

Durham County Council Equality Impact Assessment

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires Durham County Council to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people from different groups. Completion of this template allows us to provide a written record of our equality analysis and demonstrate due regard. It must be used as part of decision making processes with relevance to equality.

Please contact equalities@durham.gov.uk for any necessary support.

Section One: Description and Screening

Service/Team or Section	Partnerships
Lead Officer name and job title	Julie Bradbrook, Interim Strategic Manager - Partnerships
Subject of the impact assessment	Safe Durham Partnership Strategy 2024-2029
Full Council date	26 June 2024
MTFP Reference (if relevant)	N/A
EIA Start Date	January 2024
EIA Review Date	To be reviewed in line with the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy (2024-2029)

Subject of the Impact Assessment

Please give a brief description of the policy, proposal or practice which is the subject of this impact assessment.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce reoffending. In County Durham the CSP is the Safe Durham Partnership.

The Safe Durham Partnership has a duty to meet our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and a lot of changes have been made to statutory duties and/or guidance in recent years or are planned in the course of this strategy.

Government guidance and legislation places some other groups on a statutory footing, and they function effectively with oversight from the SDP.

The SDP has committed to the Approach to Wellbeing, which encompasses these ways of working with communities and those most in need. In producing this strategy, we have considered evidence from Durham Insight, which is utilised as the strategic assessment, alongside the voice of our communities captured through various ongoing consultation and feedback mechanisms from all partners.

With this in mind, the SDP priorities consist of three 'umbrella themes' which cover work done by the whole community safety partnership arena across the County. These themes are then broken down into:

- **Areas of focus:** The SDP will champion the areas that need further focus or development. There may be a specific local need or issue to tackle, potential impact from national or international events or actions, or the SDP may be the key governance arrangement or most appropriate forum. Areas of focus will be agile, flexible, and responsive.
- **Areas of assurance:** The SDP will provide ongoing oversight and receive regular assurance for the existing partnership arrangements already in place for these areas.

The SDP recognises the impact of wider factors on its priority themes and works closely with partners to address the underlying contributing factors including health, substance misuse, housing, employment and poverty.

The Partnership gives due consideration to the other plans and strategies in place across the wider County Durham Partnership and its member organisations.

The key consideration for SDP focus is where the SDP can add value.

Safe Durham Partnership Strategy - identified priorities 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime which disrupts our Communities

- Areas of focus: anti-social behaviour
- Areas of assurance: reducing reoffending, road safety

Hate Crime and Building Community Cohesion

- Areas of focus: hate crime
- Areas of assurance: counter terrorism

Sexual Violence and other Violent Crime:

- Areas of focus: sexual violence
- Areas of assurance: serious violence, domestic abuse, combatting drugs and alcohol, organised crime

Leadership in each of the three priority areas will be through one of the existing formally established sub-groups, each of which will lead on a high-level delivery plan.

Who are the main people impacted and/or stakeholders? (e.g. general public, staff, members, specific clients/service users, community representatives):

General public / Elected Members / Partners

Community individuals and groups (including voluntary organisations) – community safety can affect everybody including local residents, those working, educated in or visiting the borough, and businesses. The risk and potential risk for victimisation, or becoming involved in offending, can vary by crime problem (i.e., burglary, violent crime), location, socio-economic status, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability for example.

Screening

Is there any actual or potential negative or positive impact on the following protected characteristics¹?

Protected Characteristic	Negative Impact Indicate: Yes, No or Unsure	Positive Impact Indicate: Yes, No or Unsure
Age	N	Y
Disability	N	Y
Gender reassignment	N	Y
Marriage and civil partnership (only in relation to 'eliminate discrimination')	N	N
Pregnancy and maternity	N	N
Race	N	Y
Religion or Belief	N	Y
Sex	N	Y
Sexual orientation	N	Y

Please provide **brief** details of any potential to cause discrimination or negative impact. Record full details and any mitigating actions in section 2 of this assessment.

¹ <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics>

The SDP Strategy is the statutory strategy for reducing crime and disorder, reducing the harm caused by substance misuse, reducing anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment and reduce re-offending. It therefore does not have any potential to cause negative impact.

Please provide **brief** details of positive impact. How will this policy/proposal promote our commitment to our legal responsibilities under the public sector equality duty to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation,
- advance equality of opportunity, and
- foster good relations between people from different groups?

The strategy is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations (amended) 2011. The Safe Durham Partnership is required to make arrangements for obtaining the views of persons and bodies who live or work in the area about the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area; and the matters which should be prioritised for the area. So far as is reasonable, the Safe Durham Partnership must consult with persons who appear to represent the interests of as many different groups or persons within the area as is reasonable; and persons who appear to the strategy group to represent the interests of those groups or persons within the area likely to be particularly affected by the implementation of the partnership strategy.

