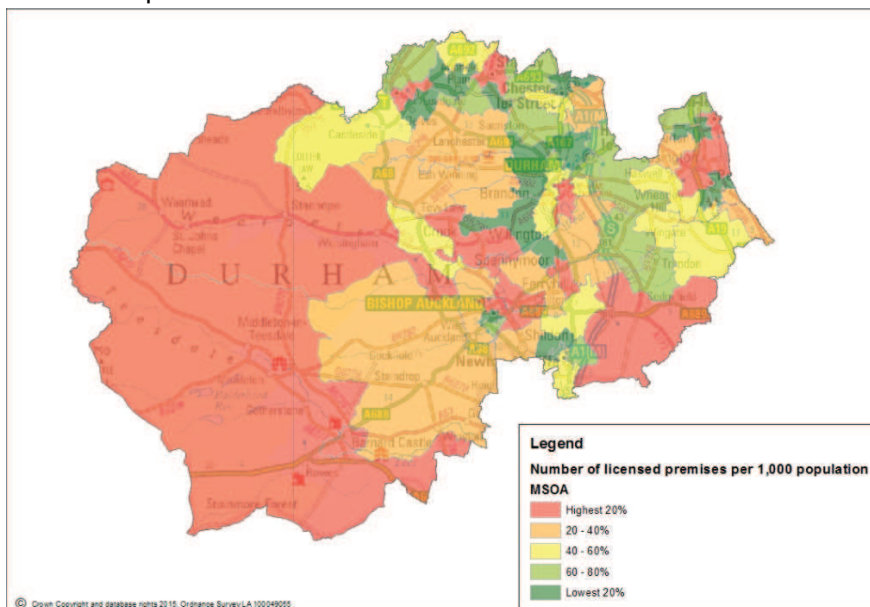


Figure 2: Number of licenced premises per 1000 population

Alcohol sales in the North East are noticeably higher than the average sales in Great Britain. Beer (4.6 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year) accounts for most sales in the north east followed by wine (2.5 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year), spirits (2.0 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year) and cider/perry (0.9 litres of pure alcohol per adult per year).

In County Durham alcohol is now consumed more in the home than in pubs and clubs. Many pubs and clubs are closing as they are unable to compete with the cheap price of alcohol from off-sales and supermarkets. Home drinking hides excessive consumption and is much more difficult to regulate. There are links to increased home consumption, domestic and sexual abuse and child neglect, as well as child sexual exploitation.

The North East Alcohol Behaviour and Perceptions Survey (2014) shows that 57% of people in County Durham drink more than once a week. Males and those over the age of 55 years reportedly drink more frequently. Almost 1 in 3 people (29%) under the age of 35 report binge drinking; drinking more than 10 units on a typical drinking day. Almost half of men (47%) are classed as increasing or high risk drinkers. People who are aged between 18 and 34 are most likely to go out after 9pm and to pre-load with alcohol before they leave the house.

Alcohol is the fifth biggest cause of disease, disability and death throughout the world (WHO, 2014). Harmful use of alcohol is the leading risk factor for death in men aged between 15 and 59 (Health First, 2013). Alcohol is a causal factor in over 200 diseases and injuries. It is not only the volume of alcohol that an individual drinks but also the pattern of drinking.

Alcohol fuels inequalities in County Durham with those people living in the more deprived wards experiencing the poorest outcomes from alcohol consumption despite consumption levels being lower than their more affluent counterparts.

The WHO states that areas “that take stronger action on alcohol will reap considerable gains in terms of better population health and well-being, enhanced employment and productivity, increased health and social welfare savings, greater health and economic equality, and greater social cohesion and inclusion.”

The scientific evidence base for the most cost effective solutions to reduce alcohol harm is strong and clear. These initiatives include:

- Control the availability of alcohol, such as by regulating the density of alcohol outlets and controlling the sales hours;
- Regulate the volume and content of alcohol advertisements;
- Introduce a legal minimum price of alcohol;
- Widespread implementation of early identification and brief advice programmes for individuals with hazardous and harmful alcohol consumption in primary care, social welfare settings and accident and emergency departments, and of offering programmes in the workplace and educational environments; and
- Reduce the legal blood alcohol content (BAC) limit for driving.

[Local Alcohol Profile for England 2015 is due to be published on 2nd June 2015 and will be incorporated in this section once released]

Achievements of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2012/15

The Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) 2014 identified some improvements in County Durham in the rate of:

- alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s;
- alcohol specific hospital admissions for males and females;
- admission episodes for alcohol related conditions;
- alcohol related recorded crime; and
- alcohol related sexual violence.

Prevention

To use targeted approaches to raise public awareness in County Durham of the harm caused by alcohol by promoting consistent messages about drinking

The partnership has supported Balance, the regional alcohol office, with their alcohol and cancer marketing campaigns; Dry January; Choose Less Booze; The Drink Talking and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder days as well as undertaking local awareness days including What's the Price?; Pedestrian casualties #deadrunk campaign and Punched Out Cold campaign.

The partnership and individual partners who make up the partnership have continued to lobby nationally for a Minimum Unit Price (MUP) for alcohol and submitted a strong response to the Government's consultation on their Alcohol Strategy.

A parent and carers' information leaflet on alcohol has been developed by parents for parents with key facts and information on alcohol and the effect it has on a young person.

Work has begun with university students to develop a peer-led social norms marketing campaign linking with the Durham City Safe Group.

The partnership commissioned AgeUK to undertake some consultation with older adults around alcohol. As a result we have worked with AgeUK to identify and train alcohol champions to deliver peer-led messages and factual information on alcohol consumption. Work has begun with an Area Action Partnership who identified this area as a priority to magnify the work undertaken across the county.

Men aged between 25 to 44 years old were identified as a priority for prevention work. The partnership worked with "Explain" to establish motivations for drinking and barriers to changing for this particular targeted group.

Operation ARIES, a multi-agency initiative designed to reduce under-age drinking has been established which builds on the principles of Community Alcohol Partnerships: education, enforcement, public perception, diversionary activity and evaluation.

The partnership has also developed an Alcohol Diversion Scheme which provides alcohol awareness programmes where low levels of crime have been committed.

Provide specific targeted training and education to support individuals, professionals, communities and local businesses to address the harm caused by alcohol

The trainers based within County Durham Community Alcohol Service trained 1828 people in alcohol awareness and the AUDIT screening tool between April 2013 and March 2014. This included nursing staff from County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust, midwives, health care assistants, mental health teams, GP staff, medical students, clinical staff from the cardiology department, health visitors, pharmacy staff, social workers, police officers, prison officers, probation and anti-social behaviour officers as well as health trainers, health promotion staff and volunteers.

This training has helped pharmacies and GPs across County Durham to implement Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) ensuring that people with alcohol issues are identified early and signposted or referred onto relevant support.

Engage with children and young people to develop age and gender specific activities, services and education to prevent alcohol related harm

Following a review by the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2014, enhanced pathways were developed for referral to the children and young people's substance misuse service (4Real) from the accident and emergency department in the University Hospital of North Durham. This resulted in 45 referrals in 2014/15.

The partnership alcohol seizure procedure was a finalist in the Police Problem Orientated Partnerships (POP) Awards for its contribution to tackling child sexual exploitation. Young people who had alcohol seized from them whether as an individual or part of a group were referred into the 4Real service for early intervention and brief advice. The intervention also provided an opportunity for parents to receive advice and awareness around alcohol use by young people.

A social norms project relating to alcohol, smoking and sex and relationships was commissioned in 2012. Across County Durham 10,676 secondary school pupils in 33 schools completed an initial confidential survey. The key findings of these surveys were then used to develop individual school based social norms marketing campaign to correct misperceptions and to help influence behaviour. The key findings across County Durham relating to alcohol were:

- 87% of young people surveys reported they didn't drink alcohol regularly (most or every weekend);
- Of those who had tried alcohol, the majority of young people were at a family occasion where they were supervised;
- 77% of students reported that they would prefer to go to their parent or carer for information and support around alcohol issues.

In 2013/14 alcohol education has been delivered, in partnership between the police and 4Real, to 2,157 primary school children in 72 primary schools; 11,537 secondary school children in 33 secondary schools; 1,957 young people in higher education settings in 5 further education settings; and 1,154 in other settings. Alcohol education has also been delivered in 3 independent schools; 2 private residential schools; 3 special schools as well as post alternative education providers.

In summer 2012 County Durham received funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government for a Community Alcohol Project. The Wear Community Alcohol Project was established in June 2012 following the successful funding bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government through Baroness Newlove's Office. The project group was set up to oversee the implementation of action with 3 aims:

- a) To tackle alcohol related harm in rural communities and avoid the movement of ASB between the communities.
- b) To use the strengths of rural communities to address the issues and develop a model of cohesive inter-community working.
- c) To increase partnership working to improve the interface between local people and services.

Control

Increase the gathering, sharing and use of intelligence to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents and alcohol related offending impacting upon communities

In 2012 the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit which sees police co-located with trading standards, environmental health and licensing enforcement was developed. This has led to better information sharing and joint working around the alcohol agenda. The work undertaken by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit on Organised Crime Group disruption has been incorporated in the in national toolkit.

Training has been undertaken with A&E doctors and nurses around violent crime data collection (Cardiff) in both County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust hospital sites.

Staysafe Operations through Operation ARIES have continued to provide a wealth of intelligence on the drinking habits and locations of young people.

Engage with licensees and target licensed premises where necessary to ensure that licensed premises are managed responsibly

The partnership has continued to support Best Bar None in Durham City and Pubwatch across the County.

Community Alcohol Partnerships have been piloted in Stanley and Peterlee and used for the foundation of Operation ARIES which also includes test purchases and

compliance check operations, training of staff in licenced premises (particularly off-licence premises) and licensing inspections.

Reviews of licenced premises have continued to be undertaken and many more voluntary conditions have been added to premises licences.

Ensure a coordinated approach to policy development, planning and adoption of legislation

A significant number of partners, partnership and committees submitted consultation responses to the Government consultation on Minimum Unit Price for alcohol.

The Statement of Licensing Intent has been reviewed which provides a framework for partners and communities in the application of licensing legislation for applications, reviews and revocations of premises licences.

The use of new legislation such as Early Morning Restriction Orders and Late Night Levy's was explored with little evidence at this time of the need for their implementation in County Durham.

Recovery and treatment

Commission and deliver effective treatment and recovery services in line with national guidance and undertake work to identify the needs of particular groups where the data is limited i.e. pregnant women

Significant investment was made into the commissioning of a whole system approach to alcohol which was recognised nationally as best practice. The Community Alcohol Service within County Durham was commissioned together with a number of projects such as Whitehouse (older drinkers), You Turn (women only) Durham Recovery and Wellbeing (DRAW) Centre and the development of a number of self-support groups for those in recovery.

4Real, the Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service, provided early support and intervention, education and training to young people and the young people's workforce and specialist treatment for young people with alcohol issues.

Involve and support young people, families and carers (including young carers) living with alcohol related issues in order to break the cycle of alcohol misuse.

Liberty from addiction, a charity who support parents and carers of people with addiction and Breaking the Cycle, a charity who support the families of those going through the criminal justice system were commissioned to support families and carers. Family support was commissioned for those people who had family in prison due to alcohol related crime; family and offender received same alcohol education and reduction strategies.

Family support was also embedded into the work undertaken by 4Real.

Policy drivers

International

World Health Organisation: Global strategy to reduce harmful use of alcohol and World Health Organisation: European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020

The Global strategy and European action plan to reduce harmful use of alcohol identifies ten areas for action:

- leadership, awareness and commitment;
- health services' response;
- community action;
- drink-driving policies and countermeasures;
- availability of alcohol;
- marketing of alcoholic beverages;
- pricing policies;
- reducing the negative consequences of drinking and alcohol intoxication;
- reducing the public health impact of illicit alcohol and informally produced alcohol;
- monitoring and surveillance.

National

Prevention of drug and alcohol dependence Briefing by the Recovery Committee, 2015

A briefing by the recovery committee on the prevention of drug and alcohol dependence has highlighted:

- Targeted, drug-specific prevention interventions remain a valid approach to those individuals considered to be at a high risk of harm, although these groups also benefit from universal approaches;
- Environmental prevention activities such as pricing, taxation and marketing controls have shown evidence for success in reducing use and harms associated with alcohol and tobacco use;
- Strong evidence of prevention approaches that have consistently been shown to be ineffective at improving drug and alcohol use outcomes. These include information provision (standalone school-based curricula designed only to increase knowledge about illegal drugs and alcohol), fear arousal approaches (including 'scared straight' approaches), and stand-alone mass media campaigns;
- Prevention activities should be embedded in general strategies that support development across multiple life domains;
- Prevention projects should incorporate evaluation, and be developed from the findings of evaluation (ideally with economic evaluation);

- Prevention of adverse long-term health and poor social outcomes may be achieved even without drug abstinence, although for some target groups drug abstinence may be preferable.

All Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Misuse: Manifesto 2015

- Make reducing alcohol harms the responsibility of a single government minister with clear accountability;
- Introduce a minimum unit price for alcoholic drinks;
- Introduce public health as a fifth licensing objective, enabling local authorities to make licensing decisions based on local population health need and the density of existing outlets;
- Strengthen regulation of alcohol marketing to protect children and young people;
- Increase funding for treatment and raise access levels from 6% to 15% of problem drinkers;
- Commissioners should prioritise the delivery of Identification and Brief Advice. Identification and Brief Advice should be delivered in a wide range of different settings including health care, involving GPs routinely asking questions, and in-workplace programmes;
- Include a health warning on all alcohol labels and deliver a government-funded national public awareness campaign on alcohol-related health issues;
- For all social workers, midwives and healthcare professionals, introduce mandatory training on parental substance misuse, foetal alcohol syndrome disorder and alcohol-related domestic violence;
- Reduce the blood alcohol limit for driving in England and Wales to 50mg/100ml, starting with drivers under the age of 21;
- Introduce the widespread use of sobriety orders to break the cycle of alcohol and crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic violence.

Public Health England Alcohol care in England's hospitals: An opportunity not to be wasted 2014

This guidance recommended that:

- Every district general hospital should consider the best way to provide effective specialist alcohol care for its patients in light of the benefit to patient care and the available efficiency savings;
- Local partners should engage with the health and wellbeing board to ensure existing services for alcohol and other drugs are maintained and developed on the basis of local needs assessment;
- Hospital alcohol care teams should accelerate identification and brief advice (IBA) delivery throughout the hospital by supporting the training of colleagues in all clinical areas;
- Local partners should review the response to alcohol-related harm in all district general hospitals, using this document as a guide, and they should

ensure that existing services are adequately integrated across primary and secondary care and that new services are implemented where there are none;

- Local partners should consider employing assertive out-reach or in-reach services for high impact service users in all major hospitals and existing services should be comprehensively evaluated to assess their impact on hospital and community services;
- System planning should ensure that community services are accessible and available to ensure continuation of detoxification with psychosocial interventions outside of the hospital.

Public Health England Young people's hospital alcohol pathways: Support pack for A&E departments 2014

The support pack provides A&E clinicians, hospital managers, and substance misuse and young people's commissioners to develop alcohol pathways for young people attending A&E to ensure that young people attending A&E with alcohol-related conditions are receiving the appropriate care and follow-up support, as recommended by NICE. It covers:

- Understanding levels of unmet need;
- Initial screening and referral process;
- Information and data sharing;
- Safeguarding;
- Hospital-based interventions;
- Specialist substance misuse and CAMHS interventions;
- Other interventions for vulnerable young people.

NHS Five Year Forward Plan 2014

The NHS five year forward plan sets out the longer term changes required to make the NHS more sustainable. It includes:

- An upgrade in prevention and public health;
- New workplace incentives to promote employee health and cut sickness-related unemployment;
- Backing hard hitting national action on alcohol and other major health risks;
- Decisive steps to break down the barriers in how care is provided between family doctors and hospitals, between physical and mental health, between health and social care.

Public Health England: From evidence into action: opportunities to protect and improve the nation's health

In October 2014 Public Health England set out its five year plan for people of this country to live as well as possible, for as long as possible. The plan included reducing harmful drinking and alcohol-related hospital admissions.

Health First: An evidence based alcohol strategy for the UK 2013

Health First was produced by an independent group of experts with interests in promoting public health and community safety. The strategy made ten recommendations for action:

- A minimum price of at least 50p per unit of alcohol should be introduced;
- At least one third of every alcohol product label should be given over to an evidence-based health warning specified by an independent regulatory body;
- The sale of alcohol in shops should be restricted to specific times of the day and designated areas;
- The tax on every alcohol product should be proportionate to the volume of alcohol it contains;
- Licensing legislation should be comprehensively reviewed. Licensing authorities must be empowered to tackle alcohol-related harm by controlling the total availability of alcohol in their jurisdiction;
- All alcohol advertising and sponsorship should be prohibited;
- An independent body should be established to regulate alcohol promotion, including product and packaging design, in the interests of public health and community safety;
- The legal limit for blood alcohol concentration for drivers should be reduced to 50mg/100ml;
- All health and social care professionals should be trained to routinely provide early identification and brief alcohol advice to their clients;
- People who need support for alcohol problems should be routinely referred to specialist alcohol services for comprehensive assessment and appropriate treatment.

