



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

Date Tuesday 31 October 2017
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 22 September 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)
4. Declarations of Interest, if any
5. Any items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties
6. Media Relations
7. Progress of recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Organised Crime: (Pages 9 - 18)
 - (i) Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships.
 - (ii) Presentation by DCI Dave Ashton, Durham Constabulary.
8. Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment 2017 and Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2018-21 Priorities: (Pages 19 - 22)
 - (i) Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships.
 - (ii) Presentation by Graham McArdle, Community Safety Coordinator, Transformation and Partnerships.
9. Progress of recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Home Safety - Safe and Wellbeing Visits: (Pages 23 - 30)
Report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships.

10. Overview and Scrutiny Review Updates:
Verbal updates by Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer,
Transformation and Partnerships:
 - (i) Cybercrime.
 - (ii) Arson and Secondary Deliberate Fires.
11. Police and Crime Panel:
Verbal update by Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer,
Transformation and Partnerships
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

County Hall
Durham
23 October 2017

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

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)
Councillor H Liddle (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors B Avery, A Bainbridge, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, S Durham, D Hall, C Hampson, S Iveson, L Kennedy, J Maitland, E Mavin, J Nicholson, A Patterson, J Stephenson, D Stoker, K Thompson, J Turnbull and C Wilson

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

Co-opted Employees/Officers: Chief Fire Officer S Errington and Chief Superintendent A Green

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 22 September 2017 at 9.30 am**

Present:

Councillor D Boyes (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors B Avery, J Charlton, J Considine, R Crute, S Durham, S Iveson, L Kennedy, H Liddle, J Maitland, E Mavin, J Nicholson, J Stephenson, D Stoker, K Thompson and C Wilson

Co-opted Members:

Mr A J Cooke

Co-opted Employees/Officers:

Chief Superintendent A Green

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Hampson, A Patterson, J Turnbull and Co-opted Member J Welch and Chief Fire Officer Stuart Errington.

2 Substitute Members

No notification of Substitute Members had been received.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 26 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer, Jonathan Slee advised Members that responses to reports and presentations from the Committee's meeting on Open Water Safety, Hate Crime and Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence had been sent and that update reports would be provided as part of the Committee's work programme.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Avery on underage drinking, the Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that he had contacted the Alcohol Harm Reduction Unit for further information and was advised that a lot of work had been undertaken to engage with schools and young people around the Ferryhill area prior to the summer holidays and that a staysafe operation had taken place in September.

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, Jonathan Slee 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: 'Increased police presence across County Durham and Darlington' to which is linked to the agenda item on CounterTerrorism and within in relation to road safety within the performance report a headline on 'Police back national seatbelt campaign'.

Members were also advised of an article that appeared in The Northern Echo on the morning of the Committee's meeting concerning a campaign including emergency services within the county to cut road deaths, a copy of the article would be circulated to Members of the committee.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

7 Youth Justice Plan 2016/17: Progress Update

The Chairman advised Members that due to unforeseen circumstances, apologies from the Youth Offending Service had been received as the Countywide Manager, Youth Offending Service was unable to attend the Committee's meeting. The Chair advised that any questions from Members would be sent to the Service and requested an update report in 6 months instead of 12.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the report that provided an overview of performance, progress and achievements (2016/17) in the context of the Youth Justice Plan refresh 2016/17. A copy of the new Youth Justice Plan 2017/19 had been circulated with the report for information (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillor Maitland referred to the number of remand bed nights which was 629 in 2016/17 and the previous year was 227 and sought clarification on the reasons why there was a sudden increase.

Councillor Crute referred to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report in relation re-offending and if further detailed information on the reduction within the cohort could be included within the next update. Councillor Crute added that the service were doing a fantastic job but further information would provide knowledge on the impact of effective intervention and performance outturn.

The Chairman referred to the reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system and if offenders knew that they are not going to enter the youth justice system would this make them offend as they knew they would not be arrested.

Chief Superintendent A Green responded that an increase in remand bed nights did not always mean there was a large increase in offences and could be linked to a low number of individuals who had committed more serious offences. Chief Superintendent A Green also advised Members of the positive use of restorative approaches within the County to which could lead to reducing reoffending and greater outcomes for victims.

