



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

Date Monday 15 February 2016
Time 9.30 am
Venue Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham

Business

Part A

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

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Substitute Members
3. Minutes of the Meeting held 5 January 2016 (Pages 1 - 12)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations
7. National Probation Service (NPS): (Pages 13 - 14)
 - (i) Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
 - (ii) Presentation by Maureen Gavin, Head of Durham NPS.
8. Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company: (Pages 15 - 16)
 - (i) Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
 - (ii) Presentation by Hazel Willoughby, Head of Offender Services, Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.
9. County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18: (Pages 17 - 56)

Report of Hazel Willoughby, Head of Offender Services, Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.

10. Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2016/19: (Pages 57 - 102)
 - (i) Report of the Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services.
 - (ii) Presentation by Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager, Children and Adults Services.
11. Police and Crime Panel: (Pages 103 - 106)
Report of the Assistant Chief Executive.
12. Overview and Scrutiny Review Updates:
Verbal Updates by the Overview and Scrutiny Officer.
 - (i) Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services.
 - (ii) 20mph Limits.
13. Safe Durham Partnership Update: (Pages 107 - 112)
Report of the Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services – presented by Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager, Children and Adults Services.
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
5 February 2016

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

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

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

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

Co-opted Employees/Officers: 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 **Tuesday 5 January 2016** at **9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, C Hampson, M Hodgson, G Holland, S Iveson, 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 and Mr J Welch

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Acting Chief Fire Officer S Errington and Chief Superintendent G Hall

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Charlton, S Forster and J Gray.

The Chairman noted that Kenneth Ball, Station Manager, Consett Fire Station, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service had received the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to Fire and Rescue and the community in County Durham and that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Simon Henig had received the CBE for political and public service.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 27 October 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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: pupils from Etherley Lane Primary School, Bishop Auckland honing their journalistic skills in producing a newsletter and presenting this to the school and Members of the 20mph Working Group; the region's first "tri-responders", 2 Community Safety Responders based at Stanhope are employed as Retained Firefighters, Police Community Support Officers and first responders for the North East Ambulance Service; and over 150 items of fake goods were seized from a property in Ferryhill during operations carried out by Council's Fair Trading Team.

Councillors noted the work of the Police, Fire and Ambulance Services in working together closely and the addition of defibrillators being placed in rural communities, including Teesdale and Weardale. Members noted that there were also defibrillators being placed in other areas within the County, including West Auckland and Blackhall.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service - Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan 2016/17 Consultation

The Chairman thanked the Group Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS), Colin Davis who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan 2016/17 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Group Manager thanked Members for the opportunity to explain as regards the 12 week consultation in respect of the IRMP Action Plan, noting once completed the IRMP Action Plan would be reported back to the County Durham and Darlington Combined Fire Authority, and then published on 16 March 2016.

Members learned that since 2010 there had been a 34% reduction in finances and several elements of the service had been reorganised such to minimise the impact on frontline provision, however, there was now a need to consult on how to deal with further cuts in funding for the service. Councillors were reminded of changes already implemented such as: a 29% reduction in non-uniformed staff; changes in shift patterns and day-crew provision; shared resources such as Newton Aycliffe Police/Fire Station and the Fire/Ambulance Station at Darlington; the new training facility at Bowburn with Police use of the command suite; and renegotiation of contracts to obtain best value.

The Committee noted that there were 5 proposals going forward for 2016/17:

1. Strategic review of fire control

“Do you support our intention to review how we provide our fire control and 999 call handling function including exploring collaboration opportunities with other partner agencies to improve efficiency?”

The Group Manager explained that this would involve the control staff picking up additional administration tasks, including the scheduling of fire safety visits, however emergency calls would be prioritised.

2. Extending the role of firefighters to assist public health services

“The role of a firefighter could potentially include activities supporting the wider public health agenda, such as undertaking health prevention work. Do you support our proposal to participate in research and trials to test the viability of such initiatives?”

The Group Manager added that successful work carried out had led to a 47% reduction in accidental dwelling fires and it was explained that over 20,000 home safety fire checks were carried out annually, and around 300 enhanced checks for the more vulnerable in our communities. It was noted that in these interactions with the public, there could be scope to be able to make referrals to the relevant services where appropriate and therefore the viability of firefighters being able to take on this additional role would need to be assessed.

3. Expanding the emergency medical response (EMR) scheme

“Last year firefighters in Teesdale and Weardale were trained to respond to specific medical emergencies in support of the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). Do you agree that, providing the costs do not negatively affect our medium term financial plan, we should explore options to extend this trial to other areas of County Durham and Darlington in partnership with NEAS?”

Members were asked to note that demand on NEAS had increased over the last 2 years, with NEAS receiving 1,000 calls each day, and that one example of the need to attend an incident quickly was that for every additional minute that passed before a person receives treatment for cardiac arrest, their chance of surviving decreases by 10%. It was added that firefighters were available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, however the EMR scheme was in addition to NEAS, not as any replacement.

4. Further collaborations – support services, estates and fire stations

“CDDFRS already works collaboratively with partners organisations in the provision of information and services across many areas of work. Do you support our intention to explore further collaboration opportunities in the areas of estates management, use of fire stations, administration and office functions?”

The Group Manager noted that this would be to simply extend what is already done in terms of collaboration, and to look for any areas that could be incorporated.

5. Extending the Young Firefighters' Association (YFA) / Fire Cadets' schemes

“Youth engagement schemes currently operate out of five fire stations across the service. These have successfully improved resilience; strengthened community ties and helped the service fulfil its role as a provider and supporter of education and training for young people. Do you agree with our proposal to invest in extending such schemes to other fire stations?”

Members were asked to note that there were several benefits in the investment young people via these schemes, not only the engagement and community ties, also the schemes could be a stepping stone towards becoming a retained duty system (RDS) firefighter, indeed 11 current CDDFRS RDS firefighters having previously been members of the YFA. It was added that for those that did not pursue careers within the service there was a positive boost to their CVs and helped to develop many skills for the young people involved.

The Group Manager concluded by noting that the consultation on the IRMP Action Plan was running until 8 February and that comments could be submitted by individuals via an electronic survey and reminded Members that the Plan would go back to the Combined Fire Authority in Spring 2016.

The Chairman thanked the Group Manager for his presentation, noting the value of the input of the Overview and Scrutiny, adding that Members may also wish to respond individually via the electronic survey as explained by the Group Manger. The Chairman asked Members if they supported Proposal 1, the Committee unanimously supported the proposal.

The Chairman asked if Members were in support of Proposal 2. Councillor N Martin asked that in terms of Proposals 2 and 3, as Public Health and its associated funding was now incorporated within Durham County Council, would there be pressure in terms of any transfer of funding to the Fire Service and was the Director of Public Health involved in terms of the consultation. The Co-opted Member and Acting Chief Fire Officer, CDDFRS, Stuart Errington explained that the Director of Public Health was involve in terms of initiatives and that in terms of funding it would depend upon how far the roles were taken. The Acting Chief Fire Officer added that there would be a view to be able to help in terms of sharing costs in areas of partnership working, however in terms of actions to signpost to other partner organisations then this good practice would not attract a charge, however, it was noted that some Fire Authorities had undertaken work to administer flu-jabs and this type of activity would likely attract a charge in terms of the Fire Service's work. It was stressed that there was no intention of “stepping on Public Health's toes”; however, there would be an opportunity to work with Public Health in a positive partnership approach. The Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services, Peter Appleton added that it was important to be able to make each contact with members of the public count and with firefighters being valued and trusted by our communities there was a good opportunity to be able to engage with people, especially those more vulnerable people in terms of being able to put effective preventions in place. It was added that local models and information sharing would be important. Mr J Welch noted in terms of the EMR it was vital to be able to attend an incident as soon as possible to affect a positive outcome and welcome the pilot scheme and any work in this regard.

Chief Superintendent G Hall reiterated the comments of the Head of Planning and Service Strategy, noting that actions by the fire service to help prevent harm, by the Police to prevent crime and by NEAS, NHS and Public Health to prevent health issues from the would benefit all in our communities and affect savings in the longer term.

Councillor M Hodgson, Chairman of the County Durham and Darlington Combined Fire Authority, noted that there were no options in terms of the budget pressures being faced by the Fire Service and other public sector organisations, and therefore partners would need to work together in order to deliver services, however, there was a point beyond which cuts would have a detrimental effect. Members of the Committee agreed in support of Proposal 2.

The Chairman asked for comments in terms of Proposal 3 and Chief Superintendent G Hall noted that it was an excellent proposal; however, there was a need to ensure there was not any "service drift". Mr AJ Cooke noted that it would be important that incidents remain prioritised by NEAS, even if a fire fighter had arrived at the scene. The Chief Fire Officer noted that there were arrangements in place to ensure that NEAS would follow up and be called to incidents as appropriate. Councillor T Nearney noted the arrangements and asked if there had been external risk assessments in respect of any impact on the core service.

Members noted that Proposal 4 was an issue of common sense in respect of estate and administrative functions, and that Proposal 5 was also an important step in being able to engage with communities and to act as an excellent recruiting tool. Councillors noted they would wish to be updated as regards progress in due course.

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service IRMP Action Plan 206/17 be noted.
- (ii) That a response containing comments from the Committee be submitted for consideration by the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service as part of their consultation on the IRMP Action Plan 2016/17.

8 Consumer Protection Enforcement Activity

The Chairman thanked the Consumer Protection Manager, Neighbourhood Services, Owen Cleugh who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the enforcement activities of the Consumer Protection Team (for copy see file of minutes).

The Consumer Protection Manager thanked Members and reminded the Committee that Consumer Protection was broken down into 3 teams: Fair Trading; Safety/Metrology; and Licensing. It was explained that doorstep crime was a national priority and the Teams worked with partners to ensure help was provided to vulnerable people in this respect, the most common types being mis-description of goods or services and misdirection in order to facilitate burglary. It was explained that Durham County Council was now part of the National Scams Hub and that a recent scam had suggested a further 115 victims in the County, and again this was an area in which the Council could work with partners to help the most vulnerable who are often the target of such scams.

Members noted that the 2 main areas of rogue trading in the County were second hand car sales and home improvements, stemming from unsolicited calls.

It was added that data is looked at each quarter to assess new trends and it was noted that other areas of concern included the sale of puppies, with one seller at court, and the various sales being conducted via the internet, with a new platform being used called "shpock" a "boot sale app".

The Consumer Protection Manager noted that counterfeit goods harmed legitimate businesses and in the cases of fake diet pills, drugs and alcohol they also posed a risk to health. Members learned that in terms of action on product safety, there had been a number of cases at court, mostly concerning the motor trade. Another area that was highlighted was the storage of a large amount of fireworks at a private residence and therefore the Consumer Protection Team would look to work with Housing Providers in terms of sanctions in terms of breach of tenancy.

The Committee noted underage sales was an important issue and a stepped approach was undertaken, with training provided, warnings, fines and a review of the licence. It was explained that proxy sales were difficult to enforce, therefore it was important to help educate retailers on the issue. Members noted 2 examples cigarette sales, one from a private residence, one from an ice-cream van. Members were reminded, as discussed during the recent Scrutiny Review that "tab-houses" were often linked to Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) and in some cases the sellers are victims themselves. It was noted that an operation in the East of the County had resulted in the seizure of cigarettes, cash, drugs, stolen goods all from one premises. This was noted as being an excellent example of working with partners including Durham Constabulary and it was hoped to utilise the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) to help provide some benefit for the local community.

Members noted that in terms of illicit alcohol, there was not only non-duty paid alcohol, there was counterfeit alcohol which posed a risk to public health. It was explained that the team worked closely with the Police Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit (AHRU) worked to ensure that such alcohol was not fit for human consumption was removed from circulation. The Consumer Protection Manager added that novel psychoactive substances or so called "legal highs" was an area that would receive new legislation in May, hopefully giving more relevant powers to those dealing with the issue. It was noted that the area was of great concern to the emergency services as they were readily available online and through some retailers and were also relatively inexpensive.

In terms of Licensing, the Consumer Protection Manager noted that there the Council had recently consulted on a revision to the Taxi Licensing Policy and this would go to the General Licensing and Registration Committee later in January and then to Council in Spring. It was noted that there would be training for the Licensing Trade in terms of child sexual exploitation (CSE), and while it was noted that there was no evidence of an issue in County Durham, it would be beneficial to have taxi drivers who could help identify potential issues and know how to help and who to contact. The Committee noted that in terms of Premises Licences, the regular enforcement in terms of the night time economy, including takeaway premises continued.

Members noted in terms of gambling, there had been 2 illegal bookmakers targeted, noting links to OCGs, and that this was also an area in which more activities were known to be taking place, in pubs and clubs, and securing information on such activities was important and would be welcomed by the Consumer Protection Team.

Members noted that in terms of scrap metal dealers and illegal trade, a lot of progress had been made and that the courts were issuing fines at a sufficient level to act as a deterrent. It was noted that any information was welcomed; however, it seemed that a lot of the scrap metal collectors were not from the County, they were travelling in from areas such as Tyneside.

The Consumer Protection Manager reminded Members of the recent scrutiny review on the issue of OCGs and noted that the partnership approach with the Police and other services was continuing, with disruption tactics to affect the OCGs and looking to work together to hold those involved to account.

The Chairman thanked the Group Manager for his presentation and asked the Committee for any questions.

Mr J Welch asked what the criteria and rules were in terms of fireworks in a private residence. The Consumer Protection Manager that rules were in terms of a “reasonable” amount and an excuse often use is that any found are for personal use.

Chief Superintendent G Hall noted the excellent work of the Consumer Protection Team with the Police and other partners in terms of tackling the issue of OCGs, with a compliment to work of the Consumer Protection Manager and his Team. Chief Superintendent G Hall added that the issue of “legal highs” was an important issue and that the approach in County Durham was to be commended as those involved in the county have been invited to speak nationally on the subject. The Consumer Protection Manager noted that there was a lot of excellent partnership working with the Police and Fire Service, together with other Local Authorities in tackling these types of issue.

Councillor T Nearney noted that community intelligence was vital in tackling counterfeit goods and suggested that as part of their communications strategy, the Consumer Protection Manager considers providing updates to Area Action Partnerships.

Councillor C Wilson noted that the rise of the use of “legal highs” in prisons was of concern, as was the number of scams being perpetrated against vulnerable people in our area, especially via the internet. The Consumer Protection Manager noted that internet scammers often operated in a similar way to postal scammers, with those most vulnerable and isolated being targeted. Chief Superintendent G Hall noted that the Prison Service did work to tackle the issue of drugs in prisons, and that in terms of “e-crime” there were a number of schemes and programmes to help tackling issues as described and help protect young people online. It was added that any issues in terms of e-crime could be highlighted with the Consumer Protection Team or Durham Constabulary’s E-Crime Unit.

Councillor G Holland asked whether it was felt that the punishments handed down in court reflected the cost to our society, for example the level of fines in relation to Consumer Protection issues. The Consumer Protection Manager noted that while personally he felt that this was not always the case, there were sentencing guidelines that Judges must adhere to. Councillor G Holland noted that in some cases the offenders are in receipt of large profits from their illicit activities and therefore fines are often ineffective and therefore noted that perhaps there was a need for a larger political will to enable courts to level more severe punishments on such offenders. Chief Superintendent G Hall noted that that it would perhaps be beneficial of Magistrates to be given such presentations to highlight the issues.

Councillor F Tinsley noted the issue of rogue landlords and asked what involvement the Consumer Protection Team had in this regard. The Consumer Protection Manager explained that if there was an element of mis-description then actions could be taken.

Councillor J Measor noted that a technique often employed now was to advertise counterfeit goods, but to only source them after an order, and not store them at a property. The Consumer Protection Manager noted that the Team was aware of new techniques and methods by which offenders would attempt to hide their activities. Councillor J Maitland noted the proliferation of “charity bags” being posed through letterboxes. The Consumer Protection Manager noted that this was not an illegal activity, however, that individuals should be careful to check the descriptions of the organisation on the bag, and check the Charity Number stated.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 2 2015/16 Performance Management Report

The Chairman introduced the Strategic Manager - Performance and Information Management, Keith Forster who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter 2 2015/16 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer 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: increased performance in relation to Care Connect call responses; the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System; and a reduction in anti-social behaviour (ASB) figures. There was a slight increase in the overall crime statistics but Durham remains a relatively low crime area.

It was noted that the key performance issues included a slight underperformance in respect of the number of people completing alcohol and drug treatment, noting the new provider, Lifeline, was still in the process of “bedding in”. In respect of reoffending, it was noted that Durham’s re-offending rate was 28.1% which was higher than the national average (26.4%). It was encouraging to note that 141 of 171 individuals who engaged on the Checkpoint programme had successfully completed. In relation to Youth reoffending, although the percentage of the offending cohort who re-offend had increased to 42.4%, there had been a substantial reduction in the number of young offenders between 2007 and 2015.

Members noted that number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents had increased from the last quarter and were higher than the previous year. Members noted there had not been a single reason for the increase, a variety of incidents had occurred.

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

Councillor N Martin noted in respect of paragraph 5b, the performance of Care Connect calls was highlighted as a success, however, within the appendices, the associated performance indicator (PI) was noted as being “red”, in terms of performance against 12 months previously.

Councillor N Martin noted that there was a need for the reporting to be informative for Members, highlighting where genuine performance issues were, and that issues should not be reported as “red” unless there was a significant statistical difference and that this type of issue could be an indication of a problem with the target itself rather than performance. The Strategic Manager - Performance and Information Management agreed to discuss with colleagues.

The Chairman noted concern if the data used in terms of drug and alcohol services had a lag of up to 2 years. The Strategic Manager - Performance and Information Management explained that the Councils Public Health Team were working with Lifeline to develop additional data which would provide more up to date information about the Service.

Chief Superintendent G Hall noted the overall crime figures, and explained that the increase in violence against the person was also a national trend.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Council Plan and Performance Indicator Setting 2016/17

The Chairman introduced the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager, Assistant Chief Executive’s, Tom Gorman to speak to Members in relation to the Review of the Council Plan and Service Plans (for copy see file of minutes).

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager referred Members to the report highlighting the development of the “Altogether Safer” section of the Council Plan 2016-2019, including the draft aims and objectives and the associated proposed performance indicator set.

Members noted that there were no major changes planned, with Appendix 2 to the report highlighting a changes under Objective 5 to include an element S10 “Improved understanding of open water safety”, to reflect the work undertaken by the City Safety Group in the wider context of open water across the County.

The Committee noted that there were no major changes to the indicator set, however, there would be work in respect of looking at data lag, and to better understand reoffending and the impact of Checkpoint, and also to factor in ASB reporting that is via the Council into figures that report what is reported via the Police. The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that previous comments from Councillor N Martin had been noted.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager and asked Members for their questions on the report.

The Chief Fire Officer noted that in terms of Objective 5, there was a lot of work undertaken in respect of improving safety in the home and this was an area of work that impacted widely in County Durham and felt this was an element to be included in this Objective.

Councillor N Martin added that in setting targets there was a need to find a balance to be able to judge performance and that a slight underperformance against a fair target would then be able to be taken in context, and not seen as being “the end of the world”.

Councillor N Martin noted that in order to be able to set figures in context, there needed to be a statistical exercise to see how PIs were impacting and working.

The Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager noted that in some cases, PIs were pragmatic in terms of those referring to new or changing legislation as the impacts are often not initially well understood. It was added that whilst use of historical performance information is a consideration when setting targets for forthcoming years, basing new targets purely on past data pre-supposes that the same conditions will be in place. Members were informed that the current period of austerity will mean reductions in the resources available to deliver services meaning that previous performance is less relevant. The Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services, Peter Appleton noted that there were detailed discussions ongoing as regards being able to accurately track performance, ascertain trends and to understand what is statistically significant.

Resolved:

- (i) That the updated position on the development of the Council Plan and the corporate performance indicator set be noted.
- (ii) That the draft objectives and outcomes framework as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be noted.
- (iii) That the comments of the Committee on the draft performance indicators proposed for 2016/17 for the Altogether Safer theme as set out at Appendix 3 to the report be noted.
- (iv) That the comments of the Committee on the current targets as set out in Appendix 3 to the report and for target setting for 2016/17 onwards be noted.

11 Overview and Scrutiny Review Updates

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee reminded Members that the topic chosen by the Committee for a review was Alcohol and the Demand on Emergency Services and referred to the draft scoping document (for copy see file of minutes).

It was explained that following the Committee commenting on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy at its meeting in June 2015, Members had requested to undertake a review linked to the strategy. Members noted that service providers were keen for the Committee to be involved and that evidence would be brought forward from the cumulative impact assessment undertaken, and from the emergency services themselves. Members noted the timescales envisaged for the review, through to March 2016 and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Adults Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be invited to attend. It was added that the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Councillor T Nearney would be chairing the meetings of the Working Group.

Councillor T Nearney noted that there was a lot of work to be undertaken, and that paragraph 3 to the report was a key mission statement in terms of the review looking at evidence to be able to understand the impact alcohol has on the demands on the emergency services.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer explained that the 20mph Working Group had visited Etherley Lane Primary School, where pupils had produced a newsletter in relation to the new 20mh limits and road safety, presenting the newsletter to the school and Members, prior to distribution to the local community. It was added that the next meeting of the Working Group would be at the end of January, looking at how schemes had been implemented. Councillor J Armstrong asked if there was any information in terms of ongoing costs with schemes, to be able to judge where any additional value to be added. Councillor J Turnbull asked if any other schools had launched similar newsletters. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer noted that each school would have an educational package and that these would link into surrounding businesses and the community.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the draft scoping document be agreed.

12 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred Members to the update report as contained within the agenda pack noted that issues raised at the last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel including a PCP development session that had proven useful for Members.

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

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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

15 February 2016



National Probation Service

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of an overview presentation on the National Probation Service (NPS) from Maureen Gavin, Head of Durham NPS.