The Government's Alcohol Strategy 2012

The Government's Alcohol Strategy 2012 set out the Government's approach to reducing alcohol related harm through:

- Ending the availability of cheap alcohol and irresponsible promotions through the introduction of a minimum unit price and consulting on the introduction of a ban on multi-buy promotions in the off-trade;
- Providing local areas with stronger powers to control the density of licensed premises; restricting alcohol sales if late opening is causing problems through extended powers of Early Morning Restriction Orders; introducing a new late night levy so that those businesses that trade into the late night contribute towards the cost of policing; and piloting sobriety schemes for those people whose offending is linked to excessive alcohol consumption;
- Expanding the Responsibility Deal to drive greater industry responsibility and action to prevent alcohol misuse;
- Supporting individuals to make informed choices about healthier and responsible drinking.

Health and Social Care Act 2012

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 had a significant impact on alcohol harm reduction:

- Local authorities now take a much stronger role in shaping services, and taking over responsibility for local population health improvement including the commissioning of community alcohol treatment and recovery services;
- Through the creation of health and wellbeing boards;
- The commissioning of NHS care being undertaken by clinical commissioning groups;
- The creation of Public Health England to protect and promote the health of the population.

National drivers from the previous strategy which are still relevant:

- Department of Health Information Sharing to Tackle Violence Guidance for Community Safety Partnerships on engaging with the NHS, September 2012
- Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers drug advice for schools 2012
- Advice for local authorities, head teachers, school staff and governing bodies
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Alcohol Concern: One on every corner: the relationship between off-licence density and alcohol harms in young people 2011
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (CG115) Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis, assessment and management of harmful drinking and alcohol dependence 2011
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (CG120) Psychosis with coexisting substance misuse: Assessment and management in adults and young people 2011
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (QS11) Alcohol dependence and harmful alcohol use quality standard 2011
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (PH24) Alcohol-use disorders: preventing harmful drinking 2010
- The Government's Drug Strategy Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
- Fair Society, Healthy Lives 2010
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (PH4) Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people 2007
- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) (PH7) School-based interventions on alcohol
- Licensing Act 2003

Regional

Children's recognition of alcohol marketing 2015

Children as young as 10 years old are highly familiar with alcohol brands and televised alcohol advertising. The study shows football clubs and tournaments are strongly associated with the beer brands that sponsor them, particularly by boys. Existing advertising codes for alcohol are designed to prevent targeting of under-18s, but children appear to be consuming high volumes of alcohol marketing nevertheless. The report made 4 recommendations:

- Alcohol advertising content should be restricted to promoting just factual information about the product such as origin, composition and means of production;
- Alcohol advertising on television should be allowed only after the 9pm watershed;
- Alcohol advertising at cinemas should be prohibited for all films without an 18 classification;
- Introduce a phased ban on alcohol sponsorship of professional sports, music and cultural events and branded merchandise.

Due North

The Due North Report into health inequalities identifies four key issues which need to be addressed to reduce health inequalities:

- Tackle poverty and economic inequality within the North and between the North and the rest of England;
- Promote healthy development in early childhood;
- Share power over resources and increase the influence that the public has on how resources are used to improve the determinants of health;
- Strengthen the role of the health sector in promoting health equity.

Local

Strategies, Policies and Plans that have an impact on alcohol harm reduction or that alcohol harm reduction impacts upon within County Durham are listed below:

- Sustainable Communities Strategy 2014-30
- Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2014
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-17
- Children, Young People and Families Plan 2014-17
- Police and Crime Plan 2013-17
- Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2014 – 2017
- Public Mental Health Strategy 2015-18
- Dual Needs Strategy 2015-17
- Drug Strategy 2014-17
- Statement of Licensing Policy 2014-19

- Children and Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee Alcohol and Substance Misuse by Young People Review 2014
- Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health Steering Group Statement of Intent 2014
- Think Family Operational Guidance 2014
- DDES Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Priorities 2014-16
- North Durham CCG Draft Commissioning Intentions 2015-2016

Altogether Safer

Objective 1:

To reduce the harm caused to communities by tackling alcohol related crime and disorder and vulnerability

Alcohol: Key Facts

Anti-Social Behaviour

In 2013/14 11.4% of all police incidents were recorded as being alcohol related which is a slight, but not significant, increase from 11% in 2012/13.

In 2013/14 15.3% of anti-social behaviour recorded by the police was alcohol related an increase from 14% in 2012/13. The increases are largely due to better recording of alcohol related incidents rather than a real terms increase in alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

Alcohol seizures

Police, Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Wardens have the power to seize alcohol from anyone under the age of 18. In 2012/13 alcohol was seized from 1012 people, in 2013/14 this increased to 1619 people. Consett, Stanley and Crook Neighbourhood Policing areas consistently have higher numbers of seizures than other areas reflecting the proactivity and focus on alcohol in these areas. Over 2000 individuals were referred for early intervention with the children and young people's substance misuse service between April 2012 and March 2014.

Drunkenness

Police community surveys indicate that over a third (37%) of people in County Durham see drinking and causing a nuisance as a problem. Feedback from frontline staff, together with the Police perceptions survey undertaken by Balance indicate that excessive drinking continues to cause harm and demand for services. We do not have a full picture of the levels of drunkenness and associated vulnerabilities.

Incident data 2014 indicates 24% (3874) of concern for safety / collapse incidents are alcohol related: we also dealt with just over 400 alcohol related public order offences in 2014.

Violent crime

Nationally:

- 53% of violent incidents involving adults were alcohol-related
- Violence was more often alcohol-related in incidents involving male victims
- Alcohol-related violent incidents most commonly involved strangers, followed by acquaintances and incidents of domestic violence
- Violent incidents were more likely to involve alcohol at the weekend
- The proportions of violent incidents that were alcohol-related increased as the evening progressed
- People who pre-load are 2.5 times more likely to be involved as violence as a victim or an offender.

In County Durham:

- 34.8% of all violent crime in 2013/14 was alcohol related a slight increase from 32% in 2012/13
- Violence in the home is increasing rising from 26% in 2013 to 53% in 2014.

Domestic abuse

Alcohol consumption at increasing and high risk drinking levels is a major contributor to the occurrence of intimate partner violence Alcohol use increased the frequency and severity of domestic violence. Intimate partner violence is more severe and more likely to result in physical injury where the perpetrator has consumed alcohol (WHO Intimate Partner Violence Factsheet). Six out of seven domestic homicides in County Durham indicate that alcohol was a common factor with the perpetrator being intoxicated at the time of the murder and in some cases alcohol misuse was also present by the victim.

Excessive alcohol consumption does not **cause** domestic violence, nor is it an excuse for it. As with all violent crime, alcohol might escalate the risk of domestic violence [*as alcohol can act as a disinhibitor*]. (Women's Aid: Domestic Violence Risk Factors, Understanding the Early Assessment of Risk Indicators for Domestic Abuse, 2007)

Locally in 2013/14 38.6% of domestic abuse incidents were recorded as alcohol related (ranging from 26.4% to 43.5% of incidents across neighbourhood policing teams) a slight increase from 37% on 2012/13 (SDP Alcohol Harm Reduction Performance Framework 2013/14 Qtr 4). Alcohol was also cited as a factor in 86% of Domestic Homicide Review cases.

In the regional consultation on the impact of alcohol on frontline policing (Balance, April 2013) 91.6% (271) of Durham police who responded said that alcohol has a large impact upon domestic abuse.

Offending and re-offending

In 2013/14 there were a total of 461 people in Durham prisons (not Durham population) that identified alcohol as their primary drug of choice.

The table below shows the AUDIT scores on screening at reception in HMP Durham between April 2013 and March 2014. It shows that more than 1 in 5 of those entering Durham Prison were possibly alcohol dependent. The average AUDIT score was 11.3.

HMP Durham	No.	%
Abstinent (Score 0)	490	25%
Lower risk (1-7)	595	30%
Increasing risk (8-15)	379	19%
Higher risk (16-19)	81	4%
Possibly dependent (19+)	422	21%
Total	1967	

The table below shows the AUDIT scores on screening at reception in HMP Low Newton between April 2013 and March 2014. It shows that more than 1 in 4 of those

entering HMP Low Newton were possibly alcohol dependent. The average AUDIT score was 11.4.

HMP Low Newton	No.	%
Abstinent (Score 0)	127	33%
Lower Risk (1-7)	94	25%
Increasing Risk (8-15)	38	10%
Higher Risk (16-19)	20	5%
Possibly dependent (19+)	102	27%
Total	381	

Road Safety

There were 181 collisions involving at least one driver/rider who was judged to have been “impaired by alcohol”, or failed or refused to provide a breathalyser sample in County Durham between April 2011 and March 2013. Of these 9 were fatal (14% of all fatalities).

There were 279 casualties from collisions involving at least one driver/rider who was judged to have been “impaired by alcohol”, or failed or refused to provide a breathalyser sample in County Durham between April 2011 and March 2013.

Between 2011 and 2013 12% of pedestrians who were involved in road traffic collisions were judged to be impaired by alcohol. Males age 17 to 34 were those more frequently involved in these types of accidents. 54% of these accidents were in urban areas with 46% occurring on rural roads.

Counterfeit Alcohol/Alcohol Fraud

Counterfeit alcohol is alcohol that is illegally produced and often uses alternative versions of alcohol than ethanol. Counterfeit alcohol can have serious adverse effects on health in the short term. Although we do not believe that there is a significant problem with counterfeit alcohol in County Durham we do not know the extent of the problem.

Alcohol fraud involves the smuggling or diversion of alcoholic drinks into the UK in large commercial quantities, duty unpaid. Organised criminal gangs do this by systematically exploiting the EU-wide duty suspension arrangements which allow excise goods to move between authorised warehouses duty unpaid until released for consumption onto the home market.

Licensing Enforcement

In 2013 partners in County Durham undertook nine reviews of licenced premises of which five (56%) premises licences were revoked. This increased to eleven reviews in 2014 of which three (27%) premises licences were revoked. To date in 2015 there have been two reviews.

Fire Safety

“The rate of serious injuries is 4 times higher where drugs or alcohol was a contributory factor than where alcohol / drugs were not a factor.” (DCLG, 2012 p3)

Between January 2010 and January 2015 there were 1,359 accidental dwelling fires

in County Durham and Darlington. Of these, alcohol was suspected to have contributed to the fire occurring on 10% (135) of these occasions.

County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service fatal fire statistics indicate that between 2008 and 2014 67% of those who died in fires had consumed alcohol. Of these people 35% returned blood alcohol levels within the 80% saturation limit (on or under the drink driving limit). However 30% were dramatically over the driving limit.

Hate crime

In 2013/14 there were 39 hate crimes that were alcohol related.

To achieve our objective over the next three years we will:

- Continue to advocate for a national minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol while exploring the feasibility of implementing MUP more locally.
- Lobby for changes in advertising of alcohol to protect our most vulnerable people whilst using existing legislation to place restrictions where we can.
- Encourage any new government to re-think the licensing legislation and give more power to local areas to determine the density of alcohol outlets and restrict availability.
- Continue to lobby for the Government to reduce the legal blood alcohol content level for drinking and driving and promote “no drinking and driving” as a cultural norm.
- Contribute to the evidence base in relation to Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) throughout the criminal justice system.
- Improve the sharing of alcohol related violent crime between the Emergency Departments of hospitals who treat County Durham residents.
- Develop an increased understanding of the nature and scale of the problem of drunkenness and its impact upon the safety of individuals and communities, and the associated demands placed upon partner services
- Design and implement evidence-based harm and demand minimisation strategies to reduce drunkenness.
- Use licensing legislation to ensure that appropriate conditions are in place at the application stage.
- Use licensing powers to confine the sale of alcohol in shops to specific times of day and designated areas.
- Continue to support and expand the use of volunteers to “help out” in the night-time economy.
- Support and build the capacity of local communities to take on a wider range of responsibilities to reduce the harmful use of alcohol including through licensing.
- Continuation of targeted and intelligence led roadside breath-testing.
- Estimate the size of the illegal market of counterfeit alcohol.
- Develop seamless pathways across the criminal justice system into community alcohol services, particularly those leaving prison.
- Ensure appropriate alcohol pathways link to Checkpoint.
- Embed alcohol pathways into the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme and link with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.
- Support the Domestic Homicide Review action plan to prevent further homicides.

- Raise awareness of the legislation around alcohol and capacity to consent.

Performance Measures

1. Percentage of alcohol related police incidents
2. Percentage of alcohol related violent crime
3. Percentage of alcohol related sexual violence offences
4. Percentage of alcohol related domestic violence incidents
5. Percentage of alcohol related anti-social behaviour
6. Percentage of offenders with a positive alcohol screen referred into treatment services
7. Percentage of alcohol related road traffic collisions
8. Numbers of alcohol related drink–driving fatalities
9. No. of Alcohol Treatment Requirements
10. No. of ASB interventions with alcohol as a condition
11. Perceptions of people drinking and causing a nuisance (we plan to supplement this with fieldwork)
12. Perceptions of underage drinking
13. Perceptions of drunkenness / rowdy behaviour
14. Number of alcohol related concern for safety/collapse incidents

Altogether Healthier

Objective 2:

To improve health inequalities and reduce early deaths in County Durham by reducing alcohol consumption across the population

Alcohol: Key Facts

Pregnancy and Sexual Health

When people are under the influence of alcohol they are less likely to use contraception. This can lead to poor sexual health and unwanted pregnancies.

Women who drink alcohol during pregnancy run the risk of their baby being born on the foetal alcohol disorder spectrum. It is estimated that 1% of the population have some form of foetal alcohol spectrum disorder. This equates to 57 babies born in 2012 in County Durham alone.

Ambulance callouts

In 2012-13 there were 2063 alcohol related ambulance callouts in County Durham reducing slightly to 2011 in 2013-14. Saturday and Sunday see consistently higher alcohol related ambulance callouts. Males generally have more alcohol related ambulance callouts than females. Over half (52%) of all alcohol related ambulance callouts were from people who were between the ages of 10 and 39. University Hospital of North Durham (UHND) received patients from 45% of the alcohol related ambulance callouts in County Durham. A high proportion of alcohol related ambulance callouts are from the 20% most deprived wards.

Hospital admissions

Alcohol specific admission rates in County Durham are significantly higher than England for men and women. Rates have been rising over time for men (4%) and women (14%) in County Durham.

Alcohol related admission rates (broad indicator) in County Durham are significantly higher than England for men and women. Rates have been rising over time for men (8%) and women (12%) in County Durham.

Alcohol related admission rates (narrow indicator) in County Durham are significantly higher than England for men and women. Rates have been rising over time for men (1%) and women (5%) in County Durham.

Alcohol related admission rates per 100,000 population (broad and narrow indicators) are significantly higher than England. Rates have been rising over time for men (13%) and women (5%).

Mortality

Months of life lost due to alcohol (<75 years) has increased by around 12% over time for men and women in County Durham.

Alcohol specific mortality rates in County Durham are significantly higher than England for men and women. Rates have been rising over time for men (13%) and women (7%).

Alcohol related mortality rates in County Durham are significantly higher than England for men and women. Rates have been falling over time for men (-2%) and women (-10%) in County Durham.

Dual diagnosis

Between 1st April 2012 and 31st March 2013 263 individuals (16.2% of those in treatment) who were accessing treatment for alcohol dependency also had mental health issues. Between the same period 841 individuals were identified by Durham Constabulary as being jointly affected by alcohol and mental health issues.

Alcohol misuse has been identified as a significant factor in some incidents of self-harm and increases the risk of suicide attempts and death by suicide. A suicide audit 2005-12 revealed that 30% of those people who committed suicide were alcohol dependant.

Treatment and Recovery

In 2012/13 in County Durham 1543 Individuals were referred to the Community Alcohol Service. Of these individuals 36% were female and 64% male. The mean age of referral was 42 years. Self-referral (43%) was the main route for accessing the service followed by hospital (30%) and GP (7%).

In 2012/13 1541 individuals received structured interventions for primary alcohol use, this was a 12.3% reduction compared to 2011/12 (1758). The rate in treatment per 1000 population (age standardised) was 3.6 (CI = 3.46 to 3.8) which was above the national rate of 2.55 (CI = 2.53 to 2.55). Almost half (46%) of individuals in treatment 2012/13 reported consuming between 200 and 600 units per month. Average length of time in treatment for structured alcohol interventions in 2012/13 is 6 to 12 months (66%). The Easington area had a higher rate per 1000 population in structured alcohol treatment than the County average and other localities.

In 2012/13 622 individuals successfully completed treatment with the community alcohol service. Of these individuals 42% were abstinent and 58% were occasional user/controlled drinkers.

In 2012/13 278 individuals received facilitated access to mutual aid which was 18% of the total number of those in treatment.