Councillor Thompson asked how the figures compared nationally and was this reflected in the figures for County Durham or does the Council stand out alone. He also asked if these figures could be included in the update report.

The Chairman and the Overview Scrutiny Officer referred to the number of awards the County Council had achieved which were highlighted in the report and how the Council were diverse in terms of projects.

Resolved:

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That Members receive an update in 6 months.
- (iii) That Members receive the Youth Justice Plan 2017/19.

8 Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015 Update

The Chairman introduced Detective Inspector Alfie Keane, Durham Constabulary who was in attendance to provide members with an update on progress of the collective response of all 'specified authorities' to the new duties imposed by the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillor Thompson referred to the Home Office Prevent Innovation Project and the creative arts project and sought clarification on how the areas of Bishop Auckland and Darlington had been chosen for the project.

Detective Inspector Keane responded that he was unaware of the specific criteria used for the selection of these areas but would obtain this information and respond to Members of the Committee.

Councillor Stoker referred to a radio interview with the Metropolitan Police on how recent acts of terrorism had led to heightened security levels over an extended period and the ability of a reduced a number of police officers to continue to provide protection at this level. He asked how long County Durham could sustain highlighted security levels.

Detective Inspector Keane responded that if Durham was at a critical status over a period then they would call on additional officers to sustain the level. The Government stepped up to critical status last week and extra resources were deployed and the army would release officers if needed. These options were available to all police forces.

Chief Superintendent Green advised Members of a national approach through mutual support within the police service and that Durham officers were deployed to Manchester following the terrorist attack and the concert which took place a few weeks later. Officers from Durham were also deployed to provide support following the fire at Grenfell Towers. Therefore, if County Durham needed extra resources this would be reciprocated from

other police forces and the police service also has the option to require officers to work 12 hour shifts although this was not in place for the last two escalations to critical status.

Councillor Charlton referred to the importance of neighbourhood policing and that there was currently no police inspector with her area.

Councillor Crute commented on the importance of communication with communities and this being achieved with a reduction in PACT meetings. .

Chief Superintendent Green responded that not all PACT meetings were well attended and so after careful consideration across the force area that had been a reduction in the number of PACT meetings. Chief Superintendent Green advised Members that he would ensure that the acting Inspector for the Stanley area would be in contact with local Members, and their details be available on the Force's website.

Councillor Thompson indicated that PACT meetings in his area were well attended and he would not like to see any reduction in meetings. In response, Chief Superintendent Green advised that the reduction in PACT meetings had taken place and there was no intention to change current PACT meetings.

Mr Cooke referred to para 3 of the report and asked if there were links with schools and a system of co-operation.

Detective Inspector Keane responded that they had recently held two events for Head Teachers and there was a structure in place and preventative education worked.

Councillor Kennedy advised Members that the structure in place in schools was fantastic, they had direct contact with the police who responded quickly.

The Chairman asked what Members should look out for in their areas.

Detective Inspector Keane encouraged Members to report any suspicious activity linked to terrorism or extremism within their communities.

Councillor Kennedy suggested training for Members as they were the first contact in the community. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised that he would look into prevent training for Members.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

9 Quarter 1 2017/18 Performance Management Report

The Chairman introduced the Team Leader, Performance Co-ordination and Development, Transformation and Partnerships who was in attendance to speak to Members in relation to the Quarter I 2017/18 Performance Management Report for the Altogether Safer priority theme (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Crute referred to his concern of the use of performance indicators as evidence and asked if the terminology in the report could be amended to reflect that they are indicators and not evidence.

The Chairman asked the Officer to feed this back to the service.

Councillor Stephenson referred to the number of red indicators in particular the suicide rate per 100,000 population and sought clarification if there was a plan in place.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer advised Members that the Council's Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee were undertaking review activity on mental health and suicide to which once complete, the report could be shared with the Committee.

