



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

Date Tuesday 22 September 2015
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 1A/1B, 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 19 June 2015 (Pages 1 - 14)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations
7. The City Safety Group: (Pages 15 - 16)
 - (i) Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services.
8. County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum: (Pages 17 - 20)
 - (i) Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
 - (ii) Presentation by the Chair of the County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum/Strategic Traffic Manager, Regeneration and Economic Development and Acting Superintendent, Durham Constabulary.
9. Update on the implementation of Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: (Pages 21 - 28)
Report of the Neighbourhood Protection Manager, Neighbourhood Services.

10. Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Neighbourhood Warden Service: (Pages 29 - 34)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – presented by the Neighbourhood Protection Manager, Neighbourhood Services.
11. Quarter 1 2015/16 Performance Management Report: (Pages 35 - 46)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive – presented by the Strategic Manager, Performance and Information, Children and Adults Services.
12. Overview and Scrutiny Review Activity Updates:
Verbal updates by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee:
 - (i) Reducing Alcohol Harm.
 - (ii) 20mph Limits.
 - (iii) Drug Treatment Centres.
13. Police and Crime Panel: (Pages 47 - 50)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
14. 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
14 September 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, S Iveson, H Liddle, G Holland, 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: Acting Chief Fire Officer S Errington and Chief Superintendent G Hall

Contact: Martin Tindle

Tel: 03000 269 713

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Friday 19 June 2015** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

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

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

S Errington and Chief Inspector C McGillivray

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cordon, S Iveson, Mr J Welch and Chief Superintendent G Hall.

The Chairman noted that this was the first meeting since changes in membership of the Committee, and offered his thanks to those Members that had left the Committee and welcomed the new Members to the Committee.

The Chairman also noted that changes to the Portfolio Holders meant that Councillor J Allen was the new Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities, with Councillor A Bonner as the appropriate Cabinet Support Member.

The Chairman noted the thanks of the Committee to Councillors L Hovvells and A Laing as the previous Portfolio Holder for Safer and Healthier Communities and Cabinet Support Member respectively, and for all their support and attendance at Committee during their tenure.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 23 March 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 with reference to Item 6 of the Minutes, Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, that a further report would come back to Committee in due course and that the Deputy Chief Constable, Durham Constabulary, M Banks was retiring. The Committee noted their appreciation for the work of the Deputy Chief Constable over the years and the Chairman asked that the Committee's best wishes for an enjoyable retirement be passed on to the Deputy Chief Constable.

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 Media Relations

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the recent prominent articles and news stories relating to the remit of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (for copy see file of minutes). The articles included: Government plans for a blanket ban for so-called "legal highs", with associated jail terms of 7 years, which had gained cross-party support and had been in all party manifestos leading up to the recent General Election; Durham Constabulary carrying out a number of roadside test for drug driving; and illegal tobacco being seized through the work of Durham Constabulary and the Council's Consumer Protection Team, with over 20,000 cigarettes seized.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 County Durham Youth Offending Service - Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 - Progress Update 2014/15

The Chairman introduced the Strategic Manager, County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS), Children and Adults Services, Gill Eshelby who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Youth Justice Plan 2014/16, specifically a progress update for 2014/15 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager, CDYOS explained that since 2007/08 there had been an 82.9% reduction in the number of first time entrants (FTEs) to the youth justice system, from 1129 young people aged 10-17 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15.

The Committee noted that the offending summary for the period 2010/11 to 2014/15 showed a 46.8% decrease in all offences and a 51.5% reduction in the number of young people offending over that time. There had been a 54.5% reduction in custodial sentences and a 65.9% reduction in the number of remand bed nights over the same period. The cost of remand bed nights is now the responsibility of the Local Authority. Members were informed that there was a Youth Justice Board (YJB) Remand Grant of £43,000; a Reducing Remand Bed Nights strategy in place; and also arrangements for CDYOS officers to attend Court on Bank Holidays and weekends, as required.

The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted that the reducing re-offending rate (Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data) over the period 2007/08 – 2012/13 had shown a slight percentage increase in binary rate in the final year, though this was in line with other YOS in the country. The Strategic Manager stated that over that period, the cohort in County Durham had reduced from 2,145 to 489 young people (77.2% reduction); the number of young people re-offending had reduced from 728 to 189 (74% reduction); and the number of re-offences committed had reduced from 1,950 to 612 (68.6% reduction). Councillors were informed that the Pre Reprimand Disposal (PRD) now Pre Caution Disposal has had a significant impact on reducing re-offending and the number of young people in the cohort. Members were also informed of key achievements in relation to the Service Improvement Plan 2014/15.

Members learned that research by the Office of the Children's Commissioner indicated that 60-90% of young people in the youth justice system had speech, language or communication needs. CDYOS had implemented its Speech, Language and Communication Need Strategy which included training for staff to support screening and pathways for young people who offend. It was noted that work was in partnership with North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust (NTHFT), with a Speech and Language Therapist seconded to CDYOS. CDYOS had developed a range of communication friendly resources (including some for restorative justice) under the "ClearCut Communication" brand, with a lot of national interest in the work. It was added that money had been raised for the Royal British Legion in respect of "bling poppies", produced as part of young people's court ordered reparation.

The Committee noted that CDYOS operated on Saturdays to be able to offer wrap around services to reduce re-offending. The Strategic Manager, CDYOS explained that young people's feedback on the service via an electronic survey from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) had been very positive. The service had also established a young people's group (all members have been victims of crime). The group was working with CDYOS on a range of issues to ensure the voice of young victims informs service delivery, and members were offering support to other young victims of youth crime.

Members noted the County Durham Young Carers Charter; development of ClearCut Communication; and Team Manager reviews of all cases to ensure young people's feedback informs service delivery. Members noted that the role of CDYOS volunteers had been expanded, including support for Stronger Families, with examples given of how young people were helped.

The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted several positive quotes from the Youth Justice Board, March 2015, as set out within the presentation.

The Strategic Manager, CDYOS concluded by noting the achievements were a reflection of excellent partnership work, with all CDYOS staff and partners being willing to adapt and change, working hard together to provide a quality service.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Manager, CDYOS, noted the positive work of the service and partners, and asked Members for their questions.

Members asked if there were any challenges on the horizon for the service. The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted that there was a rapidly changing partnership environment, though the Transforming Rehabilitation changes had been well managed, and her experience as a Youth Justice Peer Reviewer had shown the partnership arrangements in Durham were good and effective.

Councillor N Martin congratulated the Officer regarding the impressive work of the service and noted that while the number of those re-offending was going down, the number of offences was increasing. Councillor N Martin asked whether there was a point at which further improvement would not be possible and a “minimum rate” of re-offending would be reached. Councillor N Martin also asked whether this point had been reached now and whether the “law of diminishing returns” now applied.

The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted that the service worked hard to reduce re-offending and the number of re-offences was decreasing. She stated that although the frequency rate had increased (1.25), the actual number of re-offences had gone down (612). She stated that the MoJ data did not give the full picture; it did not reflect the significant reduction in cohort size due to the successful impact of early intervention and diversion, nor did it reflect the detailed local analysis in County Durham. It was added that the number of those re-offending was more useful an indicator than the percentage. She also noted key issues such as the majority of the cohort now falling within the 16 to 18 age range and not the 10 to 13 age range. It was added that work would continue with the aim to improve, looking to target resources according to need; however, there were challenges in respect of those young people with more than six offences each.

Mr AJ Cooke asked whether there was any defined difference between rural and urban areas. The Strategic Manager, CDYOS stated there was not; CDYOS covered all of County Durham, though it was noted that the number of offences was very low in the Teesdale area. Members were informed that staff were able to work remotely, having the requisite encrypted IT equipment, and therefore were able to reach out into rural areas.

Councillor G Holland noted that communication skills were very important in being able to give confidence and self-belief to young people and asked what CDYOS did to support this. The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted that all young people supervised by CDYOS are screened for speech, language and communication needs and anyone requiring and consenting to a specialist Speech and Language Therapy assessment (and intervention if necessary) will receive that from the seconded Speech and Language Therapist. Young people are also given practical strategies to help them. It was noted that the new national assessment tool (AssetPlus) incorporates a SLCN screen and CDYOS had developed an innovative version to obtain the young person’s view of his/her needs.