Evidence

What evidence do you have to support your data analysis and any findings?

Please **outline** any data you have and/or proposed sources (e.g. service user or census data, research findings). Highlight any data gaps and say whether or not you propose to carry out consultation. Record your detailed analysis, in relation to the impacted protected characteristics, in section 2 of this assessment.

- National statistics, research and best practice
- [Joint strategic needs assessment \(JSNA\)](#)
- [Durham Insight](#)
- [Durham Police, Crime Plan 21-24](#)
- [Youth Justice Plan 23-24](#)
- [Police Performance | Durham Police & Crime Commissioner \(durham-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)
- CTLP (Counter Terrorism Local Profile) 2023-24 (RESTRICTED DOCUMENT)
- [SDP ASB Strategy 21-25](#)
- [Violence against women and girls - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

- [Growing Up in County Durham Strategy \(countydurhampartnership.co.uk\)](http://countydurhampartnership.co.uk)
- Student Voice Survey 2022

Screening Summary

On the basis of the information provided in this equality impact screening (section 1), are you proceeding to a full impact assessment (sections 2&3 of this template)?	Please confirm Yes
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Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Juie Bradbrook, Interim Strategic Manager – Partnerships	Date:
Equality representative sign off (where required): Mary Gallagher, Equality and Diversity Team Leader	Date:

If carrying out a full assessment please proceed to sections two and three.

If not proceeding to full assessment, please ensure your screening record is **attached to any relevant decision-making records or reports**, retain a copy for update where necessary, and forward a copy to equalities@durham.gov.uk

If you are unsure of assessing impact please contact the corporate equalities team for further advice: equalities@durham.gov.uk

Section Two: Data analysis and assessment of impact

Please provide details of impacts for people with different protected characteristics relevant to your screening findings. You need to decide if there is or likely to be a differential impact for some. Highlight the positives e.g. benefits for certain groups and advancement of equality, as well as the negatives e.g. barriers or exclusion of particular groups. Record the evidence you have used to support or explain your conclusions, including any necessary mitigating actions to ensure fair treatment.

Protected Characteristic: Age		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to age?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>This strategy will have a positive impact for young people.</p>	<p>Youth Justice Plan 2023-24</p> <p>Between Oct 2016-Sep 2017 and Jan 2022-Dec 2022, we have achieved a 53.7% reduction in first time entrants to the youth justice system, from a rate of 322 per 100,000 10-17 year olds to 146.</p> <p>The latest available locally sourced data shows 85 young people entering the Youth Justice System in 2022/23 at a rate of 184 per 100 000 10-17 year olds. This is an increase but will be affected by the covid lockdowns/recovery.</p> <p>Ministry of Justice (MoJ) data (July 2020 – June 2021 cohort) shows a re-offending rate of 36.6% which is an 1.5% reduction compared to the previous year. This is similar to the average Northeast rate of 31.7% and the England rate of 31%.</p> <p>The rate of reoffending can fluctuate due to the significant decreases, year to year, in the size of the cohort of young</p>	

	<p>people, but also shows that the trend is a reduction in reoffending rates overtime.</p> <p><u>Summary of findings from the student voice survey.</u></p> <p>This survey will inform the development of plans and services across County Durham and is designed to positively impact upon pupils as services can be directed to support where particular issues come to light.</p> <p>The survey has been designed in conjunction with children and young people and includes questions of a range of topics that could provide insight for this strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social wellbeing• Mental health and wellbeing• Behaviour and safety• Online safety• Health and physical wellbeing• Physical activity• Community wellbeing• Access to community facilities <p>The overarching themes relating to ASB for both the Primary age group and Secondary age group were:</p> <p>Primary</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A quarter (22%) say that there are times in school when they don't always feel safe. <p>Secondary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A third (30%) said they don't always feel safe either in school or outside. <p><u>Summary of findings the Growing up in County Durham Strategy consultation.</u></p> <p>During March / April 2022, children, young people and parents / carers were asked to take part in an initial engagement exercise ahead of developing the new children, young people and families strategy.</p> <p>Within these boundaries, there were two elements to the exercise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To tell us what words or phrases they would like to see included in a statement of ambition for all the county's CYP&F for Growing Up in County Durham?2. We also asked them a series of questions to help us identify what their aspirations and priorities are, what issues and challenges they are facing and where relevant, what they think of the services they receive? <p>Out of the emerging themes the following were relevant to the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy:</p> <p>Safety / trust:</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being safe at home• Safe places to play and learn• Gaining independence• Bullying / peer pressures• Diversionary activities• ASB• Drugs• Crime• Improved safety in public areas e.g.CCTV• More child friendly places / venues• Parent / child relationships• Getting in with the wrong crowd• Risk taking behaviour <p>Access to facilities, programmes and services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More accessible opportunities• Time of day• Access to technology• Waiting times• Clubs• Listen to what CYP want• Transport, affordability• Location – too far away• Not knowing about what's available	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to out of school activities/ leisure • Access to exercise facilities • More free or subsidised fares / entrance fees. <p>Environment and climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter <p>Worries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment e.g. litter • Socialisation • Mental health • Increase in crime / ASB locally • Support • Bullying. 	
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Protected Characteristic: Disability		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to disability?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
<p>This strategy will have a positive impact in relation to disabled people, particularly tackling hate crime.</p> <p>It will ensure that victims are confident to report, and that once reported, the hate element is recognised so that support and safeguarding can be provided.</p>	<p>Hate Crime is an area of focus within the Safe Durham Partnership Strategy and work is led by a Joint Hate Crime Action Group, which is a multi-agency group that drives improvements in engagement, enforcement and partnership working to reduce the impact of hate crime in our area.</p> <p>InstantAtlas Durham – Hate Crime (durhaminsight.info)</p>	