The Chairman and Councillor Crute referred to cross cutting activity across scrutiny committees and that this would be considered at a meeting scheduled to be held on 9 October 2017 with all Chairs and Vice-Chairs of scrutiny committees.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

10 Police and Crime Panel

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented a report that provided Members with progress of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) for the Durham Constabulary Force area (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 Review Updates

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer referred to the Cybercrime Working Group that had been held on 11 September 2017 that focused on hacking and young people. This area had been identified as a gap and the aim of the review is prevent young people from becoming engaged or remaining in cybercrime activity. Members were informed that Professor Irons from Sunderland University was in attendance together with Detective Sergeant Martin Wilson and Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager.

The next session would be held on 16 October 2017 and would be looking at prevention and education awareness and the 17 November 2017 session would be focused on how prevention from remaining in cybercrime activity.

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer then informed Members of a forthcoming focused scrutiny session on the partnership response to an increase in arson and secondary deliberate fires in the East Durham area. This topic was requested at the Committee's meeting in June and the session would be held on 12 October 2017 at 1.00 pm. The Committee were advised that following agreement with the Chair, locality members within areas of higher incidents of arson and deliberate fires had also been invited to attend the session. Following the session a report would be sent to Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Portfolio Holder.

12 Safe Durham Partnership Update

The Chairman introduced Julie Bradbrook, Partnership Manager who was in attendance to provide members with a summary update on key issues discussed at the September 2017 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board meeting and related issues (for copy of report see file of minutes).

Councillor Kennedy sought clarification if they worked with schools on the Child Road Casualty Reduction.

The Partnership Manager responded that work was happening in schools and there was also a focus on young drivers.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

31 October 2017

Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Organised Crime



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of recommendations following the Committee's previous review and update on the partnership approach to tackling organised crime.

Background

2. In 2014 Members of the committee agreed to undertake a review activity looking at how the police and partners on the Safe Durham Partnership work together tackle organised crime. The committee's work focused on looking at the effectiveness of partnership working and community engagement and the role community intelligence plays in tackling organised crime. The committee also looked at the risk to the council of fraud and organised crime. Members also considered a case study looking at how partners worked together to tackle organised crime groups operating illegal waste sites in County Durham and what lessons could be learned from this work.
3. The report concluded that there are strong partnership arrangements in place to tackle organised crime and that the work led by Durham Constabulary is considered to be leading work nationally. The committee noted that Government issued guidance at the time of the review on how the police together with its partners should develop profiles on the threat of serious and organised crime in their localities. These local profiles will help build on the good work that has been introduced in Durham.
4. Communities can provide valuable intelligence to the police and partners to help fight serious and organised crime. Education and awareness is a key part of the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. The report concluded that work in helping partner agencies and communities to recognise serious and organised crime and encourage them to report it remains a critical area in fighting the threat and be kept appraised of the work being done in this area.

5. The work of the police, the council, Environment Agency and other agencies working together to tackle organised crime groups operating illegal waste sites in County Durham was the focus of a case study. The committee heard how a Joint Memorandum of Understanding had been developed between the council and the Environment Agency for cases where waste processing businesses are being used as a front for criminal activity. Whilst legal action may be being pursued, members recognise that residents may become frustrated with the lack of any visible progress regarding dealing with unsightly illegal waste sites in their neighbourhood. The committee requested to be updated on work being done in partnership in this area and what further action can be done to engage with communities when dealing with illegal sites.
6. Local government can be the target of organised crime groups. The committee looked at the risk of fraud to the council. Public sector organisations can legitimately share data to help disrupt organised crime and protect the public purse. The committee heard that Durham County Council is taking part in one of only a small number of pilots nationally looking at data sharing and procurement contracts. Following conclusion of this exercise the committee requested to hear if there are any lessons learned from this innovative work.
7. The Committee felt that both members and officers of the council could also benefit from further training in being able to recognise organised crime particularly those officers in the front line who work within communities.
8. The Committee's report was presented by Cllr Boyes to Cabinet on 16th September 2015 and included the following recommendations:
 - 1) Cabinet note the work of the Council and partners in contributing to partnership activity to tackle organised crime through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.
 - 2) Relevant organisations on the Safe Durham Partnership comply with all information and actions required to develop and deliver the Local Profiles Document. In addition, the Committee request that a progress report on the Local Profiles document is presented to a future meeting.
 - 3) The Safe Durham Partnership continues work to raise awareness with partner agencies and communities to be alert and be confident to report activity that could be linked to organised crime.
 - 4) Through the Memorandum of Understanding the council work with the Environment Agency to take prompt action when illegal waste sites are identified.
 - 5) Cabinet note the potential risk of organised crime through fraud and that following conclusion of the Home Office project look to seek if learning from this work can be implemented more widely.