151 individuals in structured treatment for alcohol use reported secondary problematic drug use. 44 (28%) individuals reported no interaction with the Community Drug Service.

Targeted Groups

Men and young people (18-34 years) are more likely to be profiled as increasing/high risk drinkers (Balance, 2013). Consultation undertaken locally with men 25-44 concluded that this population are not concerned about their level of drinking (Explain, 2014).

Older Adults

An ageing population inevitably means an increase in the number of older people experiencing alcohol related problems. Older people today drink more than previous

generations. Alcohol problems in later life are a growing and hidden problem (Smith et al, 2012) and can impact on and intensify other health problems experienced by older people. Local consultation with older people identified that loneliness, boredom, depression, bereavement and pain/illness were triggers for increased drinking (Age UK, 2013).

Veterans

The issue of alcohol misuse is significantly associated with service in the Armed Forces and there is evidence that it is more common among combat veterans (*Fear NT et al. 2010*). The prevalence of alcohol misuse in the military stands at 13% and continues to be a bigger problem than probable Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (Greenberg, 2012).

Gypsy Roma Travellers

There are issues in relation to alcohol and people who are Gypsy, Roma or Travellers but these issues are often hidden or unrecognised. Men in GRT communities appear to drink more than their female counterparts in what is termed as recreational drinking. Recreational drinking is not as acceptable in women within these communities. Alcohol use is often associated with bereavement and depression and used as a coping mechanism.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

Part of the Picture (2012) identified significant problematic alcohol use among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual (LGB) people. Binge drinking is high with 29% of females and 34% of males reporting to binge drink on at least a weekly basis. Gay and bisexual males as well as bisexual females scored as possibly dependent more often than other groups. Stonewall Charity highlight that LGB communities may not feel targeted by current preventative messages or feel able to disclose drinking habits.

University students

Excessive alcohol consumption in University students has particular social, academic and health consequences (Turner et al, 2008). Students studying in a North East city identified that although they are generally aware of the sensible drinking messages they feel that their time at university is limited, their drinking habits whilst at university will not last and will not cause long lasting damage to their health (O'Neill, 2012). There is, however, evidence that drinking patters formed in student years continue through to post-University life (Newbury-Birch et al, 2002).

There have been three fatalities of students from Durham University within the last 18 months who have died as a result of drowning in the River Wear in Durham City. Excessive alcohol consumption has been identified as a significant contributory factor in each of these deaths. A number of vulnerabilities/safeguarding issues have also been identified in relation to the safety of Durham University students following excessive alcohol consumption.

To achieve our objective we will:

- Continue to advocate for a national minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol while exploring the feasibility of implementing MUP more locally.
- Lobby for changes in advertising of alcohol to protect our most vulnerable people whilst using existing legislation to place restrictions where we can.

- Encourage any new government to re-think the licensing legislation and give more power to local areas to determine the density of alcohol outlets and restrict availability.
- Make sure that all health and social care professionals are trained and implement Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) for alcohol.
- Promote, monitor and quality assure the take up of IBA amongst primary care, secondary care and social care.
- Raise awareness and continue to inform communities and targeted populations in County Durham about alcohol units, the benefits of responsible drinking and how to get help to reduce or stop drinking.
- Increase the promotion and understanding of units and strengths including shots as well as the usual wine/lager etc.
- Ensure people who need treatment and their families, are routinely referred and supported into recovery services from all sources.
- Encourage strategic planning within the local authority to take alcohol harm reduction into consideration in planning developments in relation to the number, density and opening hours of establishments and to take effective enforcement action for breaches.
- Encourage each hospital to deliver Identification and Brief Advice (IBA).
- Develop a joined up approach between acute and community services to tackling high intensity hospital users due to alcohol and to prevent re-admissions to hospital.
- Provide a bespoke referral pathway for Veteran referrals into alcohol recovery.
- Raise awareness of alcohol use in later life among older people's services and ensure identification, brief advice and pathways for recovery are enhanced.
- Continue to undertake research and evaluation into alcohol and commissioned services.
- Explore the feasibility of web-based information programmes, "audit-testing" and self-help guidance.
- Ensure commissioned services implement clinical guidelines for alcohol and use evidence-based behavioural and pharmacological treatments.
- Increase the awareness of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) with people who are pregnant, their partners or those who are trying to conceive.
- Encourage midwifery and obstetric services to ensure that all pregnant women are offered information and, if appropriate, advice about drinking during pregnancy, and social welfare services should implement support to help.
- Protect family members other than the drinker and children from the harmful consequences of alcohol dependence and alcohol use disorders.
- Ensure that family-based programmes consider the reduction of alcohol related harm
- Undertake work to tackle home/out of sight drinking.
- Ensure that health trainers and health visitors in the GRT communities take into account alcohol within their work.
- Ensure that workers who work with LGBT communities consider alcohol harm reduction in their interventions.
- Work with the LGBT community to develop targeted alcohol harm reduction messages and campaigns.
- Further develop health information to inform licensing decisions
- Implement a recovery focussed treatment system
- Ensure integrated pathways and collaborative working arrangements are further

developed for those people who are dependent on alcohol

- Develop clear pathways between adult social services and community recovery services.

Performance indicators

1. Levels of binge drinking, increasing and high risk drinking levels
2. Alcohol related hospital admissions
3. Alcohol related mortality
4. Number of referrals to recovery services where alcohol is the primary substance
5. Knowledge, attitudes and opinions about alcohol
6. No's of IBA undertaken in primary care and community pharmacies
7. No's of referrals into specialist services from primary care and community pharmacies
8. No's of alcohol checks undertaken as part of health check programme
9. Successful completions
10. Quality of life improvement as measured by the Alcohol Outcomes Report (AOR)
11. Number going through recovery services gaining employment

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

Objective 3:

To build resilience and develop a culture where children and young people choose not to drink alcohol; and to reduce the negative impact alcohol has on the lives of children, young people and their families through parental alcohol use.

Alcohol: Key Facts

Consumption

Alcohol consumption by young people throughout the UK is reducing (HSCIC, 2014) and this is no different in County Durham.

Most young people in County Durham are choosing not to drink alcohol regularly but they think their peers are drinking regularly (Social Norms, 2014). Those young people who do drink alcohol are drinking more in volume and more frequently.

Evidence shows that the consumption of alcohol by young people is influenced by their 'social norms' around them and learnt behaviour from the adults surrounding them.

Under -18 Hospital Admissions

Young people are more likely to experience poor outcomes due to their own alcohol consumption than any other age group.

Under-18 alcohol specific admission rates are significantly higher in County Durham than England. The rates are the 18th worst in the Country (LAPE, 2014). Rates have been falling over time in County Durham, the North East and England. Proportionally this decrease has been greater in County Durham (37%) than the North East (35%) and England (34%).

Sexual health and teenage pregnancy

Evidence suggests that alcohol can contribute to misjudgements about sexual behaviour (Newbury-Birch, 2009). The evidence confirms that alcohol consumption in young people is associated with:

- Not using a condom during a young person's first sexual encounter;
- An increased likelihood of having sex and at a younger age;
- Unprotected sex;
- Teenage pregnancy; and
- The likelihood of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Alcohol is a common vulnerability factor in incidence of child sexual exploitation, with possible victims' exposure to sexual assaults and exploitation increasing due to excessive alcohol consumption, impacting on their ability to consent. This can involve child victims and perpetrators exchanging sexual favours for alcohol. Young people often consume alcohol in private homes or on or off the street, such as wooded areas and parks. Often this alcohol is provided following purchases made by children themselves or through "proxy" sales.

Youth Offending

In 2013/14 alcohol related offences committed by young people reduced by 20% when compared to 2012/13. There were a total of 306 (23.8%) alcohol related offences in 2013/14, a rate of 6.6 per 1,000 10-17yrs population. The most frequent alcohol related offences committed by young people were public order and violence against the person.

The table below shows the AUDIT scores on screening at reception in HMP Deerbolt between August 2013 and March 2014. It shows that more than 1 in 4 of those entering HMP Deerbolt were possibly alcohol dependent. The average AUDIT score was 14.9.

HMP Deerbolt	No.	%
Abstinent (Score 0)	7	4%
Low risk (1-7)	33	21%
Increasing risk (8-15)	54	34%
Higher risk (16-19)	21	13%
Possibly dependent (19+)	45	28%
Total	160	

Parental alcohol misuse

Young people also experience poor outcomes due to other people's alcohol consumption. In 2013/14 almost a third (32%) of initial child protection conferences in County Durham were as a result of parental alcohol misuse.

Evidence also shows that young people who have a parent who is dependent on alcohol can have an impact on:

- Child protection & poor parenting
- Demand on the looked after system through care proceedings

Balance estimate that the number of children living with a parent(s) who drink at high risk levels in County Durham is 49,353:

Age	Number of children
0-4	13,608
5-9	12,965
10-14	15,122
15-17	7,657
Total	49,353

Treatment

In 2013/14 the children and young people's substance misuse service received 234 referrals. 47% of referrals were as a result primarily of problematic alcohol use. More females (54%) than males (46%) were referred for a service. In the same period 220 young people were in structured treatment with the service, 69% of these young people reported problematic alcohol use. In 2013/14 478 young people were referred for Brief Intervention.

To achieve our objective we will:

- Continue to advocate for a national minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol while exploring the feasibility of implementing MUP more locally
- Lobby for changes in advertising of alcohol to protect our most vulnerable people whilst using existing legislation to place restrictions where we can.
- Encourage any new government to re-think the licensing legislation and give more power to local areas to determine the density of alcohol outlets and restrict availability.
- To continue to support schools and colleges and youth settings to provide effective education on alcohol to children and young people as part of the resilience framework.
- Work with retailers to restrict the products that appeal to children and young people and to restrict advertising of such products.
- Promote alcohol free schools, play areas and soft play areas to ensure that areas where our children and young people routinely go should be alcohol free.
- Improve intelligence in relation to the links between alcohol and child sexual exploitation.
- Develop support pathways for children and young people and for parents/carers who have alcohol problems.
- Monitor the uptake of support services for children and young people and parents/carers.
- Provide the children and families workforce with the tools to identify and provide early interventions among parents with alcohol problems and pathways of support.
- Continue test purchase operations and age verification compliance testing on both on and off-licence premises.
- Use the powers within our control to restrict alcohol advertising particularly near schools and colleges.
- Continue to lobby for restrictions on alcohol advertising and empower communities to challenge inappropriate advertising.
- To ensure that there is an emphasis on early intervention for those young people who are more likely to have difficulties with alcohol (i.e. YOS, CAMHS, NEETS, school exclusion, looked after children).
- To develop a performance monitoring system that captures and reports on delivery of early intervention.
- Provide target interventions and consistent messages to young people who already drink alcohol and around the hidden use of alcohol.
- Use education to inform young people how alcohol marketing manipulates them (similar to the smoking youth advocacy model) to allow them to make informed decisions about alcohol.
- Provide targeted outreach to young people who drink in public spaces/parks
- Continue to promote social norms.

Performance measures

1. Successful completion from specialist treatment
2. Under 18's admissions to hospital
3. No. of school exclusions where alcohol is a factor (only drugs/alcohol currently)

4. No. of children in Pupil Referral Units where alcohol is a factor
5. No. of NEETs where alcohol is a factor
6. No. of children in YOS where alcohol is a factor
7. No. of children in the secure estate where alcohol is a factor
8. No. of Initial Child Protection Conferences as a result of parental alcohol misuse
9. No. of Review Child Protection Conferences as a result of parental alcohol misuse
10. No. of children on the at risk register where parental alcohol misuse is a factor
11. No. of children in the looked after system where parental alcohol misuse is a factor

Altogether Wealthier

Objective 4:

To increase the number of competitive and successful people in the County Durham workforce by reducing the negative impact that alcohol has on work attendance and productivity.

Objective 5:

To expand the night time economy offer through the promotion of responsible drinking practices and through the development and promotion of alcohol free alternatives.

Alcohol: Key Facts

- There are over 1700 licenced premises for alcohol in County Durham.
- 4.34% of businesses in County Durham are pubs/restaurants/hotels
- 4,866 people are employed in pubs/restaurants/hotels across County Durham
- According to LAPE 2014 3% of people of working age are employed in bars and clubs across the County.
- Occupations with highest proportion of sub living wages are bar staff (90%), waiters (85%) and kitchen and catering assistants (80%) (KPMG 2014)
- 7% of visitor spend (£270m) is on food and drink in County Durham
- Durham City is 3rd in UK for places that have witnessed the greatest percentage growth in the total number of bars, wine bars, nightclubs, fast food, pubs, and takeaways in UK town centres over the last 10 years
- The Department for Work and Pensions reported that in 2013 2.2% of claimants of Incapacity Benefit had a primary disabling condition of alcohol misuse (DWP, 2014).
- Heavy drinkers concentrated in those of working age
- Up to 17 million working days are lost each year because of alcohol related sickness (UK)
- The cost to employers of sick days due to drink is estimated at £1.7bn (NICE 2010)
- Heavy drinking in personal leisure time can have an effect on work performance and business productivity
- Rough sleepers that can cause a number of issues within an area from anti-social behaviour and begging to using public spaces for personal hygiene. When assessed many of the rough sleepers have been known to have alcohol issues.

To achieve our objectives we will:

- Continue to advocate for a national minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol while exploring the feasibility of implementing MUP more locally
- Lobby for changes in advertising of alcohol to protect our most vulnerable people whilst using existing legislation to place restrictions where we can.
- Encourage the Government to re-think the licensing legislation and give more power to local areas to determine the density of alcohol outlets and restrict availability.

- Promote alcohol-free alternatives as part of the night-time economy offer in our towns and city across County Durham.
- Build consideration of the impact of alcohol related harm into decision making around planning developments in relation to the number, density and opening hours of establishments as well as limiting the creation of new vertical drinking establishments.
- Look at feasibility of implementing a Cumulative Impact/Saturation Policy within the County.
- Improve management standards of on and off-licenced premises in all town and city centres.
- Implement workplace health initiatives across employers in County Durham by supporting alcohol programmes in workplaces and promoting alcohol-free workplaces.
- Implement “family zones/alcohol free zones” where alcohol is not permitted at events, such as the Miners’ Gala.
- Support the national Recovery Walk which will be hosted in Durham City in September 2015 by encouraging bars in the City to go dry or extend their dry offer.
- Expand and promote the family offer in towns and city centres
- Inclusive and accessible employability support for people in alcohol recovery through housing providers and partners triage process.
- Review Best Bar None to ensure that quality assurance of the scheme is built into the operation.
- Develop and promote organisational alcohol policies including the university population.
- To address rough sleeping in the City Of Durham, Housing Solutions Homeless and Prevention team will work closely with all partners including the National Street Link Service, Police and local business to identify rough sleepers and their whereabouts.
- Continue with the outreach point for rough sleepers to provide assistance and guidance and the bi-annual leaflet drop to provide information on advice and guidance in relation to rough sleepers.

Performance measures

1. Number of outlets licenced for alcohol activity
2. Days and hours of sale of alcohol in each locality
3. No. of employees in bars
4. Increase in the availability of alcohol free alternatives in towns and city centres.
5. No. of premises signed up to be alcohol free for the Recovery Walk
6. Number of workplaces and employing bodies that implement “alcohol in the workplace” policies and programmes
7. No. of planning applications where the impact on alcohol availability is considered.
8. Statutory homeless – alcohol related homeless acceptances
9. Statutory homeless –households in temp accommodation due to alcohol
10. % Durham University colleges adopting the University alcohol harm reduction policy.

Altogether Greener

Objective 6:

To reduce the negative impact that alcohol has on the physical environment in County Durham.

Alcohol: Key Facts

The environment in which people live and work heavily affects their attitudes and behaviour around drinking.

Environmental influences on alcohol use include: acceptance of alcohol use by society; availability (including price, number of outlets, and server practices); advertising and marketing both nationally and locally; and public policies regarding alcohol and enforcement of those policies.

The visual impact of alcohol affects our abilities to encourage a cleaner, more attractive County Durham.



Alcohol fuels signal crime which impacts upon feelings of wellbeing across the population.

The recycling of alcohol related cans/bottles contribute to targets in relation to recycling. Increases in alcohol related recycling are noticed during key times of the year, including big football matches. Anecdotal evidence suggests some people may not recycle all alcohol related litter or utilise more traditional recycling methods due to the embarrassment around the number of cans/bottles in bins outside of their properties.

Excessive alcohol consumption could impact upon the natural heritage sight in Durham City as some residents of County Durham call for physical barriers, lighting and CCTV around the river following the death of three students within the last 18 months.



In 2013/14 383 (6.8%) of all crimes of criminal damage were alcohol related.