Councillor S Forster asked whether the issues of identifying speech and language needs had been communicated with those in the wider Authority and with partner organisations. The Strategic Manager, CDYOS noted that: all staff within CDYOS had received extensive training; there had been briefings for Magistrates and Police; and there was work with appropriate staff within Children and Adults Services in specific cases, such as looked after children. Members noted that CDYOS also worked with families, under the “think family” approach.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That an update is provided to the Committee in 12 months.
- (iii) That the Committee received the Youth Justice Plan 2015/17 in due course.

8 Novel Psychoactive Substances

The Chairman introduced the Consultant in Public Health, Children and Adults Services, Lynn Wilson who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), or “legal highs” (for copy see file of minutes).

The Consultant in Public Health, noted that the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) defined 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”. It was noted the “legal highs” were not new as such and that one of the issues had been the identification of a substance, with a slight change to the structure of the chemical meaning that technically it was a difference substance. Members were reminded of the rise of mephedrone, which was often sold as bath salts or plant food which was marked “not fit for human consumption”, however there was a degree of collusion between buyer and seller as regards the ultimate use of the substance.

It was noted that the Government put forward the Psychoactive Substances Bill which proposed a blanket ban on the sale of psychoactive drugs by making it an offence to produce, supply, offer, possess with intent, import or export psychoactive substances. The Consultant in Public Health explained that NPS could be sub-divided roughly into four categories: synthetic cannabinoid receptor agonists (SCRAs); stimulant-type drugs; hallucinogenic; and opiates.

Members noted that the label “legal highs” had given an impression that they were a “safe” option and studies, albeit through self-reporting, had shown that the prevalence of use ranged between 0% and 9% across several European countries. It was added that presentations of the users of NPS had shown notable differences in comparison to drug/alcohol users, with key harms being severe, including violence, aggression and self-harm. Members were informed of the data for the Durham Force area over the period January 2014 to January 2015, noting the highest number of cases in the Crook area and the most common substance was synthetic cannabis. It was noted that within the POPPIE reporting system for drug and alcohol there was no separate field to capture data as regards NPS, however, data that was available for the period June 2013 to May 2015 showed 36 clients where NPS was reported to have been used. It was added that in 16 of the cases NPS was reported as the main drug of choice, with stimulant-type NPS being the most commonly used.

The Consultant in Public Health noted that while there had been no reported deaths in 2014/15 caused by NPS in County Durham, one reported adult suicide had noted use of NPS as being related, though not as a the cause of death. Members were made aware that intelligence from the LGBT community had reported “a noticeable percentage” of young people taking legal highs, especially methadone or “bubble”. Councillors learned that the Durham Drug Strategy Action Plan aimed to work with partners to enhance the knowledge and evidence gathering relating to NPS, though once the Bill was enacted then information gathering would be “routine” data collecting.

Members were asked to note the challenges in respect of NPS included: the growth of internet sales of NPS; sales of NPS via “head shops”, none known in County Durham at this time, though suspected sales via markets in Newcastle, Sunderland and Darlington; and the collecting of data on the use of NPS.

The Chairman thanked the Consultant in Public Health and noted that when he attended a conference last year the increasing use of the NPS within prisons had been mentioned. The Consultant in Public Health noted an example where prisoners would club together to secure a NPS and then one prisoner would be chosen to take the substance, with the others watching the effects as a form of entertainment. The Chairman asked the Committee if they had any further questions for the Officer.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, S Errington asked whether there were any links to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) in respect of the opportunity to sell NPS. The Consultant in Public Health noted that once the Act came into effect then there was potential, though it was noted that there was ongoing work in this respect.

Councillor F Tinsley noted that the Republic of Ireland had a similar blanket ban in place for several years and the impact had been for people to source NPS from Northern Ireland and the Great Britain. Councillor F Tinsley added that pushing the problem underground may cause more problems and asked whether there the ban would encompass Scotland in addition, or whether they were pursuing a different approach.

The Consultant in Public Health noted she would check as regards whether the Act would cover Scotland and added that while there was always the worry that any drug use could be “pushed underground”, existing legislation was not able to keep up with the number of NPS that were being produced and that it was important to change young people’s perception of “legal highs” and the implication that NPS were “safe”.

Councillor T Nearney noted the severe level of physical and mental impact NPS could have on an individual and asked what work was being undertaken via the education system to inform young people of the dangers. The Consultant in Public Health noted that NPS were often highly addictive and that Durham Police and the new drug and alcohol service provider, Lifeline, would work to go into schools and provide information. Members noted the comments of work experience pupils present at the meeting, chiefly that there was a general knowledge of NPS, however, not a specific knowledge of the dangers associated with their use. The Consultant in Public Health added that it would be important to be able to have a reliable evidence base to give an accurate picture of the use of NPS, noting currently that information was not recorded by GPs and that the Police had limited information. It was added that once enshrined in law, then data would be collected as an “illegal substance”.

Councillor G Holland asked if there were any known traits or patterns as regards the users of NPS. The Consultant in Public Health explained that there was no one type of user, though it was noted that young people in general were more likely to take risks and therefore it was important to give young people the information as regards the harm of NPS use.

Chief Inspector C McGillivray noted he was tasked with the Education Portfolio in terms of Durham Constabulary and noted that it was a specialist area, and it was vital those involved had the requisite knowledge. Members were informed that the Bill set out issues of enforcement and while this was a necessary part of the approach to tackle NPS, this would lead to the requirement for evidence to be collected. It was added that therefore the strategy should be that of changing the attitudes of young people, for example through the “safe choices” programme. Chief Inspector C McGillivray noted that it was important to give young people the tools in order for them to be able to make good choices and that it was often difficult to fit such activities into an already busy school curriculum. It was added that the Police would need to work with partners from Health and also the Police have been invited into companies to speak to employees regards issues of substance misuse, where employees have been dismissed for substance misuse.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) That the Drug Strategy Partnership (multiagency) is collating information on Novel Psychoactive Substances and that this will be included in the Action Plan be noted.

9 Safe Durham Partnership - Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

The Chairman introduced the Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator, Children and Adults Services, Kirsty Wilkinson who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Safe Durham Partnership - Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (for copy see file of minutes).

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator asked Members to recall the Committee was consulted at its meeting in February as regards the draft Strategy and now Members were being given a further opportunity to feed into the process, noting that there had been a number of consultation activities that had taken place. Members noted that the draft vision of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy remained unchanged, being:

“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.”

Members noted the associated objectives that 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.

The Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator noted that Scotland had reduced the blood alcohol level in respect of drink driving offence and therefore the impact this may have on drink driving levels would need to be monitored. Members noted that alcohol harm also included drunkenness as factor in respect of anti-social behaviour and violence, and also in issues of vulnerability in terms of the capacity to consent to sex.

The Chairman thanked the Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator and asked Members for their comments and questions on the draft Strategy.

Councillor N Martin noted that the draft Strategy was very good and commented that given recent issues in the city and cases considered by the Licensing Committee, could there be a line to reflect a position of a “robust” approach to licensing enforcement, adding that he felt no sympathy if the licensing route was used to close “rogue operators”. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer noted that in many cases a lot of agencies are involved and that rather than agencies being a “soft-touch”, the most appropriate legislation or enforcement route was used to tackle any issues.

Councillor T Nearney noted he felt that there needed to be a reference to the sharing of best practice, for example the on-street breathalysing that had been taking place to highlight the danger of “pre-loading” with alcohol. Councillor J Armstrong added that such activities could also be in partnership with retailers, to show how they are involved and acting responsibly. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator noted that there were positive approaches by both the on-licence and off-licence trade, with examples being the “Best Bar None” scheme and the work of “mystery shoppers”. It was added that the issue of pre-loading was a challenge and it would be interesting to see what actions the trade would take in terms of helping to tackle the issue.

Councillor F Tinsley noted the issue of parents buying their underage children alcohol and noted there needed to be a push in educating parents better as regards this practice. The Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator agreed and while some parents felt that this approach was protecting their children, this was not actually the case. It was explained that there was work ongoing with parents in this regard, and evidence to date suggested that the best approach was for parents to say no and delay the age at which young people are exposed to alcohol.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy be noted.
- (ii) That any comments, amendments or identified omissions in relation to the draft document be provided to the Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator prior to 12 July 2015.

