

# **Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011/14 Refresh 2012**

## Summary of progress 2011/12 – Sustainable Community Priorities

In April 2011 the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011/14 outlined its commitment to delivering its 'Altogether Safer' priorities outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2011/14 demonstrated significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour over the previous 3 years. It described how we had more people in drug treatment, fewer first time entrants into the criminal justice system and a reduction in adult re-offending.

Between Apr-Dec 2011, there have been further reductions in crime and disorder compared to the same period last year:

- Crime fell by 3.6% from 21,189 to 20,420 incidents
- Anti-social behaviour fell by 14% from 35,876 to 27,288 incidents
- Deliberate and secondary fires fell by 19% from 1,912 to 1,541 incidents

Our targets for first time entrants to the youth justice system, adult re-offending and repeat victims of Domestic Abuse are all being met.

However, there are emerging challenges. At the start of the year there was a dramatic increase in metal theft across the country. Working alongside partners in other parts of the region we have initiated interventions that have reduced the problem.

We are also monitoring and responding to other issues, such as theft from motor vehicles and shoplifting.

The Total Home Safety project has played an important part in our drive to reduce serious crime. It delivered safety and security measures to 4,563 vulnerable households, supported large reductions in domestic burglary and house fires and produced cashable savings of £832,090.

93% of customers felt safer, 88% felt more independent in their home and 36% said they were referred to other services as a result of their referral to Total Home Safety.

The Sexual Violence Strategy was launched in August 2011 as part of our work to protect vulnerable people from harm. The strategy will aim to ensure that the response to sexual offences is proportionate to the significant, and damaging, effect it has on the lives of individuals and communities.

The Reducing Re-offending priority has moved a step further to help offenders become drug free. A recovery centre has been opened in Peterlee and a recovery wing introduced to HMP Durham. In September 2011 the Princess Royal visited County Durham to hear about the award winning Pre-Reprimand Disposal programme. It has resulted in a 71% reduction in first time entrants to the criminal justice system.

The Government introduced a new Counter Terrorism strategy; making significant changes to the way in which we approach this agenda. The Safe Durham Partnership was well prepared for this change and is in a very strong position to meet all Government aspirations.

The Local Resilience Forum has joined the Partnership along with new partners, such as the UK Border Agency.

County Durham continues to improve its performance which demonstrates the way in which the Safe Durham Partnership is building resilience to terrorism.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan identified five 'Key Areas of Improvement':

- ASB
- Alcohol Harm Reduction
- High Impact Localities
- High Impact Households
- Organised Crime

There has been good progress set against each priority.

## Summary of progress 2011/12 – Key Areas of Improvement

**Anti-social Behaviour**

Having seen a significant fall in reports of anti-social behaviour, the Safe Durham Partnership is now focusing on the locations and people who are most vulnerable.

Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review Panels will be set up to review the critical few cases that need a strategic approach to ensure they are resolved.

The Safe Durham Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour team and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Mental Health team will establish a co-ordinated approach to anti-social behaviour cases where either the perpetrator or victim may have mental health problems. This will lead to a joint risk assessment and improve access to services.

An ASB Risk Assessment Matrix has been developed to provide a consistent approach to the assessment of victim vulnerability. This is used as a guide by ASB practitioners to ascertain what support and protection is required to meet the needs of victims and mitigate any risks.

**Case Study – Tackling Youth Related ASB**

A Time Limited Project was set up in Belmont, Durham in November 2010 to tackle anti-social behaviour and reassure residents.

The local problem solving approach identified the ASB of some young people 'hanging around' Cheveley park shopping centre as a recurring problem. A response was needed to tackle anti-social behaviour while building positive relationships between young people and the rest of the community.

Improved lighting, initiatives to target alcohol misuse and a 'clean up' of the area were just a few of the initiatives put in place.

A 'Stay Safe' initiative was established to protect vulnerable children and young people whose behaviour, or presence, placed them at risk of harm. Police and Youth Offending officers took vulnerable youngsters to a designated place of safety where they were able to carry out a needs assessment while parents or guardians were contacted to collect them.

The results were impressive. A 43% reduction in reported anti-social behaviour provided a great deal of reassurance to the community and shop keepers.

Following this success, a programme was developed to engage and work with young people to divert them away from anti-social behaviour and give those that 'hang about' the opportunity to contribute to, and build better relations with the community.

Funding from local councillors and the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving group has supported the interventions.

43 young people have supported the organisation of an Intergenerational Day and a Crime Prevention Day and invited members of their community to join them. They have also discussed what is good and bad about their area and learned how to plan and deliver a community project.

**Alcohol Harm Reduction**

Raising public awareness and providing targeted training and education to adults, children and young people and the community on the harm caused by alcohol have been key elements of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy.

Targeting offenders of alcohol fuelled crime with both enforcement and treatment plays an important part in our approach; alongside support services for those with alcohol related issues.

Social Norms work, in six secondary schools, deals with perceptions and behaviour of alcohol consumption. It also links with other risk taking behaviours such as sex, relationships and smoking.

The Fire Death Protocol has resulted in the Community Alcohol Service making referrals direct to the Fire and Rescue Service, for those identified at risk from domestic fire.

The County Durham Alcohol Arrest Referral pilot resulted in 227 people being screened and receiving brief interventions.

The ID4U Proof of Age Scheme has gone live and is currently being implemented across the County to further reduce under 18s access to alcohol. The scheme is proving to be very popular with young people and their parents.

An Alcohol Recovery Centre is being piloted in Durham. The Durham Recovery and Wellbeing Centre opened on North Road to provide aftercare and support for those in recovery from alcohol addiction.