To achieve our objective we will:

- Continue to advocate for a national minimum unit price (MUP) for alcohol while exploring the feasibility of implementing MUP more locally
- Lobby for changes in advertising of alcohol to protect our most vulnerable people whilst using existing legislation to place restrictions where we can.
- Encourage the Government to re-think the licensing legislation and give more power to local areas to determine the density of alcohol outlets and restrict availability.
- Develop activities in the natural environment as an alternative to drinking in the home.
- Encourage people (particularly young people and those in recovery) to volunteer in environmental projects/programmes to develop an appreciation of the natural environment
- Make effective use of fixed penalty notices for alcohol related incidents relating to the environment
- Develop ways to sharing information between partners to improve the intelligence picture of where problem areas lie.
- Raise awareness of the impact of alcohol on the environment.
- Develop and promote alcohol harm reduction messages through strategic waste management talks.
- Increase trade waste checks on licenced premises and utilise information in licensing reviews.
- Utilise bin wagons and recycling mechanisms as a vehicle for helping to deliver responsible drinking messages to the population of County Durham.
- Make better links with the Community Action Teams (CAT)
- Establish the impact alcohol has on houses of multiple occupation and use appropriate prevention and control mechanisms to reduce the negative impact.
- Utilise tenancies within private landlord schemes to develop appropriate prevention and control mechanisms to reduce the impact alcohol has on wider communities

Performance indicators

1. The rate of complaint about noise
2. Number of FPNs issued for alcohol related litter
3. Number of young people volunteering in environmental projects
4. Number of people in recovery volunteering in environmental projects
5. Number of environmental activities at times to be an alternative to drinking alcohol
6. Number of trade waste checks and resulting prosecutions and licence reviews
7. Number of strategic waste management talks where alcohol features

Partners

Area Action Partnerships
Balance North East
County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust
Durham County Council Children and Adult Services
Durham County Council Neighbourhood Services
Durham County Council Regeneration and Economic Development
Durham County Council Assistance Chief Executives
Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company – ARC
Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group
Durham Constabulary
North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
North East Ambulance Service
National Probation Services
Police and Crime Commissioner’s Office
Public Health England – North East
Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board

Glossary of Terms

A&E or ED	Accident and Emergency Department or Emergency Department of a hospital
AHNA	Alcohol Health Needs Assessment is a document collating alcohol related health information which helps to support and inform strategy and policy development and the commissioning of services.
Alcohol dependency	Feeling unable to function without alcohol
Alcohol misuse	Drinking at increasing or higher risk levels which contribute to a wide range of health, crime and economic harms
Alcohol mortality	Cause of death wholly attributable to alcohol consumption
Anti-social behaviour	Behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more people not of the same household.
Anti-Social Behaviour Escalation Procedure	This is a tiered approach to implementing interventions to deal with the perpetrators of 'confirmed incidents of ASB'
Alcohol attributable conditions	Health conditions where there is a proven causal link with the consumption of alcohol in some cases
Alcohol specific conditions	Health conditions that are 100% attributable to the consumption of alcohol
ABV	Alcohol By Volume. The percentage of alcohol in a drink
Balance	The alcohol office for the North East
Big Drink Debate	A high profile campaign - supported by television and poster advertising and public relations (PR) – to get people in the North East talking about alcohol and its place in the community. As part of the debate, North East residents were invited to have their say on a range of topics linked to alcohol by taking part in a short survey.
Binge drinking	Drinking at least twice the daily recommended amount of alcohol in a single drinking session (8 or more units for men and 6 or more units for women). Binge drinking usually refers to people drinking a lot of alcohol in a short space of time or drinking to get drunk.
CAS	Community Alcohol Service up to 31 st March 2015
Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)	Groups of GP practices, including other health professionals who will commission the great majority of NHS services for their patients
Cumulative Impact Policy	Cumulative Impact Policies were introduced as a tool for licensing authorities to limit the growth of licensed premises in a problem area. This is set out in the statutory guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
DCC	Durham County Council the local authority for the County Durham area
Designated Premises Supervisor	A designated premises supervisor (DPS) is the person who has day-to-day responsibility for the running of the business.
Domestic abuse/violence	Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 18 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender and sexuality
Domestic Homicide	Domestic homicide review means a review of the

Review	circumstances in which the death of a person aged 16 or over has, or appears to have, resulted from violence, abuse or neglect by— (a) a person to whom he was related or with whom he was or had been in an intimate personal relationship, or (b) a member of the same household as himself, held with a view to identifying the lessons to be learnt from the death.
Dual diagnosis	People who have mental illness as well as substance misuse problems
GP	General practitioner also known as family doctors who provide primary care
Health and Social Care Information Centre	The national provider of information, data and IT systems for commissioners, analysts and clinicians in health and social care.
Higher risk drinking	Drinkers who have a high risk of alcohol related illness
Hospital Episode Statistics	HES is a data warehouse containing details of all admissions to NHS hospitals in England
Illicit alcohol	Illicit alcohol is either smuggled, bootlegged or counterfeit alcohol. Smuggled alcohol is generally legitimately manufactured alcohol which has evaded payment of tax by being illegally transported, distributed and sold. Bootlegged: refers to alcohol which is purchased in a country with a low level of taxation and illegally brought into the UK, evading payment of tax. Counterfeit refers to illegally manufactured alcohol which is often made abroad, but sometimes in the UK. It is sold cheaply and tax free and vast profits are made throughout the supply chain.
Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	An initial child protection conference must be convened when it is believed that a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. It brings together family members (and the child where appropriate), supporters/advocates and those professionals most involved with the child and family
Increasing risk drinking	Drinkers who are at an increased risk of alcohol related illness (would also include binge drinking)
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)	The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on local authorities and CCGs to develop a Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy to meet the needs identified in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)	Health and Social Care Act 2012 states the purpose of the JSNA is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages
Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE)	A report produced by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO) on an annual basis which includes 25 alcohol-related indicators for every Local Authority in England. The indicators measure the impact of alcohol on local communities
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans
Licensing Authority	Licensing authorities can issue premises licences, club premises certificates, temporary event notices in their area, as well as personal licences for residents and renewals of personal licences for those who had previously applied for a

	personal licence while resident in the licensing authority's area.
Lower risk drinking	Men drinking no more than 3-4 units per day on a regular basis and women drinking no more than 2-3 units of a regular basis
Minimum Unit Price (MUP)	A definitive price, determined by the number of units in an alcoholic drink, under which alcohol could not be sold.
NHS	National Health Service
Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND)	A penalty notice/fine can be issued by the Police where they have reason to believe that a person has committed one of the offences in the schedule
Persistent Possession of Alcohol	Where a person who is under 18 years of age is caught in possession of alcohol on 3 or more occasions within a period of 12 consecutive months
PCT	Primary Care Trust
Police Alcohol Seizure	Confiscation of alcohol from someone under the age of 18 or over the age of 18 where there are concerns it will be passed on to under-18s
Premises license	Granted under the Licensing Act 2003 a premises license authorises a premises for the sale of alcohol by retail, this may be for consumption on the premises, off the premises or both
Regularly drinking	Drinking every day or most days of the week
Responsible Authority	Responsible authorities for the purpose of licensing are: police, fire and rescue, primary care trust (PCT) or local health board (LHB), the relevant licensing authority, local enforcement agency for the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, environmental health authority, planning authority, body responsible for the protection of children from harm, local trading standards , any other licensing authority in whose area part of the premises is situated
Safe Durham Partnership	The Community Safety Partnership for County Durham
Sexual Exploitation	Exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive "something" (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection , gifts , money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
SAF	Single Assessment Framework – a framework to make sure that different services work together to support children and young people
Substance Misuse Death Review	Substance Misuse Death review means a review of the circumstances in which the death of a person has, or appears to have, resulted from alcohol or other substances.
Trans	Transgender. An umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression or behaviour is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth, including but not limited to transsexuals, cross-dressers, androgynous people, genderqueers, and gender non-conforming people

Unit of alcohol	Units are a simple way of expressing the quantity of pure alcohol in a drink. One unit equals 10ml or 8g of pure alcohol, which is around the amount of alcohol the average adult can process in an hour.
Veteran	A person who has served in the military services
Violent crime	Robbery, sexual offences, and a group of violence against the person offences ranging from assault without injury, through wounding, to homicide.
World Health Organisation (WHO)	Leads on policy development in health on behalf of the United Nations.
4Real	Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service in County Durham up to 31 st March 2015

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

18 June 2015



**Quarter 4 2014/15
Performance Management Report**

**Report of Corporate Management Team
Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
Councillor Simon Henig, Leader**

Purpose of the Report

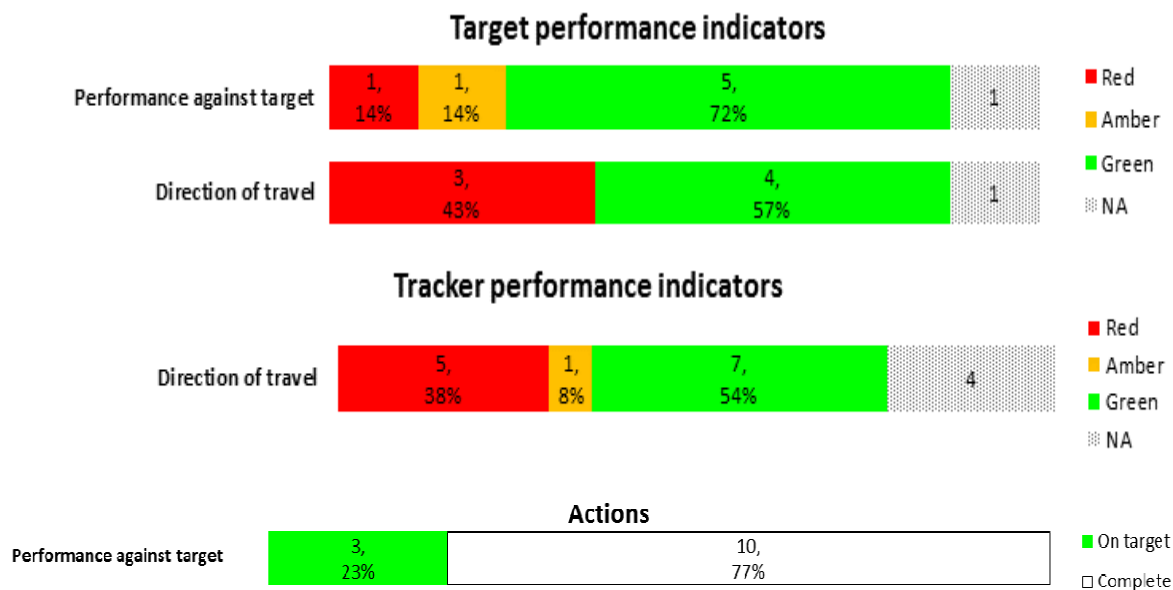
1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators for the Altogether Safer theme and report other performance issues for the 2014/15 financial year.

Background

2. Since 2010, the council has made significant financial savings following reductions in government grants and have delivered just under £137 million savings to date and have plans in place to make a further £16 million of reductions in 2015/16.
3. Demand over the year has increased for some of our key services such as children in need referrals, looked after children cases, people requiring rehousing, and freedom of information requests received. However, it is encouraging to note that there have been some notable reductions in demand placed on some of our services in line with council strategy. The number of incidents of fly-tipping being reported is starting to come down after a concerted effort to tackle the perpetrators. All contact through our customer services team whether through face-to-face, telephone or via electronic means is generally reducing in line with our customer first strategy, which aims to answer queries at first point of contact and reduce the need to contact the council again. There has been a large spike in terms of telephone calls received in the last quarter of the year which is predominantly as a result of the introduction of the new garden waste service which has generated a number of additional calls around the time of implementation, some of which have been new customers wanting to join the scheme.
4. Against this backdrop of reducing resources and increasing demand it is critical that the council continues to actively manage performance and ensures that the impact on the public of the difficult decisions we have had to make is minimised.
5. The report sets out an overview of performance and progress by Altogether priority theme. Key performance indicator progress is reported against two indicator types which comprise of:

- a. Key target indicators – targets are set for indicators where improvements can be measured regularly and where improvement can be actively influenced by the council and its partners (see Appendix 3, table 1); and
 - b. Key tracker indicators – performance will be tracked but no targets are set for indicators which are long-term and/or which the council and its partners only partially influence (see Appendix 3, table 2).
6. The report continues to incorporate a stronger focus on volume measures in our performance framework. This allows us to better quantify productivity and to monitor the effects of reductions in resources and changes in volume of activity.
 7. A corporate performance indicator guide has been produced which provides full details of indicator definitions and data sources. This is available to view from the intranet or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.
 8. Work has been carried out by officers and members on developing the proposed indicator set and targets for 2015/16 (see Appendix 4) to ensure that our performance management efforts continue to stay focused on the right areas.

Altogether Safer: Overview



Council Performance

9. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. Of adult social care users who responded to the local survey programme, 94% reported that the care and support services they received helped them to feel safe and secure. This is an increase from the equivalent period of 2013/14 (93%) and is above the annual target of 85%.
- b. The total number of offences committed in 2014/15 by the 176 offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort was 926. During quarter 4 2014/15 there were 127 offences committed by the same cohort, which gives a full year projection of 508 offences. This represents a 45.1% reduction from 2013/14, which exceeds the 2014/15 target of a 40% reduction.
- c. As reported in the Altogether Better for Children and Young People theme, provisional data for April 2014 to March 2015 indicate that there were 193 first time entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System aged 10 – 17. This equates to 440 per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds. This is well within the target of 310 FTEs (707 per 100,000) and is an improvement from 210 FTEs during the same period of the previous year (479 per 100,000).
- d. As reported in the Altogether Healthier theme, the number of people in drug treatment for non-opiate use between July 2013 and June 2014 was 657, of which 268 successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present between July and December 2014. This equates to a 40.8% successful completion rate, which has achieved the target of 40.4% and is above national performance of 39%. It is also an improvement on the same period last year (36.6%).

e. Tracker indicators show:

- i. In 2014/15 there were 11,257 theft offences, a rate of 21.8 per 1,000 population. This is a decrease of 4% from 11,727 offences during the same period of 2013/14. There have been reductions in the majority of theft categories, although shoplifting has displayed an increase of 23.5% from 2,095 during 2013/14 to 2,588 during 2014/15. The main items linked to these shoplifting offences are food (36%), alcohol (16%) and toiletries (13%). Durham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area has one of the lowest rates of theft offences per 1,000 population for the period April 2014 to February 2015 (20.1) when compared to its statistical neighbours average (27.5).
- ii. During 2014/15 there were 23,235 incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) reported to the police, which is a 4.3% decrease from 2013/14 (24,276 incidents).
- iii. In 2014/15 there were 311 hate incidents reported to Durham Constabulary, an increase of 10% from 282 in 2013/14. A breakdown of these incidents can be found below. A key objective within the Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan is to increase the reporting of hate crimes.

Type	Number
Race	179
Sexual orientation	29
Gender reassignment	25
Disability	25
Religion / belief	21
Gender	14
Alternative lifestyle	9
Age	8
Pregnancy	1

- iv. During 2014/15 there were 2,859 incidents of alcohol related ASB. This equates to 12.3% of total ASB reported to the police, a decrease of 2.9 percentage points from 2013/14. During this period there were 5,304 violent crimes reported to the police and of these 32.4% (1,717) were recorded as alcohol related. This is a 2.4 percentage point decrease from 2013/14.
- v. As of February 2015, there were 752 families identified through the Stronger Families Programme under the crime / ASB criteria, of which 429 (57%) met the results criteria. This is an increase of 89 families where a successful intervention for crime / ASB is achieved (of those allocated a lead professional) compared to the previous quarter and represents an 8.1 percentage point increase from 48.9% at October 2014.

10. An issue highlighted in previous reports has been that referral rates to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) have been low in County Durham when compared to other parts of the country. An independent report produced by CAADA (Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse), a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse reported that County Durham rates are considerably below CAADA recommended levels and the national average and made recommendations to identify repeat cases and refer cases back to the MARAC. In 2014/15, 433 victims of domestic violence presented to the MARAC of which 64 were repeats equating to 14.8%. This is an increase from 8.9% in the previous year but is lower than the levels identified by CAADA at 28-40% for a mature MARAC.

11. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:

- a. As reported in the Altogether Healthier theme, the number of people in alcohol treatment during 2014 was 1,239, of which 452 successfully completed. This equates to a 36.5% successful completion rate, which is a reduction from 37.6% during the same period of the previous year is below national performance of 39.5%.
- b. The number of people in treatment for opiate use between July 2013 and June 2014 was 1,441, of which 95 successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present between July and December 2014. This equates to a 6.6% successful completion rate, which is below the target of 7.9%, performance during the same period of the previous year of 7.4% and national performance of 7.7%.

