

Priority Theme Safer

Through the Altogether Safer theme, we work to achieve our vision for County Durham where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe. Working in partnership is essential to achieving our vision and through the Safe Durham Partnership we set priorities and plans for tackling crime and disorder, demonstrating strong leadership, planning, performance management and problem-solving to deliver positive outcomes to keep our communities safe.

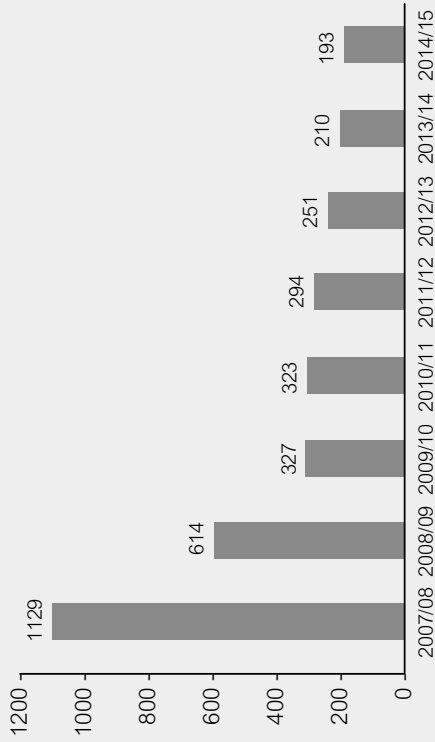
Achievements 2015-2016

- The County Durham Youth Offending Service received an award for its work on Speech, Language and Communication Needs, to support young people who offend.
- Supported the establishment of the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, which aims to reduce re-offending in the county, protect the public and provide successful and effective rehabilitation services for offenders.
- Introduced an integrated drug and alcohol recovery service and developed six recovery centres across the county, to provide consistent, high quality, recovery-focused interventions for all people irrespective of age or level of substance misuse.
- The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system continues to reduce. We have achieved an 82.9% reduction in first time entrants, from 1,129 in 2007/08 to 193 in 2014/15 (Figure S1).
- Durham has the lowest overall crime rate when compared to similar police force areas (Figure S2).
- Implemented a Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS) to provide tailor-made support to help vulnerable and 'at risk' adults.
- Introduced a programme of riverside safety improvements in Durham City in partnership with Durham City Safety Group.

- Promoted a safer and healthier road environment by introducing Phase 1 of part-time 20 mph speed limits on main and distributor roads near schools in the county.
- New, revised open water safety policy/procedures outlining how open water risks are managed and promoting good practice across privately owned open water sites.

Figure S1.

First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 2007/8 to 2014/15



Priority Theme Safer

Issues to address

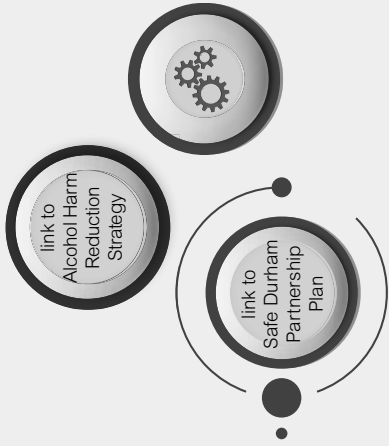
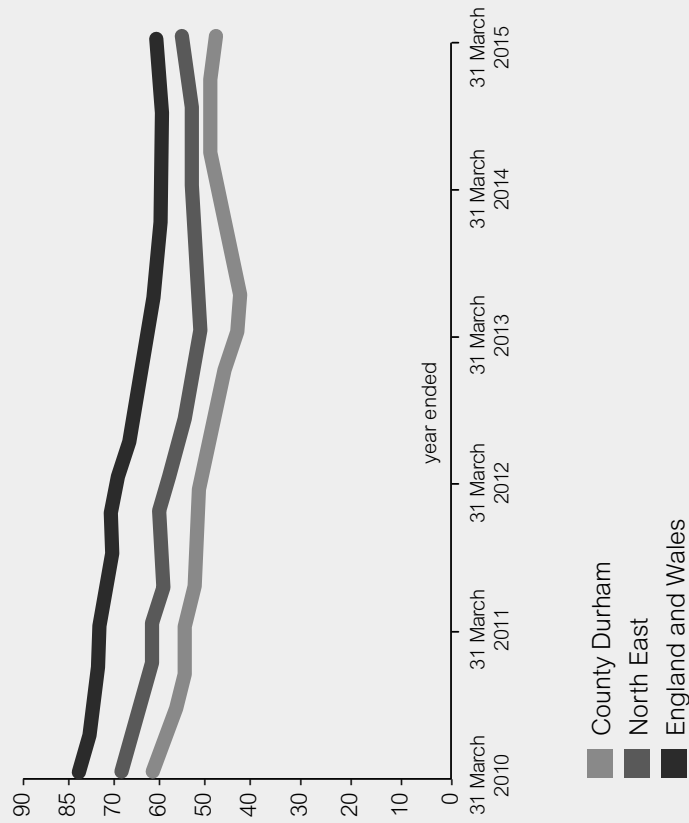
- The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced during 2015/16. We will need to evaluate the effective Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS) to ensure that it is meeting its aims.
- We are working with partners to improve our support services for victims of violence and sexual offences and identify areas for improvements in the criminal justice system.
- Domestic abuse features in over one third of all initial child protection conferences and continues to be the most common factor across all localities.
- County Durham has a higher re-offending rate by adults and young people at 27.3% compared to the national average (26.4%), although the number of re-offenders in the county has reduced. Further developing restorative approaches will enable those directly affected - offenders or perpetrators, victims or family members and members of the community - to communicate and agree how to deal with a particular incident and its consequences.
- There is a need to reduce harm caused to the individual, families and communities by alcohol and drugs. During April to September 2015, of those in treatment, 51% reported using opiates, 43% using alcohol and 21% using cannabis. The figure for those using opiates is higher than the national rate of 34.7%. We will be working with partners to raise awareness, and use licensing laws effectively to implement controls.
- The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places responsibility on local authorities to work with partners to deliver 'Prevent': the government's strategy for preventing people being drawn into terrorism.