10 Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management Report

The Chairman introduced the Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management, Children and Adults Services, Keith Forster who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 4 2014/15 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer priority theme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management, referred Members to the report and noted key performance achievements, including: 94% of respondents to a survey of adult social care users felt the care and support they received helped them to feel safe and secure; the total number of offences committed by the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort had reduced, with a projected 45.1% reduction for the full year; the improved position in respect of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System, noting the report earlier in the agenda; and drug treatment completions of 40.8%, above the target of 40.4% and the national figure of 39%.

Members noted tracker indicators that showed: a decrease in theft offences; a decrease in anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents reported to the Police; an increase in the reporting of hate crime, noting a Safe Durham Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan key objective was to have increased reporting of hate crimes; a decrease in the number of alcohol related ASB; an increase in the number of interventions through the Stronger Families Programme; and an increase in referral rates to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), albeit still lower than the national average.

It was noted that the key performance issues included a slight underperformance in respect of the number of people completing alcohol and drug treatment, though it was noted the new provider recently took over the service in April 2015 and that new targets had been set. Councillors noted that there was a data lag of between 6-9 months for information relating to completions and therefore early data would be available by the middle of summer 2015, with further details coming through by 2016.

Members learned that, in respect of tracker indicators that showed performance issues, the overall crime rate had increased slightly, however, Members were reminded that improved recording could be a reason for some increase, and ongoing cases regarding Medomsley having also an effect on the figures. Councillors noted that there was an increase in victim based crime, however, Durham has the lowest rate of victim based crimes per 1,000 population for the period April 2014 to February 2015 in comparison to its statistical neighbours.

The Chairman thanked the Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management and asked Members for their comments and questions.

Chief Inspector C McGillivray informed Members that the new Deputy Chief Constable had noted Durham Constabulary's the high level of performance upon taking up his post. Chief Inspector C McGillivray noted the increase in hate crime and added that Durham had a detection rate of 48%, much higher than anywhere else in the country.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer asked as regards REDPI144 as set out on p82 of the agenda pack, relating to the number of people killed or injured in road traffic accidents, figure for the period 12 months earlier did not appear to add up, 17 and 123 not adding up to 201 as listed. The Strategic Manager, Performance and Information Management noted the 201 figure was correct and therefore one or both of the other two figures were incorrect.

The Chairman noted that there was an opportunity to visit the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Centre at Peterlee to speak to new provider, Lifeline, and asked for any Members interested in attending to speak to the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to a report in respect of a Review of the Committee's Work Programme, noting the Committee had received a report at its March meeting detailing the actions identified within the Council Plan 2015-2018 for the Altogether Safer priority theme and agreed to refresh the Committee's Work Programme accordingly. The Committee noted that a draft Work Programme was attached at Appendix 2 to the report for Members' consideration and that the topic of Novel Psychoactive Substances had been put forward as a potential area for a review, with Councillors also having the opportunity to identify any alternative topic areas. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer added that dates of future Wise Drive and Safety Carousel events would be communicated to Members of the Committee once identified. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor T Nearney noted he had suggested the topic of Novel Psychoactive Substances, or "legal highs", prior to the presentation received by the Committee today and there was a need for data to build a picture of the issue and any Working Group would need to look at what outcomes and impact could be achieved. The Chairman noted his suggestion was to look at the "stronger" aspect of "Safer and Stronger Communities", namely on the role and impact volunteering work though added that there were other issues Members may wish to consider, such as fly-tipping and community safety. Councillor J Armstrong noted the deployment of covert surveillance in respect of fly-tipping and highlighted that there would need to be a period of time to be able to evaluate the impact of such activities. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted Members may also wish to consider any further activity based upon the report received in respect of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. Councillor J Armstrong suggested activity linked to alcohol and sexual exploitation.

The Chairman asked Members to decide upon a review topic and the Committee noted their preference was to look at further issues from the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, with the Overview and Scrutiny Officer to liaise with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Coordinator and scope the review accordingly.

Resolved:

- (i) That the Committee agree the Work Programme as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.
- (ii) That the Committee look at further issues leading from the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy as a review topic.
- (iii) That the Committee note future Wise Drive and Safety Carousel sessions with dates, once identified, to be communicated to Members.

12 Overview and Scrutiny Review Report - Organised Crime

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to a draft report Working Group looking at the topic of Organised Crime and noted main points raised within the report included: excellent and proactive partnership working with the Safer Durham Partnership (SDP); the strong position of Durham in terms of developing "Local Profiles", with updates to be provided to the Committee; positive case-studies in the tackling of illegal waste; the effective work of the Disruption and Intervention Panel; and the potential financial risk to the Authority from Organised Crime Groups (OCGs), with Durham being in a strong position following a Home Office pilot scheme.

It was noted that the topic had raised awareness with the Members of the Working Group and that there would be Members' Seminars on the issues in due course.

Councillor J Armstrong noted the report was excellent and highlighted the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements within the County. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that if the Committee agreed the draft report, it would then be submitted to Cabinet for consideration at its July meeting. Members also noted the report would be tabled for the September meeting of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Councillors noted that there would be updates reports in terms of the review and also on the establishing of Local Profiles in due course.

Resolved:

That the report be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

13 Overview and Scrutiny Reviews Update

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer updated Members as regards the 20mph Working Group and the Drug Treatment Centres Working Group.

It was noted that the 20mph Working Group had met on 3 occasions looking at: an overview of the project; the 33 schemes as agreed by Cabinet, in particular "Phase 1" schemes; and engaging with the relevant Local Members as regards Phase 1 areas. Members learned that the Working Group had noted the positive feedback from Local Members and noted the possibility to expand the number of schemes in the future. It was added that future meetings would look at the implementation of the initial 33 schemes and give contributions to future policy.

Members noted the Drug Treatment Centres Working Group had paused during the procurement process for a new service provider however, as previously mentioned, Members would now have the opportunity to attend a Centre to see first-hand the new service provision.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

14 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that the meeting of the Police and Crime Panel had not yet taken place and that issues to be discussed would include: the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) report; an interactive report on Anti-Social Behaviour, a link to which could be provided to Members of the Committee; and the outcome of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspections. The Chairman noted a recent Local Government Association publication that highlighted the approach taken in Durham to communicate information between the Panel and Overview and Scrutiny as best practice.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. There were no questions raised.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

15 Safe Durham Partnership Update

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 the Contest Silver Group, in particular the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, noting the general duty for "Specified Authorities" in respect of acting to prevent violent extremism. Councillors learned that those Specified Authorities would need to identify specific expectations, and responses to those expectations, and the SDP meeting in September would receive information on this from those Specified Authorities. It was added that the "Prevent Self-Assessment", usually in March each year, was delayed until after the SDP had received the information back from Specified Authorities and that work was ongoing in respect of helping to prepare schools for their responsibilities under the Prevent duty. Councillors noted the Corporate Director and Head of Education had held briefings with Head Teachers and other activities were ongoing including the development of an e-learning product to be made available for use by all schools. Members learned of "Channel" arrangements, a multi-agency panel for referral and support, and noted that the Strategic Manager, Youth Offending Service would chair the group when required.

The Community Safety Manager explained as regards an update received at the SDP on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, noting that a new thematic group had been established to manage and coordinate both issues, with the group being co-chaired by the Head of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder for Children's and Young People Services. Members learned of the Offender Checkpoint project: with support from the PCC; "Navigators", staff provided from different sources through funding or help in kind; and built in evaluation of the project, provided by Cambridge University.

Councillors noted the SDP Board Development Day, to be held 30 June 2015 focussing on: the effect of the new Conservative Government on strategic priorities moving forward; cybercrime; and issues in respect of tackling Child Sexual Exploitation, and the implications for the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and SDP. It was explained that the SDP had received an update in respect of the Domestic Abuse Referral Pathways, noting the details being available via www.sorryisnotenough.co.uk.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

This page is intentionally left blank

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

22 September 2015



The City Safety Group

**Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive
and Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of a presentation from Terry Collins, Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services on activity undertaken by the City Safety Group.