The review of the Drug and Alcohol Service has been completed and the contract awarded to the new provider. The new service commenced in April 2015.

c. Tracker indicators show:

- i. During 2014/15 there were 25,644 crimes, a rate of 49.7 per 1,000 population. This has increased from 25,145 crimes in 2013/14 and equates to a 2% rise in overall crime. The investigation into physical and sexual abuse at Medomsley Detention Centre has had a major impact on the overall crime rate. Despite the increase in crime, the County Durham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area has the lowest level of crime per 1,000 population for the period April 2014 to February 2015 (45.4) when compared to its statistical neighbours average (60). When the Medomsley beat is excluded from the overall crime data, there were 24,930 offences in 2014/15, which was an increase of 1.5% from 24,550 in the previous year.
- ii. During 2014/15 there were 22,973 victim based crimes, which is a 2.7% increase (612 more victims of crime) when comparing to 2013/14 (22,361). Increases in victim based crimes can be attributed to significant rises in the following individual crime categories, all of which have an associated victim: violence against the person (+1,144 crimes), shoplifting (+493) and sexual offences (+54). As with the overall crime rate above, the investigation into physical and sexual abuse at Medomsley Detention Centre has had a major impact on the numbers. Despite this increase, Durham CSP area has the lowest rate of victim based crimes per 1,000 population for the period April 2014 to February 2015 (40.7) when compared to its statistical neighbours average (53.6).

iii. In 2014/15 there were 949 serious or major crimes, an increase of 13.7% when compared to 2013/14 (835 offences). As well as the historical investigation into Medomsley Detention Centre, improved recording of violent crime and sexual offending has also contributed to the increase in the number of serious crimes, whilst high profile cases in the media have led to individuals now having the confidence to report sexual offences.

d. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.

12. There are no key risks in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendations and Reasons

13. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the report and consider any performance issues arising there from.

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Appendix 1: Implications

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

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

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

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Corporate health PIs are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Accommodation - Not applicable

Crime and Disorder - A number of PIs and key actions relating to crime and disorder are continually monitored in partnership with Durham Constabulary.

Human Rights - Not applicable

Consultation - Not applicable

Procurement - Not applicable

Disability Issues - Employees with a disability are monitored as part of the performance monitoring process.

Legal Implications - Not applicable

Appendix 2: Key to symbols used within the report

Where icons appear in this report, they have been applied to the most recently available information.

Performance Indicators:

Direction of travel

Latest reported data have improved from comparable period



Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period



Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period



Performance against target

Performance better than target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:



Complete (Action achieved by deadline/achieved ahead of deadline)



Action on track to be achieved by the deadline



Action not achieved by the deadline/unlikely to be achieved by the deadline

Benchmarking:



Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



Performance in line with other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available



Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Table 1: Key Target Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Safer											
45	CASAS3	Proportion of people who use adult social care services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure	94.0	Apr 2014 - Feb 2015	85.0	GREEN	93.0	GREEN	79.1 GREEN	78.3* GREEN	2013/14
46	CASAS9	Building resilience to terrorism (self assessment)	4	2013/14	3	GREEN	3	GREEN			
47	CASAS1	Repeat incidents of domestic abuse (referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC))	14.8	2014/15	25.0	NA [1]	8.9	NA [1]	24.0 NA	28* NA	2014
48	CASAS4	Percentage reduction in detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort	45	Jan - Mar 2015	40	GREEN	65	RED			
49	CASAS5	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds) (Also in Altogether better for Children & Young People)	440	2014/15	707	GREEN	479	GREEN			

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Period target	Current performance to target	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
50	CASAS23	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Healthier)	36.5	2014	36.6	AMBER	37.6	RED	39.5 RED		Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
51	CASAS7	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	6.6	Jul 2013 – Jun 2014 (re-presentations to Dec 2014)	7.9	RED	7.4	RED	7.7 RED		Jul 2013 – Jun 2014
52	CASAS8	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	40.8	Jul 2013 – Jun 2014 (re-presentations to Dec 2014)	40.4	GREEN	36.6	GREEN	39.0 GREEN		Jul 2013 – Jun 2014

[1] [The MARAC arrangements aim to increase the number of referrals but to remain below a threshold of 25%](#)

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
Altogether Safer											
158	CASAS 12	Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population)	49.7	2014/15	37.9	Not comparable [3]	49.0	RED	71.0	60.01**	Apr 2014 - Feb 2015
159	CASAS 14	Number of serious or major crimes	949	2014/15	700	Not comparable [3]	835	RED			
160	CASA S 24	Rate of theft offences (per 1,000 population)	21.8	2014/15	16.8	Not comparable [3]	22.8	GREEN	16.2	27.48**	Apr 2014 - Feb 2015
161	CASAS 25	Rate of robberies (per 1,000 population)	0.17	2014/15	0.11	Not comparable [3]	0.13	RED	0.18	0.41**	Apr 2014 - Feb 2015
162	CASAS 15	Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	23,235	2014/15	18,484	Not comparable [3]	24,276	GREEN			
163	CASAS 13	Percentage of survey respondents perceiving a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area	31.9	Apr - Dec 2014	32.7	GREEN	35.3	Not comparable [4]			
164	CASAS 11	Percentage of survey respondents who agree that the police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti-social behaviour and crime	61.4	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014	62.1	RED	58.3	GREEN		59.4**	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
165	CASAS 10	Recorded level of victim based crimes	22,973	2014/15	17,530	Not comparable [3]	22,361	RED			
166	CASAS 17	Number of adult safeguarding referrals fully or partially substantiated	153	2014/15	111	NA	221	NA			
167	CASAS 22	Number of hate incidents	311	2014/15	236	NA	282	NA			
168	CASAH 21	Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population (Also in Altogether Healthier)	13.4	2011-13	11.3	RED	11.3	RED	8.8	10.6*	2011-13
169	REDPI44	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	181	2014	140	Not comparable [3]	201	GREEN			
		Number of fatalities	14			17					
		Number of seriously injured	167			123					
170	REDPI45	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	23	2014	18	Not comparable [3]	24	GREEN			
		Number of fatalities	0			0					
		Number of seriously injured	23			19					
171	CASAS 18	Proportion of all offenders (adults and	28.2	Jul 2012 – Jun 2013	27.3	RED	27.9	AMBER	26.2		Jul 2012 – Jun

Ref	PI ref	Description	Latest data	Period covered	Previous period data	Performance compared to previous period	Data 12 months earlier	Performance compared to 12 months earlier	National figure	*North East figure **Nearest statistical neighbour figure	Period covered
		young people) who re-offend in a 12-month period							RED		2013
172	CASAS 19	Percentage of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related	12.3	2014/15	13.0	GREEN	15.2	GREEN			
173	CASAS 20	Percentage of violent crime that is alcohol related	32.4	2014/15	31.4	RED	34.8	GREEN			
174	CASAS 21	Percentage of families where a successful intervention for crime/anti-social behaviour is achieved (Stronger Families Programme)	57.0	Apr 2012 - Feb 2015	48.9	GREEN	50.1	Not comparable [2]			

[\[2\] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable](#)

[\[3\] Data is cumulative so comparisons are not applicable](#)

[\[4\] Due to changes in the local police confidence survey the data are not comparable](#)

Appendix 4: Proposed 2015/16 Corporate Indicator set and 3 year targets

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service Grouping	Frequency	Performance		2014/15 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2013/14	2014/15 Q3		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Safer											
Tracker	CAS CYP29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (Also in Altogether better for CYP)	CAS	Quarterly	37.9 (11/12)	36.9 (Jan-Dec 12)					
Tracker	CAS AH21	Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population (Also in Altogether Healthier)	CAS	Annual Q3	11.3 (11/12)	13.4 (12/13)					8.8
Tracker	CAS AS12	Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population)	CAS	Quarterly	49	37.9					71
Tracker	CAS AS24	Rate of theft offences (per 1,000 population)	CAS	Quarterly	22.8	16.8					16.2
Tracker	CAS AS10	Recorded level of victim based crimes per 1,000 population	CAS	Quarterly	22,368	17,530					
Target	CAS AS9	Building resilience to terrorism (self assessment)	CAS	Annual Q4	Level 3 (12/13)	Level 4 (13/14)	Level 4	TBC following completion of 2014/15 self-assessment	TBC following completion of 2014/15 self-assessment	TBC following completion of 2014/15 self-assessment	
Tracker	CAS AS11	Percentage of survey respondents who agree that the police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti-social behaviour and crime	CAS	Quarterly	58.8	61.4 (Oct 13-Sep 14)					

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service Grouping	Frequency	Performance		2014/15 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2013/14	2014/15 Q3		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Target	CAS AS3	Proportion of people who use Adult Social Care Services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure	CAS	Quarterly	93 (local survey)	93.9 (local survey)	85	90	90	90	79.1
Tracker	CAS AS15	Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	CAS	Quarterly	24,276	18,484					
Target	CAS AS1	Repeat incidents of domestic violence (referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences [MARAC])	CAS	Quarterly	8.9	14.6	Less than 25	Less than 25	Less than 25	Less than 25	24 (Jul13 -Jun 14)
Target	REDPI98	% of emergency response Care Connect calls arrived at the property within 45 minutes	RED	Quarterly	98	99 (Q2 14/15)	90	90	90	90	
Tracker	CAS AS22	Number of hate incidents	CAS	Quarterly	282	236					
Target	CAS AS5	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 - 17 (per 100,000 population of 10-17 year olds) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	CAS	Quarterly	479	358 (438 @ Q4)	681 (310 FTEs)	638 (280 FTEs)	638 (280 FTEs)	Not set	
Tracker	CAS AS18	Proportion of all offenders (adults and young people) who re-offend in a 12-month period	CAS	Quarterly	28	26.7					26
Tracker	CAS AS19	Percentage of alcohol related ASB incidents	CAS	Quarterly	15.2	13					

Indicator Type	PI ref	PI Description	Service Grouping	Frequency	Performance		2014/15 Target	Proposed targets			National Comparison
					2013/14	2014/15 Q3		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	
Tracker	CAS AS20	Percentage of alcohol related violent crime	CAS	Quarterly	34.8	31.4					
Target	CAS AS23	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Healthier)	CAS	Quarterly	34.8	34.8 (Oct 13-Sep 14)	36.6	39.5	Not set	Not set	39.5
Target	CAS AS7	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	CAS	Quarterly	6.1	6.8 Apr 13-Mar 14 (re-presentations to Sep 14)	7.9	9.4	Not set	Not set	7.6 (Mar 13-Feb 14)
Target	CAS AS8	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	CAS	Quarterly	40.4	36.3 (Apr 13-Mar 14) (re-presentations to Sep 14)	40.4	41.7	Not set	Not set	40.6 (Mar 13-Feb 14)
Tracker	REDPI44	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	RED	Quarterly	201	140					
Tracker	REDPI45	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	RED	Quarterly	24	18					
Target	CAS CYP14	Percentage of successful interventions (families 'turned around') via the Stronger Families Programme (Also in Altogether better for Children and Young People)	CAS	Quarterly	51.2	70.6	70	12**	35**	65**	
								**Stage 2 of the Programme	**Stage 2 of the Programme	**Stage 2 of the Programme	

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



19 June 2015

**Review of the Committee's Work
Programme 2015-16**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide for Members consideration an updated work programme for the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2015 - 16.

Background

2. At its meeting on 23 March 2015, the Committee considered the actions identified within the Council Plan 2015 – 2018 for the Altogether Safer priority theme and agreed to refresh its work programme to include a number of these actions. In addition topics have also been identified that are inline the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Safe Durham Partnership Plan and strategies, performance and changes in Government legislation.

Detail

3. In accordance with this decision, a work programme for 2015 – 2016 has been prepared and attached in Appendix 2. It is to note that the work programme is flexible to enable additional items to be accommodated throughout the year.
4. In considering its work programme, Members are asked to identify a topic for review activity to be undertaken. At present, the Committee are currently concluding its work on organised crime and are also involved in projects on 20 mph limits and implementation of an integrated service for alcohol and substance misuse that focuses on recovery.
5. With regard to future review activity, a suggestion has been received to look at Novel Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs) with the aim to gain an understanding to their potential impact and current legislation.
6. Within this context, it is for Members to consider Novel Psychoactive Substances as a focussed area or suggest an alternative topic.
7. At its meeting in October 2014, Cllr Boyes, Chair of the Committee requested arrangements be made for the Committee to attend the Road Safety event 'Wisedrive' in September and the 'Safety Carousel' in November. Specific dates for these events are to be finalised and will be circulated to Members.

Recommendation

8. Members of the Committee are asked to:
- a) agree the work programme within Appendix 2
 - b) agree to undertake review activity on Novel Psychoactive Substances or identify an alternative topic area
 - c) note information relating to future Wisedrive and Safety Carousel sessions and once identified, dates are to be communicated with Members.

Background Papers

'Council Plan 2015-2018- Refresh of the Work Programme' – Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 23 March 2014

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – The Committee’s Work Programme is to provide challenge and contribute to the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan 2015 -2018.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015 - 2016

<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015 - 2016</p> <p>Safer and Stronger Communities OSC</p> <p>Lead Officer: Tom Gorman</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Officer: Jonathan Slee</p> <p>IPG contact: Peter Appleton</p>	<p>Note:</p> <p>O/S Review - A systematic 6 monthly review of progress against recommendations/Action Plan</p> <p>Scrutiny/Working Group – In depth Review</p> <p>Overview/progress – information on an issue; opportunity to comment, shape, influence, progress with a scrutiny review</p> <p>Performance – ongoing monitoring (quarterly) performance reports/budgets</p>
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	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
O/S Review						
Road Safety for Children & Young People	2013	September 2013		Paul Watson Graeme Greig	To follow up recommendations following the Committee's review.	Progress report received at September 2013 meeting. Activity superseded by Cabinet agreed report December 2014 that included 20mph policy revision and scrutiny working group established to provide comment on the revised policy and oversight on implementation of part-time 20mph limits at 33 schools within the County.

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Neighbourhood Wardens	2014	September 2014	September 2015	Ian Hoult	To follow up recommendations following the Committee's review.	Progress report received at Sept 14 SSC OSC meeting.
Scrutiny/Working Group						
Organised Crime	2014	November 2014		DCI Victoria Fuller – Durham Constabulary	The purpose of the review is to seek outcomes to contribute to further enhancing tackling organised crime within the county	Report scheduled for July Cabinet and progress update to be identified within Committee work programme
Drug Treatment Centres	2014	July 2014		Lyn Wilson	To provide scrutiny on implementation of an integrated service for alcohol and substance misuse within the County	Review Group met prior to procurement exercise commencing. New service provider in place from April 2015 and review group to meet with new service provider July 2015.
20 mph Limits	2015	April 2015		John Reed Anna Lynch Adrian White	The aim of the review is to provide non-executive elected member challenge and oversight to ensure effective delivery of the Cabinet recommendations and development of a revised policy statement	Review activity commenced and progress reports will be presented at each SSC OSC meeting.

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Overview/Progress						
County Durham Youth Offending Service – Youth Justice Plan		June 2015	June 2015	Gill Eshelby	To receive and consider information on activity to deliver the Youth Justice Plan.	<i>Identified within the Council Plan</i>
Safe Durham Partnership Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy		June 2015		Kirsty Wilkinson	Provide comment on the SDP Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy	
Novel Psychoactive Substances		June 2015		Lynn Wilson	To receive a report from Public Health regarding NPS	
Road Casualty Reduction Forum		September 2015		Dave Wafer	To receive information providing an overview of work undertaken and campaign for 2015/16	Identified within the Safe Durham Partnership plan and Council Plan. Requested following presentation to SSC OSC in September 2014.
ASB – Joint Partnership Team and ASB 2014 Act		September 2015		Ian Hoult	To receive a report on the Joint ASB Partnership Team and progress update on implementation of ASB powers following Members seminar in December 2014.	Identified within Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Water Safety Review for Durham City Safety Group		September 2015		Terry Collins	To receive information on activity of the working group and proposed actions following publication of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents' report in April 2015.	
Reducing number of Secondary deliberate fires		October 2015		County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service	To receive and provide comment on ASB partnership approach to reducing the number of secondary deliberate fires in the run up to Bonfire night	Identified within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan
Checkpoint		October 2015			To receive information on implementation of the Checkpoint project that aims to provide a credible alternative to criminal justice sanctions.	
Mental Health Strategy		October 2015		Lynn Wilson	To receive information on implementation of the County Durham Mental Health Strategy and approaches to suicide prevention.	Requested by the Committee at its meeting in March 2015.

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Crisis Care Concordat		October 2015			To receive information on the local delivery of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a national agreement between services and agencies involved in the care and support of people in crisis.	
Transforming rehabilitation – National Probation Service		January 2016		National Probation Service	Progress report on implementation of the NPS and delivery of probation services within the County	Requested following presentation to September 2014 SSC OSC meeting
SDP Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Plan		January 2016		Lyn Wilson	Report providing update on actions within the Plan	Key area within Council and Safe Durham Partnership Plans. Requested by Committee following report to January 2015 meeting
Multi-Agency Interventions Project		January 2016		Ian Hoult	To receive a progress report on implementation of the revised MAPs process	Committee requested following report to January 2015 meeting
Transforming rehabilitation – Community Rehabilitation Company		February 2016		Hazel Willoughby	Progress report on implementation of the CRC and delivery of probation services within the County	Requested following October 2015 OSC meeting

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan		February 2016	Ongoing	Peter Appleton	To receive and comment on the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan and findings from the Strategic Assessment	Key strategic document, Committee provided commented throughout development of the Safe Durham Partnership plan.
Reducing Re-offending strategy		February 2016		Re-offending lead	To receive a report on a refresh of the reducing re-offending strategy and activity of the thematic group.	Identified as a key area within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan
Consumer Protection – enforcement activity		February 2016		Owen Cleugh	Progress report on intelligence led enforcement activity in relation to reduce door step crime, rogue traders and supply of illicit, counterfeit and age restricted products	
Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015		March 2016		Lead Officer from CONTEST Group	Report on implementation of the Act	<i>Identified within Safe Durham Partnership Plan and requested following report to SSC OSC Meeting in March 2015.</i>
County Durham & Darlington Fire Service – Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)		TBC		Stuart Errington	Provide comment to the Fire Service’s IRMP consultation.	