Background

2. At its meeting in September 2014, the Committee considered a presentation informing Members of the development of the National Probation Service following its inception in June 2014 as part of the Government's strategy for Transforming Rehabilitation..
3. The presentation highlighted that nationally Probation Trusts had been abolished and replaced by a NPS with 7 regional divisions and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies(CRC), across England Wales. County Durham is included within the NPS North East Region office and the Durham Tees Valley CRC. In summary, the NPS are responsible for the management of high risk offenders released into the community and the CRC manage low and medium risk offenders.
4. The National Probation Service work in partnership with the CRCs, the courts, police and with private and voluntary sector partners in order to manage offenders safely and effectively. Their priority is to protect the public by the effective rehabilitation of high risk offenders, by tackling the causes of offending and enabling offenders to turn their lives around.
5. The presentation to the Committee will aim to provide an update on the work of the National Probation Service including development of its roles and responsibilities and its approach to managing high risk offenders within the county.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

National Probation Service, Safer & Stronger Communities OSC, Sept 2014

Contact:	Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager
Tel:	03000 268 027
Contact:	Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel:	03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Information within this report is linked to reducing reoffending within the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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

15 February 2016

**Durham Tees Valley Community
Rehabilitation Company**



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of an overview presentation from Hazel Willoughby, Head of Services County Durham & Darlington on the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC).

Background

2. At its meeting in October 2014, the Committee considered a presentation informing Members of the development of the Durham Tees Valley CRC following its inception in June 2014 as part of the Government's strategy for Transforming Rehabilitation.
3. The presentation informed Members that nationally Probation Trusts had been abolished and replaced by a National Probation Service with 7 regional divisions and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies(CRC), across England Wales. In addition, Members were informed that a competition process was to be undertaken that would result in the transfer of services to a new provider.
4. Following a competition process, in February 2015, Achieving Real Change in Communities (ARCC) took over ownership of the Durham Tees Valley CRC. The CRC is responsible for supervising around 5,000 low and medium risk offenders subject to either a Community Order or a prison Licence. This responsibility is undertaken through supervision of offenders in the community, helping to protect the public from harm, reduce reoffending and to rehabilitate offenders.
5. The presentation to the Committee will aim to provide an update on the work of the CRC including its roles and responsibilities, current approach to managing medium and low risk offenders within the county and information on the future activity.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Contact: Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager
Tel: 03000 268 027
Contact: Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Information within this report is linked to reducing reoffending within the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

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

**County Durham and Darlington
Reducing Re-offending Strategy
2015/18**

15 February 2016



Safe Durham Partnership

**Report of Hazel Willoughby, Head of Offender Services, Durham,
Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company**

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a copy of the County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18 (attached as Appendix 2).

Background

- 2 Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, requires Community Safety Partnerships (in our case the Safe Durham Partnership) to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by adults and young people. The Partnership has had a Reducing Re-offending Strategy in place since 2011 which was subsequently refreshed in 2014.
- 3 Following the merger of the Safe Durham and Safer Darlington Reducing Re-Offending Groups into a joint meeting, it was agreed that a new strategy and supporting action plan be developed to set out the strategic direction for reducing re-offending across both areas.

Successes in Reducing Re-offending since 2011

- 4 Partners working across Durham and Darlington have already seen a number of high level achievements since 2011 when Reducing Re-Offending became a statutory requirement of Community Safety Partnerships. These include:
 - Darlington Youth Offending Service was presented with a national Butler Trust Award (2015) in recognition for innovation in restorative justice, service development and leadership with the service rated 'outstanding' by the Youth Justice Board
 - County Durham Youth Offending Service awards for Investing in Volunteers (2013), Intensive Employability Programme (2013) and Fully Integrated Pre Court System (2012)
 - Darlington Youth Offending Service Howard League Award (2013) for innovative restorative justice practice
 - Mentor support for prolific offenders extended to all IOM hubs across County Durham and Darlington
 - Prison pre-release planning with IOM established within HMP Durham

- Restorative Justice introduced within IOM as part of the Restorative Approaches for Prolific and Priority Offenders (RAPPO) Project
- Over 400 police officers trained in 'Level 2' Restorative Approaches
- CDYOS have expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources. All CDYOS staff trained to level 1 Restorative Approaches with 50 case managers and 50 volunteers trained to level 2/3
- All Darlington YOS staff have been trained to facilitate Restorative Justice Conferencing along with local children's care home staff trained to the same level
- Embedding Think Family with the introduction of hidden sentence training, implementing the NOMS 'common offer' on troubled families within prison settings, parenting courses delivered in our local prisons and piloting a family support worker in HMP Durham
- Funding to support four drug workers to provide family and offender support
- Young people who offend and in treatment in Darlington achieved a higher percentage of planned exits than overall treatment population
- Implementation of the Probation / Jobcentre Plus Data Exchange Agreement
- Provision of safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable women offenders
- Implemented a Women's Diversion Project
- Development of processes to support the management of dangerous or violent offenders (falling outside of MAPPA arrangements)
- Successfully managing NPS/CRC split as part of Transforming Rehabilitation.

Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18

- 5 The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015 – 2018 sets out the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership's joint approach to reduce re-offending by adults and young people. The strategy will be delivered and monitored by the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group.
- 6 The strategy outlines our overall aspirations to reduce re-offending. For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

Our strategic objectives are:

- a) **Prevent intergenerational offending** – Research tells us you are more likely to offend if you come from an offending family. Therefore children and families of offenders are more at risk of becoming offenders themselves. This element of the strategy concentrates early intervention and identification to break this cycle of offending and to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System.

- b) **Prevent repeat offending** – This element of the strategy concentrates on the offenders themselves, supporting those offenders wishing to stop their offending nature and subjecting robust enforcement to those who don't.

7 Underpinning these strategic objectives are two distinct strands: adults and young people. Adult offenders are managed by the National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company. Young people who offend are managed by County Durham Youth Offending Service and Darlington Youth Offending Service.

8 Our priority area of work will focus on the following:

- a) **Prevent intergenerational offending**
- Maintain (and develop for new processes) early intervention to reduce the overall level of re-offending by young people as well as its frequency and severity (including First Time Entrants)
 - Improve how we communicate with young people, understand and response to their communication needs and improve the interventions we complete with them
 - Provide high quality restorative justice services that supports victims of crime and provide confidence to both community and Youth Justice Services
 - Identify, analyse and target our resources on those young people committing the most offences
 - Ensure we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us, promoting success and maintaining public satisfaction
 - Maintain (and develop for new processes) robust quality assurance and staff management processes
 - Improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for offenders (both adult and young people who offend) and their families
- b) **Prevent repeat offending**
- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways*) of adult offenders in order to stop their offending
 - Expand our integrated offender management approach to lower level offending using alternatives to custody
 - Maintain and develop support for women offenders and women vulnerable to offending
 - Ensure offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence
 - Develop and promote victim involvement within restorative practices
 - Reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence
 - Improve partnership performance of the single re-offending measure

** The critical pathways (adult offenders) are: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour; Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Violence.*

- 9 The successful delivery of the strategic objectives will rely upon the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group effectively coordinating initiatives and mainstreaming activities to maximise partnership resources. Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together to deliver services that bring the most impact and provide a focus on early intervention.
- 10 This strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis to identify and prepare for potential opportunities and to mitigate against service pressures.

Recommendations

- 11 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the report.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No adverse implications.

Staffing

The Strategy will be implemented using existing resources.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity

The Strategy may impact on certain groups of individuals who are over represented in the re-offending cohorts.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015/18 sets out the Safe Durham Partnership's overall approach to reduce re-offending in County Durham.

Human Rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Consultation was carried out with stakeholders and service users as part of the strategy development process.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Discrimination Act

No direct adverse implications.

Legal Implications

No adverse implications.

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County Durham and Darlington

Reducing Re-Offending Strategy

2015 – 2018

MAKING DARLINGTON SAFER

Safer People, Safer Places

Altogether
safer

Safe Durham Partnership

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County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015 – 2018

1. Executive summary

1.1 The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015 – 2018 sets out the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership's joint approach to reduce re-offending by adults and young people. The strategy will be delivered and monitored by the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group.

1.2 The strategy outlines our overall aspirations to reduce re-offending. For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

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- **Prevent repeat offending** – This element of the strategy concentrates on the offenders themselves, supporting those offenders wishing to stop their offending nature and subjecting robust enforcement to those who don't.

1.3 Underpinning these strategic objectives are two distinct strands: adults and young people. Adult offenders are managed by the National Probation Service and Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company. Young people who offend are managed by County Durham Youth Offending Service and Darlington Youth Offending Service.

1.4 Our priority area of work will focus on the following:

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Prevent repeat offending

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1.5 The successful delivery of the strategic objectives will rely upon the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group effectively coordinating initiatives and mainstreaming activities to maximise partnership resources. Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together to deliver services that brings the most impact and provides a focus on early intervention.

1.6 This strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis to identify and prepare for potential opportunities and to mitigate against service pressures.

County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2015 – 2018

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The purpose of this document is to set out our strategic direction for reducing re-offending across County Durham and Darlington. This strategy supports the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18 and the Darlington Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015/20.
- 2.2 This strategy will be delivered and monitored by the Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group.
- 2.3 The strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis as a forward risk exercise to prepare for potential opportunities and to mitigate against service pressures. This will also help understand future uncertainties in light of continued austerity measures.
- 2.2 This strategy acknowledges and reinforces the linkage with other local partnerships such as Children's and Families Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Local Criminal Justice Board; the County Durham Partnership and the Darlington Partnership. The governance of this strategy will remain with the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.3 Although this document will not highlight all of the partnership activities we have undertaken, our strategic outcomes are informed and shaped both by knowledge and experience of the work in this area.
- 2.4 Following consultation we have determined our strategic aim and outcomes with partners, stakeholders and service users.

3. Equality and diversity

- 3.1 This strategy may impact on certain groups of individuals who are over represented in the re-offending cohorts. Such groups may originate from deprived communities, vulnerable households, those who are homeless, those with mental health issues, those with substance addiction and other related factors. This strategy recognises the need to provide support to those vulnerable people who are over represented.
- 3.2 The evidence shows the majority of those impacted are known to be male and therefore a greater proportion of the services will be geared towards male offenders.

4. Successes in Reducing Re-offending

4.1 Partners working across Durham and Darlington have already seen a number of high level achievements since 2011 when Reducing Re-offending became a statutory requirement of Community Safety Partnerships. These achievements include:

- Darlington Youth Offending Service was presented with a national Butler Trust Award (2015) in recognition for innovation in restorative justice, service development and leadership with the service rated 'outstanding' by the Youth Justice Board
- County Durham Youth Offending Service awards for Investing in Volunteers (2013), Intensive Employability Programme (2013) and Fully Integrated Pre Court System (2012)
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- Development of processes to support the management of dangerous or violent offenders (falling outside of MAPPA arrangements)

- 4.2 Success has been achieved where the motivation of the offender to change has been strong. Where they have been willing to engage with services and accept the interventions offered, such as Integrated Offender Management, Pre-Caution Disposal and Restorative Approaches.
- 4.3 Despite these successes the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group will continue to focus on reducing crime, reducing the number of victims of crime and offender rehabilitation whilst contributing to the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18 and the Darlington Community Safety Partnership Plan 2015/20.

5. Our approach to reducing adult re-offending

- 5.1 Our approach to reducing adult re-offending is founded on the following statements / principles:
- Partners across the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership are committed to integrated offender management principles as our approach to offender management
 - All offenders will be considered as appropriate for interventions, they will be offered opportunities to change their offending behaviour, failure to accept these opportunities or to change will ultimately result in targeted enforcement action
 - Use of desistance and strength based approach focusing on people's strengths, positive outcomes and attributes in helping individuals move forward in life
 - We recognise that an offender is often part of a family unit or household and their offending behaviour puts the family or household at risk. We will develop interventions and support services around minimising that risk and to break inter-generational offending
 - We will consider the 'critical pathway' needs of our offenders to form integral parts of the solution to sustain a long term change in the offenders behaviour
- 5.2 In addition, partners across County Durham and Darlington are embarking on an ambitious adult offender diversion project named Checkpoint. The project aims to provide a credible alternative to police custody by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need for arrested adults. A 'contract to engage', would be offered that in most cases would withhold prosecution if the client meets objectives of an agreed plan of intervention and support to address the underlying causes of their offending.
- 5.3 A Checkpoint Project Board covering Durham and Darlington has been set up to steer development of the project, operational plans, initialisation phase and to provide continued strategic management overview.

6. Our approach to reducing re-offending by young people

6.1 County Durham Youth Offending Service and Darlington Youth Offending Service coordinates the provision of youth justice services for young people aged 10 – 17 and both are accountable to their own multi-agency Management Board.

6.2 The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group will adopt the strategic aims identified in the County Durham Youth Justice Plan 2014/16 (Refreshed 2015) and the Darlington Youth Justice Plan 2015/16. These strategic aims are:

- To prevent re-offending by children and young people
- To reduce first time entrants(FTE) to the youth justice system
- To be achieved by delivering specialist interventions
- Underpinned by safeguarding and public protection

6.3 In addition both County Durham Youth Offending Service and Darlington Youth Offending Service have identified key service improvements over the coming years. Key actions for 2015/16 are:

County Durham

- Improving how we communicate with young people and the interventions we complete with them
- Putting victims, including young victims, and Restorative Justice at the heart of everything we do
- Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences
- Ensuring we have robust quality assurance and staff management processes in place and a skilled management team to manage these processes
- Ensuring we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us
- Ensuring volunteering, by both adults and young people, is a key component of the work we undertake with young people and victims
- Ensuring that case management systems and administration support provides the highest quality support to staff and managers in the delivery of services to courts, communities and young people

Darlington

- To ensure all staff are trained and adopt a desistance and strength based approach when working with young people
- Maintain robust management oversight processes in relation to safeguarding young people
- Analyse local data in order to understand and shape service provision accordingly
- Monitor early predictors of offending behaviour through the re-offending toolkit

- Maintain the current effectiveness of the remand framework under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act 2012 in conjunction with Children's Social Care
- Provide high quality Restorative Justice Services that support victims of crime and provide confidence to both community and youth justice services
- Sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System
- Work to reduce the overall level of re-offending by young people, as well as its frequency and severity
- Promote the work and success of the YOS within the wider community
- Ensure the safe and effective use of custody thereby addressing one of our key areas
- Closely monitor and manage reduced budget allocations in these times of austerity
- Embed anti-social behaviour and YOS joint working arrangements
- All speech, language and communication needs of young people are identified, assessed and appropriate interventions are implemented
- Maintain high levels of public satisfaction with regards to victims of anti-social behaviour and crime
- Embed multi-agency Restorative Justice Hub in Darlington
- To ensure all staff have a clear understanding of the local safeguarding procedures relating to child exploitation

6.4 We will support our youth offending colleagues to fulfil these actions by appropriate membership on their management boards, collaborative working arrangements and supporting their individual delivery plans.

6.5 We will capture and monitor agreed high level youth offending actions within the County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan.

7. Strategic aim

7.1 The strategic aim of the Safe Durham Partnership and the Darlington Community Safety Partnership is to reduce crime and the impact of crime on our communities by reducing re-offending.

8. Strategic objectives

8.1 Given the information presented in the annual Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment and the Darlington Single Needs Assessment; coupled with the profile of our offenders across County Durham and Darlington presented in Appendix 3; this strategy has two clear pathways: To prevent repeat offending while tackling the current offending behaviour and to prevent inter-generational offending.

8.2 The successful delivery of the strategic objectives will rely upon the Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group effectively coordinating initiatives

and mainstreaming activities to maximise partnership resources. Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together to deliver services that bring the most impact and provide a focus on early intervention.

8.3 We will promote our successes in reducing re-offending, turning around the lives of offenders and improving victim involvement; to reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence. Our approach will mean fewer victims, fewer crimes and reduced demand on the Criminal Justice System.

8.4 Our strategic objectives are;

SO 1: Prevent intergenerational offending – Research tells us you are more likely to offend if you come from an offending family. Therefore children and families of offenders are more at risk of becoming offenders themselves. This element of the strategy concentrates early intervention and identification to break this cycle of offending and to divert young people away from the Criminal Justice System.

SO 2: Prevent repeat offending – This element of the strategy concentrates on the offenders themselves, supporting those offenders wishing to stop their offending nature and subjecting robust enforcement to those who don't.

9. Priority areas of work

9.1 Prevention and early identification

9.11 The Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership recognise that children and families of adult offenders are an important vulnerable group often overlooked by services and are one of the most socially excluded groups in society.

9.12 Approximately 160,000 children in the UK have a parent in prison each year. These children are often vulnerable and at risk of poor outcomes. They are more likely to have a mental health problem, engage in anti-social or criminal activity, poor educational attainment and are at an increased risk of family homelessness than children without a parent in prison. We will continue to support Local Safeguarding Childrens Boards (LSCB) and NEPACS (A charity supporting prisoners and ex-prisoners) to deliver hidden sentence training. This training, offered to a range of social care staff and partner agencies gives a clear overview of the issues facing prisoners' families and provides a range of strategies and support.

9.13 The national 'Troubled Families' programme (known as 'Stronger Families' within County Durham and 'Families Together' in Darlington), have engaged with our offender management structures. Durham Constabulary, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, Youth Offending Services

and Anti-social Behaviour Teams are all fully involved in this work. Phase two of the 'Troubled Families' programme will identify and support families over a wider range of need, one being '*Parents and Children Involved in crime or anti-social behaviour*'. This will enable teams to reach not only families where there is a young person involved in crime or anti-social behaviour, but to include adult offenders who have parenting responsibilities.

9.14 It is important to continue to support established intervention such as

- Parenting courses in our local prisons
- Family support mentor aligned to HMP Durham
- Through the Gate provision (providing continuity of services from; induction of an offender into custody, resettlement services before release, meeting them at the prison gates and continue work in the community)
- Criminal Justice Hubs currently piloted in Darlington
- Hidden Sentence training
- MAIS Project (Multi-Agency Interventions Service)
- The National Offender Management Services (NOMS) Troubled Families 'Common Offer' between prisons and local authority
- Collaboration with Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and Missing and Exploited Groups
- Family Intervention Teams
- High Impact Households

We know these 'troubled families' households are at a greater risk of offending; it is important therefore to break the cycle of offending early with targeted interventions and support rather than wait for the offending behaviour to occur.

9.15 Offender management teams have embedded a 'Think Family' approach into their work and strong links now exist to promote and support the needs of families and children of offenders. This ensure a joined up approach to meeting families' needs and recognising and understanding the impact of adults' problems on a child's life.

9.16 We will continue to improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for offenders and their children and families and we will seek out new opportunities to integrate 'Think Family' resources into our local offender management structures.

9.17 In County Durham and Darlington, the rate of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the youth justice system continues to be lower than the North East region and its statistical neighbours. There are a number of programmes that have been crucial in delivering sustainable reductions in the number of young people entering the youth justice system. In County Durham these are the

integrated Pre Court System and Pre Caution Disposal, both providing early assessment of need and intervention. In Darlington these are the Restorative Justice Disposal and the Pre Caution Disposal delivering a comprehensive assessment and tailored packages of interventions for all young people referred to the service.

- 9.18 These programmes improve young people's life chances by ensuring that their needs are identified and met and that they avoid being criminalised. Both are excellent examples of prevention, early identification and value for money. We will continue to maintain and support pre-court assessments and interventions for young people and to reduce first time entrants in to the youth justice system.
- 9.19 County Durham Youth Offending Service and Darlington Youth Offending Service will continue to improve exit strategies after statutory supervision and pathways into mainstream services, particularly for young people aged 16 to 18 years old. Darlington YOS in collaboration with social care teams ensure that young people who require further support on completion of any youth justice intervention are appropriately signposted and supported via a step down meeting.

9.2 Women Offenders

- 9.21 National data tells us that many female offenders have a background of abuse, and first-hand experience of the care system. The proportion of women prisoners that report abuse in their lifetime is twice that of males. In 2011 self-harm was 10 times higher for women than for men, and females in custody are twice as likely to suffer from anxiety and depression. Many of them will have problems with drugs and alcohol misuse, and nearly two-thirds leave behind dependent children when entering prison. (Strategic objectives for female offenders, MoJ 2013).
- 9.22 These findings are reflected locally; 90% of the females within our Integrated Offender Management are Class A drug users. All women have a history of sexual abuse or sexual assault and domestic violence. These females misuse drugs to cope with past trauma in their lives. Tackling their drug dependency and providing robust emotional intervention when replacing their harmful coping strategies is important in terms of their risk of self-harm and re-offending. There is also an absence of positive male role models in the women's lives.
- 9.23 Although none of the women are currently homeless, few have secure appropriate safe accommodation; they struggle to hold down tenancies and in some respects don't know how to manage a property. They are vulnerable to the attention of male offenders, due to fear and low self-esteem and other offenders misuse their property. Since 2014 a small provision of safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable women has been available, this is spoken about in more detail in section 9.37.

- 9.24 In 2013 we introduced a woman's diversion scheme with the aim to divert women offenders from the Criminal Justice System. It includes custody diversion with inclusion into Integrated Offender Management and a mentoring support element. The project is supported by the Home Office and the Prison Reform Trust and is part of a national Women's diversions pilot.

'Working with probation and the others came at just the right time. I was ready to engage and take the chance to get my life onto a more even keel. I really appreciated the support, you know, having the mentor to talk to and keeping me on track'
(Woman's Diversion Scheme).

- 9.25 We will continue to maintain and develop support for women offenders and those women vulnerable to offending.

9.3 Accommodation issues for adult offenders

- 9.31 It is widely researched and recognised that securing suitable accommodation can provide the foundations for an offender to leave a chaotic lifestyle. It provides a platform for an offender to change, opening up access to employment, training and benefits opportunities, while also providing access to health and social care such as drug treatment. All of which is essential for offenders to stop offending in the long term.
- 9.32 The majority of offenders have a housing specific need that has been met with a private rented housing solution. The support of a Housing Solutions officer for County Durham within Integrated Offender Management has created strong and formal links with Register Social Landlords and has encouraged them to contribute to housing solutions for offenders. Darlington has an Accredited Landlords Scheme, which works with the private sector to improve quality and access. Both Housing Services provide additional support to sustain tenancies and counteract the reductions in welfare and benefit support.
- 9.33 Working jointly, both Local Authorities have commissioned an offender service with Foundation delivering across County Durham and Darlington. This provides housing related support to offenders or those at risk of offending. The service has 3 elements:
- Accommodation based support
 - Floating Support
 - Triage drop-in support
- 9.34 The aim of the service is to enable the sourcing and/or maintaining appropriate accommodation for clients, through the delivery of housing related support, this includes, developing / maintaining life skills, practical skills, social skills, appropriately dealing with stress, and identifying triggers for stress budgeting and housekeeping.