- Riverside and water safety is a key issue with 56 incidents occurring in Durham City between January 2010 and March 2015. The Durham City Safety group 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.
- In order to ensure road safety around schools, we will continue to implement the programme of part-time 20 mph speed limits on main and distributor roads near schools in the county with the highest accident rates.



Key Facts and Figures

Figure S2.
Crime rate per 1,000 population 2010-2015



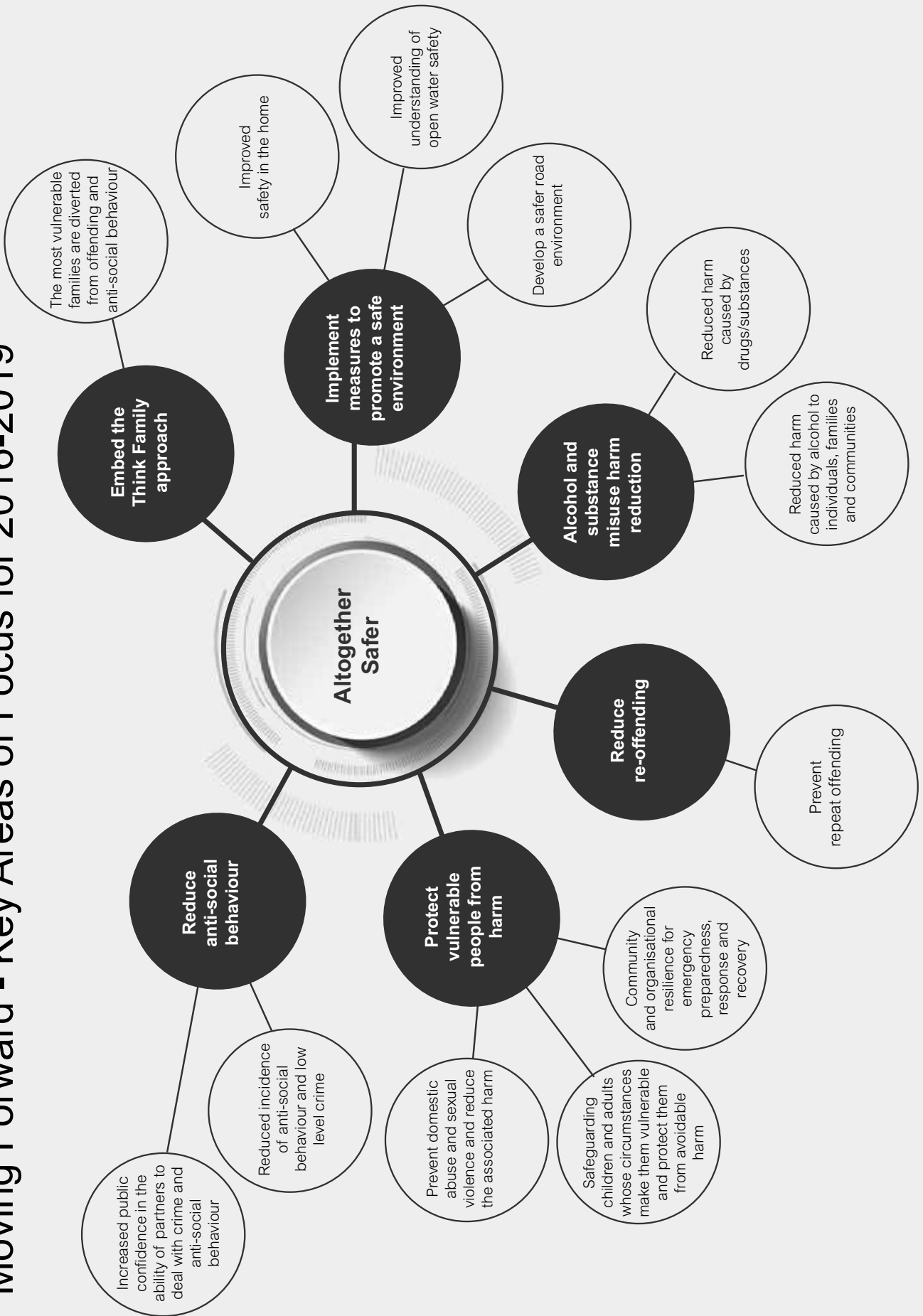
19%
 Reduction in crime in County Durham since 2009