	Date of O/S Review	Start Date	End Date	Who	Outcome	Comment
Performance						
Performance 2014/15 Quarter 4		June 2015		Peter Appleton	Members are to consider quarterly reports detailing performance against indicators within the Council's Altogether Safer theme. Members may wish to comment both on areas of good performance and areas that are below target.	The report is to also provide an opportunity to identify topics within the Committee's work programme and have been key factors to undertake review activity.
Performance 2015/16 Quarter 1		September 2015				
Quarter 2		January 2016				
Quarter 3		April 16				
Quarter 4		TBC				

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19th June 2015



Organised Crime

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee review report on Organised Crime attached at appendix 2.

Background

2. Members of the committee agreed to undertake a review on organised crime looking at how the police and partners on the Safe Durham Partnership work together tackle this. As a focus of the review, the committee looked at the effectiveness of partnership working and community engagement and the role community intelligence plays in tackling organised crime. The committee also looked at the risk to the council of fraud and organised crime. Finally, members considered a case study looking at how partners worked together to tackle organised crime groups operating illegal waste sites in County Durham and what lessons could be learned from this work.

Conclusions

3. The review has gathered a wide range of evidence and through presentations, video footage and approaches to raise awareness of organised crime with communities. The report concludes with a number of recommendations for consideration by the Council's Cabinet and the Safe Durham Partnership.
4. The report concludes that there are strong partnership arrangements in place to tackle organised crime and that the work led by Durham Constabulary is considered to be leading work nationally. The committee noted that Government issued guidance at the time of the review on how the police together with its partners should develop profiles on the threat of serious and organised crime in their localities. These profiles will help build on the good work that has been introduced in Durham.
5. Communities can provide valuable intelligence to the police and partners to help fight serious and organised crime. Education and awareness is a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. The report concludes that work in helping partner agencies and communities to recognise serious and organised crime and encourage them to report it remains a critical area in fighting the threat and that they would like to be kept apprised of the work being done in this area.

6. The work of the police, the council, Environment Agency and other agencies working together to tackle organised crime groups operating illegal waste sites in County Durham was the focus of a case study. The committee heard how a Joint Memorandum of Understanding had been developed between the council and the Environment Agency for cases where waste processing businesses are being used as a front for criminal activity. Whilst legal action may be being pursued, members recognise that residents may become frustrated with the lack of any visible progress regarding dealing with unsightly illegal waste sites in their neighbourhood. The committee would like to be updated on work being done in partnership in this area and what further action can be done to engage with communities when dealing with illegal sites.
7. Local government can be the target of organised crime groups. The committee looked at the risk of fraud to the council. Public sector organisations can legitimately share data to help disrupt organised crime and protect the public purse. The committee heard that Durham County Council is taking part in one of only a small number of pilots nationally looking at data sharing and procurement contracts. Following conclusion of this exercise the committee would like to hear if there are any lessons learned from this innovative work.
8. Finally it was felt that both members and officers of the council could benefit from further training in being able to recognise organised crime particularly those officers in the front line who work within communities.

Service Response

9. The Internal Audit, Risk and Fraud Team welcome the report of the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee into Organised Crime. It has highlighted the risk of organised crime to Durham and to the County Council. The report has allowed the service to demonstrate the work it is doing and what it has planned over the coming months in order to protect the Council and its residents from the potential of fraud, be that from organised criminals or others. It has also highlighted the importance of partnership and joined up working with a variety of stakeholders in order to build an intelligence picture across the County. The service supports the recommendation made and will continue to work to deliver the recommendations identified.

Recommendation

10. The Committee are asked to agree the draft report in Appendix 2 and that it be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – The report includes information on the potential risk of fraud through organised crime on Durham County Council

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – The report includes information that aims to contribute to reducing Crime and Disorder within the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – The report makes reference to the risk of fraud to procurement.

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None.

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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Review of Organised Crime

DRAFT

2015

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Please ask us if you would like this document summarised in another language or format.

العربية (Arabic) (中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese) اردو (Urdu)
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 বাংলা (Bengali) हिन्दी (Hindi) Deutsch (German)
 Français (French) Türkçe (Turkish) Melayu (Malay)



Braille



Audio



Large Print

Chair's Foreword

Organised crime is a real threat that can have a detrimental and devastating effect upon people, communities, business and organisations within the County.

It is therefore important that we are alert to this risk and that law enforcement agencies are prepared with effective processes to pursue organised crime groups and help prevent and protect us all from organised crime.



Organised crime involves a range of offences including supplying drugs, money laundering, cybercrime and fraud. The committee has considered evidence on the partnership approach led by Durham Constabulary to tackle organised crime. The importance of community intelligence and tackling illegal waste was examined. Finally, the risk of fraud to the council was also considered.

This topic is of significant interest to members. The review has heard a range of evidence including presentations and video footage and looked at awareness raising approaches in our communities. The report concludes with a number of recommendations for consideration by the Council's Cabinet and the Safe Durham Partnership.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the committee and representatives from Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council, The National Crime Agency and the Environment Agency for their valuable time in giving evidence and supporting the work of the review.

Councillor Dr David Boyes
Chairman
Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Executive Summary

1. At its meeting in April 2014, the Committee received information from Durham Constabulary on the approach to tackling organised crime within the County and work undertaken by a Safe Durham Partnership task and finish group. The presentation highlighted the range of criminal activity, economic impact of organised crime groups and positive partnership action that had taken place. Within the previous 12 months there had been a minimum of £560,000 worth of drugs seized, £332,000 in cash detained (which does not include confiscation orders made of criminal benefit) and at least 70 arrests.
2. In considering its work programme, the Committee requested to undertake review activity looking at organised crime. In developing the scope, discussions with Durham Constabulary identified illegal waste sites and their links to organised crime to be included within the Committee's work. In addition the review looked at the potential risk of organised crime to the council.
3. The review sought evidence in relation to the objectives of 'Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare' within the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy and how this is being met locally. Evidence was also gathered on the approach between Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and the Environment Agency regarding raising awareness of the impact of organised crime in relation to illegal waste sites. Information has been gathered on community confidence, innovative use of Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and the Proceeds of Crime Act. The Government's strategy also aims to reduce the vulnerability and protect local government from serious and organised crime.

Purpose of the Review

4. The purpose of the review is to help deliver further improvements in tackling organised crime within the county through:
 - promoting the wider elements of tackling organised crime and the partnership approach
 - further improving confidence and reassurance within communities to report activity;
 - identifying and removing illegal waste sites which could be linked to organised crime; and
 - looking at the potential risk of organised crime impacting on the Council.

Methodology

5. The review group members:
 - Considered crime and confidence data within areas affected by organised crime, the range of activity across the county, partnership approaches through the Disruption and Intervention Panel and its impact on communities and businesses.

- Gained an understanding and commented upon delivery of the Government's strategy within County Durham through partnership working and linked into the work of the National Crime Agency.
 - Gathered evidence on the impact of organised crime within County Durham and existing approaches to engage and raise awareness with communities and businesses to report suspected organised crime through Neighbourhood Policing, PACT meetings, social media and use of the Proceeds of Crime Act.
 - Received evidence on a case study example of tackling an organised crime group operating an illegal waste site and considered current partnership arrangements, powers and responsibilities to take action on illegal waste sites.
 - Raised awareness of the potential threat of organised crime through fraud in the Council and looked at the approaches to identify and reduce this risk.
6. Members held four Review Group Meetings that received evidence from:
- DCI Victoria Fuller, Durham Constabulary
 - Sgt Stoyan Barrett, Durham Constabulary
 - Stewart McLeod, National Crime Agency
 - Dave Edwardson, Environment Agency
 - Neil Laws, Durham County Council
 - Paul Bradley, Durham County Council

Conclusions and Recommendations

7. The committee concludes that there are strong partnership arrangements in place to tackle organised crime and that the work led by Durham Constabulary is considered to be leading work nationally. The committee noted that Government issued guidance at the time of the review on how the police together with its partners should develop profiles on the threat of serious and organised crime in their localities. These profiles will help build on the good work that is already in place in Durham.
8. Communities can provide valuable intelligence to the police and partners to help fight serious and organised crime. Education and awareness is a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. The committee heard of some innovative work that has been done in this area. It was noted helping partner agencies and communities to recognise serious and organised crime and encourage them to report it remains a critical area in fighting the threat and that the committee would like to be kept apprised of the work being done in this area.
9. The work of the police, the council, Environment Agency and other agencies working together to tackle organised crime groups operating illegal waste sites in County Durham was the focus of a case study. The committee heard how a Joint Memorandum of Understanding had been developed between the

council and the Environment Agency for cases where waste processing businesses are being used as a front for criminal activity. Whilst legal action may be being pursued, members recognise that residents may become frustrated with the lack of any visible progress regarding dealing with unsightly illegal waste sites in their neighbourhood. The committee would like to be updated on work being done in partnership in this area and what further action can be done to engage with communities when dealing with illegal sites.

10. Local government can be the target of organised crime groups. The committee looked at the risk of fraud to the council. Public sector organisations can legitimately share data to help disrupt organised crime and protect the public purse. The committee heard that Durham County Council is taking part in one of only a small number of pilots nationally looking at data sharing and procurement contracts. Following conclusion of this exercise the committee would like to hear if there are any lessons learned from this innovative work.
11. Finally it was felt that both members and officers of the council could benefit from further training in being able to recognise organised crime particularly those officers in the front line who work within communities.
12. It is therefore recommended that:
 - 1) Cabinet note the work of the Council and partners in contributing to partnership activity to tackle organised crime through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.
 - 2) Relevant organisations on the Safe Durham Partnership comply with all information and actions required to develop and deliver the Local Profiles Document. In addition, the Committee request that a progress report on the Local Profiles document is presented to a future meeting.
 - 3) The Safe Durham Partnership continues work to raise awareness with partner agencies and communities to be alert and be confident to report activity that could be linked to organised crime.
 - 4) Activity through the Memorandum of Understanding the council work with the Environment Agency to take prompt action when illegal waste sites are identified.
 - 5) Cabinet note the potential risk of organised crime through fraud and that following conclusion of the Home Office project look to seek if learning from this work can be implemented more widely.
 - 6) Enhance training and awareness raising in relation to organised crime through:
 - an awareness session on Organised Crime for Elected Members

- Integrating organised crime information within the Council's fraud awareness training, including consideration of developing on-line training information.

Background

13. Serious and organised crime is not just a threat, it is a daily reality that can impact everyone and costs the overall economy at least £24 billion each year. Nationally law enforcement agencies estimate that there are around 5,500 active organised crime groups operating in the UK, comprising about 37,000 people.
14. Organised crime groups are responsible for the trafficking of drugs, people and firearms, organised illegal immigration, large-scale and high-volume fraud and other financial crimes, counterfeit goods (including medicines), organised acquisitive crime, child sexual exploitation and cybercrime. In undertaking activities, organised crime groups will often function through a structured hierarchical model similar to that of a business or organisation. There is no legal definition of organised crime in England and Wales. The Government's Strategy identifies organised crime as *'serious crime planned, coordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain'*.
15. Organised crime is an important subject which is clearly reflected within the video by the National Crime Agency's Director of Intelligence, Gordon Meldrum QPM which was shown to the review group. This illustrates that a wide range of public sector workers need to work together collectively as "it takes a network to defeat a network". In addition, Mr Meldrum highlights the importance of community intelligence and the use of law enforcement agencies using the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 as a tool to target the power and profit of organised crime groups who can view custodial sentences as an occupational hazard. In conclusion, the video instilled a clear message to encourage greater emphasis from law enforcement agencies and communities to "prevent bad people from doing bad things to good people".
16. This report outlines the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy and the legislation that has been introduced specifically to target organised crime groups, some of which Durham Constabulary have been at the forefront of applying. Some of these new laws have led to the creation of the National Crime Agency, an officer from which gave evidence to the committee as part of this review.
17. The report then looks at the local context and how the national framework is applied in Durham, the leading work done in partnership and how this can be built upon through the development of local profiling and raising awareness among members, staff and residents of organised crime. The threat that organised crime poses to the council as an organisation is also examined as part of our deliberations.

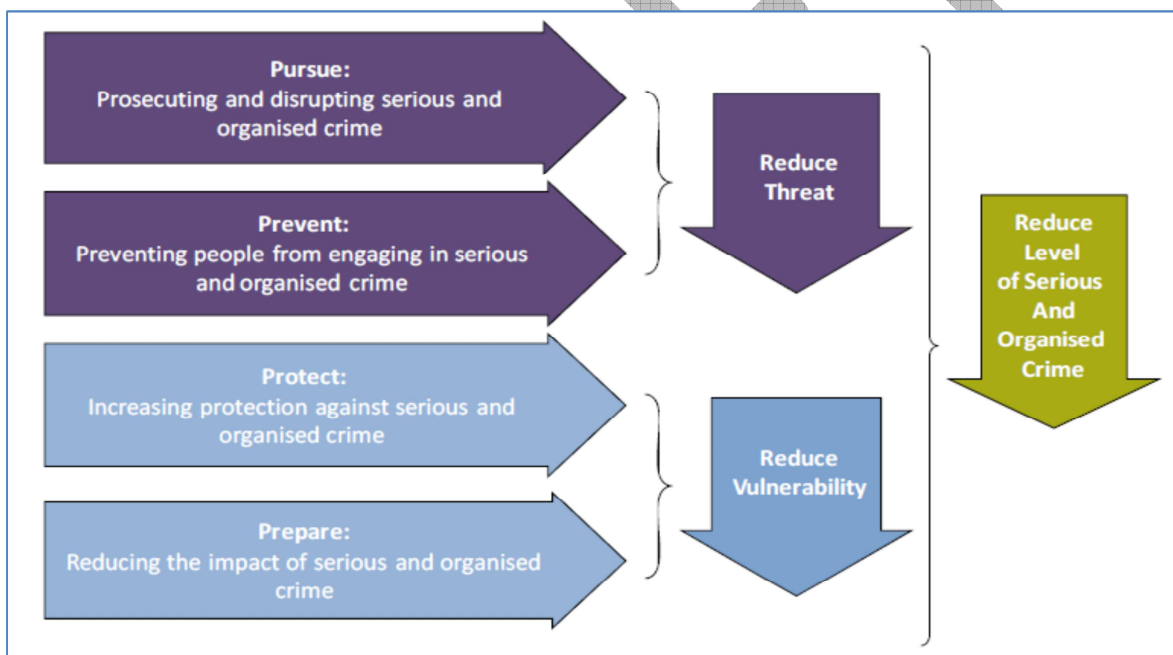
18. Finally, it concludes with some recommendations for improvement to Cabinet and the Safe Durham Partnership.

National Context

19. The key national drivers are:
- the Government's Organised Crime Strategy;
 - National Crime Agency;
 - Legislation (Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Serious Crime Act 2015 and lifetime management of offenders).

The Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy

20. The Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy was launched in October 2013 with the aim to substantially reduce the level of organised crime affecting the UK and its interests. The strategy follows the four objectives within the Counter Terrorism Strategy that are Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare and illustrated with the following chart:



(UK serious and Organised Crime Strategy, Home Office, 2013)

21. Appendix 1 to the report includes a table outlining the measures of success and objectives to be delivered from the main objectives of the Government's strategy. The immediate priority within the Strategy is under the objective of 'Pursue' and 'to prosecute and relentlessly disrupt serious and organised criminals and reduce the threat they pose'. Delivery of the strategy requires a response from the whole of government, partnership working with many agencies and close collaboration with the public.
22. The Home Office has overall responsibility for co-ordinating implementation of the strategy and are developing a national performance framework and

annually publish a report on delivery of the strategy. Locally the strategy requires Police and Crime Commissioners to scrutinise the performance of police forces regarding serious and organised crime and also the support provided to police forces by the local authority.