- 6) Enhance training and awareness raising in relation to organised crime through:
- an awareness session on Organised Crime for Elected Members
 - Integrating organised crime information within the Council's fraud awareness training, including consideration of developing on-line training information.
9. At its meeting in September 2016, the Committee received a progress report to which identified that recommendations 1 and 5 were complete and activity within recommendation 4 is ongoing. Appendix 2 provides an update on progress on implementation of each of these recommendations and Detective Chief Inspector Dave Ashton, Durham Constabulary will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to provide further information on the partnership approach to tackling organised crime and respond to Members questions in relation to this topic.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Review, Organised Crime, Cabinet September 2015

Contact: Tom Gorman, Corporate Improvement Manager
Tel: 03000 268 027
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 within the report is aimed at reducing crime and disorder, Anti-Social behaviour and environmental crime

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP REPORT – Organised Crime
REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>1) Cabinet note the work of the Council and partners in contributing to partnership activity to tackle organised crime through the Disruption and Intervention Panel.</p>	<p>On behalf of Cabinet, Councillor Joy Allen, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities has stated: “I welcome the review into Organised Crime undertaken by the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee. This was an excellent piece of work that demonstrates the positive multi-agency partnership working being undertaken across County Durham. The report highlights the work of the Disruption and Intervention Panel which has supported tackling and disrupting organised crime groups and making our communities safer.”</p>		
<p>2) Relevant organisations on the Safe Durham Partnership comply with all information and actions required to develop and deliver the Local Profiles Document. In addition, the Committee request that a progress report on the Local Profiles document is presented to a future meeting.</p>	<p>DCI Ashton is attending the October Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting to provide an organised crime presentation. This will contain information from the organised crime local profiles document.</p> <p>Annual updates are scheduled for the Safe Durham Partnership.</p>	DCI Ashton	<p>October 2017</p> <p>On an annual basis</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>3) The Safe Durham Partnership continues work to raise awareness with partner agencies and communities to be alert and be confident to report activity that could be linked to organised crime.</p>	<p>A presentation was provided to the Safe Durham Partnership in July 2016 in relation to the Local Profiles Document.</p> <p>A further presentation was provided in March 2017 from the Consumer Protection Team which outlined activities taking place in relation to organised crime. This includes illicit tobacco, fraud, counterfeit goods, doorstep crime and general fair trading issues such as mis-described services. Key messages are being developed to share with partner organisation's staff to raise awareness.</p> <p>AAP Co-ordinators were briefed by DCI Ashton in November 2015 in order to share the information with their AAPs.</p> <p>Cyber-crime is one element of organised crime. A Task & Finish Group was set up to develop a more co-ordinated approach under the governance of the Safe Durham Partnership. One large scale event was held for the public in July with around 500 people attending. A further partnership event took place on 20th September.</p> <p>Front line workers awareness raising is built into everyday working / core business within Durham Constabulary. Information is also shared at local PACT meetings.</p> <p>Operation Sledgehammer information is provided to partners following operations in the North East.</p>	DCI Ashton	Complete