- 9.35 Across Homelessness Partnerships there is continued concern of the adverse effects welfare reform is having on the vulnerable groups, including offenders. These vulnerable groups will experience a shortfall between the Housing Benefit and the basic rental cost, even for those properties in the most deprived areas where rental costs are cheaper. We have seen increased use of foodbanks as personal budgets are squeezed and food is now the number one item stolen in cases of shoplifting. Other budgetary restraints have the potential to further exacerbate this problem.
- 9.36 We will continue to work with the Homelessness Action Partnership in Durham and the Preventing Homeless Partnership in Darlington around barriers to social housing for offenders and ex-offenders in regards to exclusions. The Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group will continue to support the work in this area through the County Durham Homelessness Strategy 2013-18 and the Darlington Homelessness Strategy 2010/15. We will also support the Regional Homelessness Group in their engagement with social housing providers working with those services managing offenders to ensure blanket exclusions are not applied and a partnership approach to assessment / support and access is developed.
- 9.37 Female offenders are particularly vulnerable in terms of safe and secure housing need and historically the absence of any form of supported accommodation and the lack of alternative provision means they most often return to their previous partner(s), and a continuation of their criminal activity.
- 9.38 In 2014 the Commissioning Section of Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council (formerly Supporting People) remodelled an existing service to provide safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable women. Housing solutions in conjunction with the voluntary sector were also successful in securing a regional homelessness bid for a Complex Needs Worker supporting the women's accommodation project as a two year post. Since April 2014 there have been 48 referrals into the project and a total of 30 women have so far benefited and received support from the Complex Needs Worker.

9.4 Offender skills and employment

- 9.41 The educational standard of the male adult offender cohort within the IOM is in general very low and their skill levels are limited. In most cases they have little or no previous employment.
- 9.42 Current emphasis on female offenders is towards maintaining suitable accommodation and drug treatment. Their criminogenic needs are complex however the particular needs of women offenders are recognised; and we will ensure a holistic approach which addresses need, empowers and promotes their economic and social inclusion.

- 9.43 The Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategic Group will continue to engage with local business community and voluntary sector to identify local skill shortages, volunteer opportunities, vocational need and standard mainstream training opportunities. Monthly volunteer days are now well established within IOM. The team continue work with Durham Wildlife Trust and DCC Countryside Rangers. The Recovery Academy offers the recovered clients the opportunity to become ambassadors and mentors. Ex-offenders are also offered opportunity of entering the Foundation GROW programme as volunteers. We will continue to place emphasis on volunteering work for offenders developing opportunities to engage with local community projects and local voluntary organisations as part of their rehabilitation.
- 9.44 Many offenders face significant problems achieving financial stability and appropriate access to benefits. For those offenders without employment offender managers will ensure offenders have contacted and engaged with welfare benefits to help maintain basic living requirements.
- 9.45 For young people who offend County Durham Youth Offending Service has implemented its Intensive Employability Programme providing intensive support and guidance for a targeted group supervised by CDYOS on a range of orders. The majority are high crime causers, with significant offending histories and multiple complex needs.
- 9.46 The programme works with all the Further Education colleges and training providers (statutory and voluntary sector) in County Durham to support successful progression into appropriate, accredited education, training and employment, with the aim of preventing re-offending. The programme, works with young people on a 1-2-1 basis, responsive to individual needs. Engagement in the programme is voluntary, but close working between the Intensive Employability Programme Officer and case managers has resulted in excellent engagement, retention and progression rates. The programme is now mainstreamed as part of County Durham Youth Offending Service core business.

'If I didn't have this I would have reoffended. I would have ended up getting drunk, fighting with someone and be back in prison. Now I'm looking forward to finding a job.'

('Engaging Vulnerable Young People' – Interim Evaluation of the County Durham ESF Project, January 2012).

- 9.47 Current provision for young people in Darlington is limited. A number of training providers have recently left the area or withdrawn support for sixteen to eighteen year olds. In order to address this issue Darlington Youth Offending Service have worked collaboratively with other agencies to create two bespoke programmes for young people; the Darlington YOS Bridging Programme and the Darlington YOS Job Club. Both project have been developed and run in partnership between the Youth Offending Service and education providers. This ensures that young people are able to

(at least initially) work in an environment that they know, with staff that they know; which in turn supports young people to build relationships with education providers and creates a smoother transition into longer term education or training.

- 9.48 The Bridging Programme specifically targets young people known to the YOS who have historically been highly disengaged with education. Tutors work with young people in small groups one day per week in order to support them to build confidence, develop future aspirations, gain basic qualifications in Employability, Health and Safety, Maths and English and undertake practical work experience in areas such as construction and gardening.
- 9.49 The Darlington Youth Offending Service Job Club was set up in collaboration with Nu Traxx, a government funded initiative created in 2012 to support young people aged between sixteen and seventeen who are not in education, training or employment. Any young person over sixteen who is known to the Darlington Youth Offending Service is able to attend YOS Job Club and those who are eligible are then also able to sign up to the Nu Traxx scheme (which entitles a young person to a years' worth of mentoring and support to secure education, training or employment) and is specifically tailored to their individual needs.
- 9.5 Gaining access to health and social care services**
- 9.51 The Bradley Report (2009) is quite clear that intervening as early as possible in the criminal justice process provides the best opportunity for improving how people with mental health problems or learning disabilities are managed, with a particular focus for services to be developed around the whole family. Effective health interventions have the potential not only to impact on immediate offending and re-offending rates, but also to influence children and young people away from an adulthood of offending.
- 9.52 Dual diagnosis of mental health and drug / alcohol problems is commonplace among our offender cohort. However, our offenders have experienced significant problems gaining access to adequate health and social care services. The 2011 Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust Health Needs Assessment found that offenders had four main issues; mental health (depression, stress and anxiety), smoking, dental issues and anger management, with mental health taking over as the highest priority need. Similarly, the County Durham Women's Diversion project mentioned at 9.24 shows that 21% of women taking part in the project have a mental health problem.
- 9.53 Providing motivational support to access services has begun to provide a pathway into health services for those offenders within Integrated Offender Management receiving mentoring support.
- 9.54 With funding from the Big Diversion Project a Criminal Justice Liaison Nurse (CJLN) was attached to the Integrated Offender Management in the east of County Durham for 2013/15. The service identified 'frequent users' of the

Criminal Justice Services who have associated mental health, learning disability or drug and alcohol issues and engaged appropriate health services. The average age of clients was 27, 80% of referrals were male 88% had over 10 previous convictions and none were in employment. Most had served a prison sentence, had existing license or supervision requirements and had previous contact with Mental Health services. The top three primary Mental Health diagnosis results included personality disorder, schizophrenia or other delusional disorder and depressive illness.

- 9.55 From April 2015 funding from the North East Offender Health Commissioners will see a newly commissioned Liaison and Diversion service run from custody suites throughout Durham and Darlington.
- 9.56 The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat is a commitment from organisations to prevent mental health crises through prevention and early intervention and to develop joined up service responses to people who are in mental health crisis. Local task and finish groups to take forward the development of the local action plan, (one for Durham, one for Darlington) is led by the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and overseen by Health and Wellbeing Boards. Key priorities include:
- Continued implementation of the policy arrangements for patients detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act – (integrated working and processes between the police, mental health, A&E and ambulance services. This includes places of safety arrangements recently put in place in County Durham and Darlington through System Resilience Funding
 - Developing proposals and review of protocols for people presenting with mental health problems and intoxication from alcohol or drugs
 - Review data sharing proposals between health and the police to enable effective strategic planning and operational delivery
 - Review the evidence from the national ‘Street Triage’ pilots
 - Consider and review demand on police time spent in street situations and in people's homes or public places responding and dealing with people in mental health crisis

The final version of the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat local action plan is published on the national website.

- 9.57 We will support actions within the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat local action plan and develop better links to health support services. The strategic link to health at the Reducing Re-offending Group will also be strengthened.
- 9.58 Young people in the youth justice system have a range of complex health needs. All young people who offend (pre and post court) receive a basic health screening as part of the assessment process by our Youth Offending Services. This is undertaken by case managers and any health issues evident or suspected are referred to Community Nurses for more specialist

assessment and intervention. This screening process has identified the following priority issues.

- Sexual health
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Mental Health
- Self Harm
- Attention Problems
- Learning Disabilities
- Substance Misuse Needs
- Social Vulnerability Needs
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs

9.6 Speech, language and communication needs of young people who offend

9.61 CDYOS has identified Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) as a major priority. National research suggests that 60-90% of young people in the youth justice system have an undiagnosed speech, language or communication need. All case managers in CDYOS have been trained in SLCN awareness during 2013. Young people's offending is often linked to poor Speech, Language and Communication skills. The frustration of not being able to articulate complex emotions, combined with other unmet needs, frequently increases offending – and the young person's journey in the criminal justice system can have an adverse effect on his/her emotional wellbeing.

9.62 Partnership work with initially, the North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group (NDCCG), Speech and Language Therapy Services, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust (CDDFT), CDYOS and more latterly Speech and Language Therapy Service, North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust has resulted in an innovative strategy. This has also resulted in the continued secondment of a Speech & Language Therapist to CDYOS until, at least, September 2016.

9.63 The aim of this work is to ensure CDYOS staff are able to identify and support young people's speech, language or communication needs; improve young people's understanding of the criminal justice process; improve outcomes and reduce re-offending.

9.7 Drug and alcohol misuse

9.71 Through robust adult offender management the level of our offender engagement with the drug treatment system is good. However, there are a number of offenders who choose to 'top up' their substitute prescriptions with heroin and other cocktails of drugs.

9.72 The partnership will continue to move from a position of effectively managing an offender's drug use to actively engaging, encouraging and providing assistance to offenders in their efforts to become drug free. We will ensure offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence.

9.73 Recovery Academy Durham began in Dec 2011, funded by the NHS and aligned to the Drug Treatment Service. It was set up to enable recovery from drug and alcohol dependency and was the first of its kind in the region. It is helping graduates live completely drug free lives.

'I put 100 per cent into the program which showed me a new way to live and a better way to live. Drugs weren't the problem – I was. We can't change the drugs, we can only change ourselves. I had to learn the program and learn how to apply it to my life.

I am 17 month clean now and I work as a volunteer as a drug and alcohol recovery ambassador in County Durham, helping addicts find recovery. I have got a life beyond my wildest dreams.'

(Recovery Academy Durham).

9.74 The quasi-residential abstinence based recovery service delivers a proven comprehensive 12-step recovery model to enable recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. The academy's 12-step programme includes a course of intensive study, on a one-to-one basis with trained peer therapists, and offers opportunities for education, employment and training. In addition, services are also delivered to offenders in all four of the county's prisons as Integrated Drug Treatment Services.

9.75 A sister project is also delivered on HMP Durham's iWing and allows clients to transfer to the recovery academy to begin the programme on completion of their sentence.

9.75 The Recovery Centre opened in Darlington in 2013, complementing the formal treatment service located at the Gate. The Centre, run largely by trained volunteers and peer mentors who are in recovery themselves, offers those who have become abstinent a place to meet, undertake activities and find support to sustain their recovery. The Centre also hosts a number of mutual aid networks, including 12-step affiliated groups. This facilitates 'visible' recovery for others still in treatment to aspire to.

'One couple had struggled with the impact of the husband's alcoholism for over 20 years. Following his discharge from the armed services with previously undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, he drank to excess, becoming violent towards his wife and others, and eventually losing his job, their home, and ending up in prison. Whilst he underwent treatment and psychosocial interventions, his wife also received support from a family worker. Both subsequently submitted separate testimonials, praising the service for the help they had received. The husband is now in recovery and working with a service veterans' champion to support other ex-service personnel in the same situation, whilst his wife is happy to have regained her 'confidence and self-esteem'.'

(Recovery & Wellbeing Service Darlington)

- 9.76 Both Drug and Alcohol services across County Durham and Darlington have seen the commissioning of new integrated drug and alcohol service provision in 2015 covering all ages and all substances. Services have been reshaped with the needs and recovery of the client at the centre of all intervention. Although this means no dedicated staff in police custody suites, referrals routes into the system remain the same. In County Durham there will be six recovery hubs while in Darlington services will work from a central Drug and Alcohol Centre. Each Recovery Hub and the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Centre will identify a single point of contact to link with offender managers and outreach workers will provide outreach work as required.
- 9.77 Alcohol related youth offending continues to be a focus for our Youth Offending Services and although we have seen reductions in this area we will continue to support interventions to reduce alcohol related offending by young people further.
- 9.78 Both Youth Offending Services provide lower level substance misuse interventions in house. Where the need for specialist, structured treatment is assessed and identified, referrals are made with local treatment centres with robust links back to the Youth Offending Service. Young offenders in treatment for substance use issues have excellent outcomes, with planned exits for this group achieving a higher percentage than that of the overall young people's population in treatment in 2014-15.

9.8 Restorative Approaches

- 9.81 Our restorative approach will build on the values of restorative justice and restorative methods and practice already established in our services and grounded in academic research. A restorative approach brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm together, enabling everyone affected by the incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.
- 9.82 All Durham Constabulary staff have received Level 1 restorative approaches awareness raising sessions. All front line Police Officers, PCSO's and specialist teams have been trained in Level 2 restorative approaches (over 400 officers) and are actively using restorative interventions in everyday interactions with harmer / harmed (offender / victim). This includes people going through the Criminal Justice System or as a police led diversion. Partners have incorporated restorative practice into local problem solving to manage and de-escalate incidents. Anti-social behaviour escalation procedures now incorporate a restorative step in the process before more punitive measures are taken. Using restorative approaches for low level incidents of crime, anti-social behaviour, and neighbour disputes are bringing people together to resolve conflict and is being successfully used as a diversion from more formal complaints and incident reporting.
- 9.83 In Darlington the Neighbourhood Resolution Project, currently has 90 volunteers trained to deal with low level crime and anti-social behaviour. In

February 2015 figures showed that the project had dealt with 100 cases in approximately twelve months and that 97% had reached a successful agreement. Of these 89% had been fully complied with and of the 11% had been partially complied with. Both Darlington and County Durham have received funding from the PCC to fund a co-ordinator for each area, which will enable the further development of restorative approaches in both areas.

- 9.84 County Durham Youth Offending Service has expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources in both pre court, out of court and post court. All young people working with the service have the opportunity to access a restorative justice intervention and all staff have been trained to level 1 with 90 staff and volunteers trained to level 2/3.
- 9.85 Darlington Youth Offending Service are recognised leaders in the field of restorative practice, neighbourhood resolution and have recently joined forces, combining their expertise and resources to form a new Restorative Hub. The Hub is one of the first of its kind in the UK, and will bring together partners from multiple agencies to create a single referral pathway, and a single pool of restoratively trained volunteers who can work across various settings, including Referral Order panels. The Hub will also have a significant benefit for victims, providing the opportunity for a restorative intervention at any stage within the conflict resolution process.
- 9.86 The Restorative Approaches for Prolific and Priority Offenders project delivers restorative justice conferencing to offenders and their victims through joint working with Integrated Offender Management and HMP Durham. To date over 43 conferences have taken place with 23 of these held in a prison setting. The restorative justice work within IOM teams is now embedded into mainstream work and our local prisons will implement the NOMS guidance 'Restorative Justice in Prisons; Guide to Providing a Supportive Environment'.

'For me RJ was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. In the past a victim was just a piece of paper in the form of a statement and it was easy for me to justify my actions to a faceless A4 piece of paper. The RJ conference had a massive impact, meeting the victim really made me think.'
(Ex Offender)

(Restorative Approaches for Prolific and Priority Offenders project).

- 9.87 'Looked After Children' Services within County Durham have used restorative approaches for some time as it has proved to contribute to placement stability (consistently around 98%), low staff turnover, dealing with conflict without damage to individuals and promoting wellbeing. This work will be shared with Darlington. Restorative approaches is also being promoted in schools to improve the learning environment and developing important skills for learning; reducing exclusions and improving attendance.

- 9.88 Our Police and Crime Commissioner has received Ministry of Justice funding to build capacity and commission restorative justice provision, as part of the wider victims' service grant. This has led to the appointment of a Restorative Justice Coordinator for County Durham and another for Darlington Community Safety Partnership to enhance the coordination of work which currently is delivered. Parallel to this the Durham Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working to deliver a post-conviction, pre-sentence restorative justice pilot with Durham Crown Court.
- 9.89 A comprehensive training program is being delivered across a number of agencies to embed restorative approaches in an ever widening range of services. Our approach means fewer victims, fewer crimes and reduced demand on the criminal justice system. We will continue to develop and promote restorative practices with a focus on victim involvement.

9.9 Regional and National Drivers

Transforming Rehabilitation

- 9.91 In May 2013 the Ministry of Justice published 'Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform'. The strategy set out the Government's plans for transforming the way in which adult offenders are managed in the community and provided strategic direction for taking forward the probation and rehabilitation reforms. The proposals for reforming the delivery of adult offender services included:
- A new public sector National Probation Service dealing with all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public
 - Twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies managing all other adult offenders
 - Extending statutory supervision and rehabilitation to those offenders sentenced to less than 12 months in custody
 - Reorganising the prison estate to provide 'resettlement' prisons and a nationwide 'through the gate' resettlement service
- 9.92 In response to these reforms partners have been working together to mitigate identified risks and issues including; migration and splitting of local probation services and systems; working arrangements for statutory and non-statutory responsibilities, timely agency access to offenders in resettlement prisons and 'through the gate' provision.
- 9.93 Following the Ministry of Justice formal contract award to the ARCC (Achieving Real Change in Communities) and the share sale of Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company on 1 February 2015 our focus turns to the implementation of the CRC Service Delivery Model. As this becomes available the partners within the Durham and Darlington Reducing Reoffending Group will continue to assess and adapt delivery of services to improve the management of offenders.

9.94 The delivery of a Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy will continue to provide the local framework for the effective management of offenders and their families.

National Indicator for Proven Re-offending

9.95 The National Single Indicator for re-offending covers proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody; received a non-custodial conviction at court; received a caution; reprimand; warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine.

9.96 Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further six months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts. This means the national indicator has a twenty-one month lag before figures are available.

9.97 In planning its performance specification the Reducing Re-offending Group has developed a local proxy indicator that enables us to track and respond more timely to changes in offending and enable us to improve our performance of the single re-offending measure.

10. Priority actions

10.1 Although provision to manage offenders in County Durham and Darlington is strong, there is still more work to be done to address the needs of offenders before they become prolific and rooted in their attitudes and behaviours. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider and lower level cohort, providing diversion and interventions away from the Criminal Justice System.

10.2 With limited resources available more emphasis must be placed on the services already provided rather than adding to the list of support already available. The joining up of services where possible to provide more robust support and changing services where necessary to fill the identified need, must be the overriding priority.

10.3 We have identified and categorised our priority action that sit under our strategic objectives and will form the basis of our delivery plan.

10.4 SO 1: Prevent intergenerational offending

We will

- Maintain (and develop for new processes) early intervention to reduce the overall level of re-offending by young people as well as its frequency and severity (inc First Time Entrants)
- Improve how we communicate with young people, understand and response to their communication needs and improve the interventions we complete with them

- Provide high quality restorative justice services that supports victims of crime and provide confidence to both community and Youth Justice Services
- Identify, analyse and target our resources on those young people committing the most offences
- Ensure we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us, promoting success and maintaining public satisfaction
- Maintain (and develop for new processes) robust quality assurance and staff management processes
- Improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for offenders (both adult and young people who offend) and their families

10.5 **SO 2: Prevent repeat offending**

We will

- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways*) of adult offenders in order to stop their offending
- Expand our integrated offender management approach to lower level offending using alternatives to custody
- Maintain and develop support for women offenders and women vulnerable to offending
- Ensure offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence
- Develop and promote victim involvement within restorative practices
- Reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence
- Improve partnership performance of the single re-offending measure

* The critical pathways for adult offenders are: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour; Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Violence.

11. Performance monitoring

11.1 This strategy is supported by the performance arrangements of the Safe Durham Partnership and Darlington Community Safety Partnership.

11.2 The strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis to identify and prepare for potential opportunities and to mitigate against service pressures. It will be informed by the Safe Durham Partnership annual Strategic Assessment and the Darlington Single Needs Assessment.

- 11.3 The strategic objectives and priority actions will be assigned lead officers and be monitored by a Red / Amber / Green (RAG) system within a delivery plan and reviewed quarterly.
- 11.4 The Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Group has agreed a performance specification (Appendix 4), enabling them to monitor performance against outcomes, targets and delivery plans.
- 11.5 Performance reports will be presented and reviewed quarterly.

ENDS

Appendices

The following appendices have been removed from the attached strategy document but are available on request from the Community Safety Team.

Appendix 1 provides a national and local context to the development of the Reducing Re-offending agenda as it had developed over the years.

Appendix 2 gives details of our 2010/11 to 2014/15 performance.

Appendix 3 has been redacted due to potentially identifiable information.

Appendix 4 has been redacted due to potentially identifiable information.

Appendix 1 – National and local context

'Reducing Re-offending by Ex-prisoners' (2002) was a highly influential report. It highlighted for the first time the poor social, economic and educational disadvantage faced by the majority of prisoners, it stated that prisoners were on average:

- 13 times more likely to have been taken into care as children
- 20 times more likely to have been excluded from school
- 13 times more likely to have been unemployed
- 35 times more likely to have been homeless
- 20 times more likely to have been suffering from two or more mental disorders

In 2004 The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) introduced the idea of structuring interventions around seven 'critical pathways' and promoted action at national, regional and local level. The critical pathways are:

- Accommodation
- Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- Financial Management and Income
- Education, Training and Employability
- Children and Families
- Health
- Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour

In the same year the Government launched its Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) Strategy designed to tackle the small number of offenders who were responsible for a large percentage of crime. The strategy had 3 clear strands:

- **Deter** – those offenders who are already active, or those whose families have a criminal career, from becoming the next prolific offenders
- **Catch and convict** – those offenders who are already prolific
- **Rehabilitate and resettle** – those offenders who are already prolific, to effectively break the cycle of offending

In 2009 a joint document was published by the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families proposing a framework for improving the local delivery of support for families of offenders. The key principles within the framework are:

- Offenders having the opportunity (both in custody and the community) to maintain and develop appropriate family and community ties
- The well-being and safeguarding needs of offenders' children are taken into account at all stages of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and by local authorities and other local agencies delivering services to children

- Families and children of offenders are treated with respect and helped with appropriate information and support through the coordination of local services

In 2009 a joint policy document was published by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice providing Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) and Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJB) with a new framework for the management of repeat offenders, intended to enhance the success of PPO schemes. The document introduced a structure known as Integrated Offender Management (IOM) providing key principles for the development of IOM as well as addressing potential overlaps between existing approaches.