National Crime Agency

23. Coinciding with the publication of the Government's strategy was the high profile launch of the National Crime Agency (NCA). With 4,000 officers who have specialist capabilities, the overall aim of the NCA is to lead the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime within the four main objectives of the strategy and provide specialist support to UK operational partners.
24. The NCA publish an annual report and strategic assessment that identifies their achievements, priority areas and key national risks. In terms of activity their October 2014 newsletter reports that the NCA has been involved in over 2,000 arrests and 400 convictions in the UK, over 1,000 arrests overseas and seized 213 tonnes of drugs.
25. Delivery of their activities requires close working with partner agencies. The NCA's partnerships go beyond law enforcement and include work with private industry, local and national government and other public sector organisations, the charity and voluntary sectors, think tanks and academia.
26. The NCA have adopted a number of tactics to communicate specific messages to a variety of target audiences with the intention of achieving a focussed outcome in support of the agency's mission to lead the UK's fight to cut serious and organised crime. In collaboration with partners campaigns have been developed to:
 - increase awareness of existing and emerging threats, providing advice and specialist resources to help the public and industry avoid, or mitigate the impact of the threat;
 - deter criminals and would-be criminals; preventing them from engaging in criminal activity by demonstrating our effectiveness at fighting serious and organised crime and promoting consequences of their actions;
 - engage the public, organisations and partners; sharing intelligence and encouraging reporting of suspicious activity or individuals. Further information regarding the NCA can be accessed from their website www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk
27. Whilst a national organisation, the NCA has four regional units including one located within the North East of England. An overview of activity from national and regional perspectives was provided by the NCA's Stuart McLeod at a working group meeting and reference was made to successful joint operations with Durham Constabulary

Legislation

28. Money is at the heart of all organised crime and the lifestyle and status it brings is the main motivation for most criminals. The Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) 2002 provides legislation to tackle organised crime, enabling officers to have the power to seize cash and recover assets such as cars and houses bought by criminals through the proceeds of their crimes.
29. The money recovered and made through the sale of the criminal's assets can then be put back into community projects and provide funding for further investigations, whilst showing the public that crime does not pay. By way of context, nationally, £190 million was recovered through POCA during 2013/14.
30. The Serious Crime Act 2015 received Royal Assent in February 2015. The principal objective of the Act is to ensure that law enforcement agencies have effective legal powers to deal with the threat from serious and organised crime and contributes to objectives within the Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. The Act has six parts but linked to the Committee's work, Part 1 makes further provision in respect of strengthening powers for the recovery of property derived from the proceeds of crime and Part 3 provides for a new offence of participating in the activities of an organised crime group and strengthens the arrangements for protecting the public from serious crime and gang-related activity.

Lifetime Management

31. Lifetime Management of offenders provides a responsibility for law enforcement agencies to manage a number of high-priority and significant serious and organised criminals. These criminals have been convicted of serious offences, and law enforcement have secured additional restrictions on them at court to prevent them from re-offending. Key powers used include:
 - **Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs)** are civil orders to prevent or deter serious crime and include restrictions on communications devices, conducting specific types of business, bank accounts, associating with criminal associates and geographic restrictions.
 - **A Travel Restriction Order (TRO)** can be imposed on any offender convicted of a drug trafficking offence and sentenced to four years or more in prison, regardless of nationality.
 - **Financial Reporting Orders (FROs)** may be made by a court, on the application of a prosecutor, following a conviction for certain offences. They require a convicted criminal to report their financial details at regular intervals.
 - The imposition of **licence conditions** can also deter and frustrate offenders from committing further offences.
32. A wide range of investigative and intelligence techniques are used to monitor compliance with these restrictions. In particular, working closely with partners

including local authorities to exchange information to identify and reduce offenders' opportunities for returning to criminal activity. Durham Constabulary were the first force nationally to successfully gain a lifetime management order for a member of an organised crime group

Local Context and Partnership Approach

33. An objective of the working group was to gather and consider evidence on the approach and activity to tackle and disrupt organised crime by the Police and partners within the County.

34. Key Conclusions

- **There is a strong and effective partnership approach through the Disruption and Intervention Panel and utilising the Sledgehammer branding to disrupt organised crime activity within County Durham.**
- **The Council has a valuable role in contributing to the work of the Disruption and Intervention Panel**
- **The development of a Local Profile document requires all available information to be shared and partners are utilised to tackle organised crime**

35. Reducing the threat and harm from serious and organised crime is something Durham Constabulary acknowledge within their core deliverables set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The Chief Constable has publicly spoken on many occasions about his commitment and desire to relentlessly tackle organised crime groups within the force area. The Force has an ongoing campaign known as Sledgehammer with the clear aim to disrupt, dismantle and destroy organised crime groups and slogan 'hitting organised crime where it hurts'.



36. The types of activity linked to organised crime in County Durham are generally classed as 'volume crime' and while drugs and illegal alcohol and tobacco did form part of the spectrum, it is not the only aspect. It is noted that in many cases there were links from one type of activity to another, with links from drugs to firearms to exploitation and from illegal waste dumping to bypassing electricity and gas meters to avoid bills. This activity can impact on communities in respect of societal harms, harm to individuals and businesses. This also has a wider impact on public services, through increased burden on the public purse through greater demands placed on the Council, police, fire and health service and to the Government through loss of tax to the Treasury and locally, which can all impact on the economy.

37. Durham Constabulary were one of the first forces nationally who have 100% management of organised crime groups within their area and have identified over 35 Organised Crime Groups suspected to be operating within the force area. Each group has an assigned Financial Investigator and an identified lead officer as the plan owner.
38. Activities are coordinated by the relevant plan owner liaising with the relevant officers within Durham Constabulary, the NCA and partners including the council in relation to intelligence gathering activities. Tackling organised crime can be resource intensive, however partnership working and appropriate plan management ensures that every organised crime group receives the appropriate level of attention in County Durham. A case study of tackling an organised crime group is provided later in this report.
39. Community intelligence and partnership working is vital and has successfully led to the arrests, seizure of money and vehicles. In April 2014, a report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee highlighted that in the previous 12 months there had been a minimum of £560,000 worth of drugs seized, £332,000 in cash detained (which does not include confiscation orders made of criminal benefit) and there have been at least 70 arrests. In addition through the Proceeds of Crime Act, in the region of £4,000 has been given to community initiatives.
40. In addition, following operational activity or raids, proactive media releases have also been undertaken through the Sledgehammer branding to demonstrate the approach in hitting Organised Crime Groups where it hurts and to provide reassurance and confidence that the police were tackling issues of organised crime.
41. In line with the 'Pursue' element of the Government's Strategy, the force together with a wide range of partner agencies including Durham County Council, Darlington Borough Council, the Environment Agency, RSPCA, VOSA and County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service have an established Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel. This is chaired by Durham Constabulary and working under the Sledgehammer brand. The aim of the group is to collectively utilise powers from each partner agency, gather intelligence and carry out activity in support of the 4Ps towards suspected organised crime groups. Members also note that Durham Constabulary has been invited to share its approach and practices with other police forces.
42. Tackling organised crime is led by Durham Constabulary but the Council's Environmental Health and Consumer Protection, Corporate Fraud, and Planning Service provide a valuable contribution to the work of the Disruption and Intervention Panel.

Local Area Profiles

43. In November 2014, the Government published a document 'Serious and Organised Crime Local Profiles: A Guide'. The document outlines principles for a consistent approach to fighting serious and organised crime nationally. Within this context, the purpose of the document is to identify the threat from serious and organised crime within a specific local area.
44. The document highlights that police forces will continue to conduct most law enforcement work on serious and organised crime and that they should be supported by a local, multi-agency partnership, including representatives from local authorities, education, health and social care, and immigration enforcement. The aim is to ensure that all available information and powers are brought to bear locally against serious and organised crime.
45. The objectives of the local area profiles are to:
- develop a common understanding among local partners of the threats, vulnerabilities and risks relating to serious and organised crime;
 - provide information on which to base local programmes and action plans;
 - support the mainstreaming of serious and organised crime activity into day-to-day policing, local government and partnership work; and
 - allow a targeted and proportionate use of resources.
46. The Government has set out a four stage process for the development of Local Profiles commissioning; production; sharing; and delivery. At the time of preparing this report, Durham Constabulary is developing its Local Profile and will build upon positive partnership working that has been established through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.

Recommendation 1

Cabinet note the work of the Council and partners in contributing to partnership activity to tackle organised crime through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.

Recommendation 2

Relevant organisations on the Safe Durham Partnership comply with all information and actions required to develop and deliver the Local Profiles Document. In addition, the Committee request that a progress report on the Local Profiles document is presented to a future meeting

Community Intelligence & Engagement

47. The review group has gathered evidence to assess the effectiveness of current approaches to engage and raise awareness of organised crime.

48. Key Conclusions

- **It is difficult to measure the effect on community confidence of tackling organised crime.**
- **There is a role for elected members in tackling organised crime through providing local intelligence.**
- **Positive engagement through education with communities and high confidence with police can deter people from involvement in organised crime, challenge attitudes and increase reporting of suspected activity.**
- **Innovative approaches to raise awareness of organised crime take place through PACT meetings, POCA funding and Media reports**
- **Neighbourhood Policing Teams provide links to communities and Elected Members**
- **Information can be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers**
- **Community intelligence has contributed to successful activity to tackle organised crime across the County.**

49. The Committee's review sought to identify the impact of tackling organised crime on crime reduction and community confidence levels. Whilst measures including the number and length of convictions, high profile seizures of illegal drugs, the seizure of properties, vehicles and jewellery can be recorded, it is difficult to measure the impact on crime and confidence levels purely on these results. It is also noted that many activities undertaken by organised crime groups will have been unreported and communities may have been unaware. However, Members were unanimous in the view that the approach that was being taken to disrupting activities of organised crime groups can achieve a positive impact within communities.

50. Home Office guidelines on the development of Local Profiles identifies the role of elected members and how they can contribute to tackling organised crime through local intelligence, ensuring that effective partnerships are established and maintained and through communication of appropriate information.

51. Organised Crime can be corrosive to a community, become an accepted feature of the environment and in some areas criminals become local role models. They may operate through fear and intimidation and believe they are untouchable. These behaviours can also lure young people and other

members of the community into criminality as they may not recognise the risks or consequences of criminal activities.

52. Communities or individuals may have suspicion or knowledge of activity relating to organised crime before it is known to law enforcement agencies. It is therefore imperative that they have the confidence to report information and this is emphasised within the PREVENT element of the Government's Strategy which includes objectives to:
 - *'Deter people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime by raising awareness of the reality and consequences'*.
 - *'Provide communities, victims and witnesses affected by serious and organised crime with effective criminal justice and other support'*.
53. Working with communities through education and communication programmes can deter people from getting involved in organised crime, challenge attitudes to organised crime and encourage communities to report organised crime and support law enforcement work against it. It is within this context the strategy identifies the need for disruption but for this to happen, public confidence with the police is vital and that Neighbourhood Policing Teams have an important part to play through building trusted relationships, gathering community intelligence and resolving community concerns.
54. Evidence from research within the Government strategy has shown that when people are helped to recognise organised crime and the serious harm it causes, they are more likely to report it. The Strategy reports on a Home Office-funded Crimestoppers campaign to raise awareness of the role of organised crime and cannabis cultivation which led to a 25% increase in public reporting and directly to arrests and seizures of drugs and plants
55. Locally, the Safe Durham Partnership Plan identifies that "education and awareness continues to be a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership in helping people recognise serious and organise crime and encouraging them to report it". Durham Constabulary and partners have actively engaged with communities relating to organised crime and currently has high confidence and victim satisfaction levels. Neighbourhood Police Teams provide effective communication of all areas of policing with local communities and links to elected members. The Force holds regular PACT meetings across the county which provides a platform for communication on matters of concern within that locality.
56. In 2014, the Chief Constable, Mr Barton attracted positive media attention through attending a PACT meeting to raise awareness of organised crime through the use of the 'Guess Who' board game. The purpose of this approach is to highlight the message that there was no stereotypical organised crime group member and that people of all ages, ethnicities and social backgrounds could be involved in organised crime.

57. The game also illustrates that people could be living next to a member of an organised crime group and that there were various types of activities that they undertook and if the public had information they could bring this forward to the police. A further element to this approach was to name and shame those involved in organised crime, with an example given where organised crime group members' names were given to the public in that area and their activities were listed, including: theft; cruelty to animals; drug dealing; and violence to highlight the impact they were having within that community. Subsequently and positively reported within the media was the arrest of an individual identified within the PACT meeting and seizure of assets, highlighting the effect to undermine the status of those involved in organised crime groups.
58. A separate example provided related to an elderly gentleman who had been storing a large quantity of drugs for another individual and demonstrated that it was not the stereotypical view of an offender involved in drugs. This example also illustrated that this person may have also been a victim in the context of not fully understanding the risks and consequences of his actions.
59. A presentation to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on consumer protection enforcement also demonstrated the vital importance and value of community intelligence in tackling tobacco houses. This intelligence has contributed in a number of joint operations between the Council's Trading Standards Team and Durham Constabulary resulting in the seizure of over 39,000 illegal cigarettes and more than 40 kilograms of hand rolled tobacco between the period 1 April 2014 – 31st January 2015. Undertaking this work provided further information on the wider activity of organised crime groups.
60. Understandably people may feel vulnerable in reporting information relating to organised crime directly to the police and law enforcement agencies and at no point would authorities ask people to put themselves in any risk of danger to gather intelligence. Information provided to police is handled carefully and the recorded source of the information is protected. Communities can have confidence to report information anonymously through the crime fighting charity Crimestoppers through which the police do not receive personal details which could be used to identify the person reporting information.
61. Within County Durham, Crimestoppers is actively promoted by the police and partners to raise awareness and encourage reporting of a wide range of criminal activity. Relating to organised crime, specific campaigns have been undertaken relating to cannabis farms and loan sharks. These have included 'scratch and sniff' cards being circulated to communities and PACT meetings to raise awareness of the smell of cannabis and how to report to it. In addition, working with Crimestoppers a campaign called VIPA (violence, intimidation, persuasion and aggression) was undertaken in specific areas to provide information on how to anonymously report organised gangs who may use violence and intimidation as a method of operating. In addition, Neighbourhood Police Teams are in regular communication with communities raising awareness of local issues of concern with the extensive

neighbourhood watch scheme that covers over 55,000 properties across the County.

62. Durham Constabulary and partner agencies using funding from Durham Agency against Crime and in some areas support from the Council's Area Action Partnerships, have also established Junior Neighbourhood Watch schemes within primary schools across the County. This is an exciting and positive approach to actively engage with primary school children to help them understand that crime prevention plays an important part in protecting them, their families, property and the area they live in.
63. Young people can be at risk of being lured into organised crime without knowledge of the risks or consequences and appropriate messages relating to organised crime are to be incorporated into the Junior Neighbourhood Watch programme.
64. Seizures through the Proceeds of Crime Act are highlighted to the public through media articles, press releases and social media to inform communities and the public of action taken to tackle organised crime through the Sledgehammer brand. Money seized from criminals operating in the Durham Constabulary force area was used to fund the purchase of new strips bearing the Sledgehammer logo for several children's football teams at Shotton Colliery. The aim of this approach is to engage with young people for them to see the work to tackle organised crime in the community in a positive light and demonstrate that those involved in organised crime groups are not to be admired and their lifestyles are not to be aspired to. This approach received TV coverage across the region and in addition to positive feedback from parents and coaches at the football club, over 100 children are now aware of Sledgehammer.

Recommendation 3

The Safe Durham Partnership continues work to raise awareness with partner agencies and communities to be alert and be confident to report activity that could be linked to organised crime.

Illegal Waste Sites

65. Durham Police identified illegal waste sites and their links to organised crime as areas to include within the review. Evidence has been gathered to assess current responsibilities and a case study example of partnership activity to tackle an illegal waste site linked to organised crime was considered.

66. Key Conclusions

- **Illegal Waste Sites can impact on people, communities, the environment and businesses and a case study highlighted how an organised crime group used waste to generate income**
- **Legislation to take enforcement action can be time consuming and lead to frustrations for communities**
- **Partnership Memorandum of Understanding in place to address illegal waste sites and provide intelligence on suspected organised crime to the Disruption and Intervention Panel .**
- **Case Study identified positive partnership approach to take effective action to remove and clear illegal waste sites at no cost to public purse**

Impact of Illegal Waste Sites

67. The Environment Agency defines waste sites as being illegal if they do not have a permit or do not meet other legal requirements i.e. waste exemption or planning permission. Waste crime has a detrimental impact on people and the environment. It can blight communities and causes pollution. People who handle waste illegally, do not invest in appropriate safeguards, can dispose of waste more cheaply and undercut legitimate waste contractors. Within its report 'The Economic Impact of Illegal Waste', published in December 2012, The Environment Agency estimates that waste crime diverts as much as £1 billion per annum from legitimate business and HM Treasury.
68. In terms of scale, it is estimated that between April 2012 and March 2013, nationally the Environment Agency stopped 1,300 illegal waste sites by closing them down or in some cases by bringing them into regulation. This topic was the focus of a BBC Inside Out programme in September 2014 that highlighted the devastating impact that this can cause upon communities and businesses within the County.
69. There are many victims of waste crimes and these include home owners, businesses, police and fire services and local authorities. Examples presented to the review group included an incident near to the east coast mainline where if a fire was to occur, notwithstanding the environmental impact and resource implications for agencies, would also result in financial penalties to the rail provider, affect rail passengers and have a significant disruptive impact on the national rail network.