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>4) Through the Memorandum of Understanding the council work with the Environment Agency to take prompt action when illegal waste sites are identified.</p>	<p>The principles behind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) were informally established several years ago and have therefore been operating in practice for some time. The MOU formally establishes these principles. It is a joint statement of responsibilities, duties and expectations of the signatories in relation to the regulation of waste management sites, permits, planning permissions and environmental crime.</p> <p>In practice the MOU operates at 2 levels:</p> <p>Managers and Senior Officers of all agencies come together at quarterly meetings to share information and exchange on-going developments regarding waste businesses who have a history of complaint or breaches of legislation. These businesses are generally subject to regular monitoring by all agencies. In addition to these businesses, any current cases which are the subject of joint action are discussed for the benefit of all parties. Information sharing plays a key role in the regulation of environmental crime, pollution prevention and protection of the wider community and the environment.</p>	<p>Joanne Waller</p>	<p>Complete</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
	<p>2. Where complaints from the public are received by any of the agencies or individual officers become aware of unauthorised or potentially illegal practices, the responsible agency can be notified without delay and where appropriate joint visits arranged promptly so as to ensure any breaches can be tackled without delay by the application of the relevant legislation. It is in these situations that the benefit of the MOU is more keenly realised by engaging the wider resource base available provided by a combination of all agencies to deal with illegal waste practices. In addition there is a more-co-ordinated approach to tackling illegal waste activities in County Durham.</p> <p>Officers within Durham County Council have a better understanding of the role of the Environment Agency in waste regulation and how their own regulatory regimes integrate with those of the other signatories. This has particularly useful in circumstances where multiple issues are reported which require joint inspection and investigation.</p> <p>Since the introduction of the MOU there have been several examples of multi-agency investigations to tackle illegal and unauthorised waste activities and the resultant environmental pollution.</p>		

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Resib'ty	Timescale
<p>5) Cabinet note the potential risk of organised crime through fraud and that following conclusion of the Home Office project look to seek if learning from this work can be implemented more widely.</p>	<p>Work now completed. Last update received by Home Office on 13 July 2016. Paper on results to be published on Gov.uk website upon approval by the new Home Secretary.</p> <p>There is always a risk of organised crime infiltrating Council procurement however the actions put into place will further mitigate this risk. Lessons learned from the exercise have now been put into practice as far as possible. Including, training for schools now in School Learning Directory and we have allocated a Council Corporate Fraud Investigator to work with the Police one day a week. Further work around adding a deterrent to the procurement process is being discussed with Cabinet Office Legal advisers. Regular six monthly updates are provided to the Council's Audit Committee.</p>	Paul Bradley	Complete
<p>6) Enhance training and awareness raising in relation to organised crime through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an awareness session on Organised Crime for Elected Members • Integrating organised crime information within the Council's fraud awareness training, including consideration of developing on-line training information 	<p>As detailed above, Elected Members have received information to raise awareness through AAPs and partnership fora. SSC Overview & Scrutiny will be provided with a presentation in October in relation to organised crime following the development of the 2017 Local Profiles document.</p> <p>An online training package is available for managers and employees.</p>	<p>DCI Ashton</p> <p>Paul Bradley</p>	<p>October 2017</p> <p>Complete</p>

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Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment 2017 and Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2018-21 priorities



31 October 2017

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Corporate Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the key messages highlighted in the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment for 2017. The Strategic Assessment will inform the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2018-21. A presentation will be provided to the committee meeting on 31st October 2017 on the Strategic Assessment and the draft priorities for the SDPP 2018-21.

Background

- 2 The Safe Durham Partnership is required by statute to develop an annual Strategic Assessment and develop and implement a Partnership Plan.
- 3 The Safe Durham Partnership is adopting a streamlined approach to strategy development and will deliver a Safe Durham Partnership Plan-on-a-Page.

Current Position

- 4 The 2017 Strategic Assessment has been developed in close co-operation with Durham Constabulary.
- 5 The Strategic Assessment forms part of the Integrated Needs Assessment and, along with MoRiLE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) carried out by Durham Constabulary, provides the evidence base for the development of the 2018-21 Safe Durham Partnership Plan and its strategic objectives.
- 6 The Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2018-21 is being developed within the context of the wider County Durham Partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy, which is currently being reviewed. A new streamlined approach to the plan will demonstrate how responsible authorities and wider partners will work together to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.