Background

2. The City Safety Group comprises of Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Durham University, Durham Students' Union and Durham Cathedral. Chaired by Terry Collins, the group was set up in January 2015 to enable all the agencies involved could work even more closely to improve safety in the city, including riverside safety.
3. One of the most significant actions of the City Safety Group was the commissioning of a full independent review by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) of riverside safety in the city centre. The review took into account education programmes for students and relationships with the licenced trade as well as the provision of lighting, physical barriers and the quality of footpaths.
4. The presentation to the Committee's meeting will focus on the work of the City Safety Group and its response to the independent review of riverside safety. In addition, the presentation will also provide Members with information on work that has been carried out to date and that will be carried out in the future.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Contact:	Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer		
Tel:	03000 268 142	E-mail:	jonathan.slee@durham.gov.uk
Contact:	Lynsey Walker, Special Projects Officer		
Tel:	03000 268 082	E-mail:	lynsey.walker@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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

22 September 2015



**County Durham Road Casualty
Reduction Forum**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of a presentation from Dave Wafer, Chair of the County Durham Road Casualty Reduction Forum and Acting Superintendent Alison Jackson, Durham Constabulary on activity undertaken throughout 2015/16.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2014, the Committee received and responded to a presentation on work of the Road Casualty Reduction Forum during 2014/15. Within its response, the Committee noted positive initiatives that were taking place but raised concern to the number of people killed or seriously injured on the County's roads.
3. The Committee agreed its work programme in June 2015 and requested to include an item on the County Durham Road Casualty Reduction forum. Information within the presentation contributes to the objective of 'Road Casualty Reduction' within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18 and quarterly performance reports received by the Committee that include the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions within County Durham.
4. The road casualty reduction forum reports to the Safe Durham Partnership and its membership includes representation from Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and NHS organisations. In partnership, the forum undertake a range of activity that focus on education, engagement, engineering and enforcement and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan identifies the following key objectives:
 - a. Improve education and raise awareness of road safety;
 - b. Improve health and wellbeing of communities through casualty reduction, and
 - c. Develop a safer road environment.
5. The presentation to the Committee's meeting will provide Members with an update on current accident trends together with an overview of activity undertaken to deliver the above objectives and information on campaign activity throughout 2015/16.

6. Members will also have the opportunity to see activity of the Forum's work being delivered at a 'Wisedrive' event for Year 11 pupils in October and 'Safety Carousel' for Year 5/6 pupils in November 2015.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Contact: Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 03000 268 142 E-mail: jonathan.slee@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

This page is intentionally left blank

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

**Update on the implementation of
Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and
Policing Act 2014**

22 September 2015



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Ian Hault, Neighbourhood Protection Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the progress on the implementation of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

Background

2. In July 2010 the Home Secretary announced a review of the Anti-social Behaviour Toolkit, to ensure it offered better protection to victims and communities and a more effective deterrent to perpetrators. The Home Office carried out an analysis of the use of specific tools and the way that different practitioners used the current toolkit and put forward some proposals for radically simplifying and improving this to tackle anti-social behaviour. Following consultation a simpler toolkit with 19 complex existing powers reduced to just 6 simple new ones has been enacted through the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014. (See Appendix 2 for an outline of the new ASB tools and powers).
3. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously received reports in October 2014 outlining the progress on implementation. The chair also facilitated a member awareness session which was available to all County Councillors in December 2014 to provide further information on the tools and powers and followed up with a briefing paper covering the main points along with the questions raised.

Implementation

4. The Anti-social Behaviour thematic delivery group of the Safe Durham Partnership coordinated the implementation of these new powers with six working groups from across a number of agencies, including social housing providers.
5. The coordination of the implementation allowed the development of the various procedures, recording systems along with delivering joint training. The following paragraphs summarise the area of change and the activity for each of the respective areas.

6. The **Community Trigger** can be used by victims and communities when they have reported anti-social behaviour to the Council, Police or housing provider, but feel that no adequate action has been taken. A Memorandum of Understanding between partners was produced. A web page is being created which will be hosted by Durham Constabulary which will explain the process of how to activate a Community Trigger and this will link to other partner websites. To date there have been **5 activations** by victims although these have not resulted in a panel following review.
7. A **Community Remedy** document for County Durham and Darlington has been prepared. This contains a list of actions which may be chosen by the victim for the perpetrator of anti-social behaviour or low level crime to undertake, when a community resolution, conditional caution or youth conditional caution is the chosen disposal. Actions include a written or verbal apology, mediation, Acceptable Behaviour Contract, attending a Restorative Justice Panel, reparation, tenancy enforcement. Restorative approaches are something that Durham has a strong track record in as the committee will be well aware of from previous work.
8. **Community Protection Notices (CPN)** can be used to tackle any behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life in a community and which is persistent and unreasonable. They will be more flexible than the orders they replace. The new powers can be used by local authorities, police and others suitably authorised persons.
9. In the first 9 months since implementation there have been over 450 warnings issued with just 1/3rd of these leading to official notices and 17% of the total resulting in FPN's. The range of issues tackled has also increased from littered yards/gardens to other specific areas that have affected the quality of life and could be evidenced. This demonstrates the effective use and success of tackling the quality of life issues with high levels compliance.
10. Work has also been completed on internal procedures relating to statutory powers as they continue in their current form and will not be superseded by this legislation but complimented in appropriate situations.
11. **Public Spaces Protection Orders** amalgamated a number of different powers covered under different pieces of legislation which currently exist including Dog Control Orders, Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO) and Gating Orders. The new legislation is much broader in its coverage and can include many other restrictions dependent on local needs. The new legislation is designed with the victim in mind and is, in practice, supposed to be far less bureaucratic than former legislation.
12. The existing orders in place require reviewing within 3 years from the commencement of the act, work has started on a review of DPPO's which is anticipated to be completed over the coming year to account for any new areas that may wish to be considered and consulted on.
13. The **Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance**, available in the County Court for adults and the youth court for 10 to 17 year olds. It will be used to protect people from behaviour causing 'nuisance or annoyance' and can be used by a wide range of agencies including police, council and social landlords. To date social landlords have used the new injunction 1 time as an interim order with 3 full orders.

14. **Criminal Behaviour Orders** replaced ASBO's and are designed for persistent individuals where they are causing harassment, alarm and distress and can be applied for by Police or local authority. To date there have been 4 successful applications, 5 failed applications and with 2 pending cases due in the near future.

15. **Premises Closure Orders** can be used to deal with premises where drug misuse is causing nuisance or disorder currently this has not been used in Durham and is in line with expectations.

Recommendations and reasons

16. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the report and the implications of the new ASB tools and powers.

Background Papers

- ASB Briefing Report – 12/12/15
- Update on the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – 28/10/14
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/anti-social-behaviour-crime-and-police-bill>

Contact: Ian Houlton, Neighbourhood Protection Manager
Tel: 03000 265 571 **E-mail:** ian.houlton@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

There are ongoing costs associated with the utilisation of these new powers

Staffing

N/A

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

No adverse implications.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

Main focus of the report.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

The Police and Crime Commissioner is required to consult on the Community Remedy. There has been wide ranging consultation as the Act has progressed.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No direct adverse implications.

Legal Implications

The Act amends legislation that impacts on Durham County Council.

Appendix 2: New Tools and Powers to tackle Anti-social Behaviour

Existing Orders	New Tools and Powers
ASBO, CRASBO, ASB Injunction, Drink Banning Order, DBO on conviction, Individual Support Order, Intervention Order	IPNA (Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance) CBO (Criminal Behaviour Order)
Litter Clearing Notice, Street Litter Clearing Notice, Gating Order, Dog Control Order, Premises Closure Order, Crack House Closure Order, Defacement Removal Notice, Noisy Premises Closure Order, Designated Public Place Order, S161 Closure Order	Community Protection Notices Public Spaces Protection Order Community Protection Orders (closure)
S30 Dispersal Order S27 Direction to Leave	Dispersal Powers

Injunction to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNA)

This is a civil injunction, available in the County Court for adults and the youth court for 10 to 17 year olds. It will be used to protect people from behaviour causing 'nuisance or annoyance' and can be used by a wide range of agencies including police, council and social landlords. It can also include positive requirements such as requiring individuals to seek help for their drug use. Breach of the IPNA would not be a criminal offence. An interim injunction can be obtained against the perpetrator to provide quick respite for the victim. The injunction could include a power of arrest if the anti-social behaviour included the use, or threatened use, of violence or risk of harm.

Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO)

This will be available following a conviction for any criminal offence and can address the underlying causes of the behaviour through new positive requirements. Breach will be a criminal offence with a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison for adults. It has a similar application process to the ASBO on conviction.

Community Protection Notice

Litter Clearing Notice and Street Litter Clearing Notice are being repealed and replaced with the Community Protection Notice. Fixed Penalty Notices will remain available. The Community Protection Notice can be used to deal with persistent littering and accumulations of waste. One of the benefits of using the CPN is that on breach it allows the Council to undertake works in default on any land 'open to the air' (such as a garden) to clear the rubbish with or without the owner's consent. Councils will be able to charge the full cost of any works to remove graffiti.

It is more flexible than the orders they will replace. The power can be used by Local authorities, police, registered housing providers and can be used by non-specialists (without an environmental health degree). Accumulations of litter and rubbish can also be dealt with as a statutory nuisance, where the behaviour is prejudicial to health or constitutes a nuisance. Council Environmental Health has a statutory duty to issue an abatement notice where this test is met.

Public Spaces Protection Order

This will be used to limit the people who can access an area, such as by gating an alleyway at certain times. Where groups regularly congregate in a park to consume alcohol and their behaviour has a detrimental effect on the area, the council can make a PSPO prohibiting the consumption of alcohol, either at all times or during specific times when the problem is more likely to occur. Consideration should be given as to whether the problem will simply be displaced elsewhere. Who can use it – Local Authorities. The Council would have to consult with the police, the local community and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Existing orders will be allowed to run for a maximum of 3 years following the commencement of the new legislation. Local Authorities will have to implement new PSPO within that timeframe if they still want restrictions to remain in place.

Community Protection Order

This Closure Power can be used to deal with premises where drug misuse is causing nuisance or disorder. The power allows the Police or Council to quickly close a premises for up to 48 hours. Where it is considered that the problem may recur or continue, a closure order can be applied for through the magistrates court to close the premises for up to 3 months initially with a further extension to a maximum period of 6 months.

Dispersal powers

These will enable officers to require a person who has committed, or is likely to commit ASB to leave a specified area and not return for up to 48 hours. (The behaviour must be likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to a member of the public). There is no requirement to pre-designate an area in advance before the power could be used. No longer the need to go through a process of gathering evidence of 'serious and persistent' anti-social behaviour and getting the agreement of the local authority, enabling police officers to quickly deal with emerging trouble spots.

New powers to speed up eviction for serious ASB

Introducing a new absolute ground for possession to expedite the eviction of landlords' most serious anti-social tenants, (where evidence of serious ASB has already been established by a court). This should increase the chance that the case can be determined quickly in a single hearing. This new ground will be in addition to the existing discretionary ground for possession for ASB and landlords may choose to use this in preference to the existing discretionary ground where the tenant, member of their household, or visitor to the property has been convicted of a serious housing related offence, breach of an order or notice to abate noise, or breach of a CBO; or has been found by a court to have breached an injunction to prevent nuisance or annoyance; or the tenant's property has been closed for more than 48 hours under a closure order. Includes provisions to enable a landlord to apply for possession where the tenant or a person living in the tenant's property has been convicted of an offence committed during and at the scene of a riot which took place anywhere in the UK and for acts of ASB and criminality directed at the landlord's staff.

Community Trigger

- If the victim/community/business feels that agencies have not taken adequate action re ASB incidents and problems persist they can request a review of the case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem solving approach to find a solution.
- Qualifying complaint – to prevent someone reporting historical incidents – the ASB was reported within one month of the alleged behaviour taking place, and the application to use the Community Trigger is made within 6 months of the report of ASB.
- Threshold – to be defined by the local agencies but not more than 3 complaints in the previous 6 month period. Also, take account of the harm or potential harm caused. If threshold is met, partner agencies undertake a case review. Agencies share information related to the case. Review what action has previously been taken and decide whether additional actions are possible. Victim is informed of outcome. Action plan and timescales discussed with victim.
- Relevant agencies – Council, Police, registered housing providers (To co-opt a social landlord – where there are a number of housing providers in an area, can be represented by one housing provider on behalf of the sector).
- The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) must be consulted on the Community Trigger procedure when it is set up and when it is reviewed. The PCC could be directly involved in providing a route for the victim to query decision on whether the threshold was met or the way the review was carried out, auditing case reviews, or monitoring use of community trigger to identify learning and best practice.

The Community Trigger is invoked if:-

- Victim reports 3 separate incidents relating to the same problem in the past 6 months to the Council, Police or landlord and no action has been taken.
- OR victim reports 1 incident or crime motivated by hate in the last 6 months and no action has been taken
- OR at least 5 people have made reports about the same problem in the past 6 months to the Council, Police or landlord and no action has been taken.

Community Remedy

The Community Remedy gives victims a say in the out-of-court punishment of offenders for low level crime and anti-social behaviour. The Act places a duty on the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to consult members of the public and community representatives on what punitive, restorative or rehabilitative actions they would consider appropriate to be on the Community Remedy document. The public consultation may be undertaken in whatever format the PCC considers appropriate (eg on-line consultation, talking to community groups and local victims groups, via local newspapers or a combination of formats). The legislation does not specify what actions should be included in the Community Remedy document. This will vary from one police force to another depending on the views of the local people and the availability of actions or activities. The Consultation is being carried out by Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, commencing 7 July 2014 and ending on 22 August 2014.

Following consultation the PCC and the Chief Constable will agree the actions to be listed, which can be chosen by the victim for the perpetrator to undertake in consequence of their behaviour or offending. However, the victims' involvement is voluntary and the victim must not be made to feel they should take part in a process they are not comfortable with, that they think may put them at risk, or that they do not believe will be of benefit to them.

The Community Remedy document for County Durham and Darlington will be used as part of the existing process for delivering community resolutions. It will also be used when a conditional caution or youth conditional caution is given, as a means of consulting the victim about the possible conditions to be attached to the caution. Typically, community resolutions are used when dealing with low level criminal damage, low value theft, minor assaults (without injury) and anti-social behaviour.

The following actions have been considered to be included in the Community Remedy document which will help improve public confidence in the use of out-of-court disposals and are compatible with the perpetrator's human rights.

- A written or verbal apology.
- Mediation-use of a third party to bring together both parties to reach a common agreement.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contract-written agreement specifying behaviour
- Attend a Restorative Justice panel.
- Shuttle conference- allows the victim and perpetrator to put their views to each other without meeting face to face.
- Repairing damage to property or cleaning graffiti.
- Paying an appropriate amount for damage to be repaired or stolen property to be replaced.
- Participation in structured diversionary activities, i.e courses, training.
- Targeted intervention i.e appropriate alcohol and drugs intervention, anger management courses.
- Reparation to the community e.g by doing local unpaid work for a short period such as picking up litter in a park.
- Parenting Contract- voluntary agreement signed by the perpetrator's parent/carer/guardian outlining expected behaviour.
- Counselling
- Tenancy enforcement-through social landlords (in appropriate cases)

These actions must be appropriate and proportionate to the types of offences for which community resolutions are used and seek to have a positive impact on the offender.

Each of the actions must have:

- Punitive element: reflecting the effects on the victim and the wider community.
- Restorative element: achieving appropriate restitution/reparation to the victim.
- Rehabilitative element: helping to address the causes of the perpetrator's behaviour
- Or a combination of these.

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

22 September 2015



**Progress of Recommendations following
the Overview and Scrutiny Review of the
Neighbourhood Warden Service**

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of implementing recommendations following the Committee's previous review of Neighbourhood Wardens.