2,700
 Reduction in the number of adults and young people who offend in a year in County Durham since 2007/08 (8,000 to 5,300)

3,300
 People received help with drug/alcohol problems at treatment centres in 2014/15

The Safe Durham Partnership for County Durham involves the Police, County Council, Fire and Rescue Service, the NHS and Probation Services, who work together to improve community safety.

Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019



Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019

Page
Objective 1

Reduce anti-social behaviour

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

We will:

- Produce a Safe Durham Partnership Plan to describe how responsible authorities (including the council, Durham Constabulary and the Fire and Rescue Service) will work together to tackle crime and disorder in the county.
- Work with partners to develop a plan to dismantle organised crime groups thereby reducing the risk of harm to the local community.

Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime

We will implement a programme to reduce anti-social behaviour particularly in public open spaces.

Objective 2

Protect vulnerable people from harm

Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm

We will work with partners to improve our support services for victims and identify areas for improvements in the criminal justice system.

Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm

We will:

- Work with partners to deliver the government's strategy for preventing people being drawn into terrorism by establishing a multi-agency assessment panel to provide support and intervention.
- Deliver training to staff, including schools to raise awareness of the 'Prevent' Duty
- Evaluate the effective Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS) to ensure that it is meeting its aims.

Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery

We will work with local communities to develop and ensure Community Resilience plans are in place, to minimise the damage from emergencies such as flooding.

Objective 3

Reduce re-offending

Prevent repeat offending

We will aim to reduce re-offending by appropriately targeting our resources, ensuring we listen and respond to young people and their families and making sure that volunteering is a key part of the work we undertake with young people and victims.

Moving Forward - Key Areas of Focus for 2016-2019

Objective 4

Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

Reduced harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities

We will work with partners to deliver a number of initiatives to reduce the damage caused by alcohol, including use of licensing laws to control availability and the targeting of underage drinkers.

Reduced harm caused by drugs/substances

We will work with partners to prevent harm, restrict supply, minimise the impact of drugs and build recovery within communities by raising awareness of emerging trends with communities and partners.

Objective 5

Implement measures to promote a safe environment

Develop a safer road environment

We will continue to implement our programme to introduce 20mph speed limits on main and distributor roads around schools with the highest accident rates.

Improved understanding of open water safety

We will implement our water safety programme including management of risk of public open spaces near open water and the promotion of good practice across privately owned water sites.

Improved safety in the home

We will:

- Work with partners to undertake initiatives to reduce doorstep crime, rogue traders, and the supply of counterfeit products.
- Building on the national pilot, explore opportunities with the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service to engage a wide range of people including those who are isolated and vulnerable to support them to improve safety within the home.
- Ensure changes arising from the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015 are incorporated into operational practices.

Objective 6

Embed the Think Family approach

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

We will:

- Deliver Phase 2 of our Stronger Families programme to families to help them address the complex issues they face such as children not attending school or anti-social behaviour.
- Embed restorative approaches in the Stronger Families Programme by training and developing staff in approaches for early intervention when working with families to prevent them from offending.