- 7 In addition to the Strategic Assessment, discussions at an SDP development session in July and feedback from the Peer Review in September have also informed the review of the priorities for the revised SDP Plan.
- 8 Consultation with local residents has also taken place in the form of the Area Action Partnership (AAP) Priority Survey, which identified Community Safety was ranked 7th out of 10 priorities by local communities and 3rd out of 10 priorities in the AAP school survey.
- 9 The following draft strategic objectives were agreed for wider consultation by the Safe Durham Partnership at their meeting on 7th September 2017 which outline the areas of priority for the Partnership over the next three years:
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Hate Crime
 - Reduce Re-offending
 - Prevent inter-generational offending
 - Prevent repeat offending
 - Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
 - Reduce the harm caused by alcohol
 - Reduce the harm caused by drugs
 - Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism
 - Prevent people being drawn into terrorism
 - Support the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks and mitigate the impact of such an attack
 - Promote being safe and feeling safe in your environment
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Safer Homes
 - Open Water Safety
 - Child Road Casualty Reduction in areas of deprivation
 - Cybercrime (New)
- 10 The additional priority of Cybercrime recognises the growing and substantial risks posed by online crime.

Next Steps

- 11 Further consultation will take place as part of the development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. This will include consulting with Area Action Partnerships and the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their committee meeting in February 2018.

- 12 The Safe Durham Partnership Board will receive the draft 2018-21 Safe Durham Partnership Plan in January 2018, with a final draft submitted in March 2018.

Recommendations

- 13 Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:
- a) Note the contents of this report.
 - b) Receive a presentation on the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment and the draft Strategic Objectives for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2018-21.
 - c) Provide feedback on the draft strategic objectives for the Safe Durham Partnership
 - d) Agree to receive a further presentation in relation to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in February 2018.

**Contact: Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement,
Transformation and Partnerships Tel: 03000 263 605**

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

No adverse implications.

Staffing

No adverse implications.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

No adverse implications.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

Main focus of the report.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Statutory consultation with the community and stakeholders will be undertaken as part of the process for the development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No direct adverse implications.

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2011 (amended) require that Durham County Council, along with the other responsible authorities (Durham Constabulary, DDES and North Durham Clinical Commissioning Groups, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service), commission an annual Strategic Assessment.

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

31 October 2017

**Progress of Recommendations following
the Overview and Scrutiny Review of
Home Safety – Safe and Wellbeing Visits**



**Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director Transformation and
Partnerships**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with progress of recommendations following the Committee's previous review of Home Safety – safe and wellbeing visits.

Background

2. The Committee has a role to scrutinise work of the Safe Durham Partnership. Members of the committee agreed to establish a working group to undertake review activity looking at the objective of improved safety in the home which is contained within both the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and the Council Plan. This work focused on safe and wellbeing visits to which is led by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) and is a major programme being undertaken in this area.
3. At the time of the Committee's work, CDDFRS firefighters were aiming to undertake approximately 18,000 home fire safety visits each year. The introduction of safe and wellbeing visits in February 2016 aims to build upon the previous home fire safety visits to focus on vulnerable people and enhance prevention through broadening the remit of these visits and aim to make every contact count.
4. The content of safe and wellbeing visits is for local determination to which included fire safety and lifestyle questions on slips, trips and falls, winter warmth, flu vaccination, dementia, smoking, alcohol and loneliness. To deliver this scheme, CDDFRS are working closely with a number of partner agencies including the council who will action referrals in relation to their specific lifestyle area.
5. The aim of the review was to gain assurance that processes are in place and being delivered through the safe and wellbeing visits to improve home safety, reduce risk and improve a person's health and quality of life. The review also provided an opportunity to identify any gaps or service improvements within the existing approach and raise awareness with elected members as community champions.

- 6 The review gathered evidence through desktop research, meetings with officers, service professionals and a resident who has benefited from the initiative. Focus groups were also held with firefighters and partner agencies and some observations of health and wellbeing visits were undertaken.

