



Report of Corporate Management Team

Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change

Councillor John Shuttleworth, Cabinet Portfolio for Rural Communities and Highways

Electoral divisions affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present to County Council the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDPP) 2021-25 for agreement. The plan is attached as Appendix 2.

Executive summary

- 2 Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires the responsible authorities (commonly referred to collectively as a Community Safety Partnership (CSP)) in a local government area to work together in formulating and implementing strategies to tackle local crime and disorder in the area. In County Durham this is the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 3 The 2007 Regulations set out the way in which the responsible authorities should carry out their functions as a CSP under Section 6 of the Act, and require the preparation of:
 - (a) a partnership plan for the local government area, setting out the CSP's priorities;
 - (b) a county level community safety agreement, setting out the ways the responsible authorities in the county might work more effectively to implement the identified priorities by joint working.
- 4 The SDPP 2021-25 has been aligned to the Durham Police, Crime and Victims Plan and the Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership Plan.

- 5 Covid-19 has had a huge impact on how Durham County Council and its partners deliver services, especially health and social care services to ensure those who need to access vital services still receive them, whilst also supporting providers who run essential services. Many of the actions in the current strategy have supported our approach in these unprecedented times.
- 6 This SDPP 2021-25 also considers the impact Covid-19 has on our partners, communities and services and any Covid-19 related actions are included.
- 7 A range of consultation has been undertaken on the plan, details of which are provided in Appendix 3. The consultation feedback has been used to inform the SDPP 2021-25.
- 8 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken as part of the process for developing the SDPP, which is attached as Appendix 4.
- 9 The SDPP 2021-25 was agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership at its meeting on 12 March 2021.

Recommendation

- 10 The County Council is recommended to:
 - (a) note the contents of this report and approve the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25.

Background

- 11 The Safe Durham Partnership agreed the SDPP 2020-25 in March 2020, to provide a holding position for a year whilst further work was undertaken to ensure the Strategy takes account of the County Durham Vision 2035 and Covid-19.
- 12 The SDPP 2021-25 has been further aligned to the County Durham Vision 2035, which was written together with partner organisations and the public and sets out what we would want the county to look like in 15 years' time. This vision is structured around three ambitions which are:
 - (a) more and better jobs;
 - (b) people live long and independent lives;
 - (c) connected communities.
- 13 The SDPP 2021-25 will take forward aspects of the vision that are focussed on community safety in County Durham and will contribute to other areas, working in partnership with other strategic partnership boards. For example:
 - (a) future free from harm due to drug and alcohol misuse;
 - (b) tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - (c) address the underlying causes of crime and community tensions.
- 14 In response to the coronavirus pandemic, a County Durham Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment was undertaken which took account of the impact of the first lockdown, which was supported by detailed forecasting and modelling work. This has given a helpful, system-wide picture of the potential impact of the pandemic on County Durham residents over the next four years and has been considered in the development of the SDPP 2021-25.

SDPP Consultation

- 15 Consultation took place between 22 January 2021 and 21 February 2021 on the SDPP, which included public consultation via the Durham County Council website. Details of this consultation can be found in Appendix 3.
- 16 Partners were invited to take part in the consultation, including Safe Durham Partnership Partners, Area Action Partnerships, Town and Parish Councils, Durham Community Action, Better Together Forum,

VCS organisations, Armed Forces & Veterans Forum, Age UK, Young and Adult Carers, Patient Reference Groups, Poverty Action Steering Group, The People's Parliament, Disability Partnership, and County Durham Youth Council.

- 17 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the plan at their meeting on 1 March 2021. Details of their comments can be found in Appendix 3.

Safe Durham Partnership Plan vision and strategic priorities

- 18 The vision for the Safe Durham Partnership is agreed as ***'A county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'***

- 19 The strategic priorities for the SDPP 2021-25 are:

(a) Strategic priority 1: Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community by focusing on the following priorities:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Arson and Deliberate Fires
- Safer Homes
- Road Safety
- Hate Crime and Community Tensions

96% of respondents to the public consultation strongly agreed/agreed this should be a priority.

(b) Strategic priority 2: Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm by focusing on the following priorities:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Organised Crime; County Lines
- Victims

100% of respondents to the public consultation agreed this should be a priority.

(c) Strategic priority 3: Prevent Strategy: Countering Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism by focusing on the following priorities:

- Prevent people being drawn into terrorism
- Support the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks and mitigate the impact of such an attack

93% of respondents to the public consultation strongly agreed/agreed this should be a priority.

(d) Strategic priority 4: Reduce Reoffending by focusing on the following priorities:

- Prevent offending and inter-generational offending
- Prevent re-offending

81% of respondents to the public consultation strongly agreed/agreed this should be a priority.

(e) Strategic priority 5: Alcohol and Substance misuse reduction by focusing on the following priorities:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Providing specialist interventions to promote recovery
- Protecting children and vulnerable adults at risk
- Strengthening leadership, management and governance

85% of respondents to the public consultation strongly agreed/agreed this should be a priority.

(f) Strategic priority 6: Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime by focusing on the following priorities:

- Raise awareness of the general population about staying safe online
- Reduce risk to the most vulnerable groups
- Build resilience of local businesses of the threat of cyber crime

83% of respondents to the public consultation strongly agreed/agreed this should be a priority.

Core Deliverables

- 20 The SDPP includes a number of core deliverables that identify the key areas of work which the Safe Durham Partnership will focus on, linked to the priorities.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 21 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken alongside the development of the strategy which is attached at Appendix 4.

Accessibility

- 22 New legislation dictates how we can present information, to ensure it is accessible to all. As a consequence, the new version of the SDPP is in plain text format and does not contain infographics, tables and diagrams.

Conclusion

- 23 The development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan has been led by the Safe Durham Partnership, supported by a multi-agency working group. The plan has been informed by the Strategic Needs Assessment which provides the evidence base on which the priorities have been developed.
- 24 Consultation feedback has been used to inform the SDPP 2021-25.
- 25 The SDPP is aligned to the Durham Police, Crime and Victims Plan and the Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership Plan.
- 26 The SDPP is also aligned to the County Durham Vision 2035 and will be the delivery mechanism for some of the objectives which support the overall ambitions.

Background papers

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to prepare a partnership plan, setting out the CSP's priorities.

Finance

Ongoing pressure on the public services will challenge all agencies to consider how best to ensure effective services are delivered in the most efficient way. Action plans will be developed to support the delivery of the Partnership Plan.

Consultation

Details of consultation are provided in the report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out alongside the SDPP.

Climate Change

There are no climate change implications.

Human Rights

There are no adverse implications.

Crime and Disorder

Crime and disorder is the main focus of the report under the Safe Durham Partnership.

Staffing

There are no staffing implications.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications.

Risk

There are no risk implications.

Procurement

Commissioners will take account of the SDPP when procuring services aligned to community safety.