

Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



23 February 2024

Community Protection Service Profile and Scope.

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

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (ESCOSC) with an overview of the profile and scope of the Community Protection Service (CPS).

Executive summary

- 2 This report and accompanying presentation (attached in Appendix 3) provides Members with an overview of the range of services provided by the Council's CPS teams which directly impacts on the environment and the wider determinants of health.

Recommendations

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

Background

- 4 The CPS delivers a range of local authority regulatory functions which protect health, safety and the environment of our local communities, visitors and workers. Appendix 2 provides an outline of the CPS profile and key contact information.
- 5 The majority of work undertaken by the CPS teams is required by statute and involves a range of interventions that include proactive inspections, monitoring and sampling as well as intelligence led

activities which are undertaken in response to complaints or other requests for service covering a diverse range of environmental and health related issues.

- 6 Local Authority regulatory services can make a vital impact on the wider determinants of health as well as health improvement and health protection. Poor health does not arise by chance and can be influenced by differences in social, economic and environmental factors.
- 7 Tackling these wider determinants of health requires focusing on the root causes of ill health rather than simply treating the consequences of poor health.
- 8 Key CPS priorities include protecting the environment for future generations, making our economy more environmentally sustainable, and improving our quality of life and wellbeing by:-
 - Improving local housing conditions
 - Ensuring clean and safe neighbourhoods
 - Tackling waste and environmental crime
 - Protecting public health
 - Improving local air quality
 - Reducing Pollution
 - Reducing antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder
 - Preventing ill health and harm and reducing health inequalities
- 9 Locally the CPS teams regularly work in partnership with other council services and organisations including the Environment Agency, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service amongst many others.
- 10 The CPS is regulated by National Regulators such as Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Food Standards Agency (FSA), UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Health & Safety Executive (HSE).
- 11 In addition, the CPS work extends across a broader range of government offices and national policy agendas under the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities (DHLUC), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Home Office (HO).
- 12 Appendix 3 to this report contains a presentation to provide Members with information on the scope of the Community Protection service and the range of interventions delivered by front line CPS teams to protect the environment and health of our local communities. The presentation will be delivered by Joanne Waller, Head of Community Protection.

Conclusion

- 13 This report and Appendices provides an update on the CPS service profile and scope and an opportunity for Members to provide comment on those aspects of the CPS which are delivered to protect the environment and health of our communities.

Background papers

- None

Authors

Joanne Waller, Head of Community Protection

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Not applicable

Finance

Not applicable

Consultation

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Not applicable

Human Rights

Not applicable

Climate Change

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

Not applicable

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Not applicable

Procurement

Not applicable

Attached as separate documents