Responsibilities

70. The Environment Agency have responsibility for tackling waste crime in relation to illegal waste sites, illegal export of waste, mis-description of waste

and high risk sites. There are currently 32 high risk sites within the region of which at the time of this report none were in County Durham. The Environment Agency also has responsibility for issuing of waste carrier licenses and permits to operate sites and that upon conviction for certain offences, these can be revoked.

71. In summary, powers to take enforcement action are through:
- ***The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010*** for either breaching the requirements of an environmental permit or for an activity where no permit is in place.
 - ***The Environmental Protection Act 1990*** for offences where no permit would be granted eg fly-tipping offences, keeping or treating waste eg burning of waste. There is also an offence under this legislation of being the controller of a vehicle used for waste offences, as well as various Duty of Care offences to ensure waste is managed properly and only transferred to properly authorised people. The Control of Pollution (Amendment) Act 1989 which is the legal requirement for carriers of waste to be registered with the Environment Agency stems from this.
 - ***Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005*** which are the legal requirements for managing hazardous waste
 - ***Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007*** that details that the export of waste should only be for recycling or recovery in other countries that are assessed as able to deal with such wastes properly.
72. Notwithstanding these legal powers, tackling waste crime is not always a simple process and whilst these are pursued, legal processes can be resource intensive, costly, time consuming and lead to frustrations by communities and agencies when it appears that no visible action is being taken. It is therefore imperative that whilst enforcement action may be taken, partnership arrangements are also in place to take wider action with illegal waste sites and the Environment Agency work with local authorities, police, fire service, Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, Health and Safety Executive and the waste industry.
73. At the time of undertaking the Committee's work a joint memorandum of understanding had been agreed between the Council and the Environment Agency. Through the Silver Command Group, council officers from a range of services work with partners from external agencies to tackle criminal activities masked by illegal or unregulated activities, particularly where these activities involve the storage, treatment or disposal of waste. The collective actions of the Group can have a significant impact on the individuals or businesses targeted.
74. Alongside this work, the everyday regulatory activities of the Environment Agency and the Council's Strategic Planning and Environment, Health and

Consumer Protection officers exercise control over a broad range of waste-related activities and premises.

75. Durham County Council and the Environment Agency recognise the need to work in partnership to effectively tackle environmental crime and to co-ordinate their regulation of waste businesses in County Durham given the overlap of enforcement duties.
76. A key aim of the document is to clarify the responsibilities of each of the signatories and to act as a point of reference in relation to those responsibilities for the public. This ensures that any future issues are directed to the people who have the expertise to deal with them.
77. All parties will work in partnership where possible, resolving complaints/issues in a timely manner. This will give a better customer service, protect the reputation of both authorities and provide the most efficient use of public resources.
78. To aid this partnership working a meeting is held at least every three months between the authorities at officer level to discuss new and ongoing issues and agree our joint approach. With representation on the Disruption and Intervention Panel from the Environment Agency and Durham County Council information relating to organised crime can be shared. In addition, issues of fly-tipping linked to this intelligence are brought to the attention of the Council's Street Scene Teams or Neighbourhood Wardens.

Links to Organised Crime

79. With regard to identifying links to organised crime, the Disruption and Intervention Panel includes the Environment Agency and creates a process to share information regarding potential problem sites and identify potential actions that could be taken to remedy situations and prevent larger problems. Whilst prosecutions will be pursued where appropriate working in partnership can lead to more creative thinking and use of wider powers to reach a more effective conclusion that best deals with the situation.

80. Landowners will be traced and enforcement taken where appropriate but it is important to note that the landowners may also be victims as they may have rented or leased the land and be unaware of activities until approached by the local authority or Environment Agency. Information sharing with the council's planning service enables assessment of compliance with any conditions and/or associated breaches.



81. To illustrate the impact of this crime and effectiveness of partnership working a case study was provided. This illustrated an organised crime group which was operating across three sites in County Durham and Darlington. Waste collected by the operating company was stripped of any items of value and then dumped in large warehouses and compounds without being correctly processed. This resulted in volumes of waste overflowing out of a warehouse in Darlington and at Shildon an uncovered mound was higher than surrounding buildings. A conviction had been secured by the Environment Agency but a significant pile of waste at the barrier works in Shildon and a previous fire prevented a neighbouring company from obtaining insurance and threatened their future.

82. Working in partnership, agencies intervened to facilitate the obtaining of insurance for the company, safeguarding employment and business. Whilst a further conviction was obtained, partnership work with the Vehicle Operator Standards Agency and an insurance company ensured no further waste collections were being made or dumped. However, there was still the issue of who would pay to clean up the waste on the site. In May 2013, a serious fire broke out at the site in Darlington engulfing the waste pile and in addition to the detrimental effect on the local community and environmental impact this had a significant resource implication for the fire service as it took 45 fire-fighters one week to extinguish the blaze.

83. The landowner was traced and looking further into the sale contract and planning permission of the site, it was established that the site was only permitted to treat the waste inside the building on the site, not outside within the larger compound.



84. Subsequently, action was taken resulting in the landowner having responsibility for clearing the site at a cost of £500,000, and £62,000 court costs. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) determined that the damaged building needed to be demolished and the site was cleared in August 2014, with the Environment Agency overseeing the operation. The site at Shildon had the same landowner and had breached planning regulations and was also cleaned up.

85. This approach emphasised the significant impact of illegal waste sites on adjacent businesses and neighbouring communities and the link to organised crime. Using an innovative partnership approach involving a range of public sector organisations and a combination of both criminal and civil court action undermined this organised crime group and led to the clean-up of the sites and not at the public's expense.

Recommendation 4

Activity through the Memorandum of Understanding the council work with the Environment Agency to take prompt action when illegal waste sites are identified.

Risk of fraud through Organised Crime on Durham County Council

86. This area of the report considers the Council's internal measures and approaches to prevent fraud and reduce the risk of organised crime.

Key Conclusions

- **Estimated cost of fraud on local government nationally is £2.1bn**
- **Durham County Council has a zero tolerance approach to fraud and has reviewed policies and created a Corporate Fraud Team**
- **Pilot exercise currently being undertaken to reduce the risk of organised crime through procurement activity**
- **Training sessions to be held to raise awareness of fraud with staff and Members**

National Impact

87. Nationally, it is estimated that fraud against the public sector costs about £20 billion each year of which the majority is against the tax system. The Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy estimates that about £5 billion of the annual UK 'tax gap' (the gap between tax owed and tax collected) is due to organised crime.

88. By way of context, the National Fraud Authority's Annual Fraud Indicator report 2013, estimates that local government might be losing £2.1 billion to fraud. This estimated figure consists of loss due to:

- grants (£35 million);
- payroll (£154 million);
- pension fraud (£7.1 million);
- procurement (£876 million);
- fraudulent council tax discounts and exemptions (£133 million);
- Blue Badge Scheme abuse (£46 million) and,
- housing tenancy fraud (£845 million).

89. The Government's Serious and Organised Crime Strategy includes an objective to 'Protect national and local government' and aims 'to increase work to cut fraud against government and in particular local government procurement.'

90. The strategy encourages collaboration between law enforcement agencies and local authorities to contain the risk that serious and organised crime might benefit from local authority procurement, highlights concern about organised criminals tendering for public sector contracts, including through the use of front companies. In response, the Government aims to develop secondary legislation to implement the modernised EU Public Procurement Directive that ensures appropriate checks and controls in the public sector procurement process exclude companies involved in organised crime.

Council Counter fraud approach

91. The Council has a zero tolerance policy on its approach to tackling fraud and by adopting this method aims to reduce the risk of fraud but it is to be acknowledged that is difficult to assess what percentage or monetary value of fraud is identified or linked to organised crime.
92. The Council has taken a number of positive actions to tackle and prevent fraud through revising its Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy, Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing) and integration of the Benefit Fraud Team into the Internal Audit and Risk Division to create a Corporate Fraud Team. These approaches have enhanced an anti-fraud culture and further developed partnerships both internally and externally including with the Home Office, Durham Constabulary and other local authorities within the region.
93. A representative from the Council's Corporate Fraud Team attends the Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel. Public sector organisations can share data to disrupt organised crime and help protect the public purse. The Council in partnership with Durham Constabulary are participating in a Home Office pilot data sharing exercise linked to organised crime and procurement.
94. Whilst it is acknowledged that not all fraud is organised crime, it was highlighted that organised crime groups may target any area through which they could achieve a financial reward or benefit. These could include housing benefit and council tax support, single person discount or fraudulent use of a blue badge but this also provides scope for the police and partner agencies to disrupt organised crime activities.

Raising awareness and training

95. The Council publicises enforcement outcomes following fraud investigations to raise awareness and act as a deterrent and this is of assistance to the continued development of internal and external partnerships to build intelligence and also deter fraud from happening.
96. Raising awareness is essential and the council aims to support the culture of deterring and detecting fraud by encouraging employees and members of the public to raise any concerns. Contributing to this, awareness sessions are to be developed by the Corporate Fraud Team with frontline staff such as social

workers, housing staff and contractors to be able to identify where fraud may be occurring and reduce the risk of organised crime upon the council.

Recommendation 5

Cabinet note the potential risk of organised crime through fraud and that following conclusion of the Home Office project look to seek if learning from this work can be implemented more widely.

Recommendation 6

Enhance training and awareness raising in relation to organised crime through:

- **an awareness session on Organised Crime for Elected Members**
- **Integrating organised crime information within the Council's fraud awareness training, including consideration of developing on-line training information.**

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Appendix 1

Main Objective	Success will mean that	Objectives to be delivered
Pursue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At home, relentless disruption of serious and organised crime and the prosecution of those responsible reduces the threats we face Overseas, better international collaboration drawing on wider resources more effectively disrupts global organised crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish strong organisations and effective collaboration to lead work against serious and organised crime ii. Develop our capabilities to detect, investigate, prosecute and disrupt serious and organised crime iii. Attack criminal finances by making it harder to move, hide and use the proceeds of crime iv. Ensure that effective legal powers are available and are used to deal with the threat from serious and organised crime v. Internationally, improve our own capabilities and our cooperation with others to better tackle organised crime networks
Prevent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer people engage in serious and organised criminal activity We reduce reoffending by people convicted for serious and organised crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Deter people from becoming involved in serious and organised crime by raising awareness of the reality and consequences ii. Use interventions to stop people being drawn into different types of serious and organised crime iii. Develop techniques to deter people from continuing in serious and organised criminality iv. Establish an effective offender management framework to support work on Pursue and Prevent
Protect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We reduce our vulnerability to serious and organised crime, across government and the private sectors and among the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Protect our borders from serious and organised crime ii. Protect national and local government from serious and organised crime iii. Improve protective security in the private sector by sharing intelligence on threats from serious and organised crime iv. Protect people at risk of becoming the victims of serious and organised crime v. Improve our anti-corruption systems vi. Strengthen systems for establishing identity so that serious and organised criminals are denied opportunities to exploit false or stolen personal data
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major serious and organised crime incidents are brought to a rapid and effective resolution Communities, victims and witnesses affected by serious and organised crime have the support which they need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Ensure that we have the necessary capabilities to respond to major serious and organised crime incidents ii. Provide the communities, victims and witnesses affected by serious and organised crime with effective criminal justice and other support

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

19th June 2015



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

Purpose of Briefing Note

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues discussed at the May Safe Durham Partnership Board meeting.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

2. The Contest Silver Group, Chaired by DCC Michael Banks, are undertaking an audit of the collective response to the general duty in the Act to prevent violent extremism. Each Specified Authority that has a responsibility to fulfil the general duty has been requested to identify the specific expectations of them and their response to those expectations. The outcome of the audit will be reported to the Safe Durham Partnership in September.
3. The Prevent Self-Assessment, usually completed by the Contest Silver group in March of each year, has been delayed pending the result of the audit. The self-assessment assists the group in assessing the level of progress on a five point scale against each of the three Prevent objectives. The impact of the new duty, and its added burden, will mean that a new baseline score will need to be set along with new improvement targets. This will be achieved in July upon the commencement of the new duty. There will be no requirement to amend the self-assessment criteria which remain relevant to the Prevent duty.
4. Work has been progressing to ensure schools have the best opportunity to be prepared for the commencement of the Prevent duty and beyond. In terms of Prevent awareness the following has been undertaken or is planned:
 - Director's briefings have been held with Head Teachers.
 - Reports have been presented to the Safe Durham Partnership, Children and Families Partnership Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Local Safeguarding Adults Board.
 - An e-learning product has been developed by Durham County Council and will be made available to all schools.
 - All schools will be invited to 'Prevent' awareness raising seminars to be held in July and September 2015. The Seminars will be delivered by Durham County Council's Children and Adults Services (CAS) and Durham Constabulary Prevent Team.

5. Durham County Council are progressing 'Channel' arrangements (a multi-agency panel for referral and support). The Strategic Manager Youth Offending Service will Chair the group, when required. National Channel Duty guidance was published on 23 April 2015. The development of local procedures has begun with the formulation of a local Channel guidance document and checklist, a Channel Panel meeting declaration for information sharing within that meeting and a Support Plan template.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

6. Following the Safe Durham Partnership governance review, a new thematic group has been implemented to manage and co-ordinate both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This group is co-chaired by the Head of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities.
7. A key issue for the group moving forward will be develop arrangements for joint commissioning of support services for victims with other partners including the Police and Crime Commissioner and Health colleagues.
8. High Level Objectives for the group have been agreed and these now include the priorities of Prevention, Provision, Protection and Pursue. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18 has been updated to reflect these objectives.

Offender Checkpoint

9. The Checkpoint project aims to provide a credible alternative to criminal justice sanctions by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need for arrested adults with the result that many of these people are diverted away from the Criminal Justice System, (or exit the Criminal Justice System at an earlier stage), while also addressing the underlying cause of their offending behaviour. Adult arrested persons would be offered a 'contract to engage' based on critical pathways of offending. The 'contract to engage' in most cases will withhold prosecution procedures if the client meets objectives of an agreed plan of interventions and support to address the underlying causes of their offending identified through a critical pathways checkpoint assessment at custody suites.
10. The Police and Crime Commissioner has received £154,050 from the Police Innovation Fund for 2015/16 and £98,000 in 2016/17 (a £500,000 bid was submitted for a two-year project) to deliver the Checkpoint Project. Additional resources have also been allocated by partners – both monetarily and in kind, to give additional capacity and resilience to the project.
11. Phase 1 of Checkpoint went live in Darlington on 7th of April. The purpose of this initial pilot in Darlington is to identify and resolve issues, identify gaps in service and to get the programme running smoothly. This was extended to the South Durham on the 11th of May.
12. Brief intervention training has been provided to around 400 custody staff and Checkpoint briefings to all front line police staff began rollout on 7th April. Training is currently ongoing with custody staff to identify eligible cases and to ensure that the programme is explained positively and correctly to victims.

13. There are currently 8 navigators in post; 1 navigator provided by NECA (using funding allocated by the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Team's grant from the PCC), and 4 navigators, provided in kind, by the National Probation Service. They have all undergone training and are based across Darlington and Bishop Auckland custody suites in phase 1. The contract for 3 Lifeline navigators has been formally agreed and they commenced their roles as Checkpoint Navigators on the 16th May.
14. The Governance Board had its second meeting on 7th May. The terms of reference for the Governance Board, and project plan, have been established and signed off by the Board.
15. The Board has consulted on and agreed the job description of the navigators. Board members have contributed to the development of a mandatory induction training plan for all navigators, to ensure consistency and quality assurance.
16. A communications and media strategy for Checkpoint is being developed.

Safe Durham Partnership Board Development Day

17. A development session is being held on 30th June, facilitated by the Institute of Local Governance (ILG) at Durham University.
18. The agenda will focus on:
 - Policy developments following the election of a Conservative Government and the implications for the Community Safety Partnership and our strategic priorities moving forward.
 - A focussed session on Cyber Crime and how this emerging issues can be tackled using a multi-agency approach.
 - A focussed session on Child Sexual Exploitation and the implications for both the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Safe Durham Partnership in tackling this issue.

Domestic Abuse Referral Pathways

19. In 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership requested a simple referral pathway for disclosures of domestic abuse to ensure frontline practitioners could easily make appropriate referrals.
20. Nationally this has also been supported by the inclusion of this issue within the recently published Home Office report which provides an overview of lessons learned in terms of Domestic Homicide Reviews.
21. A new Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway (DARP) has been produced and agreed. Details are available at www.sorrysnotenough.co.uk
22. DCC Public Health (CAS) are currently developing an e-learning course which will be available across the Partnership to both statutory and voluntary agencies free of charge. The course looks to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and to highlight referral pathways and refers to the County Durham DARP. Performance information in relation to employees and frontline practitioners accessing and

completing the course will be available which will give an indication of levels of awareness of the Pathway.

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Appendix 1 – Implications

Finance – The Safe Durham Partnership agreed funding proposals in relation to the Community Safety Fund provided to the Safe Durham Partnership by the Police and Crime Commissioner

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – The Safe Durham Partnership update provides an overview of reports and discussions from the Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A

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