

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

8 September 2022



**Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and
Safer Streets 4 Programme update**

**Report of Alan Patrickson, Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods
and Climate Change**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on the Durham City Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Initiative the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Executive summary

- 2 The presentation attached in Appendix 2 will aim to provide Members with an update on the Durham City Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) Initiative the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Recommendation

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

Background

- 4 The Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWAG) strategy was launched in July 2021 with the headline introductory statement 'The safety of women and girls, across the country is our priority'
- 5 In Early 2021, following the tragic rape and murder of Sarah Everard, the government launched its 'Call for Evidence' consultation to improve understanding of gendered violent crime and the impact they have on individuals and communities.

- 6 As a result of this consultation, the government received over 180,000 responses making this the largest ever consultation the government has run in this area. Responses from this informed development of VAWG strategy.
- 7 The SWAN fund was launched by Home Office, alongside the VAWG strategy to fund initiatives focussed on preventing violence against women and girls in public spaces at night including in the night-time economy, in venues and whilst using transport. The main aims of the fund being:
 - To reduce incidents of VAWG in public spaces at night, including within the night-time economy
 - Reduce fear of VAWG and improve feelings of safety in public spaces at night
 - Build an evidence base for what works in improving women's safety in public spaces at night, including in the night-time economy
- 8 The SWAN bid was submitted in July 2021 to the Home Office by members of Durham County Council's (DCC) Neighbourhood and Climate Change services. This bid was successful and DCC received an allocation of £109,302. The aim of the bid being to tackle violent crimes towards women and girls within the night-time economy of Durham City.
- 9 Whilst the initial funding for the initiative ended on 31 March 2022, further funding from Partners was made available to continue the project until the 4th round of the Safer Streets funding programme was determined.
- 10 Appendix 2 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with an update of the work undertaken by the SWaN project and the outcome of the 4th round of Safer Streets funding programme.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 11 Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community..

Conclusion

12 The attached presentation provides an update and opportunity for Members to provide comment on current and future on community protection activity.

13 Background papers

- None

Other useful documents

- None

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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

Information with this report aims to contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan priority to promote being safe and feeling safe in your community.

Staffing

None.

Accommodation

None.

Risk

None.

Procurement

None.

Appendix 2: Safety of Women at Night (SWaN) and Safer Streets 4 Programme presentation

Attached as a separate document.