In July 2010 the Coalition Government through the Ministry of Justice and Home Office published 'Draft Structural Reform Plans' and included:

- A new Reducing Re-offending strategy
- Improving and providing more effective rehabilitation of offenders
- Helping offenders to get off drugs
- Developing detailed options for sentencing reform including more community sentencing

In May 2013 the Ministry of Justice published 'Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform'. The strategy sets out the Government's plans for transforming the way in which adult offenders are managed in the community and provides strategic direction for taking forward the probation and rehabilitation reforms. These include:

- The creation of a new public sector National Probation Service
- Commissioning probation services within new regional contract package areas aligned with clustered local authority boundaries
- Extending statutory supervision and rehabilitation to all 50,000 of the most prolific group of offenders, (those sentenced to less than 12 months in custody)
- Reorganising the prison estate to provide 'resettlement' prisons and a nationwide 'through the gate' resettlement service
- Opening the majority of probation services to competition at a local as well as national level
- A new payment by results incentive for market providers to focus on reforming offenders and reducing reoffending rates

Adult offenders managed by the new National Probation Service include all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public – this group will include those subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The new National Probation Service will continue to carry out assessments of the risk of serious harm posed by each offender and advise the courts and Parole Board accordingly.

All other adult offenders will be managed and supervised by Community Rehabilitation Companies.

Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014

On 9 May 2013, the Offender Rehabilitation Bill was introduced into the House of Lords and gained Royal Assent 13 March 2014. This Bill implements the sentencing and release reforms set out in the Transforming Rehabilitation programme. The Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014 makes a number of changes to the release arrangements set for offenders serving custodial sentences of less than 12 months, and for those between 12 months and 2 years:

- Extension of licence: extends release on licence for the second half of sentence to offenders serving custodial sentences of more than 1 day but less than 12 months
- Post-sentence supervision: creates a new supervision period for all offenders released from custodial sentences of less than 2 years. It allows for a range of requirements to be imposed on the offender to support them moving away from crime. The supervision period tops up the licence period so that overall, every eligible offender will receive 12 months of supervision in the community after release
- Young adult offenders: applies the new supervision period to offenders who are sentenced as juveniles but who are 18 or over at the ordinary point of release from their sentence
- Breach of post-sentence supervision: creating a new process for Magistrates' Courts to deal with breaches of the supervision period. The Act gives Magistrates a wide range of sanctions – including up to 14 days in custody, fines, unpaid work and curfews – that can be applied where a breach is proved

These provisions came into force at the point that the contracts for Community Rehabilitation Companies take effect and the new providers start delivering rehabilitation services (1 May 2015 onwards).

Through the Gate

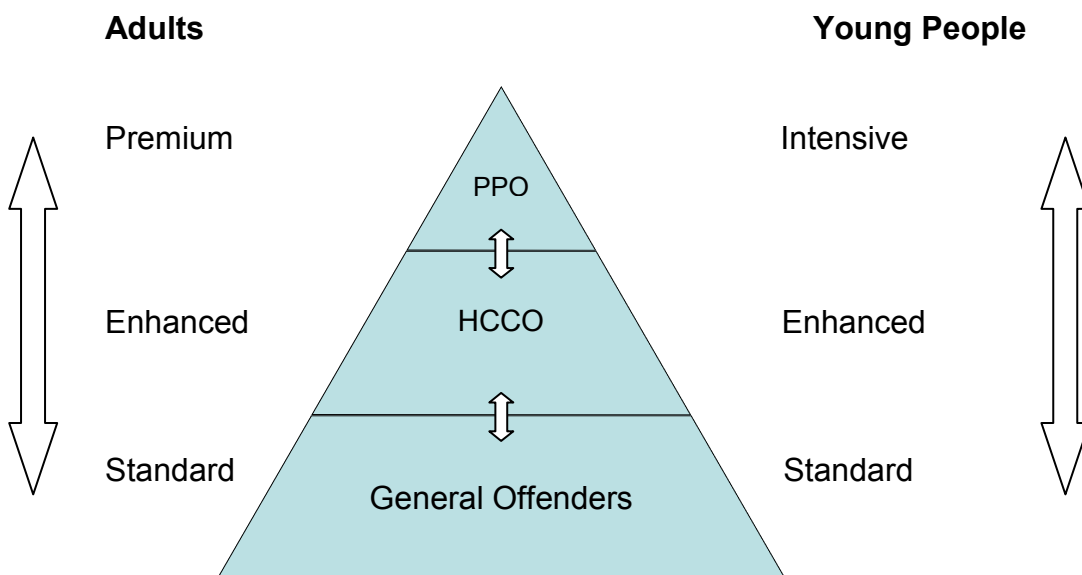
The Transforming Rehabilitation reforms will put in place nationwide rehabilitation services which work 'through the gate' providing continuity of services from; induction of an offender into custody, resettlement services before release, meeting them at the prison gates and continue work in the community. The principals of 'through the gate' in these reforms are:

- Coordination and management of offenders' resettlement needs by the same provider
- A universal screening of need for all prisoners within the first three days on arrival in prison - completed by prison staff using the Basic Custody Screening Tool
- Individual resettlement plan for all prisoners - part 2 of the Basic Custody Screening Tool - completed by the Community Rehabilitation Company
- Delivery of the plan by the Community Rehabilitation Company through the sentence
- Finalised plans for resettlement are made with the prisoner in their last twelve weeks in custody

- Support (including those serving less than 12 months) continues into the community
- The same provider responsible for the offender's progress both sides of the prison gate
- Community Rehabilitation Companies will be contractually obliged to deliver the following services; accommodation advice, employment retention and brokerage, financial advice and signposting services for sex workers and victims of domestic and sexual violence

County Durham and Darlington perspective

The delivery of a County Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Strategy provides the local framework for the effective management of offenders in County Durham. Robust service provision and support is in place for managing high harm, high risk offenders such as the MAPPA and MARAC case conferences.



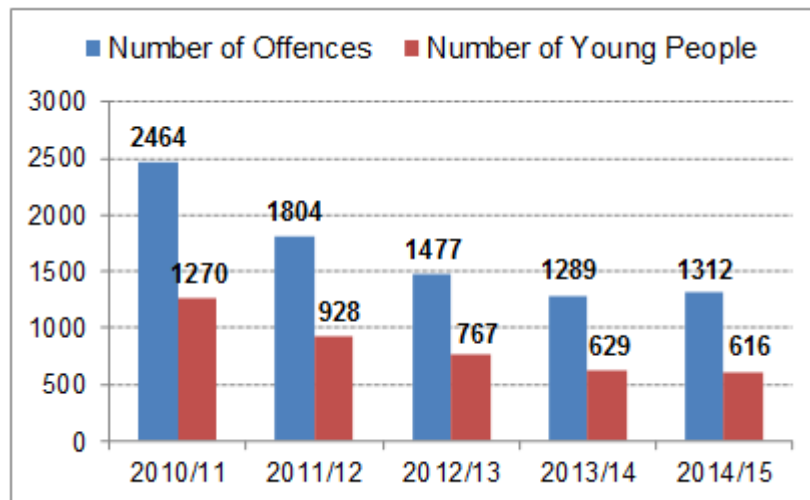
Offender management within County Durham and Darlington is provided as a tiered approach with the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders while expanding our integrated offender management principles to a wider and lower level cohort.

Appendix 2 – County Durham and Darlington Performance 2010/11 – 2014/15

Young People who offend

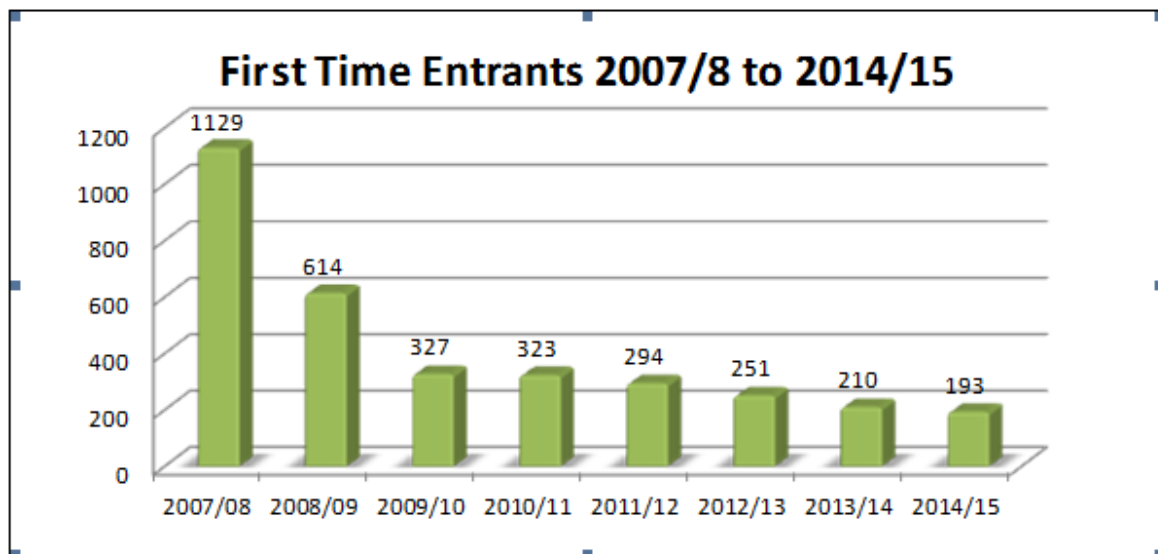
County Durham YOS Offending Summary

Since 2010-11 there has been a **46.8% decrease** in the number of offences committed (2464 to 1312) and a **51.5% reduction** over the same period in the number of young people offending (1270 to 616). 2014-15 saw a fourth successive year reduction in the number of young people offending, however a slight increase in the number offences committed, when compared to the previous year. The following graph shows the year on year reduction in young people offending and the reduction, since 2010-11, in the number of offences:



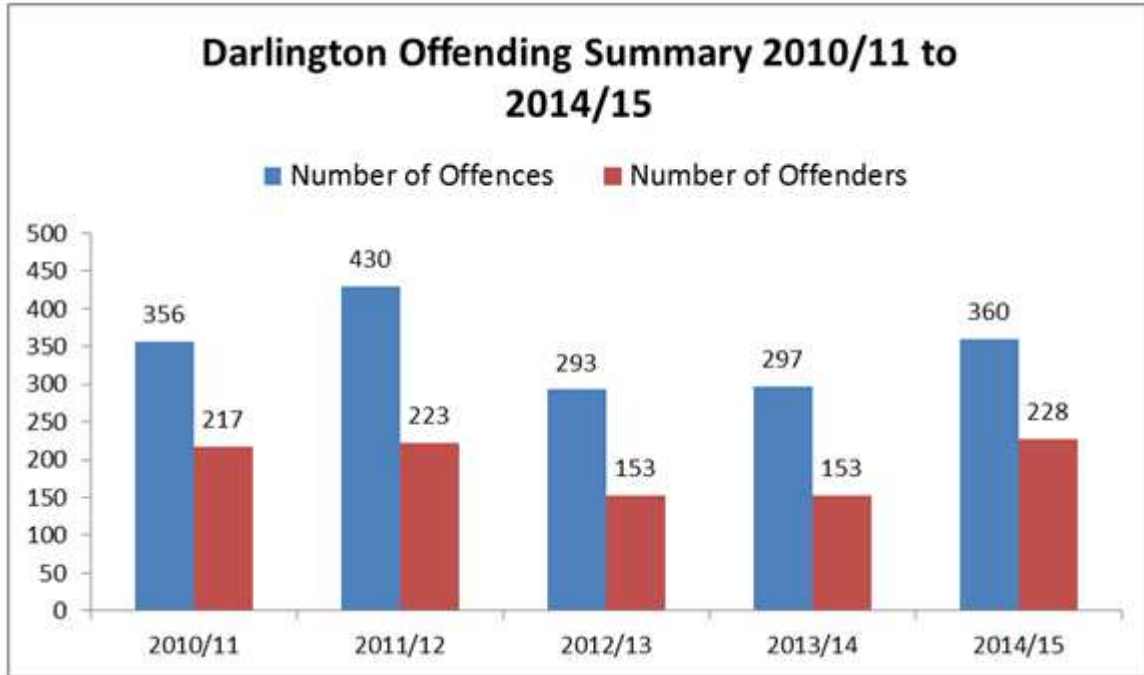
County Durham YOS First Time Entrants 2007/08 – 2014/15

As a result of our integrated pre court/out of court system which provides assessment and intervention at a young person's first point of contact with the youth justice system (first offence), we have reduced first time entrants (FTEs) and re-offending. Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 we have achieved **82.9% reduction** in first time entrants, from 1129 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15.



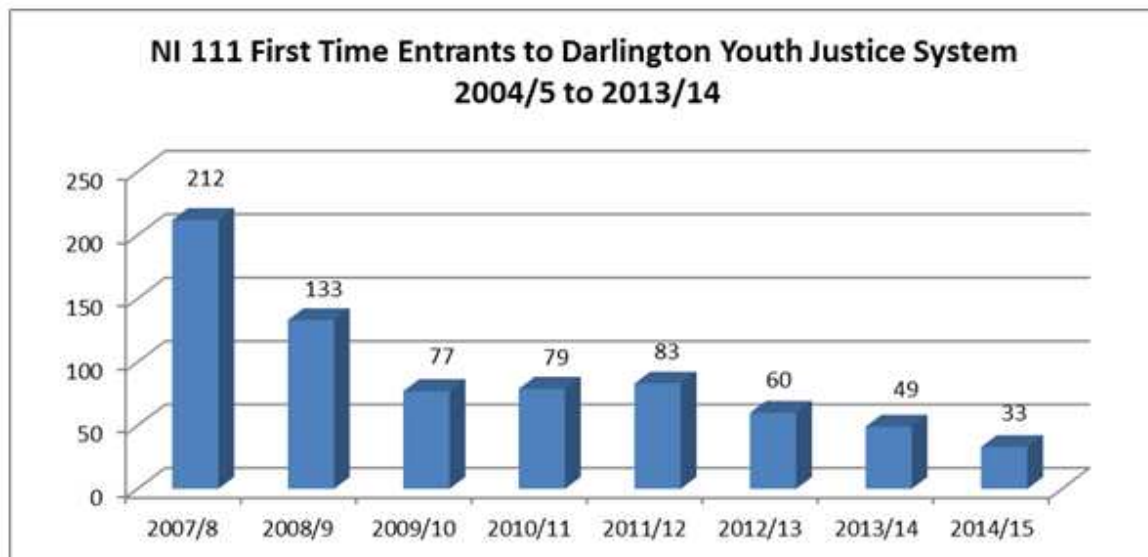
Darlington YOS Offending Summary

Since 2010-11 there has been a **1% increase** in the number of offences committed (356 to 360) and a **5.1% increase** over the same period in the number of young people offending (217 to 228). This includes all offences committed by young people aged 10-17 years, resulting in a pre-reprimand disposal (PRD) – a pre caution disposal (PCD) since April 2013, a Restorative Justice Disposal or pre court/out of court decision or court conviction.



Darlington YOS First Time Entrants 2007/08 – 2014/15

As a result of our integrated Pre-Caution Disposal and Restorative Justice Disposal delivering we have achieved sustainable reductions in the number of young people entering the youth justice system at the first point of contact and continue to reduced first time entrants (FTEs) and re-offending. Between 2007/08 and 2014/15 we have achieved **84.4% reduction** in first time entrants, from 212 in 2007/08 to 33 in 2014/15.



Adults Offenders

Integrated Offender Management

- In 2014/15 we experienced a combined **reduction in re-offending of 43%** for those offenders managed within the Integrated Offender Management Unit compared to their offending in the previous year.
- In County Durham we experienced a reduction in re-offending of **45%** for 2014/15 and in Darlington we experienced a reduction in re-offending of **41%** for those offenders managed within the Integrated Offender Management Unit.
- The average reduction of offending for those offenders managed within the Integrated Offender Management Unit between April 2010 and March 2015 was **55.4%**.

INDICATOR	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	
Percentage change in detected crimes for offenders in the IOM cohort over the last 12 months (Durham and Darlington)	50% Reduction	61% Reduction	61% Reduction	62% Reduction	43% Reduction	55.4% average
Durham	50% Reduction	61% Reduction	58% Reduction	65% Reduction	45% Reduction	55.8% average
Darlington	-	-	64% Reduction	59% Reduction	41% Reduction	54.6% average

National Indicators

The National Single Indicator for re-offending covers proven re-offending in England and Wales. It gives proven re-offending figures for offenders who were released from custody, received a non-custodial conviction at court, received a caution, reprimand, warning or tested positive for opiates or cocaine.

Proven re-offending is defined as any offence committed in a one year follow-up period and receiving a court conviction, caution, reprimand or warning in the one year follow up. Following this one year period, a further 6 months is allowed for cases to progress through the courts. The National Single Indicator for re-offending has a 21 month lag.

Most recent data shows County Durham having a rate of 28.2% and Darlington having a rate of 31% of proven re-offending (July 2012 to June 2013), compared to 26.2% nationally.

Regionally, County Durham and Darlington are in the upper quartile for performance across the region but both figures are higher than the national average.

Appendix 3 – Offender profiles – this has been redacted.

Appendix 4 – Durham and Darlington Reducing Re-offending Performance Framework – this has been redacted.

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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

15 February 2016



Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2016/19

Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy, Children and Adults Services

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the draft refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016/19 (Appendix 2). A presentation covering the key issues in the Strategic Assessment and an overview of the Plan will be given by the Community Safety Manager and Community Safety Co-ordinator.

Background

2. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 require that Durham County Council, along with the other responsible authorities (Durham Constabulary, Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group, North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service and the Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company), develop and implement a Partnership Plan.
3. The regulations also require that an annual Strategic Assessment is completed which informs the development of the new Plan every three years and its annual refresh. This is a protectively marked document that is not made available publicly. The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) has agreed the SDP Strategic Assessment 2015.
4. The purpose of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is to demonstrate how the responsible authorities will work together to reduce crime and disorder across County Durham.

Current Position

5. The refresh of the Partnership Plan 2016/19 describes the progress and achievements of the Safe Durham Partnership and updates on progress in 2015/16. It describes how it will deliver sustainable improvements by working in partnership. The Plan describes why each objective has been prioritised, the key challenges to meeting each objective, an understanding of how the objectives will be delivered and how we will know if we have been successful.

6. The strategic objectives in the Partnership Plan 2016/19 have been agreed as:

- **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour**
- **Protect Vulnerable People from Harm**
- **Reducing Re-Offending**
- **Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction**
- **Embed the Think Family Approach**
- **Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism**
- **Implement Measures to Promote a Safe Environment**

7. There are a number of objectives which are shared with other partnerships, e.g. Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm is shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board and Embed Think Family is shared with the Children and Families Partnership.

8. A consultation event was held on 4 November at the Health and Wellbeing Board Big Tent Event to inform the development of the Plan. A further consultation process with partners, Area Action Partnerships and Overview and Scrutiny is taking place between January and February 2016.

Refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDPP)

9. The refresh of the SDPP 2016/19 includes updates on policy drivers, consultation feedback and evidence from the Strategic Assessment.

10. The SDP's vision is for a county "where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe". Working in partnership is essential to achieving our vision.

Strategic Objectives & Outcomes

11. Following a presentation of the draft Council Plan 2016/19 at the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5 January 2016, a recommendation was made by the Chief Fire Officer to include a new outcome in the Council Plan which also impacts on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. This outcome is 'Improved Safety in the Home.'

12. Further consultation has taken place and it has been agreed that a broader Strategic Objective of 'Implement Measures to Promote a Safe Environment' is adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership in order to align with the Council Plan. This would encompass the new outcome detailed above, as well as 'Develop a Safer Road Environment' and a new outcome of 'An Improved Understanding of Open Water Safety.' These outcomes all require a multi-agency response.

13. Appendix 3 of the report shows the amendments to the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes.

Next Steps

14. Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note the following key dates for the development of the refresh of the SDPP 2016/19:

- Safe Durham Partnership Board will receive a copy of the SDPP 2016/19 on 29th March 2016 to sign off.
- Durham County Council Cabinet will receive a copy of the SDPP 2016-19 on 15th June 2016.

Recommendations and reasons

15. Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Provide comments on the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016-19.

Contact: Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager
Tel: 03000 265 435

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Action Plans will be developed to support the delivery of the Partnership Plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated funding to support the delivery of those action plans.

Staffing

The Plan will be implemented using existing resources.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

An impact assessment in relation to Equality and Diversity implications is being undertaken on the refreshed Plan.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

The Partnership Plan outlines the Safe Durham Partnership priorities for tackling crime and disorder in County Durham.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Statutory consultation with the community and stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the Strategic Assessment process.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No direct adverse implications. An impact assessment will be undertaken when the Plan has been agreed.

Legal Implications

No adverse implications. The responsible authorities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, have a statutory duty to produce a Partnership Plan in line with The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

Altogether
safer

Safe Durham Partnership

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016 - 2019



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1. Foreword

Welcome to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2016-19.

Our vision is for a county where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe.

Partnership working is essential to achieving our vision and across County Durham continues to go from strength to strength. When introducing our previous Partnership Plan in 2015, we explained how our commitment to working in partnership had ensured real and tangible improvements to the quality of life of our communities.

Since 2009 and the formation of the Safe Durham Partnership, crime has reduced by 19%. Crime reduced in the first six months of 2015/16 by 1.4% and we continue to have one of the lowest crime rates in the country. During the last three years we have built upon our previous success and experienced further reductions in anti-social behaviour, fewer young people in the criminal justice system and reduced rates of re-offending. We continue to strengthen the support for victims of domestic abuse and provide more opportunities for offenders to recover from drug and alcohol misuse.

Working in partnership is crucial if we are to meet existing and emerging challenges and work towards achieving our vision in this time of significant change in the public sector. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2016-19 demonstrates how partner organisations will work together to tackle those issues that are of most concern to the people of County Durham, in order that our communities feel safe and have confidence in those agencies delivering services to them.