Background

2. In 2013/14, the Committee undertook review activity on the Council's Neighbourhood Warden Service. The aim of the review was to look at the impact of partnership activity and raise the profile of the service.
3. The review gathered a wide range of evidence through Working Group meetings, video footage, field study observations and desktop research to produce its report on this topic. The Committee's report was presented to Cabinet by Councillor David Boyes in April 2014 and contained the following recommendations:
 1. That Cabinet note the valuable role Neighbourhood Wardens provide to communities in line with Council priorities and their contribution to partnership working with a wide range of partner organisations.
 2. That consideration be given for all Neighbourhood Wardens to undertake training to use restorative approaches as a tool to tackle problems within their role.
 3. That the Neighbourhood Warden Service should look to raise its profile through exploring mechanisms to circulate the monthly newsletter to residents groups, partners agencies and neighbourhood watch. In addition, consideration be given to explore the use of social media as a tool to improve confidence and gather intelligence with the Council's Corporate Communications Team.
 4. That the neighbourhood wardens explore development of locality based confidence plans in line with local priorities and also contribute to area based confidence plans produced by Durham Constabulary.
 5. That the Neighbourhood Warden Service in addition to offering feedback to improve confidence explore implementing a system where if action needed is outside their responsibility and they have referred to another service or agency, inform the resident of action they have taken and contact details for the relevant service or agency.

6. That attendance at community meetings is a very important format to engage and communicate with residents, but if there are capacity issues to attend community meetings that the Neighbourhood Protection Manager liaise with the local Neighbourhood Police Chief Inspector and/or Inspector and County Council members to identify the most appropriate meetings for the wardens to be attending.
 7. That the Neighbourhood Warden Service prepare for implications from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill to become an Act and review tools and powers to ensure that appropriate training is undertaken for staff and changes are communicated to residents, businesses and communities.
 8. That Neighbourhood Wardens have the contact details for the Parking Enforcement Team to report any issues relating to car parking raised as a community concern and following concerns raised at PACT meetings these are also shared with the parking services team.
 9. Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations contained in the report as part of the approach through systematic review and provide a progress update on recommendations in six months' time.
4. In accordance with recommendation 9, a progress report was presented to the Committee's meeting in September 2014. The report informed Members that recommendations 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9 were complete. Appendix 2 reports further progress on implementation of recommendations 2, 3, 4 and 7. Ian Hoult, Neighbourhood Protection Manager will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to provide further information and respond to Members questions in relation to this topic.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

'Overview and Scrutiny Review, Neighbourhood Wardens', Cabinet April 2014
 'Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of the Neighbourhood Warden Service', Safer and Stronger Communities
 Overview and Scrutiny Committee, September 2014

Contact:	Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer		
Tel:	03000 268 142	E-mail:	jonathan.slee@durham.gov.uk
Contact:	Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager		
Tel:	03000 268 027	E-mail:	tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – information within the report is aimed at reducing crime and disorder, Anti-Social behaviour and environmental crime

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – Neighbourhood Wardens
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
1) That Cabinet note the valuable role Neighbourhood Wardens provide to communities in line with Council priorities and their contribution to partnership working with a wide range of partner organisations	September 14 - Cabinet considered the report on the 16 th April 14 and approved the report and recommendations.		Completed
2) That consideration be given for all Neighbourhood Wardens to undertake training to use restorative approaches as a tool to tackle problems within their role.	September 14 - Some Neighbourhood Warden teams have undertaken RA training in specific areas with a plan to complete this over the next 6 months. September 15-	Dave Riseley (Enforcement Manager – Neighbourhood Protection)	March 15
3) That the Neighbourhood Warden Service should look to raise its profile through exploring mechanisms to circulate the monthly newsletter to residents groups, partners agencies and neighbourhood watch. In addition, consideration be given to explore the use of social media as a tool to improve confidence and gather intelligence with the Council's Corporate Communications Team	September 14- Work has been carried out to continue to raise the profile, including, a specific article in the Summer edition of Durham County News, the Newsletter has an increased circulation list with the addition of new resident groups along with continued press articles. Currently corporate communications are working on a social media strategy with services to respond to the growth of social media and a further update will be provided. September 15 –	Ian Hault (Neighbourhood Protection Manager)	March 15

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
4) That the Neighbourhood Wardens explore development of locality based confidence plans in line with local priorities and also contribute to area based confidence plans produced by Durham Constabulary.	September 14 - Durham Constabulary no longer have locality based confidence plans and work is ongoing to develop confidence plans around key community priorities raised through PACT meetings including, speeding, alcohol and environmental crime (dog fouling, litter & flytipping). These plans will include other sections of the council and partner agencies. September 15 -	Ian Hoult (Neighbourhood Protection Manager)	March 15
5) That the Neighbourhood Warden Service in addition to offering feedback to improve confidence explore implementing a system where if action needed is outside their responsibility and they have referred to another service or agency, inform the resident of action they have taken and contact details for the relevant service or agency.	September 14 - Feedback has been improved with additional checks being put in place by team leaders. Contacts have been clarified and reviewed.		Completed
6) That attendance at community meetings is a very important format to engage and communicate with residents, but if there are capacity issues to attend community meetings that the Neighbourhood Protection Manager liaise with the local Neighbourhood Police Chief Inspector and/or Inspector and County Council members to identify the most appropriate meetings for the wardens to be attending	Meetings have been reviewed and where appropriate local discussions have taken place. The contacts for Neighbourhood Wardens have been reviewed and streamlined including dedicated team leader mobiles through working shifts.		Completed

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
7) That the Neighbourhood Warden Service prepare for implications from the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Bill to become an Act and review tools and powers to ensure that appropriate training is undertaken for staff and changes are communicated to residents, businesses and communities.	<p>September 14 -Lead by the ASB delivery group work has been ongoing since early 2014 to ensure that the new powers can be implemented in a timely way. Currently it is projected that the bill will be enacted in late October 2014.</p> <p>September 15 -</p>	Ian Hault (Neighbourhood Protection Manager)	Projected November 14
8) That Neighbourhood Wardens have the contact details for the Parking Enforcement Team to report any issues relating to car parking raised as a community concern and following concerns raised at PACT meetings these are also shared with the parking services team	September 14 - All Neighbourhood Wardens have the correct contacts for the Parking Enforcement Team		Completed
9) Cabinet are asked to consider the recommendations contained in the report as part of the approach through systematic review and provide a progress update on recommendations in six months' time.			Completed

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

22 September 2015



**Quarter One 2015/16
Performance Management Report**

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

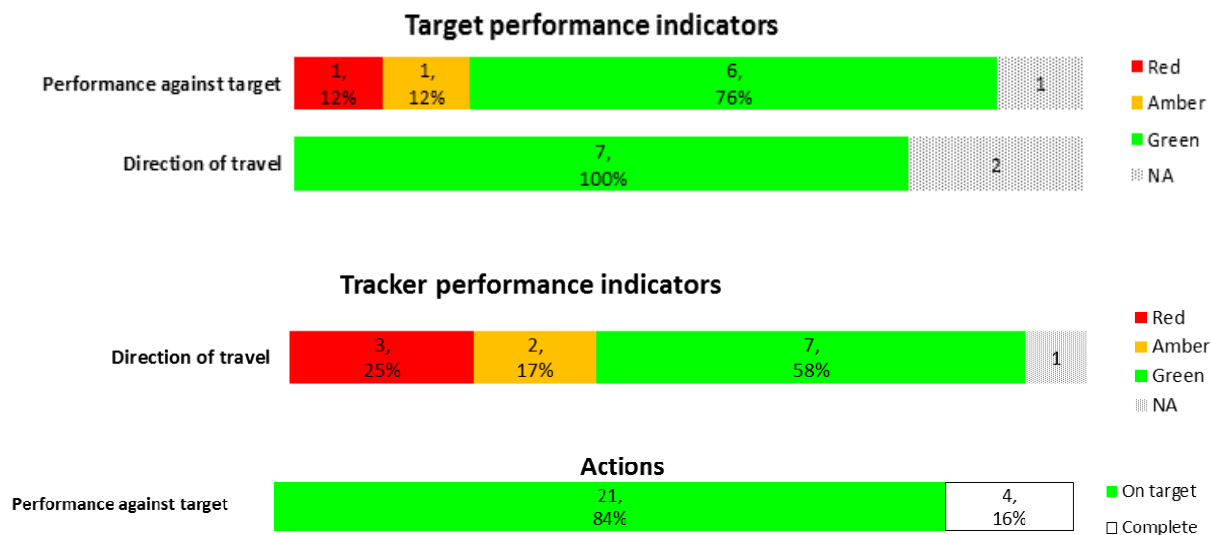
Purpose of the Report

1. To present progress against the council's corporate basket of performance indicators (PIs), Council Plan and service plan actions and report other performance issues for the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year, covering the period April to June 2015.

