

9 January 2020



**Progress of Recommendations
following the Overview and Scrutiny
Review of Cybercrime**

**Report of Jane Robinson Corporate Director Adults & Health
Services, Durham County Council.**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with progress of recommendations following the Committee's review of Cybercrime and activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group.

Executive summary

- 2 The report provides information to conclusions from the Committee's review on Cybercrime, progress on implementation of review recommendations and introduce a presentation on wider activity of the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Group.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 The Committee has a role to scrutinise the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. In 2017, Members agreed to undertake review activity looking at work in relation to cybercrime with a focus on partnership work being undertaken to prevent young people becoming engaged in cybercrime activity.
- 5 At a national level, the National Crime Agency (NCA) are leading on a number of initiatives to prevent young people getting involved in cybercrime. Locally the Safe Durham Partnership's Safer Cyber Working Group identified that locally, whilst work is very much active with victims of cybercrime, preventing young people becoming engaged in cybercrime was identified as a gap within their activity.

- 6 This is a developing area and the review provides an opportunity to raise awareness of this issue and seek to identify improvements to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in Cybercrime.
- 7 The review gathered evidence through desktop research, meetings with officers from the Safe Durham Partnership, University of Sunderland, North East Regional Specialist Operations Unit and undertaken focus group activity. Evidence and findings within the report are set within the context to preventing young people being vulnerable to getting involved in cybercrime activity and to seek more positive use of their skills.

Review's Conclusions and Recommendations

- 8 Evidence gathered throughout the review has highlighted the potential impact of cybercrime or a cyber attack and that this is not a victimless crime. The average age of suspects arrested or cautioned by the NCA for cybercrime is 17 years old. Whilst it was acknowledged that is a minority of young people who commit these offences, throughout the review anecdotal evidence was provided by Members, Officers and Police Cadets of awareness to incidents of hacking by young people.
- 9 It was highlighted that the motivations for undertaking this activity are not always financial. Some see it as a challenge and are unaware they are committing a criminal offence. In addition, offenders perceive the risk of being caught was low and there was a limited understanding of the consequences of the law and committing an offence.
- 10 There is a structured approach to tackling cybercrime and contributing to the delivery of the Government's National Cyber Security Strategy at a national, regional and local level. The review is also timely with consultation on priorities for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. The Committee have identified they fully support cybercrime as an objective within the plan.
- 11 At a national level there is a wide range of educational resources and engagement activity available to schools. It is positive that within the past year, a small number of schools in the county have participated in the Cyber Security Challenge UK event. An area for development could be to have a co-ordinated approach to the use of educational resources and consideration should also be given to the development of a cyber-safety event and campaign in Durham.
- 12 Furthermore, effective provision of careers advice could lead to encouragement in using cyber skills more positively for career opportunities within cyber security industry. There was information provided that engagement between the Safe Durham Partnership and

County Durham Economic Partnership had just begun with regard to cybersecurity apprenticeships within the County.

- 13 The review's key findings focus on strategic context looking at national and local approaches to cybercrime and prevention through education and awareness, apprenticeships and careers and approaches to prevent young people from remaining in cybercrime activity and identifies recommendations for the Safe Durham Partnership and the Council.
- 14 The Committee's report was presented by Cllr Liddle to Cabinet in May 2018 and the Safe Durham Partnership in July 2018 and included the following recommendations:
 - (a) That the Safe Durham Partnership Board note the content of this report and include as an action the prevention of people becoming cybercrime offenders within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority objective of Cybercrime.
 - (b) That the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group give consideration to holding further focus group sessions with Durham Constabulary's Police Cadets and with young people with a specific interest in coding or programming to improve young people's awareness to the Computer Misuse Act and its implications.
 - (c) That the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group note findings of an anticipated report from the University of Bath, NCA and Research Autism into exploring any links between autism and cybercrime and consider any actions as recommended.
 - (d) That the Children and Young People's Services note the availability of education and awareness resources and working with partners within the Safe Durham Partnership's Safer Cyber Working Group consider development of a co-ordinated approach within schools to raise awareness to the consequences of forms of hacking, the Computer Misuse Act and use of careers advice to promote skills in a more positive way.
 - (e) That the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group explore the feasibility of a cyber-safety engagement event with schools similar to the Partnership's Wisedrive/Safety Carousel event of which awareness to the consequences of the Computer Misuse Act and hacking is one of the workshops.
 - (f) That the Safe Durham Partnership Safer Cyber Working Group give consideration to undertaking a campaign to promote the

risks of undertaking cybercrime activity and to explore the viability of producing a video resource that could together with the NCA Cyberchoices videos be shown within schools and at events.

- (g) That the Safe Durham Partnership explore opportunities for the development of IT/Cybersecurity apprenticeships within organisations and companies within County Durham with the County Durham Economic Partnership.
 - (h) Respond within the six month period for a systematic review of the recommendations.
- 15 At its meeting in February 2019, the Committee received a progress report on implementation of the review's recommendations. In summary, recommendation (b) had been completed and work was progressing with the remaining recommendations.
- 16 Appendix 2 to this report provides progress on each of these recommendations and Detective Inspector Stephanie Bird, Chair of the Safer Cyber Group will be in attendance at the Committee's meeting to present an update on these recommendations through a presentation attached in Appendix 3 that also includes wider activity of the Safer Cyber Group.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 17 The report includes information that aims to contribute to the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Conclusion

- 18 The attached report and presentation provide an opportunity for Members to consider and comment on progress on implementation of recommendations from the Committee's review on cybercrime and activity of the Safer Cyber Working Group.

Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- Overview and Scrutiny Review, Cybercrime, Cabinet May 2018
- Progress of Recommendations following the Overview and Scrutiny Review of Cybercrime, February 2019

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None.

Finance

None.

Consultation

None.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None.

Human Rights

None.

Climate Change

None.

Crime and Disorder

The report includes information that will contribute to objectives within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Report – Cybercrime – Review of Recommendations

| Review Recommendation | Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation | Lead | Timescale |
|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| <p>a That the Safe Durham Partnership Board note the content of this report and include as an action the prevention of people becoming cybercrime offenders within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority objective of Cybercrime.</p> | <p>The Scrutiny report was considered by the Safer Cyber Working Group (formerly Cyber Crime Task Group). This recommendation has been incorporated within the Safer Cyber Working Group Action Plan.</p> <p>In turn further review of the actions has seen a further increase in community awareness campaigns through better coordination with Durham Police and Get Safe Online. Activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Support for North East Regions Operations Unit Business breakfasts with Waterson’s to raise awareness of cybercrime 2) Development of community based initiatives between the PCVC, Durham Police and DCC Area Action Partnerships. For example the Meet the Detective events. 3) Other community focussed activity included: | <p>Safe Durham Partnership</p> | <p>March 2020</p> |

| Review Recommendation | Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation | Lead | Timescale |
|--|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GSOL Week – Bikewise (22nd July; 20,000 attended) ○ Superhero event (PCVC) | | |
| <p>b That the Safe Durham Partnership Cybercrime task group give consideration to holding further focus group sessions with Durham Constabulary’s Police Cadets and with young people with a specific interest in coding or programming to improve young people’s awareness to the Computer Misuse Act and its implications.</p> | <p>2018-2019 has seen a specific focus on young people initiatives with significant activities within schools but also increasing awareness with new partnerships with New College, Durham.</p> <p>An initial programme was led with the Police Cadets and delivered to Police cadets and their parents on 15th November 2018.</p> <p>The sessions delivered advice and awareness on both Cyber Protect and Prevent. The workshop further discussed the computer misuse act, consequences of offending and gave tips to stay safe online.</p> <p>This initial pilot delivered to 24 cadets and 12 adults</p> <p>Further work is currently underway by Durham Police to develop a comprehensive programme in conjunction with Durham Police Cadets.</p> | <p>Durham Constabulary</p> | <p>November 2018</p> |
| <p>c That the Safe Durham Partnership Cybercrime task group note findings of an anticipated report from the University of Bath, NCA and Research Autism into exploring any links between autism and</p> | <p>Further contact with the university has been made and the work is now complete. The Safer Cyber Working Group will discuss the findings and any additional areas of work at its next meeting in 2020.</p> | <p>Safe Durham Partnership</p> | <p>12th February 2020</p> |

| Review Recommendation | Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation | Lead | Timescale |
|---|---|----------------------------|----------------------|
| cybercrime and consider any actions as recommended. | | | |
| d That the Children and Young People's Services note the availability of education and awareness resources and working with partners within the Safe Durham Partnership's Cybercrime task group consider development of a co-ordinated approach within schools to raise awareness to the consequences of forms of hacking, the Computer Misuse Act and use of careers advice to promote skills in a more positive way | CYPS are taking an active role in helping to keep young people in County Durham safe. CYPS recognises that young people are very skilled in the use of new technology and that this can be used for both positive and negative reasons. CYPS have highlighted the cyber-prevent strategy to computing subject leads in secondary and at head teacher briefings at primary level. The new 'Hack' video resource produced with New College Durham will form the basis for a schools programme currently in development. | CYPS | February/March 2020. |
| e That the Safe Durham Partnership Cybercrime Task Group explore the feasibility of a cyber-safety engagement event with schools similar to the Partnership's Wisedrive/Safety Carousel event of which awareness to the consequences of the Computer Misuse Act and hacking is one of the workshops. | Children and Young People's Services and Durham Police have continued a proactive approach to awareness raising and coordinating young people led safer cyber activity. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safety Carousels – Secondary School ○ Princes Trust (Rolling on Cohorts) | CYPS / Durham Constabulary | Annual |
| f That the Safe Durham Partnership Cybercrime Task Group give consideration to undertaking a campaign to promote the risks of undertaking cybercrime activity and | 'HACK' video has been produced by students of New College Durham with the help of funding from both the PCVC and DCC which is to be used as a resource with schools. | Safer Cyber Working Group | February/March 2020 |

| Review Recommendation | Progress Report of Action taken to implement recommendation | Lead | Timescale |
|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <p>to explore the viability of producing a video resource that could together with the NCA Cyberchoices videos be shown within schools and at events</p> | <p>This was shown initially to Framwellgate School students at the launch event in September '19 with positive feedback. A work programme for roll out to schools is in development.</p> | | |
| <p>g That the Safe Durham Partnership explore opportunities for the development of IT/Cybersecurity apprenticeships within organisations and companies within County Durham with the County Durham Economic Partnership.</p> | <p>Discussions took place at the February Safer Cyber Group meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New College, Durham circulated information regarding the Foundation Degree (FdSc) Cyber Security at New College Durham and provided details of the qualifications and education background required to enrol in the course. • Uptake has steadily increased over previous years from only three students to 31 this year. • The importance of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) who have now started recruiting and it is expected that this will continue to grow. • There are also fully funded Cyber First residential course for young people. | <p>Safer Cyber Working Group</p> | <p>Complete February 2019</p> |