

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



**20 September 2019**

**Open Water Safety & City Safety Group**

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

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide Members of the Committee with background information in advance of a presentation by Kevin Lough, Occupational Health and Safety Manager on partnership work of open water safety within County Durham and activity of the City Safety Group.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The presentation attached in appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an overview and seek comment on activity of partnership work relating to open water safety and the city safety group.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 3 Members are asked to note information within this report and presentation and comment accordingly.

**Background**

- 4 *'Improved understanding of open water safety'* is an objective within the current Council and Safe Durham Partnership plans. To which, the Council Plan includes the following action, *'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'*
- 5 The Committee has previously considered activity relating to water safety through work of the City Safety Group and County wide Open Water Safety Group at its meetings in September 2015, March 2016, June 2017 and June 2018.

- 6 At its meeting in June 2018, the presentation to the Committee informed Members of reported water safety incidents within Durham City and Countywide, ongoing prevention, training and campaign work with the emergency services and Durham University. The presentation also highlighted engagement through the 'Best Bar None' initiative and media coverage of the 'Dying to be Cool' campaign and 'National Drowning Prevention Week'.
- 7 Kevin Lough, Occupational Health and Safety Manager will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to deliver a presentation and seek comment from Members on activity that has been undertaken to raise awareness, prevent incidents and future work that is planned to be undertaken in 2019/20.

## **Conclusion**

- 8 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for the Committee to monitor progress and provide comment of partnership activity to open water safety and the City Safety Group.

## **Background Papers**

- None

## **Other useful documents**

- Open Water Safety, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, July 2018
- Open Water Safety, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, July 2017
- The City Safety Group, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, March 2016
- The City Safety Group, Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, September 2015

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

None.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.