Background

2. 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).
3. 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.
4. The corporate performance indicator guide has been updated to provide full details of indicator definitions and data sources for the 2015/16 corporate indicator set. This is available to view either internally from the intranet (at Councillors useful links) or can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Altogether Safer: Overview



Council Performance

5. Key achievements this quarter include:

- a. The percentage of people who agreed that the local council and police deal with concerns of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime was 63.2% during 2014/15, with a confidence interval of +/-3.6%. Public perception has increased from 58.8% in the equivalent period of 2013/14. Please note that the Crime Survey is used to report this indicator, which is at force level so includes Darlington.
- b. The Stronger Families Programme aims to assist individuals in a family to achieve reductions in crime/anti-social behaviour, improve school attendance or move back into employment as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's Troubled Families Programme Financial Framework (March 2012). As of March 2015, 1,320 families have had a successful intervention, which equates to 100% of County Durham's overall target of 1,320 families by May 2015. This equates to a total reward grant of £1,435,200. Comparator data (as of March 2015) show that County Durham has exceeded the national (98.9%), regional (99.9%) and statistical neighbours (99.6%) averages. Following on from the success of the programme, stage two commenced on 1 April 2015 and will continue until May 2020.
- c. Of the 1,201 people in alcohol treatment between April 2014 and March 2015, 456 successfully completed. This equates to a 38% successful completion rate, which is an increase from 34.8% in 2013/14 and has exceeded the 2014/15 target of 36.6%. Performance is slightly below the 2014/15 national outturn of 39.2%.

d. Tracker indicators show:

- i. In the period April to June 2015 there were 6,326 crimes, equating to a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 population. This has reduced from 6,462 crimes in the equivalent period of 2014 and equates to a 2.1% reduction in overall crime, following a 2% increase in crime reported for 2014/15. Based on current figures Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 1.6% reduction in total crime by the end of 2015/16. Analysis has highlighted that the reduction is primarily due to a fall in theft offences of 9.2% (see table below). However, this was partially offset by crimes categorised as violence against the person which have increased by 9.4% against the equivalent period last year. The County Durham Community Safety Partnership (CSP) area continues to see the lowest level of crime per 1,000 population for the period April to May 2015 (8.2) when compared to its most similar CSPs average (11.8).
- ii. Between April and June 2015, there were 5,657 victim based crimes, which is a 1.8% reduction (103 fewer victims of crime) when compared to the 2014/15 equivalent period (5,760 crimes). This equates to a rate of 11 per 1,000 population. Based on current figures, Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 2% reduction in the number of victim based crimes by the end of 2015/16. County Durham CSP area has the lowest rate for victim based crime per 1,000 population for the period April to May 2015 (7.3) when compared to its most similar CSPs average (10.5). Durham Constabulary continues to report positive feedback from victims of crimes, collected via the Police Satisfaction Survey, and has some of the highest satisfaction levels in the country.
- iii. Between April and June 2015 there were 2,634 theft offences, equating to a rate of 5.1 per 1,000 population. This is a reduction of 9.2% from the 2,901 offences during the same period of the previous year. All theft offences are showing a reduction against 2014 as shown below:

Crime categories	Recorded: <u>Year To date</u>		
	To Jun-14	To Jun-15	Change
Theft offences	2,901	2,634	-9.2%
Burglary	714	683	-4.3%
Vehicle offences	493	436	-11.6%
Theft from the person	29	25	-13.8%
Theft of a pedal cycle	88	59	-33.0%
Shoplifting	652	604	-7.4%
All other theft offences	925	827	-10.6%

Based upon current figures, Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 6% reduction in theft offences by the end of 2015/16. The County Durham CSP area has one of the lowest rates of theft occurrences per 1,000 population (3.4) when compared to its most similar CSPs average (5.04) for the period April to May 2015.

- iv. In the period April to June 2015 there were 5,761 incidents of ASB reported to the police. This equates to a 12.3% reduction on the equivalent period in 2014/15 (6,568 incidents). Durham Constabulary is forecasting a 12.9% reduction in ASB incidents by the end of 2015/16.
6. 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), now known as SafeLives, a national charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, reported that County Durham rates are considerably below recommended levels and the national average and made recommendations to identify repeat cases and refer cases back to the MARAC. Between April and June 2015, 92 victims of domestic abuse presented to the MARAC of which 17 were repeats, equating to 18.5%. This is an increase from 14.1% in the previous year but falls short of the 25% threshold expected by SafeLives.
7. The key performance improvement issues for this theme are:
 - a. Latest data show 194 of the 474 young people in the July 2012 to June 2013 cohort re-offended within 12 months, which equates to 40.9%. This is an increase when compared against the same period in the previous year (37.5%). The rate in County Durham is higher than the national rate of 36.6%. The 474 young people in the offender cohort committed a total of 611 offences, which equates to an offending rate of 1.29 offences per person. This rate is higher than the same period of the previous year (1.15) and the national average of 1.11. With the aim of reducing reoffending, County Durham Youth Offending Service has developed an enhanced programme of interventions for a cohort of young people identified as offending six or more times in the previous 12 months. The interventions include intensive levels of supervision, short-cut access to a range of multi-agency specialist professionals, and support for leisure activities, reparation and education, training and employment.
 - b. The number of people in drug treatment for opiate use between October 2013 and September 2014 was 1,454, of which 103 successfully completed, i.e. they did not re-present between October 2014 and March 2015. This equates to a 7.1% successful completion rate, which is below the target of 7.9% and national performance of 7.6% but an increase in performance from the same period in the previous year (6.1%). Following a procurement exercise in 2014/15, Durham County Council awarded the contract for an integrated drug and alcohol treatment service for adults and young people to Lifeline Project Ltd. A performance management framework is currently being developed with LifeLine, for implementation in summer 2015.
 - c. There are no Council Plan actions which have not achieved target in this theme.
8. There are no key risks which require any mitigating action in delivering the objectives of this theme.

Recommendations and Reasons

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

Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance
Tel: 03000 268 071 E-mail: jenny.haworth@durham.gov.uk

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 Performance Indicators (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

GREEN

Latest reported data remain in line with comparable period

AMBER

Latest reported data have deteriorated from comparable period

RED

Performance against target

Performance better than target

Getting there - performance approaching target (within 2%)

Performance >2% behind target

Actions:

WHITE

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

GREEN

Action on track to be achieved by the deadline

RED

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

Benchmarking:

GREEN

Performance better than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

AMBER

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

RED

Performance worse than other authorities based on latest benchmarking information available

Nearest Neighbour Benchmarking:

The nearest neighbour model was developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), one of the professional accountancy bodies in the UK. CIPFA has produced a list of 15 local authorities which Durham is statistically close to when you look at a number of characteristics. The 15 authorities that are in the nearest statistical neighbours group for Durham using the CIPFA model are: Barnsley, Wakefield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Wigan, Kirklees, St Helens, Calderdale, Dudley, Northumberland, Tameside, Sheffield, Gateshead, Stockton-on-Tees and Stoke-on-Trent.

We also use other neighbour groups to compare our performance. More detail of these can be requested from the Corporate Planning and Performance Team at performance@durham.gov.uk.