Review's Conclusions

- 7 From evidence gathered throughout the review, the working group applauded the approach led by CDDFRS with partner agencies to implement safe and wellbeing visits throughout the county. The working group noted the significance of organisational change for CDDFRS to lead on the scheme and the response by partner agencies to deliver this initiative in line with national strategies and local fire risk that aims to make every contact count and provide valuable support to vulnerable people.
- 8 At the point when the Committee undertook this review, safe and wellbeing visits were in their infancy and had effective governance, referral processes and partnership working in place that was making a positive difference. Up to the 31st October 2016, there have been 10,718 safe and wellbeing visits undertaken of which 3,733 people agreed to answer the lifestyle element of the questionnaire. This generated 1,235 referrals to partner agencies, many of which were the first contact with that service. The difference these visits have made was highlighted within the report through personal case study presentations, written evidence from partner agencies, recognition within the Alzheimer's Society national awards and a presentation to the National Emergency Services Show.
- 9 The working group also noted the positive working relationship between CDDFRS and partner agencies to design and review the safe and wellbeing questionnaire and address any concerns that have been identified to improve delivery of the scheme. The scheme had also been embedded within day-to-day activity for CDDFRS and firefighters were to receive further training by partner agencies.
- 10 The professionalism of firefighters and members of the Community Fire Safety Team was observed by councillors when accompanying firefighters undertaking safe and wellbeing visits. An area of development was for firefighters to receive feedback on outcomes of referrals and for partners to accompany firefighters undertaking safe and wellbeing visits.
- 11 The report highlighted that there had been a significant amount of data collected from safe and wellbeing visits to which provided an opportunity for partner agencies to work with CDDFRS to utilise anonymised data for service planning and prevention activity within the boundaries of the Data Protection Act.
- 12 The working group suggested that work is undertaken with CDDFRS and partner agencies to explore quality assurance activity on outcomes of safe and wellbeing referrals.

- 13 Whilst a positive difference is being made by the scheme, members noted that the initiative is currently funded from within existing resources for both CDDFRS and partner agencies. Information provided to the working group highlighted decreasing budgets for all partners and agencies and that funding sustainability is a risk to the success of the initiative. In addition partner agencies also identified a risk for the ability to meet any increase in further demand. It is suggested that the Safe Durham Partnership Board and Health and Wellbeing Board receive timely monitoring reports on the delivery of safe and wellbeing visits to highlight successes, challenges and risks to delivery of the initiative.
- 14 Safe and wellbeing visits have been actively promoted at local and national levels and it was suggested an area of potential development could be further promotion of the scheme with elected members, town and parish councils and area action partnerships. However, it is acknowledged that a risk to increased awareness may lead to increased demand and that a balance must be maintained to ensure quality and consistency in operation is not compromised.
- 15 The review's key findings focused on strategic context, governance and data, process and questionnaire, referral routes and outcomes and demand effectiveness and identified recommendations for the Safe Durham Partnership, Council and CDDFRS. The Safe Durham Partnership was asked to consider reviewing the governance framework document, to work with partners to ensure best use of data for service planning and prevention and to receive regular reports on delivery of the safe and wellbeing initiative. The Council was asked to consider holding a Members seminar to raise awareness and with the Safe Durham Partnership explore opportunities for cybercrime to be included within the Safer Homes project that focuses on crime prevention and fire safety.
- 16 The Committee's report was presented to Cabinet on 27th March 2017 and the Safe Durham Partnership on 23rd January 2017 and included the following recommendations:
- i. That the Safe Durham Partnership Board annually reviews the framework document to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose.
 - ii. The Safe Durham Partnership Board works with partners, including clinical commissioning groups, to ensure that best use is made of data collected from safe and wellbeing visits for assessing demand, prevention and service planning.
 - iii. The scheme is monitored through regular reports to the Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board detailing successes, challenges and risks, particularly around meeting demand and funding sustainability. Furthermore appropriate information is communicated with firefighters on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits.
 - iv. That CDDFRS through the framework document and partnership meetings explore approaches for quality assurance activity on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits with partner agencies.