	Hate Incidents and Hate Crime fact sheet (durhaminsight.info) Hate crime, England and Wales, 2022 to 2023 second edition - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	
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Protected Characteristic: Gender reassignment		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to gender reassignment?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
As per disability section.	As per disability section.	As per disability section.

Protected Characteristic: Marriage and civil partnership (only in relation to 'eliminate discrimination')		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to marriage and civil partnership?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A	N/A	N/A

Protected Characteristic: Pregnancy and maternity		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to pregnancy and maternity?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
N/A	N/A	N/A

Protected Characteristic: Race

What is the actual or potential impact in relation to race?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
As per disability section.	As per disability section.	As per disability section.

Protected Characteristic: **Religion or belief**

What is the actual or potential impact in relation to religion or belief?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
As per disability section.	As per disability section.	As per disability section.

Protected Characteristic: **Sex**

What is the actual or potential impact in relation to sex?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?												
As per disability section.	<p>As per disability section.</p> <p>Violence against women and girls - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</p> <p>Figure 1: Women were more likely than men to be victims of sexual assault in the last year</p> <p>Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year for adults aged 16 years and over, by sex and type of abuse, England and Wales, year ending March 2022</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of Abuse</th> <th>Women (%)</th> <th>Men (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Any sexual assault</td> <td>~3.3</td> <td>~1.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rape or assault by penetration</td> <td>~1.1</td> <td>~0.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching</td> <td>~2.7</td> <td>~1.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of Abuse	Women (%)	Men (%)	Any sexual assault	~3.3	~1.2	Rape or assault by penetration	~1.1	~0.8	Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching	~2.7	~1.2	As per disability section.
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Any sexual assault	~3.3	~1.2												
Rape or assault by penetration	~1.1	~0.8												
Indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching	~2.7	~1.2												

Protected Characteristic: Sexual orientation		
What is the actual or potential impact in relation to sexual orientation?	Record of evidence which supports and/or explains your conclusions on impact.	What further action or mitigation is required?
As per disability section.	As per disability section.	As per disability section.

Section Three: Conclusion and Review

Summary

Please provide a brief summary of your findings; a summary of any positive and/or negative impacts across the protected characteristics, links to the involvement of different groups and/or public consultation, mitigations and conclusions made.

Community safety can affect everybody including local residents, those working, educated in or visiting the county, and businesses. The risk and potential risk for victimisation, or becoming involved in offending, can vary by crime problem (i.e., burglary, violent crime), location, socio-economic status, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and disability.

The Safe Durham Partnership Strategy ambition is that “Durham is a county where everyone can feel and be safe” with a focus on the following priorities:

- Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime which disrupts our Communities
- Hate Crime and Building Community Cohesion
- Sexual Violence and other Violent Crime

Will this promote positive relationships between different communities? If so how?

There is real strength in our communities, brought to the fore during the recent Covid-19 crisis, storms, flooding and power outages, where we have seen fantastic examples of resilience and cohesion, throughout the county. This strategy will build on this sense of belonging and purpose, to improve community cohesion so that people are safe and free from the fear of crime.

Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Timescales for implementation	In which plan will the action appear?
Public consultation	Partnerships	18.3.24 to 14.4.24	SDPS 2024-29
Make appropriate amendments to the strategy based on consultation feedback.	Partnerships	From 14.4.24 to 13.5.24	SDPS 2024-29

Review and connected assessments

Are there any additional or connected equality impact assessments that need to be undertaken? (If yes, provide details)	No
When will this assessment be reviewed? Please also insert this date at the front of the template	2029

Sign Off

Lead officer sign off: Julie Bradbrook, Interim Strategic Manager - Partnerships	Date: May 2024
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Equality representative sign off (where required):

Date:

Mary Gallagher, Equality and Diversity Team Leader