We will involve a wide range of agencies, members of our communities, voluntary and community sector, social enterprises and charities in our Partnership working and respond to the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this Plan in order to deliver an 'Altogether Safer' and 'Altogether Better' Durham.



Rachael Shimmin

Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and
Corporate Director of Children and Adults Services,
Durham County Council.



Cllr Joy Allen

Vice Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership Board and
Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities,
Durham County Council.

2. Introduction

The Safe Durham Partnership has a statutory duty to develop and implement a Partnership Plan which describes how responsible authorities will work together to tackle crime and disorder. The Plan is refreshed at the beginning of each financial year and as part of that 'refresh', the Safe Durham Partnership will demonstrate its progress over the previous year.

The Plan describes the 'Altogether Safer' priority objectives outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy, which provides the vision for the local area and is the umbrella strategy for all the other strategies devised for County Durham. It is the Safe Durham Partnership's strategy for tackling crime and disorder and responding to those priorities, outlined within the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment.

The Plan provides a clear picture of how the Safe Durham Partnership will continue to work towards creating a safer and more socially cohesive county and contribute to an 'Altogether Better' Durham.

The purpose of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is to build on the significant achievements of the last five years since the Partnership was formed as part of Local Government Review. It will continue to demonstrate new and innovative approaches as we respond to an ever changing and more challenging landscape. In this way, we will provide ourselves with the best opportunity to maintain our history of strong performance and deliver the outcomes needed to achieve our vision.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan demonstrates how strong strategic leadership, planning, performance management and problem solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

The Plan also identifies how the partnership will respond to the impact of national policy changes and new and emerging risks, such as the impact of Welfare Reforms and continued austerity measures.

An annual refresh of the Plan will take place to ensure that any new and emerging policies, risks and consultation feedback are identified and responded to. The key policy drivers for the Safe Durham Partnership are detailed in Section 10. This will also provide the opportunity to keep the people of County Durham up to date with our progress and identify new government requirements and new opportunities identified within the previous year.



3. The Safe Durham Partnership

The Safe Durham Partnership was formed in April 2009 following Local Government Reorganisation to a single unitary local authority for County Durham. There are currently seven 'responsible authorities' on the Safe Durham Partnership, who have a legal duty to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and to reduce re-offending.

The seven responsible authorities are:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
- National Probation Service
- The Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company Ltd
- North Durham Clinical Commissioning Group
- Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group

The Safe Durham Partnership also brings together a range of interested parties from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors to help deliver the outcomes in the Safe Durham Partnership Plan through our strategic and operational structures, as well as representation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Safe Durham Partnership has a duty to develop an annual strategic assessment of the risks and threats that crime and disorder poses to the communities of County Durham. The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Identify its priorities for the forthcoming year
- Highlight performance, progress and achievements against the commitments made in the 2015-18 Partnership Plan
- Identify key crime and disorder risks and threats to the community

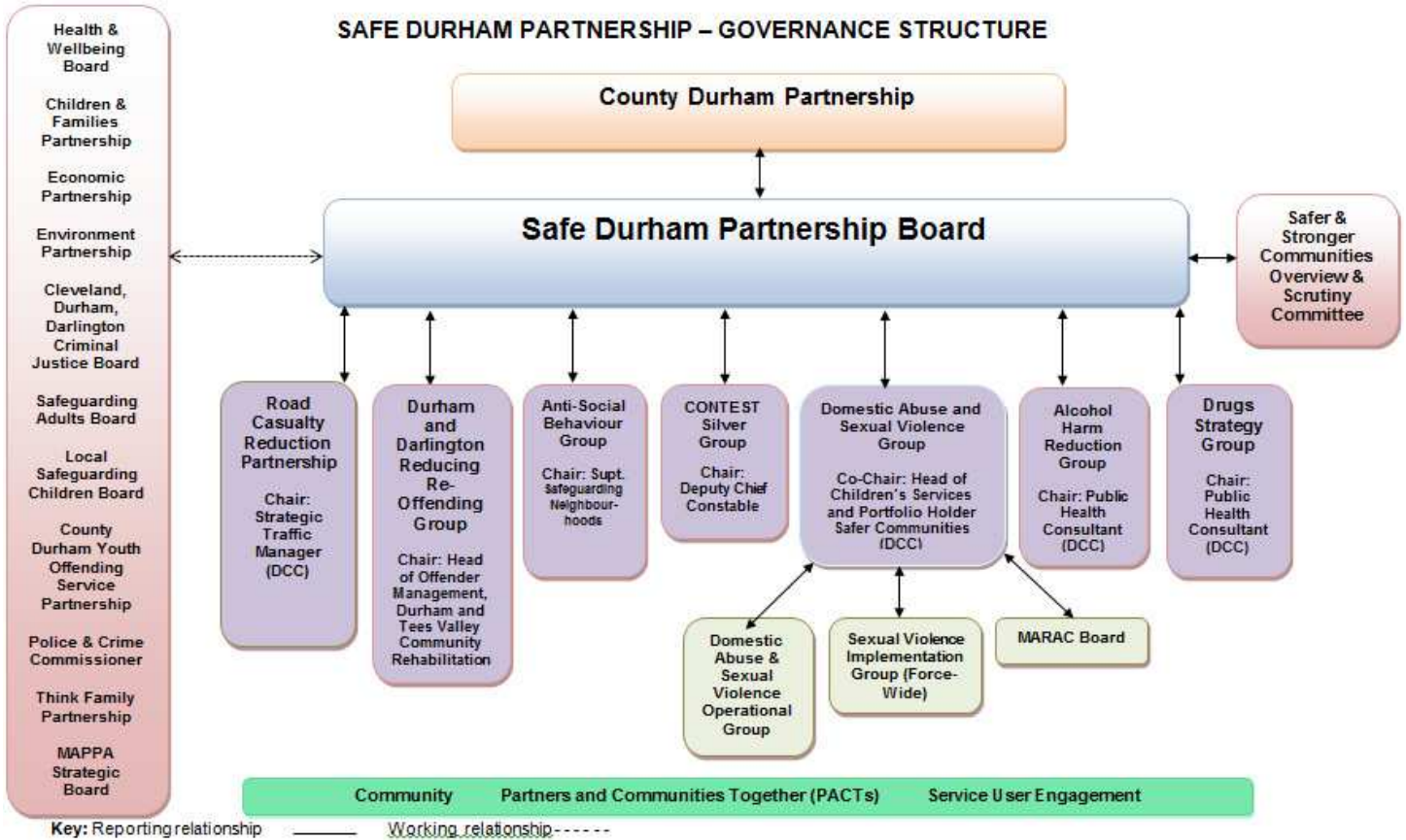
As part of the strategic assessment process we consult with stakeholders and communities on community safety issues that matter to them. Community priorities have been fed into this Plan through the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings, public confidence surveys and through consultation with the 14 Area Action Partnerships and the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Plan reflects our response to these local concerns. A Community Safety Themed workshop was also held at the Health and Wellbeing Board 'Big Tent' event, with a wide range of stakeholders and members of the public attending the event.



3. The Safe Durham Partnership

The Community Safety landscape has changed over recent years, along with NHS and Probation reforms which have changed the statutory membership of the Safe Durham Partnership Board.

This presented an opportunity to review the Safe Durham Partnership governance arrangements which is represented within the Safe Durham Partnership Governance Structure.



4. Progress and Achievements

Reduced levels of crime

Since the Safe Durham Partnership was formed in 2009 there has been a reduction in overall crime. At the end of March 2015 the Safe Durham Partnership reported that the number of crimes was 25,562, a reduction of 19% compared to 2009/10. Improvements in the recording of crime across the country has had its impact on this downward trend, though rates per 1,000 population remain lower than other areas of the region and nationally.

Fewer complaints of anti-social behaviour

Data for April 2015 to September 2015 shows that there were 11,725 ASB incidents reported to the police, which is a reduction of 11% from 13,214 when compared to the same period of the previous year. The number of council reported incidents of ASB during April to September 2015 reduced by 6.8% in comparison to the same period in 2014.

Significant reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system

There has been a continuous reduction, year on year, in first time entrants into the youth justice system in County Durham. Since 2007-08 we have achieved an 83% reduction from 1,129 young people in 2007-08 to 192 first time entrants in 2014-15.

Reduced re-offending by young people

Data from the Ministry of Justice shows we have reduced re-offending by young people by 8.9% (frequency rate) in 2011-12 compared to the same period the previous year. This is better than the national rate of 9.4%. This includes all offences and all young people offending (pre and post court).

Reduced the number of young people offending and offences committed

We have achieved a 46.8% reduction in the number of offences committed by young people (from 2,464 offences in 2010-11 to 1,312 in 2014-15) and a 50.5% reduction in the number of young people offending (from 1,270 in 2010-11 to 629 in 2013-14).

Low rates of re-offending regionally

County Durham has the lowest rate across the region for the national reducing re-offending measure, however, it remains higher than the national average. The proportion of all offenders (adults & juveniles) re-offending in a 12-month period in County Durham was 28.1% (October 12-September 13). That is 1.7% higher than the national figure of 26.4% (October 12-September 13).

Low rates of repeat victimisation for victims of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse is under-reported and part of our work involves encouraging victims to seek support. This means that we will not target a reduction in the number of reports of domestic abuse. However, when victims are encouraged to seek help we are able to work towards preventing those victims suffering a repeat of their experience. 18.5% of domestic abuse victims (April – June 2015) at Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) were repeat victims of domestic abuse against a national target of 24%.

Reduction in road casualties in County Durham

During January to June 2015 there have been 596 road casualties, a reduction of 29% when compared to the same period in 2014.

Alcohol-related violent crime and anti-social behaviour has reduced

The proportion of violent crime that is alcohol-related has reduced to 30.2% between April-September 2015 compared to 30.4% during the same period in the previous year. The proportion of anti-social behaviour that is alcohol-related has also reduced over the same period from 13.6% to 11.8%.

County Durham is in the top 20% for turning around 'Troubled Families'

Troubled Families are those that have problems and cause problems to the community around them, putting high costs on the public sector. As of March 2015, 1,320 families on the Stronger Families Programme were 'turned around', which equates to 100% of the County Durham target of families to 'turn around' by May 2015.

5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

The Safe Durham Partnership has demonstrated an approach aimed at maintaining strong performance. Key improvement areas include an early intervention approach to tackling problem families and locations, tackling the harm caused by alcohol and supporting our police service in its drive to disrupt and bring to justice organised criminals. This approach has proved successful. For example, after two years of targeting areas of the county that presented the greatest challenges, anti-social behaviour was reduced by 47% in those areas.

In a rapidly transforming landscape, built around reform, sustaining such strong performance has become increasingly challenging. The Safe Durham Partnership continues to anticipate and shape its response in a way that mitigates potential risk and takes full advantage of new opportunities. Our approach to the transforming rehabilitation programme and our vision for a restorative County Durham are examples of our proactive approach to change and opportunity. Reshaping our multi-agency problem solving model means we will be able to take a 'whole family' approach and apply 'Think Family' principles.

Between 2011 and 2016 the Safe Durham Partnership delivered an extensive programme of initiatives, including:

Tackling Domestic Abuse

In September 2013 Durham County Council commissioned Harbour to deliver a countywide domestic abuse service. In support of this Partnership priority, the domestic abuse service was widened from April 2015 to provide a holistic service focussed on early intervention, including the development of a pilot perpetrator programme.

A domestic abuse referral pathway was launched in December 2014 as part of the multi-agency 'Sorry's Not Enough' campaign. The campaign includes a dedicated website for the public highlighting how to get help and a separate login page for professionals to access documents like training and policy materials, as well as the domestic abuse referral pathway document and other materials rebranded for professionals – www.sorrysnotenough.co.uk

A service aimed at ensuring victims of forced marriage and honour-based violence get the support and advice they need has been commissioned. The service, called HALO, is also working with agencies across County Durham to raise awareness of the issue and provide training.

A Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) is now in place within County Durham. The MASH is a central point for the screening, gathering, sharing and analysing of information about children and young people.

Restorative approaches

In 2012 the Safe Durham Partnership Board proposed a framework for the introduction of partnership integrated restorative practice, with the aim of creating a culture of restorative approaches throughout our communities and within partner agencies and services.

A restorative approach brings people harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm together, enabling everyone affected by the incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward.

The willingness of partners to adopt restorative approaches into working practices was clear; however there was a need to co-ordinate practice into an overarching strategy. The Partnership convened a task and finish group to bring about whole systems change, connect existing work, align working practice and terminology, use efficiencies and best practice to expand the reach and scope of restorative approaches and to do this within existing funding and resources.



5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

Today, some of our schools are using this approach to improve the learning environment and developing important skills for learning; reducing exclusions and improving attendance. Neighbourhood police teams are applying restorative approaches to every day policing and our Youth Offending Service has expanded restorative justice across all orders within existing resources. Restorative approaches now underpins everything the Youth Offending Service does.

A comprehensive training programme is being delivered across a number of agencies to embed restorative approaches in an ever widening range of services. Our approach means fewer victims, fewer crimes and reduced demand on the criminal justice system.

In July 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership was awarded 'Runners Up' in the Restorative Justice category of the national Howard League Community Programme Awards. Representatives of the Partnership were presented with an award by HRH Princess Royal at the national conference.

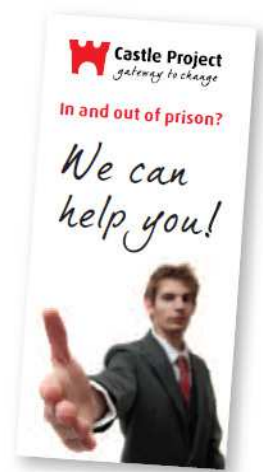
'Looked After Children' Services have used restorative approaches for some time to improve placement stability, staff turnover, dealing with conflict without damage to individuals and promoting wellbeing.

Reducing re-offending

The Integrated Offender Management programme (known as the Castle Project) for adult offenders provides all agencies engaged in local criminal justice with a single coherent structure for the management of repeat adult offenders. Development and refinement of the programme is continuous and the Safe Durham Partnership consistently explores new ways to manage offenders. New resources and projects have been introduced with some positive results. They include mentoring, drug intervention, volunteering, diverting women offenders from prison and restorative approaches.

Checkpoint

Whilst the concept of managing adult offenders through partnership is embedded within our Integrated Offender Management units, the aim of 'Checkpoint' is to extend our integrated offender principles to a wider lower level adult cohort by transforming the way we deal with offenders through police custody suites. In the past, cautions, arrests and attendance at court did not provide the adult offender with access to support functions to address their offending behaviour. Most were leaving the Criminal Justice System with little or no consideration of the causes of their offending or its management. Checkpoint provides a credible alternative to police custody by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need with the result that low level adult offenders are diverted away from the Criminal Justice System, (or exit the Criminal Justice System at an earlier stage), while also addressing the underlying cause of their offending behaviour.



Fully integrated pre-court/out of court system for young people who offend

Two programmes have been crucial in delivering sustainable reductions in the number of young people entering the youth justice system in County Durham. The award winning fully integrated pre-court/out of court system provides early assessment of need and intervention to prevent re-offending. The Pre-Caution Disposal provides an alternative to a formal sanction. It improves young people's life chances by ensuring that their needs are identified and met and that they avoid being criminalised.

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) of young people who offend

National research suggests that 60-90% of young people in the youth justice system have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN). County Durham Youth Offending Service has implemented an innovative Speech, Language and Communication Needs Strategy to address this.

5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

The service has been highly commended for this work in the *SLCN Innovation Award* category of the 2015 national 'Shine a Light Awards' which celebrate innovative work and excellent practice in supporting children and young people's communication development.

The service wanted to ensure early identification of any needs, as well making their screening processes communication friendly. A speech and language therapist has been seconded to the service and staff have learnt how to identify warning signs of SLCN and how to refer for support. It has also redeveloped its process for assessing young people which is now more interactive, helping to reveal any SLCN the young person might have.

This means that more young people were referred for speech and language therapy in a three month period than over the previous 10 years.

Alcohol seizure project

In 2011 the Safe Durham Partnership developed a multi-agency alcohol seizure procedure which was highlighted as national good practice by the Home Office Alcohol Team. Our aim was to reduce anti-social behaviour, understand more about how children and young people access alcohol and engage them in early intervention services.

After being found with alcohol, children and young people can be referred to the 'Brief Interventions Team' for advice and support. Such cases may raise safeguarding issues. The Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are committed to ensuring that children and young people are kept safe and feel safe, no matter what their background.

Building Recovery

Our 'Building Recovery' objective demonstrates our aim to deliver effective treatment and recovery services to help individuals achieve abstinence from illicit drugs and alcohol, to ensure that recovery is sustained and to help people successfully re-integrate into their communities and wider society. In 2015 an integrated drug and alcohol service for adults and young people was commissioned by Durham County Council and is delivered by Lifeline. There are now six Recovery Centres across County Durham.



In September 2015 Durham was the host city for the National Recovery Walk, in recognition of the developing and thriving 'recovery community' in County Durham.

Safer Homes

The Total Home Safety project drew external funding of £300,000 to deliver safety and security measures to over 4,000 risk assessed households. Over the period of the project the Safe Durham Partnership experienced a reduction of 398 house burglaries and 21 house fires generating efficiencies of £832,000.

The Safer Homes pilot scheme was established in 2013. Funded and supported by Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary, it was delivered by volunteer Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators. Volunteers were trained to deliver crime prevention advice to people in their community. Volunteers were able to provide safety and security equipment such as lighting and locks and specialist packs when householders are away from home. Over 4,500 homes received support from the two initiatives and our success was rewarded with £500,000 of Transformation Challenge Award funding following a successful bid by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with the Safe Durham Partnership.



5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

The Safer Homes project was extended, allowing public services to work in partnership to commission, manage and deliver services in the best possible way. One of the cornerstones of the project has been to increase and train the number of volunteers, Neighbourhood Watch and frontline professionals such as carers, nurses and social workers to recognise a range of vulnerabilities when carrying out home visits. A centralised referral process has been put in place to ensure any individual requiring advice or specialist security and safety equipment designed to prevent burglary and fire receives the help they need.

In excess of 2,000 frontline professionals have received fire/ crime awareness input including carers, nurses, social workers, contractors etc. In essence anyone with access to vulnerable people across County Durham was trained. As a result of the project the Police and Fire Service are now both offering documented advice on both crime/ fire awareness within the home as part of their core role.

One of the main objectives of the project was to ensure a sustainable centralised referral process was set up in such a way that ensured the Safer Homes initiative could function as mainstream work once the project had concluded. Fire and Rescue ensure all referrals received are forwarded to the appropriate authority/ service responsible for dealing with the specific vulnerabilities identified.

The level of reductions in house burglary and dwelling fires, along with savings achieved from a centralised referral process at Fire Service HQ has been achieved. The investment in sustainable home safety solutions will provide benefits for many years to come.

Reducing Child Casualties

Durham County Council has begun to introduce temporary 20mph speed limits near a number of schools. This is in addition to the work of the Safe Durham Partnership which has seen County Durham's children and young people benefit from a wide range of education and awareness-raising.

Stronger Families

In April 2012, the Government launched the Troubled Families Programme, known locally as the Stronger Families Programme, to incentivise local authorities and their partners to turn around the lives of over 120,000 families by May 2015. The Safe Durham Partnership and the Children and Families Partnership work jointly on this agenda.

Phase 1 of this programme aimed to work with families where children are not attending school, young people are committing crime, families are involved in anti-social behaviour and adults are out of work.

The County Durham Stronger Families Programme met the target in March 2015 to turn around its targeted number of 1,320 families by May 2015. Families have received help and support delivered with a 'Think Family' multi-agency approach coordinated by a Lead Professional and a Team around the Family utilising a single multi-agency care plan in order to reduce duplication and maximise impact.

In June 2014, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families Programme for a further five years from 2015/16 and to reach an additional 400,000 families across England, for Durham this means an additional 4,330 families will be targeted. Due to County Durham's success in turning around the lives of families on the Stronger Families Programme it has been asked to enter the expanded programme early.

The expanded programme will continue to focus on families with multiple high cost problems and continue to include families affected by poor school attendance, youth crime, anti-social behaviour and unemployment. However, it will also reach out to families with a broad range of problems, including those affected by domestic violence and abuse, with younger



5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

children who need help, where crime and anti-social behaviour problems may become intergenerational and those with a range of physical and mental health problems.

The programme will continue to prioritise getting adults into work, with the Department for Work and Pensions providing 300 specialist troubled families employment advisers who will also work with young people at risk of becoming unemployed.

Counter Terrorism and Extremism

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a 'Prevent Duty' on all partners involved in the Safe Durham Partnership. The Partnership has responded by ensuring all specified authorities engage in a review of their collective response to the new duty and progress is strong.

Durham Constabulary helps the Safe Durham Partnership understand the risks to the local area which are low. However, no area is risk free and vigilance must be maintained.

A local Prevent e-learning module has been developed to help increase awareness of professionals of those signals that may indicate an individual is being drawn into any form of terrorism. To date over 1,500 professionals have taken the course. A more comprehensive workshop to raise awareness of Prevent is available for managers and is being delivered across all agencies engaged with the Safe Durham Partnership. In addition, five workshops have been held for 300 school teachers and childcare professionals with further workshops planned in 2016.



In the event that someone is identified as vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism or support for terrorist activity a local Channel support panel has been put in place to provide support and intervention to those who may be vulnerable to radicalisers. Radicalisers are individuals who encourage others to develop or adopt beliefs and views supportive of terrorism and forms of extremism that has the potential to lead to terrorism.

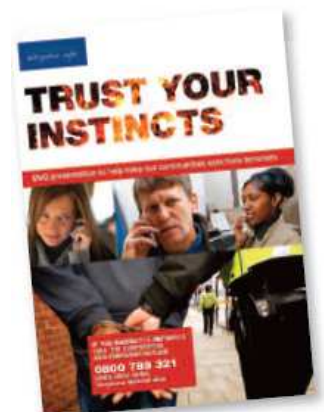
A new national strategy has been developed to counter extremism. Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs. We also include in our definition of extremism calls for the death of members of our armed forces, whether in this country or overseas.

Durham County Council have already adopted a community cohesion toolkit for professionals to respond to extremism and work will be undertaken to support the new national strategy.

Organised crime

Organised crime is serious crime planned, co-ordinated and conducted by people working together on a continuing basis. Their motivation is often, but not always, financial gain.