Appendix 3: Summary of Key Performance Indicators

Page 42
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											
38	CASAS9	Building resilience to terrorism (self-assessment). Scored on level 1 (low) to 5 (high)	4	2013/14	3	GREEN	3	GREEN			
39	CASAS3	Proportion of people who use adult social care services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure	93.9	Apr - May 2015	90.0	GREEN	90.2	GREEN	79.1	78.2*	2013/14
40	CASAS1	Percentage of domestic abuse victims who present at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) and are repeat victims	18.5	Apr - Jun 2015	25.0	NA [1]	14.1	NA [1]	24.0	28*	2014
41	REDPI98	Percentage of emergency response Care Connect calls arrived at the property within 45 minutes	99	Apr - Jun 2015	90.0	GREEN	97.0	GREEN	NA	NA	
42	CASAS5	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10 to 17 (per 100,000 population of 10 to 17 year olds) (Also in Altogether better for Children and Young People)	89	Apr - Jun 2015	160	GREEN	105	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
43	CASAS23	Percentage of successful completions of those in alcohol treatment (Also in Altogether Healthier)	38.0	2014/15	36.6	GREEN	34.8	GREEN	39.2 RED		2014/15
44	CASAS7	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	7.1	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014 (Re-presentations to Mar 2015)	7.9	RED	6.1	GREEN	7.6 RED		Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
45	CASAS8	Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment - non-opiates (Also in Altogether Healthier)	40.1	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014 (Re-presentations to Mar 2015)	40.4	AMBER	34.2	GREEN	39.0 GREEN		Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
46	CASCYP 14	Percentage of successful interventions (families turned around) via the Stronger Families Programme (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	100	Apr 2012 - Mar 2015	70.0	GREEN	51.2	Not comparable [2]	98.9 GREEN	99.9* GREEN	As at Mar 2015

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

[2] Data cumulative year on year so comparisons are not applicable

Table 2: Key Tracker Indicators

Page 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											
153	CASAS 12	Overall crime rate (per 1,000 population)	12.3	Apr - Jun 2015	49.7	Not comparable [3]	12.7	GREEN			
154	CASAS 24	Rate of theft offences (per 1,000 population)	5.1	Apr - Jun 2015	21.8	Not comparable [3]	5.7	GREEN			
155	CASAS 10	Recorded level of victim based crimes per 1,000 population	11.0	Apr - Jun 2015	44.5	Not comparable [3]	11.2	GREEN			
156	CASAS 11	Percentage of survey respondents who agree that the police and local council are dealing with concerns of anti-social behaviour and crime	63.2	2014/15	62.5	GREEN	58.8	GREEN		59.4** GREEN	Oct 2013 - Sep 2014
157	CASAS 15	Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	5,761	Apr - Jun 2015	23,235	Not comparable [3]	6,568	GREEN			
158	CASAS 22	Number of hate incidents	74	Apr - Jun 2015	311	Not comparable [3]	109	NA			
159	CASAS 18	Proportion of all offenders (adults and young people) who re-offend in a 12 month period	28.2	Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	27.3	RED	27.9	AMBER	26.2 RED		Jul 2012 - Jun 2013

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
160	CASCYP 29	Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12 month period (%) (Also in Altogether Better for Children and Young People)	40.9	Jul 2012 - Jun 2013	38.7	RED	37.5	RED	36.6		England - Jul 2012 - Jun 2013 NE - 2012/13
161	CASAS 19	Percentage of anti-social behaviour incidents that are alcohol related	13.2	Apr - Jun 2015	12.3	RED	14.0	GREEN			
162	CASAS 20	Percentage of violent crime that is alcohol related	30.8	Apr - Jun 2015	32.4	GREEN	30.7	AMBER			
163	REDPI44	Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	35	Jan - Mar 2015	181	Not comparable [3]	42	GREEN			
		Number of fatalities	2				3				
		Number of seriously injured	33				39				
164	REDPI45	Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents	4	Jan - Mar 2015	23	Not comparable [3]	1	RED			
		Number of fatalities	0				0				
		Number of seriously injured	4				1				
165	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

[3] Data cumulative so comparisons are not applicable

This page is intentionally left blank

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

22 September 2015

Police and Crime Panel



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the Durham Constabulary Force area.

Background

2. This report builds upon information previously presented to the Committee and the aim of this report is to provide an update to Members in relation to the following areas from the Panel's Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2015:
 - Panel Membership and Chair and Vice Chair
 - Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15
 - Presentations Delivering an Efficient Policing Service and Year end Performance
 - Reports on HMIC Inspections, PCC Decisions Records and Commissioning Activity
 - Police and Crime Panel Work Programme

Detail

3. **Panel Membership and Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**
The Panel is politically balanced and consists of 12 Members, seven Elected Members from Durham County Council, three Elected Members from Darlington Borough Council and two Independent Co-opted Members. The Panel's Membership for 2014/15 is:

Durham County Council

Councillors J Allen, J Armstrong, D Boyes, P Brookes, S Forster, A Hopgood and P May

Darlington Borough Council

Councillors I Haszeldine, S Harker and B Jones

Independent Co-opted Members

Mr NJH Cooke and Mr DKG Dodwell

4. The Panel elected Cllr J Allen and Cllr S Harker as its Chair and Vice Chair for 2015/16.
5. **Police and Crime Commissioner's Annual Report 2014/15**
In accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the Panel considered and responded to the PCC's Annual Report.

Within its response the Panel acknowledged the succinct format to the plan that highlights the significant amount of positive work that has been undertaken by the PCC's Office and in partnership throughout the year to deliver priority areas. The Panel publically recorded their acknowledgment and praise that Durham was the only Force to be rated as 'Outstanding' for detecting crime in 2014/15 and was also rated outstanding for tackling anti-social behaviour within the PEEL inspections.

6. In addition to acknowledging these achievements the panel were interested in issues such as public confidence and harm caused by alcohol and how these issues are being tackled. Members also noted emerging threats such as cybercrime. Within this context, the Panel requested that further updates on these areas are included within its work programme during 2015/16.
7. The Panel noted positively that more victims of domestic violence are reporting incidents to the Police and also the number of repeat offenders is reducing. The Panel took the view that the latter should also be included within the Annual report.
8. Members also commented that County Durham and Darlington remains one of the safest places in the country to live and in times of financial pressures it is reassuring that the Force is recruiting Police Constables and Police and Community Support Officers.
9. **Presentations on Delivering an Efficient Policing Service and Year end Performance**
Mr Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer and the Police and Crime Commissioner provided a presentation on details of the Medium Term Financial Plan outlining potential impact of anticipated financial challenges.
10. The Panel received a presentation on the Year End performance report 2014/15 from the PCC and Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC. The interactive report provided Members with performance information on the Victim Based Crime, Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction. The report available from the PCC's website provides information on key performance data linked to the Commissioner's priorities and anti-social behaviour at a local level. The interactive report is available from the PCC's website <http://www.durham-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx>
11. **Reports on HMIC Inspections, PCC Decisions Records and Commissioning Activity**
Mr Gary Ridley, Chief Finance Officer presented a report on feedback from a HMIC inspection undertaken in April 2015 regarding efficiency. The report provided feedback in relation to 'Force efficiency at keeping people safe and reducing crime', 'Use of resources to meet demand', 'Force workforce model sustainability and affordability', 'Force's financial sustainability for the short and long term', 'Legitimacy pillar' and 'Leadership'.

12. The report highlighted that overall the inspection was positive and that formal national results will not be published until early autumn.
13. Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC, presented reports on the PCC's decision records and commissioning activity. The Decision register reported key decisions taken between January – May 2015 and a forward plan of anticipated key decisions from June to August 2015. The report on Commissioning Activity provided the Panel with information for 2015/16 that included a grant to commission services to support victims funded by the Ministry of Justice and the allocation of the PCC's budget of £735,000 to support community safety activities within the Force area.
14. **Police and Crime Panel Work Programme 2015/16**
The work programme enables the PCP to plan how it will effectively provide challenge to the PCC and deliver its responsibilities within the context of the terms of reference and rules and the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act. The programme includes identified dates for considering the Commissioner's 2015/16 precept and monitoring delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. The Panel agreed the work programme report and requested that arrangements be also made to hold a development session for Panel and Substitute Members.

Recommendation

15. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

None

Contact:	Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer		
Tel:	03000 268 142	E-mail:	jonathan.slee@durham.gov.uk
Contact:	Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager		
Tel:	03000 268 027	E-mail:	tom.gorman@durham.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – information contained within this report is linked to Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and establishment of a Police and Crime Panel to scrutinise the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – the Panel's responsibilities within the Police, Reform and Social Responsibility Act is referenced within the report