- v. The council arranges a seminar to be delivered to elected members during 2017/18 to promote safe and wellbeing visits and that CDDFRS promotes the scheme locally with town and parish councils and area action partnerships
 - vi. The Safe Durham Partnership Board (including the council's Consumer Protection Team) explores opportunities for cybercrime and fraud to be included within the Safer Homes project.
- 17 Appendix 2 provides progress on implementation of each of these recommendations and representatives from Public Health and CDDFRS will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to present the update and respond to Members questions in relation to this topic.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

Overview and Scrutiny Review, Home Safety – Safe and Wellbeing Visits, Cabinet March 2017

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

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

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

Appendix 2

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW – Improved Safety in the Home – Safe and Wellbeing Visits

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Responsibility	Timescale
Recommendation One – That the Safe Durham Partnership Board annually reviews the framework document to ensure it continues to remain fit for purpose.	The framework will be reviewed following the evaluation of the Safe and Wellbeing Visits to ensure it remains fit for purpose. The evaluation will be undertaken by Teesside University which is due to be completed by March 2018.	CDDFRS & DCC (Public Health)	May 2018
Recommendation Two – The Safe Durham Partnership Board works with partners, including clinical commissioning groups, to ensure that best use is made of data collected from safe and wellbeing visits for assessing demand, prevention and service planning.	The SDP will await the findings of the evaluation to determine the next steps in relation to ensuring that best use is made of the evaluation and the data collected from safe and wellbeing visits for assessing demand, prevention and service planning.	CDDFRS & DCC (Public Health)	May 2018
Recommendation Three - The scheme is monitored through regular reports to the Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board detailing successes, challenges and risks, particularly around meeting demand and funding sustainability	The Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safe Durham Partnership will receive a report following the evaluation from Teesside University.	CDDFRS & DCC (Public Health)	May 2018

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Responsibility	Timescale
<p>Furthermore appropriate information is communicated with firefighters on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits.</p>	<p>CDDFRS now receive anonymous case studies from partners of success stories that were initially created by a Safe and Wellbeing Visit. These are given to fire crews via a SharePoint page and an email to relevant staff within the area the case is based.</p> <p>Sustainability has been achieved because CDDFRS have incorporated the visits as part of their 'core' business.</p>	CDDFRS	Completed
<p>Recommendation Four – That CDDFRS through the framework document and partnership meetings explore approaches for quality assurance activity on outcomes of safe and wellbeing visits with partner agencies</p>	<p>Each month, CDDFRS Control contact members of the public by telephone, from various areas of County Durham and Darlington, who have received a Safe and Wellbeing Visit and ask for their feedback using a structured template. This allows answers to be collated and assessed accordingly.</p> <p>Public Health, DCC has commissioned Teesside University to evaluate the implementation of Safe and Wellbeing Visits (SWVs) by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS). The objectives of the evaluation are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore FRS SWV implementation • Explore with the fire service and partners understanding of the process for SWVs and what impacted on their role • Assess the referral pathways to see how many of the health areas they are being referred for, whether these referrals are appropriate, and if relevant health areas are covered by SWVs • Gain feedback from beneficiaries of SWVs to assess impact and appropriateness of CDDFRS undertaking these visits <p>The Quality Assurance process will be considered as part of the evaluation.</p>	<p>CDDFRS – Community Safety Team</p> <p>DCC (Public Health)</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>March 2018</p>

Review Recommendation	Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation	Responsibility	Timescale
<p>Recommendation Five – The council arranges a seminar to be delivered to elected members during 2017/18 to promote safe and wellbeing visits and that CDDFRS promotes the scheme locally with town and parish councils and area action partnerships.</p>	<p>A seminar for members is currently being planned which will be delivered by Public Health and the CDDFRS.</p> <p>AAPs have had an input about Safe and Wellbeing from the members of the Service who attend each one. Many town and parish councils have received information; however, work is on-going to identify each of these and ensure relevant details are disseminated accordingly.</p> <p>CDDFRS will write to all parish councils to disseminate information and to offer their attendance at a convenient meeting if required.</p>	<p>CDDFRS & DCC (Public Health)</p> <p>CDDFRS</p>	<p>2017/18 - Date TBC</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Recommendation Six – The Safe Durham Partnership Board (including the council's Consumer Protection Team) explores opportunities for cybercrime and fraud to be included within the Safer Homes project.</p>	<p>Opportunities for including cybercrime and fraud within the Safer Homes Project will be considered as part of the evaluation.</p>	<p>CDDFRS & DCC (Public Health)</p>	<p>March 2018</p>