In 2012 the Safe Durham Partnership began work to build upon the achievements of Durham Constabulary which included establishing an Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel. The work was also by a review of Organised Crime undertaken by the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recommendations from the review are currently being implemented.



The publication of the national Serious and Organised Crime Strategy demonstrated how County Durham is at an advanced stage of development, with Durham Constabulary already providing advice

5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

to other areas of the country in terms of 'lessons learnt'.

Education and awareness continues to be a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership; helping people recognise serious and organise crime and encouraging them to report it. Staff and service awareness programmes have been put in place and specialist training provided to Fire Officers in terms of the dangers presented by the cultivation of cannabis in dwelling houses.

Area Multi-Agency Problem-Solving Groups (MAPS)

Three Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups are operating a 'Tasking and Coordinating' approach. This involves reviewing recent intelligence and performance, examining key issues raised by partners and multi-agency problem solving. Our approach is driven by intelligence from partner agencies, the community and 'Police and Community Together' meetings. Our Area Action Partnerships also have an opportunity to feed information in to the three groups.

The Safe Durham Partnership will work closely with Elected Members to ensure that community intelligence is fed into the multi-agency problem solving approach and to provide local leadership involvement in any neighbourhood problem-solving activity.

Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS)

The Safe Durham Partnership has developed a Multi-Agency Intervention Service. Its purpose is to enhance partnership working and problem solving. It ensures crime and disorder interventions occur at an early stage and align with the 'First Contact Service' model; making it easier for people to report issues of concern and ensure more children will be helped at an early stage.

A centrally based multi-agency team receive and respond to referrals of victims or perpetrators of a range of crime and disorder issues. In addition, staff from any agency will be able to refer individuals and families who require a multi-agency approach into the team so that an assessment can be made in terms of implementing a case management approach or referring to a specialist service.



This service also provides another example of the way in which the Safe Durham Partnership is embedding the 'Think Family' approach. Think Family is an approach that requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. It encourages a broader view of need than that normally adopted. So, for example, the employment and housing needs of parents may be the key to unlocking improvements in mental health or parenting capacity. Social workers, health professionals, employment advisors and housing services will need to co-ordinate their efforts in order to secure long term improvements.

Hoarding

Vulnerable people suffering from mental health and/or alcohol issues with hoarding behaviours pose a specific fire death risk and a multi-agency approach is becoming increasingly important in tackling such issues within local communities. Following a Coroner's report highlighting several issues relating to a hoarding related fire death the coroner wrote to Registered Social Landlords requesting action to eliminate or reduce the risk of death created by such circumstances.

The Safer Homes Scheme has identified 96 Hoarders which provides for real opportunities to reduce the risks from significant hoarding which can put individuals who hoard and their family members at serious risk of health problems, injury, removal of at-risk children or older adults from the home, homelessness or in the worst case, even death.

5. Safe Durham Partnership Initiatives

Bonfire Strategy

Working in partnership through the Anti-Social Behaviour Group, District Managers from the Fire and Rescue Service have produced unwanted fire reduction plans covering the bonfire period. This has demonstrated significant reductions in the number of unwanted fires.

Cyber Crime

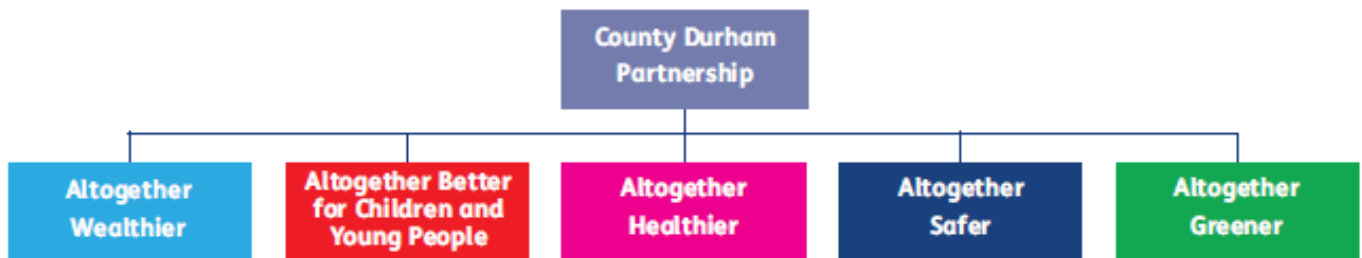
Cyber-enabled crimes are crimes that are increased in their scale or reach by the use of computers, computer networks or other information computer technology. They include crimes such as sexual offending against children which include grooming and the possession, creation and distribution of sexual imagery. As part of the work of the County Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board on child sexual exploitation, a program of awareness-raising is taking place in our schools. This work makes use of resources supplied by the 'Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre'. Such work incorporates other important subjects such as cyber-bullying.

Crimes of fraud includes mass-marketing fraud, 'phishing' (e.g. attempting to acquire usernames/passwords/account details), e-commerce scams etc. Durham County Council Trading Standards are engaged in providing information to the public, while Durham Constabulary are working with businesses to raise awareness of current threats.

The Governments Prevent (preventing people becoming or supporting violent extremists) strategy recognises how the internet has transformed the extent to which terrorist organisations radicalise and recruit people. The Safe Durham Partnership has engaged in training and awareness-raising for staff and continues to incorporate internet safety in its work to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Further work to raise awareness of cybercrime is being developed by partner agencies to help raise awareness of the risks to businesses, professionals and the public.

6. Cross-Cutting Themes



Altogether Better Durham

The Safe Durham Partnership contributes to the vision of an 'Altogether Better Durham'. The Safe Durham Partnership is an integral part of this wider vision and is responsible for delivering an 'Altogether Safer' Durham. As such it sits alongside four other thematic partnerships, represented in the diagram above. Their combined efforts, described within the Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham, demonstrate how this wider vision will be achieved.

The high level objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategy for 'Altogether Safer' are:

- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
- Reduce re-offending
- Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
- Embed the Think Family approach
- Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
- Reduce road casualties

The County Durham Partnership has also identified six key cross-cutting areas for the 'Altogether' thematic partnerships and Area Action Partnerships to jointly focus on. These cross-cutting issues already feature in thematic plans and partners recognise that a more collective approach will have a bigger impact, bring about lasting change and bring added value in the longer term. These are:

- Job creation
- Volunteering
- Mental wellbeing
- Stronger Families
- Alcohol
- Reducing inequalities

This section describes some of the key cross-cutting issues and how the Safe Durham Partnership will contribute to these six themes and shared priorities of the other Thematic Partnerships.

Altogether Wealthier

The focus for the County Durham Economic Partnership is improving the county's economy. The high level objectives are:

- Thriving Durham City
- Vibrant and successful towns
- Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities
- Competitive and successful people
- A top location for business

6. Cross Cutting Themes

The ambition is to create sustainable places where people want to live, work, invest and visit. This ambition requires a vision and commitment to the fundamental transformation of place, shared across public and private stakeholders and supported by residents. The Altogether Wealthier Delivery Plan illustrates the County Durham Economic Partnership's collective effort, responsibilities and key activities to deliver a step change toward its long term vision.

Increased employment

Increased employment is a recurring intended long term impact of the Altogether Wealthier delivery plan. It is also an important issue in terms of offenders and job creation and is a cross-cutting issue for the County Durham Partnership. We know that unemployment is a key risk factor to offending and re-offending and that increasing employment is a protective factor, particularly for those who re-offend. Therefore, helping offenders into employment is an important part of their rehabilitation. Exactly the same scenario exists for those in drug and alcohol recovery.

Not being in education, employment or training is a future predictor of later unemployment, involvement in crime and poor mental health for young people. Our Youth Offending Service's Intensive Employability Programme has exceeded its targets to get young people who offend (some with extensive offending histories) into training and employment, and helped to reduce their re-offending. The success of the programme was recognised by a national award – winning the Youth Justice Award, Children and Young People Now Awards 2013.



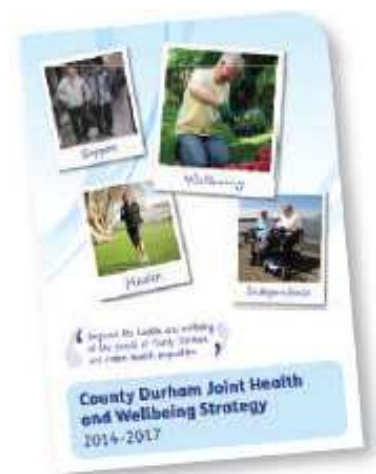
As part of a Neighbourhood Watch regeneration project, designed to reduce anti-social behaviour in Chilton, a local company was selected to carry out the work because it provides apprenticeships to young people 'Not in Education Employment or Training'. Twelve young people, local to Chilton and its surrounding areas learnt new skills and the Local Area Action Partnership presented the young people with the tools to deliver the regeneration work and help them in their pursuit of employment in the building trade.

Altogether Healthier

The high level objectives are:

- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
- Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
- Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support they need

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 placed a duty on local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups to develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to meet the needs identified in the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The vision for the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to 'improve the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham and reduce health inequalities.'



6. Cross Cutting Themes

One of the objectives in the strategy is to ensure that 'children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life'. This includes work undertaken to address risk taking behaviour by young people e.g. smoking, alcohol use and sexual harm.

This work will have a clear impact on the objectives of the Safe Durham Partnership in terms of alcohol related offending by young people, negative public perception about underage drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour and ultimately contributing to fewer children and young people entering the Criminal Justice System.

It will also contribute to fewer young people becoming victims of illicit tobacco dealers who encourage young people to visit 'tab houses', putting them in risky situations with people who may also sell drugs and alcohol. Illegal tobacco has strong links to organised crime, so many of the people smuggling, distributing and selling it are involved in drug dealing, money laundering and other crime. The work of the Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention Panel to tackle illicit tobacco will support the 'Smoke Free County Durham Tobacco Alliance'.

It will help keep them safe from Child Sexual Exploitation and bring the two partnerships together, alongside the Local Safeguarding Children Board to undertake work that tackles single issues, with multiple consequences, together.

Drugs and Alcohol

The Health and Wellbeing Board recognises the need to work together to reduce the number of people who misuse drugs and alcohol'. Both the County Durham Alcohol Strategy 2015-20 and the County Durham Drug Strategy 2014-17 have been jointly developed between the Healthier and Safer agendas. Alcohol is a key cross-cutting theme for the County Durham Partnership.

Mental Health

The County Durham Mental Implementation Plan aims to introduce objectives within the National Strategy 'No Health Without Mental Health' locally, to improve the mental wellbeing of people across County Durham. This includes the following:

- The Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat that provides joined up service responses to people who are suffering from mental health crisis. The Concordat is a commitment from organisations to prevent crises through prevention and early intervention. National organisations who have signed the concordat include NHS England, the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services, the Association of Directors of Children's Social Services, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners and the Home Office. Locally, this work is being taken forward through the Health and Wellbeing Board governance structures. The Local Action Plan mirrors the objectives of the national concordat. This work is supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Dual Diagnosis is defined within the County Durham and Darlington Dual Needs Strategy 2015-17 as people with one or more of the following as well as experiencing a substance misuse issue: mental and behavioural disorders, dementia, learning disabilities. The Strategy has recognised a link between offending, within the criminal justice system, and dual diagnosis.
- Autism is a condition which is characterised by impaired social and communication skill. The County Durham Adult Autism Strategy: Action Plan aims to ensure adults with autism are dealt with appropriately and effectively in the local criminal justice service.
- One of the key areas to address in the Plan is the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, including those from ethnic minority communities and young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Children who are bullied are more likely to suffer from low self-esteem which can have a significant impact on academic attainment.

6. Cross Cutting Themes

Safe Durham Partnership analysis of the impact of mental health on offending helps improve understanding of the how individuals are affected throughout their pathway through the criminal justice system. The Police and Crime Commissioner has also recognised improving services to victims and offenders in relation to mental health as a key strategic priority.

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises that all adults should be able to live free from fear and harm and have their rights and choices respected. Safeguarding Adults is a key priority for Durham County Council and partner agencies. The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy describes how the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Local Safeguarding Children Board are committed to ensuring that children, young people and vulnerable adults are kept safe and feel safe at all times. Both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safe Durham Partnership work in alignment and have a joint strategic objective to Protect Vulnerable People from Harm. The Safeguarding Framework outlines the joint working arrangements between the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) and Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Children and Families Partnership and the Safe Durham Partnership. This ensures that robust arrangements are in place across the partnership boards that have a priority to protect children and adults from abuse and harm.

Suicide Prevention

The development of effective strategies across partnerships to reduce the incidence of self-harm and suicide in the general population is a priority in County Durham. The Health and Wellbeing Board oversees the progress of suicide prevention and the Safe Durham Partnership monitors this work through the Performance Management Framework.

Altogether Better for Children and Young People

The Children, Young People and Families Plan 2016-19 is the single overarching, multi-agency plan for the delivery of priorities for children and young people in County Durham. The high level objectives are:

- Children and young people realise and maximise their potential
- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- A think family approach is embedded in our support for families.

It is important that the Safe Durham Partnership aligns its own outcomes with those of the Children and Families Partnership where appropriate. Examples include education and awareness in terms of risk taking, keeping children and young people out of the criminal justice system, reducing their re-offending, protecting them from drugs alcohol and illicit tobacco, protection against child sexual exploitation, and early intervention and help through the Think Family approach.

The Early Help Strategy for Families refers to help both in the early years of a child's life (including prenatal interventions) and early in the emergence of a problem at any stage in their lives. It incorporates the concept of 'prevention' and the importance of anticipating problems and taking action to prevent them.

Early help must include the concept of building resilience in families so that they are able to meet their own needs in the longer term and are not reliant on services. Help must include reinforcing a family's own skills and strengths and empowering them. It also means harnessing community resources as this will help to break cycles of dependency and improve outcomes in the long term for families, as well as ultimately reducing costs.



6. Cross-Cutting Themes

This is an important strategy for the Safe Durham Partnership as it relies upon all partners and is designed around delivering the best outcome for the family. This model has been integrated into the new Multi- Agency Intervention Service for Safer Communities.

Altogether Greener

The high level objectives are:

- Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment
- Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment
- Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change
- Promote sustainable design and protect Durham's heritage

The 2014 Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment identifies that 'Dog fouling' and 'Rubbish and litter' remain high on the list of public concern. Rubbish/litter is a significant cause of secondary deliberate fires which provides additional concerns in terms of public safety. Such cases of anti-social behaviour are detrimental to health and to the environment. This is why a task force comprising of environmental, police and fire officers form part of a task force in order to tackle the combined problems of fly-tipping.

Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) Communities

GRT communities are the biggest ethnic minority group in County Durham. Durham County Council's vision is to provide a co-ordinated approach to the provision of services to GRT communities and to tackle inequalities and ensure good community relations for all residents across County Durham.

The GRT Strategic Action Plan 2014-17 has been developed across a range of council services and in co-operation with key partners such as Durham Constabulary. Its outcomes align with 5 of the County Durham Partnership's Thematic Partnerships: Altogether Wealthier; Altogether Healthier; Altogether Better for Children and Young People; Altogether Greener and Altogether Safer.

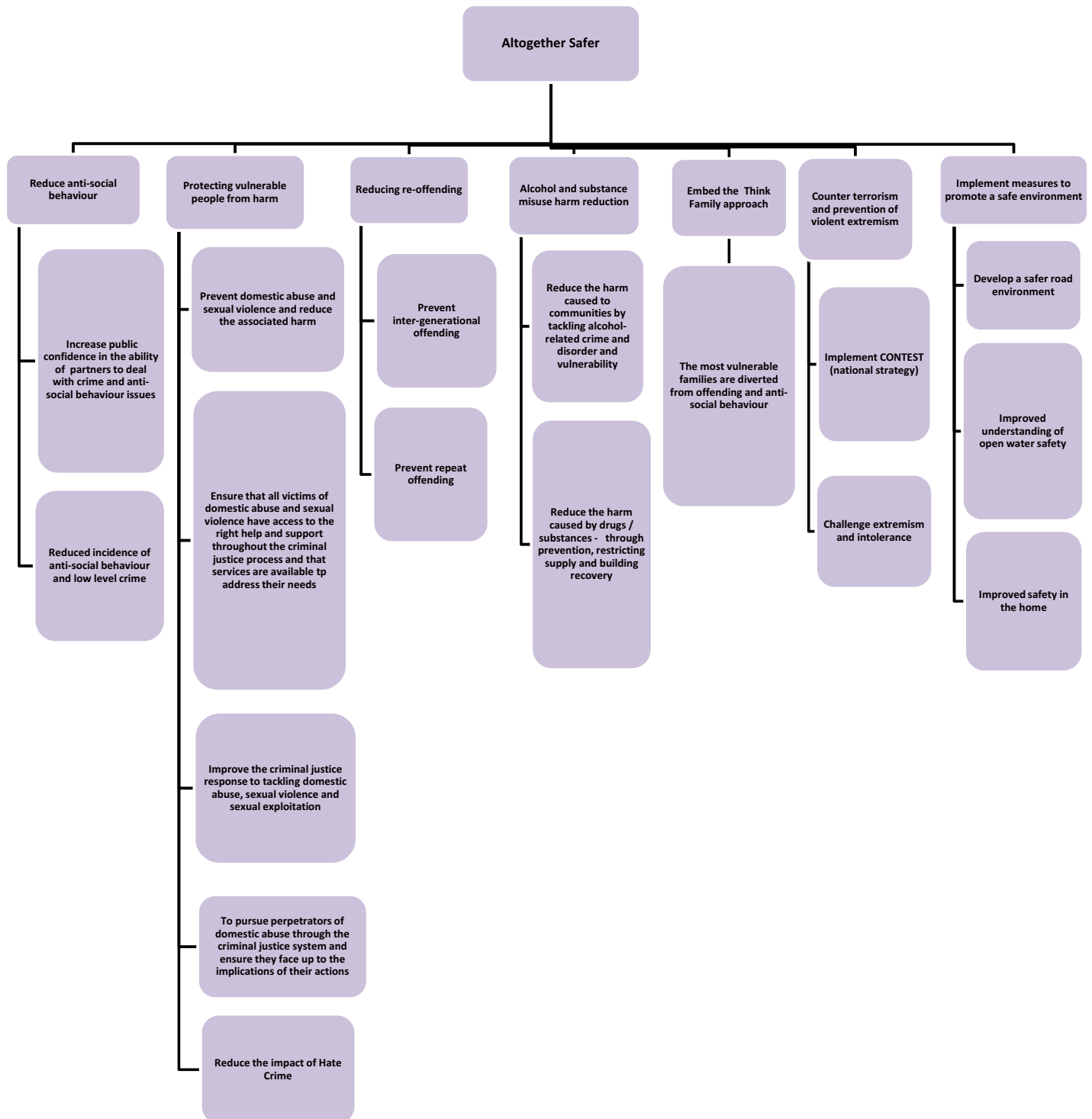
The Altogether Safer theme seeks to create a safer and more cohesive county by:

- Increasing awareness and understanding between GRT communities and all residents
- Tackling Hate Crime against Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities
- Improve access to services such as police and community safety services.
- Effective management of unauthorised encampments and events, including the increase of Temporary Stop Over Areas.
- Ensure the effective management of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller events in County Durham

By working in partnership we will continue to celebrate the diversity and richness of all communities and support a co-ordinated approach to deliver a high level of service to the GRT community.

7. Summary of Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Durham Partnership Board has agreed the priority objectives that will deliver an Altogether Safer County Durham. These objectives and outcomes are designed to help focus on the key issues facing County Durham and be problem oriented in structure (i.e. focusing on how offending can be reduced, victims made less vulnerable and how places can be made safer). These are reflected in the Sustainable Community Strategy.



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Reduce anti-social behaviour

Why this is a priority objective

Since forming in 2009, the Safe Durham Partnership has reported significant reductions in reported anti-social behaviour incidents. Anti-social behaviour can influence public confidence.

Our key challenges

Evidence from the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment shows a significant number of anti-social behaviour incidents are reported to the council.

Specific issues which the public have raised include dog fouling, speeding traffic and rubbish lying around. Fly-tipping accounts for almost half of all reported incidents.

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

Increased public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour

- Deliver awareness raising campaigns through positive messages about how the Safe Durham Partnership is working with the community on issues of concern to them

Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime

- Reduce the risk to victims who are impacted most by anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the risk of perpetrators engaging in anti-social behaviour

How we will measure success

- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour (Police confidence survey)
- Perceptions that the police and local council are dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
- Number of police reported incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Number of council reported incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Total number of secondary fires
- Total number of deliberate and 'not known' secondary fires
- Total number of criminal damage and arson offences



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Protect vulnerable people from harm

Why this is a priority objective

Protecting vulnerable people from harm has been identified as a priority as it covers a range of important issues in relation to protecting vulnerable people from harm, including domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime. Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is also a key issue, with actions being led by the County Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board. Other cross-cutting issues such as suicide prevention are also covered by this priority objective.

'Violence against Women and Girls' is a key national priority. The Government has highlighted that it is determined to support victims to report crimes of this type and bring perpetrators to justice. The Government has also identified the need to do more to prevent violence against women and girls. Regionally, the Police and Crime Commissioners have developed a strategy to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls, which the Partnership supports and delivers actions against.

Victims of hate crime must be encouraged to report hate crime so that we can target our work more effectively and provide protection and support. The national Hate Crime Action Plan identifies under-reporting by Gypsy, Roma Traveller communities and the Safe Durham Partnership will support the Gypsy, Roma Traveller Action Plan in tackling this issue.

Our key challenges

Serious sexual offences has been identified as a key area of concern for both the Safe Durham Partnership and Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Levels of domestic abuse related incidents reported to the police have seen a continuous but small increase each year since 2009-10. It remains under-reported and work will continue to increase the number of victims who contact the police and outreach support services. It is important that victims have the confidence to report domestic abuse so that they can benefit from effective support.

The Government has identified that more needs to be done to prevent violence against women and girls. Our focus will need to be on men as well as women through 'Provision, Prevention, Protection and Pursue'; in line with national plans.

Under-reporting of hate crime is significant. In order to meet this challenge the Safe Durham Partnership will support the Police and Crime Commissioner's Hate Crime Action Plan and target increases in hate crime reporting. Addressing the under-reporting of hate crime will remain at the heart of our approach. However, the long term goal is to see evidence of a reduction in the actual incidence of hate crime in County Durham.



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm

- To ensure that children and young people have an understanding that healthy relationships are based on respect, with sexual activity being consensual and reinforcing which attitudes are acceptable and which are not
- To raise public awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, across services, organisations and the general public
- To ensure early identification and co-ordinated intervention by front line professionals to protect victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Prevent abuse from happening by intervening early to prevent it and challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it

Ensure all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs

- Produce a three year multi-agency training strategy and action plan around domestic abuse and sexual violence and exploitation, which links to the national and regional Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- To ensure that all survivors of sexual violence have access to forensic medical provision which provides the full range of health care and after care to ensure that mental and sexual health needs are addressed
- To develop an accurate picture of the scale and nature of all aspects of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Commission countywide specialist services for domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation

To improve the criminal justice response to tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence and sexual exploitation

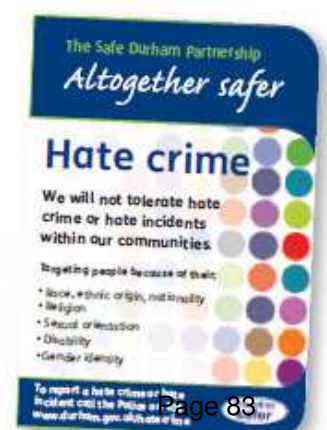
- To reduce the attrition rate and maintain the high conviction rate in cases of domestic abuse and sexual violence
- To ensure that victims are provided with an enhanced level of support throughout the end to end criminal justice process
- To ensure that all criminal justice agencies address the underlying problems in reporting and prosecuting rape and in prosecuting rape and Child Sexual Exploitation cases
- Provide the opportunity, where appropriate, for victims and perpetrators to access restorative approaches as a means of resolving conflict and repairing harm

To pursue perpetrators of domestic abuse through the criminal justice system and ensure they face up to the implications of their actions

- Implement a multi-faceted perpetrator programme across County Durham in order to change attitudes and behaviours of perpetrators
- Identify and pursue serial perpetrators of domestic violence by targeting via multi-agency approach and problem solving
- Review the impact of Clare's Law in County Durham and pro-actively advertise its existence to increase its use
- Increase awareness of Domestic Violence Protection Orders/Notices in order to increase the use of these valuable tools to combat perpetrators

Reduce the impact of hate crime

- Improve the confidence of victims to report hate crime
- Provide support for victims of hate crime and hate incidents
- Raise awareness of hate crime issues across organisations and the general public



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

How we will measure success

Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence and Sexual Exploitation

- Percentage of repeat incidents of domestic violence (referrals to MARAC)
- Detection rate for serious sexual offences
- Rate of sexual offences per 1,000 population
- Number of child sexual exploitation referrals

Vulnerability

- Proportion of people who use adult social care services who say that those services have made them feel safe and secure
- The percentage of individuals who achieved their desired outcomes from the adult safeguarding process
- Number of hate motivated incidents reported
- Suicide rate (deaths from suicide and injury of undetermined intent) per 100,000 population

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Reduce re-offending

Why this is a priority objective

The Government objective for reducing crime and reducing the number of victims shows a continued focus on re-offending.

For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.

There is still more to be done to address the needs of offenders before they become prolific and fixed in their attitudes and behaviours. With reducing resources and ongoing reforms, more emphasis must be placed on joining up service delivery to provide more robust support.

Our key challenges

Adult offender health assessments show mental health has become the issue of greatest need, while a recent assessment of young people who offend has identified a range of health needs and in particular that of Speech, Language and Communication.

The Strategic Assessment described how nationally identified risks associated to women offenders are reflected locally. These include abuse, anxiety and depression, substance misuse, safe accommodation, vulnerability from male offenders and leaving behind dependent children when entering prison.

County Durham has the lowest rate across the region for the national 'all proven offending' measure but remains higher than the national average. The task to impact on this measure is challenging as most offenders in this cohort have not been managed by any formal offender management arrangements previously. Changes nationally, brought about by 'Transforming Rehabilitation' and more locally with the introduction of 'Checkpoint', will begin address some of these issues.

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

Prevent intergenerational offending

- Improve how we communicate with young people, understand and respond to their communication needs and improve the interventions we complete with them
- Provide high quality restorative justice services that support victims of crime and provide confidence to both communities and Youth Justice Services
- Identify, analyse and target resources on those young people committing the most offences
- Ensure we listen and respond to what young people and their families are telling us, promoting their success and maintaining public satisfaction
- Continue to improve and develop our 'Think Family' approach for identified offenders (both adults and young people who offend) and their families



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Prevent repeat offending

- Manage offence related needs (critical pathways*) of adult offenders in order to stop their offending
- Expand our integrated offender management approach to lower level offending using alternatives to custody
- Maintain and develop support for women offenders and women vulnerable to offending
- Ensure adult offenders are retained in effective drug treatment, drug recovery and abstinence
- Develop and promote victim involvement within restorative practices
- Reduce the impact of offending behaviour on public confidence
- Improve partnership performance of the single re-offending measure

*The critical pathways for adults are: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour, Sexual Exploitation and Domestic Violence.

How we will measure success

- Proven re-offending of adult and juvenile offenders (proportion of all offenders who re-offend in a 12-month period)
- Proven re-offending by young people (who offend) in a 12-month period
- Percentage change in detected crimes for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) cohort over the last 12 months
- First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System aged 10-17
- Overall percentage of positive completions for adult offenders

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

Why this is a priority objective

The harm caused by alcohol impacts upon crime, health and social services and the workplace. Dealing with the consequences of excessive alcohol consumption costs the people of County Durham in the region of £185.38 million each year (Balance, 2015). The total cost of alcohol related harm in County Durham accounts for almost a fifth of the cost across the North East region.

Alcohol and substance misuse is a cross-cutting theme as it contributes to both crime and anti-social behaviour. Alcohol is a contributory factor of domestic abuse and sexual violence and has links to child sexual exploitation in the county. It has played a part in homicides and domestic homicides in County Durham.

Drug misuse impacts on the health and wellbeing of the individual affected by it, their families and the wider community. Tackling drug misuse requires a co-ordinated approach from partner organisations, individuals and the wider community who all have a role to play in preventing drug misuse.

Our key challenges

County Durham experiences significantly higher alcohol specific admission rates than England for men and women. The county is well below the national rate in terms of alcohol related crime. The challenge is to ensure such crime is recorded effectively as this will be an important part of delivering our outcomes. Alcohol related crime and disorder is now less focused around our town and city centres and is more dispersed in its nature, this has significant implications for how we control and prevent alcohol related harm.

A new Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy has been developed. Our ability to make a significant impact is compounded by national factors such as Welfare Reform, changes in commissioning structures and limited resources. Increasing opposition from the alcohol industry to any form of initiative to control the availability and affordability of alcohol, such as 'Early Morning Restriction Orders', and the failure to secure a minimum unit price for alcohol are two additional barriers to achieving our outcomes.



The Safe Durham Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board have developed a Drugs Strategy aimed at preventing harm, restricting supply and sustaining a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact on communities and families.

'Legal highs' contain one or more chemical substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs (like cocaine and ecstasy). They are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and often not enough is known their adverse effects.

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

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

- Reduce incidents of drink driving through the promotion of "no drinking and driving" as a cultural norm
- Improve the sharing of alcohol-related violent crime information between relevant partners
- Develop an increased understanding of the nature and scale of the problem of drunkenness and its

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

impact upon the safety of individuals and communities, and the associated demands placed upon partner services

- Use licensing powers to reduce the harmful use of alcohol
- Improve the collection of community intelligence in relation to illicit alcohol sales
- Implement Identification, Brief Advice (IBA) and develop pathways to recovery services for those in contact with the Criminal Justice System
- Raise awareness of the links between alcohol and domestic abuse/sexual violence and ensure pathways into recovery services are available for both victims and perpetrators

Reduce the harm caused by drugs/substances - through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery

- Increase awareness and understanding of drugs (including Novel Psychoactive Substances) in order to reduce drug misuse across the population
- Have fewer people taking up drug use and break the inter-generational path to drug use and dependency
- Reduce the supply of drugs and number of drug related incidents impacting upon communities and families.
- Ensure recovery is understood and visible in the community
- Support people to successfully recover from their dependency, addressing both their health and social needs arising from their drug misuse
- Involve and support families and carers living with drug related issues



How we will measure success

- Percentage of alcohol related anti-social behaviour incidents
- Percentage of alcohol related violent crime
- Percentage of alcohol related domestic abuse and/or sexual violence
- Arrests for drink and/or drug driving
- Arrests for drunk and disorderly incidents
- Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment – opiates
- Percentage of successful completions of those in drug treatment – non opiates
- Successful completions as a percentage of total numbers in treatment - alcohol

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Embed the 'Think Family' approach

Why this is a priority objective

This is a joint priority objective with the Children and Families Partnership.

A small number of families require a disproportionate amount of support. In the case of families facing multiple challenges, they often receive services from several separate agencies in response to a range of needs. Think Family focuses specifically on the needs of these families.

Think Family is an approach that requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. It encourages a broader view of need than that normally adopted. To 'Think Family' is to understand that children's problems do not sit in isolation from their parents, and that parents' problems impact on their children. This approach ensures that all family members are able to get the support they need, at the right time, to help their children achieve good outcomes. All agencies are encouraged to 'Think Family' and to coordinate their efforts. This means making sure that families receive co-ordinated, multi-agency, solution focused support.

For many families their complex needs can result in offending behaviour or victimisation and so it is important that Think Family is embedded and integrated into the service models used by the Safe Durham Partnership. Equally, this approach can have a significant impact on crime and disorder outcomes and presents an opportunity to improve performance.

The 'Think Family' approach is intrinsically linked to our Stronger Families Programme. This programme is known nationally as 'The Troubled Families Programme' and the Government estimates County Durham has around 1320 'Troubled Families' with a range of multiple and complex needs. These are not new families but families who have been known to services, often for many years, and despite numerous interventions their problems persist, and are in many cases intergenerational, leading to cycles of disadvantage for such families.

Due to the successes in Phase One, Durham County Council are an early implementer of Phase Two of the nation programme which has been extended by the current Government until 2020.

Our key challenges

Last year we recognised that it was important to ensure offender management service staff utilised Think Family as part of their mainstream role. The challenge now will be to align Think Family Services with ARCC; the new Community Rehabilitation Company.

The process of integrating Think Family into Multi Agency Problem Solving comes at a time when Multi Agency Problem Solving is undergoing significant transformation.

It will be important to ensure that national targets for nominations into the Stronger Families programme are met and that the number of referrals increases. Government funding for Stronger Families will continue to be on a payment by results scheme. Local Authorities will be expected to demonstrate *significant and sustained progress or continuous employment* measured through a locally defined Outcomes Framework.



8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Our outcome and how we will deliver it

The most vulnerable families are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour

- Ensure referrals are made to the Stronger Families programme as part of the anti-social behaviour escalation procedure
- Increase the number of referrals into the Stronger Families programme from the Lifeline Drug and Alcohol Treatment Service
- Work with the Organised Crime Disruption and Intervention panel to refer those vulnerable to the influence of organised crime into the Stronger Families Programme
- Develop the use of restorative approaches in the Stronger Families Programme
- Pilot and evaluate the inclusion of Police Community Support Officers working within Families First to focus on those families where crime and anti-social behaviour is an issue
- Provide support to families with an adult member serving a custodial prison sentence

How we will measure success

- Percentage of families 'turned around' by the Stronger Families Programme
- Percentage of families where a successful intervention for crime / anti-social behaviour is achieved

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism

Why this is a priority objective

The threat to the UK from the terrorist organisation 'Daesh' has resulted in the threat level to the UK being raised to 'Severe'. This means that an attack is highly likely.

CONTEST, the UK's Counter Terrorism strategy, aims to reduce the risk to the United Kingdom and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence.

There is a clear structure in place that supports the delivery of the CONTEST Strategy which provides oversight of a multi-agency agenda and performance. Gold (Chief Executive), Silver (Strategic Delivery) and Bronze (Operational) multi-agency groups are in place and are represented by all specified authorities (see section 3). Their role is to understand the risk of terrorism and extremism and ensure terrorist ideologies, and those who promote them, do not go uncontested.

The PREVENT strand of CONTEST is concerned with preventing people being drawn into terrorism.

Our key challenges

In 2015 the Government introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which has introduced the PREVENT Duty on all specified authorities which places PREVENT on a statutory footing. Strengthening our understanding of 'PREVENT', the drivers of terrorism and delivering a strong, tried and tested Safeguarding referral programme, called 'Channel' (see section 3), will be the three important elements of stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

It will be important that all specified authorities are delivering a range of resources to ensure key members of staff, and others, have a good understanding of how to recognise those vulnerable, or subject, to radicalisation and know how to respond. The PREVENT Duty requires a wide range of activity across a range of organisations who will need to demonstrate an effective collective response to the new duty. A review of our collective response has been initiated and will provide a method of monitoring our progress against the new duty across key sectors identified by the national PREVENT strategy as areas of particular risk. Key sectors include: Schools, Further and Higher Education, Prisons, Probation, Health, Youth Offending, Faith Establishments and the Internet.

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

Implement the national 'CONTEST' strategy

- Implement the Government's new statutory requirements for preventing people being drawn into terrorism
- Respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
- Prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
- Work with key sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

Challenge extremism and intolerance

- Implement a cohesion action plan in cases where a community presents risks from extremist groups

How we will measure success

- Building Resilience to Terrorism Self-Assessment Score (The PREVENT Self-Assessment is the formal mechanism through which the Safe Durham Partnership will manage performance.

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

Implement Measures to Promote a Safe Environment

Why this is a priority objective

Although there has been a considerable reduction in the number of road casualties over the last 10 years, the county still has a higher than average rate of child casualties; 134 in 2013. However, County Durham has a significant roads network which present risks that many other areas do not have.

Speeding vehicles has been of particular concern to people in County Durham for many years and opportunities exist to reduce that concern as this issue cuts across both the anti-social behaviour and road casualty objectives.

Riverside and water safety is a key issue with 56 incidents occurring in Durham City between January 2010 and March 2015 (51 near misses - 5 fatalities).

The Safer Homes Scheme has transformed the way in which isolated, vulnerable and elderly people receive crime and fire safety advice as well as protection. Along with practical help to make homes safer, the project aims to improve the health and well-being of those people involved, with the project designed to foster further collaboration with as many frontline health care professionals, practitioners, families and friends as possible in order to reach the most vulnerable members of the community. There has been a reduction of approximately 20% in the number of dwelling fires between September 19th 2014 and 31st March 2015 compared to the same period last year. Since the work became mainstream in April 2015, this trend has continued.

Our key challenges

The county still has a higher rate of child casualties than most other English local authorities. This is due to higher levels of vehicle traffic. There are peak times in the day for child road casualties and these will be targeted by the Safe Durham Partnership. Over 50% of people surveyed had a high perception of speeding vehicles and raising public confidence is an issue.

Analysis has been undertaken to look at patterns of accidents focused on their proximity to schools. This shows that 86% of accidents involving children and young people occur within a 600 metre radius of a school. In December 2014 Durham County Council approved a decision to introduce 20mph limits around a number of schools in County Durham.

The Durham City Safety group has made a number of improvements to Durham riverside and further work will be undertaken countywide as part of the open water programme on managing open water risks.

Despite a reduction in accidental dwelling fires during the period April to September 2015, continued prevention of accidental dwelling fires remains a priority. Increases in the number of referrals by practitioners to the fire and rescue service is encouraging as these results in a home fire safety visit, in line with the Fire Death Protocol.

Our outcomes and how we will deliver them

Develop a safer road environment

- Deliver road safety education in schools, colleges, youth centres, children's centres and nurseries.
- Deliver road safety training including child pedestrian training, Bikeability Training and EXCErate young driver training in schools and colleges
- Work in partnership to produce and deliver road safety publicity campaigns
- Continue to deliver driver training courses for business drivers, young drivers and older drivers.
- Deliver a rider training programme for motorcycle riders

8. Delivering Altogether Safer Objectives and Outcomes

- Utilise data and intelligence to identify high prevalence areas and to specifically target these areas with road safety education initiatives
- Deliver road safety initiatives and events linked to road safety themed weeks
- Develop road safety standards through Road Safety GB and the National Staff Training group
- Deliver a programme of car seat check clinics and seatbelt / child car seat wearing awareness sessions across all major conurbations
- Deliver community speed watch and camera enforcement programme
- Develop police speed action plans in response to PACT priorities
- Implement physical changes to the road environment in response to road casualty data
- Target a reduction in Child Road Casualties

Improved understanding of open water safety

- Implement the water safety programme, including management of risks on public spaces near open water
- Promote good practice across privately owned open water sites.

Improved safety in the home

- Provide fire safety and crime prevention advice and resources as part of the Safer Homes Scheme
- Provide advice and signpost relevant individuals into health and care support services
- Carry out slips, trips and falls assessments and offer preventative measures to reduce the risk of injury where necessary

How we will measure success

- Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on our roads
- Number of children killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions on our roads
- Number of road casualties
- Number of deaths in accidental dwelling fires identified as being within a vulnerable area
- Number of Injuries in accidental dwelling fires identified as being within a vulnerable area

9. Monitoring Success of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan

The Safe Durham Partnership Board has put in place a Performance Management Framework structured around the strategic objectives. In addition to performance measures linked to the strategic objectives, the framework includes key indicators of crime for the Safe Durham Partnership Board to monitor activity trends in this area. This includes:

- The overall crime rate per 1,000 population
- Rate of theft offences per 1,000 population
- The recorded level of victim based crime per 1,000 population
- Rate of Violence Against the Person offences per 1,000 population

Selected indicators from the Performance Framework are reported to the Durham County Council Cabinet, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the County Durham Partnership to help monitor performance against the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan.

The Performance Management Framework is refreshed on an annual basis ensuring it is relevant to the objectives and outcomes in the Partnership Plan, thematic strategies and action plans. On a quarterly basis an escalation report is submitted to the Safe Durham Partnership Board highlighting achievements and areas for improvement.

Performance management arrangements of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan are incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership Performance Management Framework. This ensures responsibility and accountability of the strategic actions within the Plan. A supporting delivery plan has been implemented and is monitored on a six monthly basis by the Safe Durham Partnership Board. In addition each Thematic Group has a specific action plan and performance management framework that directly supports this delivery plan.

10. National Policy Context

Since 2010 the Safe Durham Partnership has operated in a time of significant change in the public sector. Key statutory partners who make up the Safe Durham Partnership Board have faced reductions in expenditure and resources. Home Office grants to the Safe Durham Partnership have also significantly reduced.

In 2011 some legislation and performance requirements relating to the Safe Durham Partnership were repealed, however, many of the statutory requirements placed on the responsible authorities remain. The Partnership no longer operates in the context of a National Community Safety Strategy but there are key thematic policy drivers which influence our strategic direction.

Key Policy Drivers

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

The Act introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour that provide better protection for victims and communities. The new Community Trigger and Community Remedy empowers victims and communities, giving them a greater say in how agencies respond to complaints of anti-social behaviour and in out-of-court sanctions for offenders. The Safe Durham Partnership has worked with the Police and Crime Commissioner to implement the new measures contained within the Act which commenced in October 2014.

Transforming Rehabilitation: A Strategy for Reform

The Transforming Rehabilitation Programme transformed the way in which offenders are managed in the community, in order to bring down re-offending rates.

The key aspects of the reforms are:

- The creation of a new public sector National Probation Service to manage high risk offenders, which took place in June 2014.
- The creation of twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders, which took place in February 2015.
- Every offender released from custody now receives statutory supervision and rehabilitation in the community.
- A nationwide 'through the prison gate' resettlement service is in place, meaning most offenders are given continuous support by one provider from custody into the community. Offenders are held in a prison designated to their area for at least three months before release.
- New payment by results incentives for CRCs to focus on reforming offenders.

Police and Crime Commissioners

In November 2012 the first Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham and Darlington was elected, replacing Police Authorities who were a responsible authority on the Safe Durham Partnership. The second round of elections will take place in May 2016. A range of funding streams were transferred from the Safe Durham Partnership to the Police and Crime Commissioner in April 2013. The Safe Durham Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner work collaboratively on shared strategic objectives within the Police and Crime Plan including domestic abuse, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, tackling the harm caused to individuals by alcohol and drugs, improving road safety, reducing re-offending and increasing public confidence (see Section 11).

10. National Policy Context

Domestic Abuse

In March 2014 the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (known as Clare's Law) was extended to police forces across England and Wales. It follows a successful 14-month pilot in four police force areas, which provided more than 100 people with potentially life-saving information. It is a scheme allowing police to disclose to individuals details of their partners' abusive past.

Further protection has been provided through the introduction of Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs); a new power introduced by the Crime and Security Act 2010. It enables the police to put in place protection for the victim in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident. Under DVPOs, the perpetrator can be prevented from returning to a residence and from having contact with the victim for up to 28 days, allowing the victim a level of breathing space to consider their options, with the help of a support agency. This provides the victim with immediate protection.

Serious Crime Act 2015

The Serious Crime Act gives effect to a number of legislative proposals in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. In doing so, it builds on current law to ensure that the National Crime Agency, the police and other law enforcement agencies have the powers they need effectively and relentlessly to pursue, disrupt and bring to justice serious and organised criminals. In addition, the Act includes provisions to strengthen the protection of vulnerable children and others (including to tackle female genital mutilation and domestic abuse). Furthermore, the Act includes provisions to tighten prison security and to guard against the threat of terrorism posed by returning 'foreign fighters'.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015

The threat to the UK from the terrorist organisation 'Daesh' has resulted in the threat level to the UK being raised to 'Severe'. This means that an attack is highly likely. The Government has responded by introducing the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which places a duty on specified authorities (Local Authorities, Police, Education, Probation, Prisons and Health) while in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

This means that all specified authorities need to work together to:

- Understand the risk of radicalisation
- Ensure frontline staff, who engage with the public, understand the signs that an individual may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism
- Utilise the 'Channel' program to safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity

The Channel process identifies those most at risk of radicalisation, and refers them, via the police, for assessment by a multi-agency panel. The panel considers how best to safeguard them by ensuring they have access to support from mainstream services, such as health and education, through to specialist mentoring or faith guidance and wider diversionary activities. Each support package is monitored closely and reviewed regularly by the multi-agency panel.

On 20 October 2015 the Government published its Counter-Extremism Strategy aimed at countering all forms of extremism: violent and non-violent; Islamist and the neo-Nazi. It aims to improve understanding of the causes and impacts of extremism and do more to:

- Counter the extremist ideology
- Build a partnership with all those opposed to extremism
- Disrupt extremists
- Build more cohesive communities

10. National Policy Context

National Drugs Strategy

The National Drugs Strategy was reviewed in February 2015. The 'Reducing Demand' strand of the Strategy has been refreshed and action is now being taken across a wider range of at risk groups, ensuring that we are responding to new challenges including New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), also known as 'legal highs.' There is a focus on wider prevention activity, championed by Public Health England. Local areas have been supported with resources and guidance to design and commission integrated services that meet both the needs of individuals and the wider community. 'Building Recovery' remains a key element of the Strategy.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Louise Casey published 'Reflections on child sexual exploitation' in March 2015. The report emphasises that CSE is child abuse and is a crime. Efforts need to be directed towards perpetrators in order to detect, prevent and disrupt that abuse at the earliest stages as well as the prosecution of individual perpetrators to ensure that they face the full force of the criminal justice system for their crimes. CSE is squarely a community safety issue and local government working in partnership with the police and other partners need to make use of community safety tactics and action to keep children safe. The regulatory and enforcement functions of the local authority are vital in preventing and disrupting CSE and in building intelligence which can help with prosecutions.

Cyber Crime

Under the National Cyber Security Programme, government has been working to

- Raise businesses' awareness of the threat from cyber crime
- Encourage firms to use effective cyber security risk management practices

The government is also working to ensure that consumers are better informed about potential risks and how to avoid them, and that they demand better cyber security in the products and services they buy. It has launched an awareness campaign designed to:

- Change the way people view online safety
- Provide the public and businesses with the skills and knowledge they need to take control of their cyber security
- Measurably change online behaviours for the public and micro, small and medium sized businesses

Cyber dependent crimes are those committed using computers, computer networks or other forms of ICT. They include the creation and spread of malware for financial gain, hacking to steal personal or industry data or to cause disruption and reputational damage to organisations.

Cyber enabled crimes include fraud, drugs purchases, child sexual exploitation and online harassment.



11. Objectives and links to the Police and Crime Plan

The Safe Durham Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner work collaboratively on a range of shared objectives to make County Durham a safe place to live, work and visit. These shared objectives and how they delivered are detailed in the table below.*

Safe Durham Partnership Objectives and links to the Police and Crime Plan

 Safe Durham Partnership Objectives	 Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Objectives
Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction	Objective: Keep all our communities safe Key area of focus: Alcohol and Drugs
<i>Facilitated by the Alcohol Harm Reduction Group and the Drugs Strategy Group.</i>	
Anti-social behaviour	Objective: Keep all our communities safe Key area of focus: Anti-social Behaviour
<i>Facilitated by the Anti-Social Behaviour Group.</i>	
Reducing reoffending	Cross cutting key area of focus: Reducing Reoffending
<i>Facilitated by the joint Reducing Reoffending Group, covering both County Durham and Darlington.</i>	
Embedding Think Family	Objective: Keep all our communities safe Consistent with the Constabulary's Problem Solving approach
<i>Facilitated by the Think Family Partnership.</i>	
Protecting vulnerable people from harm	Objective: Support Victims Key areas of focus: domestic abuse and hate crime
<i>Facilitated by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group and the County Durham and Darlington joint Hate Crime Working Group.</i>	
Implement measures to promote a safe environment	Objective: Keep all our communities safe Key area of focus: Road Safety.
<i>Facilitated by the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, covering both Durham and Darlington.</i>	
Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism	Objective: Keeping all communities safe These threats are covered by the Strategic Policing Requirement, as issued by the Home Secretary.
<i>Facilitated by the Partnership Silver CONTEST Board, covering both Durham and Darlington.</i>	

* Following elections for Police and Crime Commissioners in May 2016 a new Police and Crime Plan will be developed.

12. Abbreviations / Glossary of Terms

AAPs	<u>Area Action Partnerships</u> Local forums set up to give people in County Durham a greater choice and voice in local affairs.
ASB	<u>Anti-Social Behaviour</u> Behaviour which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons of another household.
CCL	Clinical Commissioning Locality
CDYOS	County Durham Youth Offending Service
CONTEST	The United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
CSEW	Crime Survey of England and Wales
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
ETE	Education, Training or Employment
HIL	High Impact Locality
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
JSNA	<u>Joint Strategic Needs Assessment</u> A document which provides a detailed overview of the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the people of County Durham. Used to inform future service planning.
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LMAP	Local Multi Agency Partnership
MARAC	<u>Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference</u> Regular local meetings where information about high risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies.
MFH	Missing From Home
MH	Mental Health
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
NHW	Neighbourhood Watch
NPS	National Probation Service
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
OCG	Organised Crime Groups
PACT	Police/Partnerships and Communities Together
PNC	Police National Computer
S&OC	Serious and Organised Crime
SA	Strategic Assessment
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
Think Family	A practice which makes sure that the support provided by children's, adults' and family services is co-ordinated and focused on problems affecting the whole family.



Safe Durham Partnership

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016 - 2019

Partnership working across County Durham continues to go from strength to strength. When introducing our previous Partnership Plan in 2015, we explained how our commitment to working in partnership had ensured real and tangible improvements to the quality of life of our communities.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016-19 will continue to demonstrate new and innovative approaches as we respond to an ever changing and more challenging landscape. Working in partnership is crucial if we are to meet existing and emerging challenges and work towards achieving our vision where every adult and child in county Durham will be, and will feel, safe.

Partners across the community, voluntary sector and statutory agencies are committed to working together and responding to the challenges and opportunities highlighted in this Plan in order to deliver an 'Altogether Safer' and 'Altogether Better' Durham.

If you have any questions or comments about this document please contact us:

E-mail: community.safety@durham.gov.uk

Telephone: 03000 265 436

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

العربية (Arabic)	(中文 (繁體字)) (Chinese)	اردو (Urdu)
polski (Polish)	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ (Punjabi)	Español (Spanish)
বাংলা (Bengali)	हिन्दी (Hindi)	Deutsch (German)
Français (French)	Türkçe (Turkish)	Melayu (Malay)

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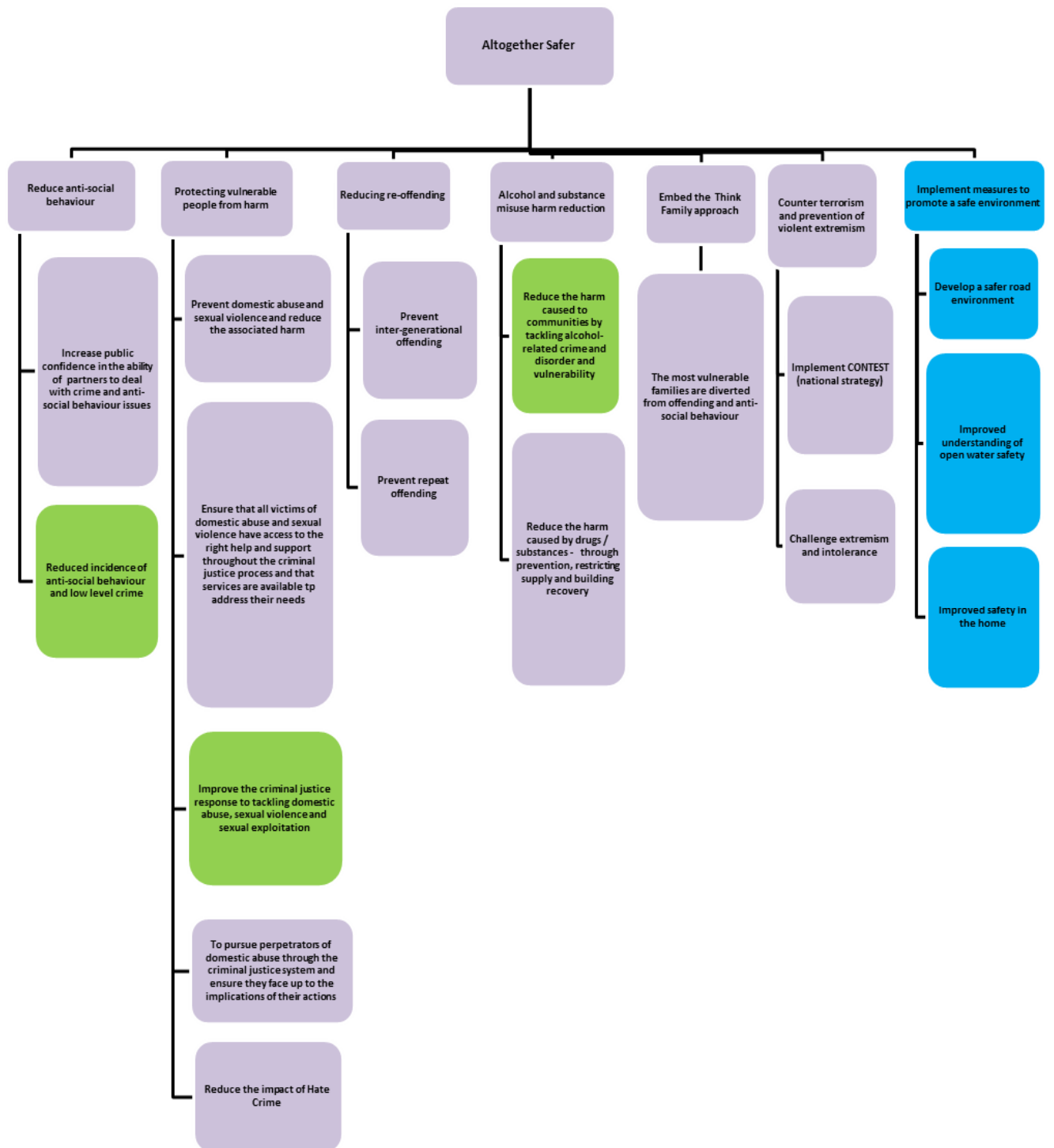
Audio



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Appendix 3 – Strategic Objectives and Outcomes

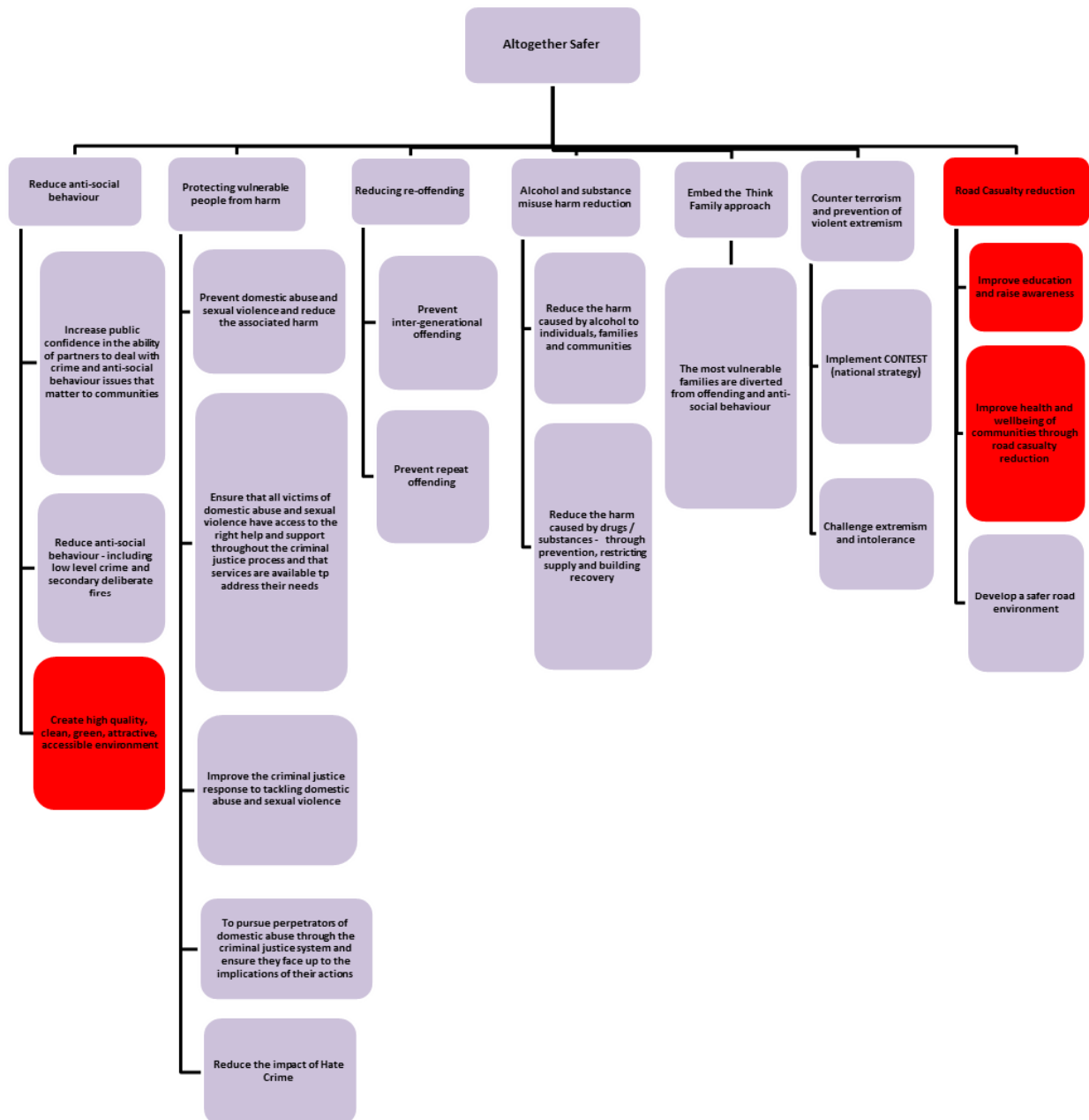
Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2016/19



Blue = new objective/outcome

Green = amended outcome

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18



Red = deleted objective/outcome

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

15 February 2016

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 meeting held on 8th January and 1st February 2016:
 - Consultation on Council tax Precept 2016/17
 - Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
 - Report of the Rape Scrutiny Panel
 - Quarter 2 Performance Report 2015/16
 - HMIC Inspections
 - Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Restructure

Detail

3. **Consultation on Council Tax Precept 2016/17**
At its meeting in January, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Mr Hogg provided the Panel with details of his proposed consultation on increasing the Policing element of the Council Tax Precept by 1.98% for 2016/17. The PCC's consultation exercise was open from 11 -27th January 2016 and was available on line and by hard copy. In addition this was to be also widely circulated including Member, Town & Parish Council's, and Voluntary Community sector agencies. The PCC also held community days to seek public opinion and attended AAP Meetings.
4. The Panel considered findings from the consultation that gave public support to the proposed increase at its meeting in February. Members acknowledged the challenging financial pressures upon the Policing Service and agreed with a 1.98% rise in the Police element of the Council Tax Precept for 2016/17.

Enhancing Collaboration between Durham Constabulary and Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service

5. The Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr Hogg presented a report to update the Panel on activity to enhance collaboration between the Police and Fire and Rescue Services. The report highlighted the strong partnership working between both services and within the context of budget pressures and providing the best possible services to the public, the PCC and the Fire Authority have signed a Statement of Intent to Collaborate' in December 2015. The statement's aims are 'Better value for Money, Improved outcomes and Reduced Demand. The Panel were also informed that governance arrangements for effective decision making and a Joint Strategic Group has been established. The
6. The Panel are to receive progress update reports on collaboration and also gave support to representatives of the Fire & Rescue Service attending Panel meetings to broaden their understanding and share knowledge.

Report of the Rape Scrutiny Panel

7. As part of the North East Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) strategy, the Durham PCC established a Police Rape Scrutiny Panel to scrutinise case files which have failed to attain the requisite evidential level for prosecution or where prosecution has failed, and to look for lessons to learn.
8. The PCC presented the first annual report of the Durham Rape Scrutiny Panel to the Police and Crime Panel. It is to note that this was a redacted version of the full report and suitable for public consumption. The report to the Panel covered its aims and purpose, membership and methodology and concluded with a number of recommendations. The Scrutiny Rape Panel agreed with the outcomes of all cases but identified recommendations from the evidence they received that aimed to maintain a consistent approach in rape investigations and victim care.

Quarter 2 Performance Report 2015/16

9. The Panel received a presentation on the Quarter 2 2015-16 Performance report from the PCC and Mr Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff to the PCC. The interactive report provided Members with performance information on Victim Based Crime, Public Confidence and Victim Satisfaction. The report is available from the PCC's website and provides information on key performance data linked to the Commissioner's priorities and anti-social behaviour at a local level.

HMIC Inspections

10. The PCC's Chief Finance Officer, Mr Gary Ridley provided the Panel with an update on the vulnerability inspection carried out by HMIC. The Panel was informed that no forces were graded as outstanding, 12 forces, including Durham, were graded as good, 27 forces were graded as requiring improvement and 4 forces were graded as inadequate.

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Restructure

11. At its meeting February 2016, the Panel considered a report from the PCC's Chief Of Staff, Mr Alan Reiss on the new staffing structure of the Office of the PCC. The report provided the Panel with rationale for the structure, its core functions and that appointment had been made to two new senior positions of the Head of Governance and Commissioning and Head of Policy and Communications.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Contact: Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 03000 268 142

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.

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

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

15 February 2016



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues from the November 2015 and January 2016 Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Desistance Model

2. A representative from the Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company provided the Board with a briefing on the subject of 'desistance' and learning themes from her research in Canada and North America as part of a Winston Churchill Fellowship.
3. The learning that has been taken from people who continue to be involved in criminal activity or who have managed to cease offending has highlighted the critical role which identity, one's sense of 'self', plays in the process of desistance. This sense of identity can be changed through environment, experiential family and group support and the opportunity to give something back. The Board heard examples of social action projects being used to help the community and give offenders a sense of 'self'.
4. A series of cross-sector workshops to communicate this desistance model to partners, including Elected Members, will be developed in 2016/17.

Funding

5. The allocation of the Community Safety Fund for 2016/17 has been agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner; and includes the following key priority areas:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Reducing Reoffending
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Checkpoint Programme
6. A funding sub-group is in place to source additional funding streams to support the strategic objectives of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Safer Homes Update

7. The Safer Homes Project was initiated in September 2014 as a result of the partnership being successful in its application for £500,000 from the 'Transformational Challenge Award'. The award was designed to encourage public services to work in partnership to commission, manage and deliver services in the best possible way.
8. The main focus of the project was to transform the way in which isolated, vulnerable and elderly people receive crime and fire safety advice as well as protection. Along with practical help to make homes safer, the project was also hoping to improve the health and well-being of those people involved, with the project designed to foster further collaboration with as many frontline health care professionals, practitioners, families and friends as possible in order to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.

Actions delivered

9. A centralised referral system managed by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) ensures the referrals for vulnerability to fire and, or crime are allocated to the appropriate service. As of November 2015 this had resulted in 2018 referrals made through Safer Homes with 834 for police and 1184 for fire. This figure also includes 110 hoarders who have been identified compared to 6 during the same period last year.

Outcomes

10. Since Safer Homes has been established the project has contributed towards CDDFRS seeing a reduction of approximately 20% in the number of dwelling fires between September 19th 2014 and 31st March 2015 compared to the same period last year. Since the work became mainstream in April 2015, the first quarter of 2015/16 has seen this trend continue with a 12% reduction compared to the same period last year. With regard to dwelling burglaries there was a reduction of (5.9%) in the period September 2014 to March 2015 which again has continued into 2015/16 with the first quarter seeing a 9.8% reduction compared to the same period last year.
11. Safer Homes is now normal working practice for both CDDFRS and Durham Police with all high risk community safety enquiries being classed as Safer Homes. It has also become an integral part of the recently reviewed 'Fire Fatality Protocol'.

Next Steps

12. The project is now beginning to engage with GP surgeries, clinics and walk in centres to raise awareness of the process and establish the referral links.
13. In early 2016 the installation of domestic sprinkler systems and 'secured by design' standard crime preventative equipment will begin in social housing

accommodation across the county as part of a £360,000 match funding initiative with the housing providers.

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15

14. The Annual Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report provides information on the current position of the SAB and outline achievements during 2014/15.
15. Much of the work of the SAB in 2014/15 focussed on preparing for the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, which places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and implements changes to the way in which safeguarding enquiries are managed.
16. Key Achievements from the SAB include increased promotion and reporting of safeguarding issues, revision of the SAB website and the appointment of Jane Geraghty, as an independent chair to both the SAB and LSCB.

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2014/15

17. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.
18. Some achievements and progress highlighted in the Annual Report include:
 - Development of the Early Help Strategy
 - The introduction of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - Development and implemented the 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children' information sharing protocol
 - Developed a Safeguarding Framework to improve links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership
 - Development of a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and delivery plan
 - Developing and implementing a Child Sexual Exploitation audit and sharing the information through other council and partnership structures
 - Supported 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations)
 - Set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB
 - Developing a new LSCB website, with input from young people
19. The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the following priorities for 2015-18:
 - Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Improving Early Help

- Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are domestic abuse; alcohol misuse; substance misuse; parental mental health)
 - Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem
 - Increase the voice of the Child
 - Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities
20. The Safe Durham Partnership Board will continue to work with the LSCB in relation shared or similar priorities. For the Safe Durham Partnership Board this will be by contributing to the development of actions covering Hidden Harm in respect of domestic abuse; alcohol misuse, substance misuse, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation.

Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation

21. The Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Programme was established in 2012. Since that time progress has been made by partners in directing resources to target violent individuals involved in gangs and safeguarding the most vulnerable.
22. There are 52 areas of the country identified by the Home Office as Ending Gang and Youth Violence areas. None of these 52 areas are in the North-East of England.
23. The Home Office's refreshed approach has been circulated to Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships. The refreshed approach includes 'reducing violence and knife crime' as one of six key priorities and the Board have agreed that the Partnership will take action in relation to this through the Reducing Re-Offending Group.

Prevent

24. A multi-agency response has been developed to take forward the work under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. As part of raising awareness, a nationally acclaimed Counter Terrorism expert will be providing seminars in April 2016 to County Council staff, elected members and partners.

Recommendations and reasons

25. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the report.

Contact:	Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager – Policy, Planning & Partnerships
Tel:	03000 267 312
Contact:	Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager
Tel:	03000 265 435

Appendix 1 – Implications

Finance – N/A

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

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

Accommodation – N/A

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

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A

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