Between Apr-Jun 2011 203 prisoners started the alcohol programme based in HMP Durham and HMP Low Newton which provides family support on release. This will help to reduce relapse, reduce re-offending and help break the cycle of misuse within the family.

The Community Alcohol Partnership in Stanley has resulted in an increase of alcohol seizures and subsequent referrals to the 4Real Service.

**Case Study – Work in Prisons**

Prisoner X was serving a 12 month prison sentence for threatening and violent behaviour.

Prisoner X referred himself onto the alcohol program as a result of advice he received having undertaken the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT). This screening tool identified his hazardous and harmful patterns of alcohol consumption.

He joined the programme and never missed a session. He spoke openly and honestly about his drinking and his behaviour. He opened up to the group; sharing the traumatic event in his life, his feelings, and regrets.

This was the first time he had been able to do this. He gained confidence from the group who listened without judging.

Prisoner X was due to be released prior to the eighth and final session of the programme.

He arrived at the final session and the group presumed that the court had refused his release.

Prisoner X explained that the court had granted his release date which fell one day before the end of the programme.

He stood up in court and asked if he could stay an extra day in prison.

The court, initially puzzled by this request, listened to how much he valued the program, the impact it had on his thinking and how it had helped him understand that this was his chance to change.

One week after his release, prisoner X and his family spoke with the Alcohol Education Programme project manager and described how he was progressing.

He had only had two drinks of alcohol since his release and felt extremely positive about the future. He explained how the programme, and the programme leader, had changed his life.

**Organised Crime**

<p>The Safe Durham Partnership has adopted a multi-agency approach to disrupting the activities of criminal gangs. We are continuing our work to stem opportunities for organised crime to take root, strengthen enforcement action and safeguard communities and businesses.</p>	<p>We are providing more effective coordination of activity at the local level by using a wider range of innovative disruptions.</p> <p>We also want to change public attitude towards Organised Crime (OC) and will guide a new approach to informing the public about how they can protect themselves and work with law enforcement to combat OC in their communities.</p>	<p>Our emphasis will be on making communities safer by intervening early.</p> <p>We can do this by preventing young people getting involved in crime in the first place; working with vulnerable families in areas that have the highest impact on services and providing support to offenders for the benefit of both the offender and our communities.</p>
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**Case Study**

<p>During 2011 a partnership team from Durham Constabulary, Durham County Council's Trading Standards, Officers from the Regional Enforcement Unit, executed a warrant on a business premises suspected of hosting part of an organised crime group (OCG)</p> <p>The subject at the centre of the organised crime group was difficult to monitor and the location of the premises made surveillance difficult to carry out. The majority of business transactions were made over the internet and finalised at different locations across the country.</p> <p>Partnership Officers linked an online transaction to a physical item and suspected a case of fraud. This link enabled the officers to apply to Magistrates for a warrant.</p>	<p>The warrant provided Trading Standards the powers to enter the premises and the search resulted in goods and documents being seized. Police also arrested a suspect as a result of the search.</p> <p>Forensic specialists also recovered information from a computer and mobile phone which led to further suspected offences.</p> <p>Following the operation partners are pursuing this case using legislation under Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Any breach would result in a criminal conviction. A civil injunction under the Enterprise Act 2002 is also being considered to address how the business is conducted in the future.</p>	<p>Trading Standards made particular use of the National Anti-fraud Network (national Local Authority portal to intelligence) and are still in the process of following up more leads and are building a strong case against the suspect.</p> <p>The Partnership Disruption Panel was the central point through which intelligence was discussed prior to the execution of the warrant. It has fulfilled its purpose in this case and is ready to bring a new organised crime group onto the list of those it will target.</p>
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**High Impact Households**

A High Impact Household is one which has a disproportionate impact on partner agencies as either perpetrators or victims of crime or anti-social behaviour.

They tend to experience complex health, social, economic and behavioural problems which pass from generation to generation despite extensive and prolonged interventions from a range of agencies’.

Work has been initiated under the ‘Think Family’ Strategic Group to agree criteria to identify High Impact Households in County Durham. Support is being provided by Northumbria University and the Institute of Local Governance.

The aim will be to deliver a toolkit of early and effective intervention, which comprises a range of proven and successful working practices. It will also require a change in the way services commit resources and work together.

In County Durham, High Impact Households will be a part of the Governments ‘Troubled Families’ programme which will be taken forward locally by the ‘Think Family’ approach.

Think Family in County Durham will make sure the right families are getting the right type of help, that sanctions are in place when needed and that positive results are achieved.

The aim will be to:

- Get children back into school
- Reduce crime
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Help parents on the road back to work
- Reduce the costs to the taxpayer and local authorities

**Case Study – High Impact Households**

Family ‘K’ have been involved in a number of incidents reported to the Police, Council and other partner agencies. A range of incidents have taken place over a considerable time; affecting the family and members of the community. The family has complex problems; impacting on their own, and their community, wellbeing.

A range of partner organisations are involved in dealing with the issues identified and have agreed to prepare a single plan of action to help the family address their behaviour.

The mother and father of Family ‘K’ were notified in writing that their family had been designated a High Impact Household.

Both parents confirmed their willingness to participate and allowed agencies to share information to aid the process.

Professionals made clear that the partnership was committed to helping the family address their issues. They outlined the level of support they could expect and the consequences of failing to properly engage with the process.

A multi-agency group developed an action plan of time-limited interventions around family ‘K’ who have set individual personal goals.

Both parents have agreed to stop their offending behaviour and build positive relationships with their children.

Their children have also agreed to cease offending and build positive relationships with their parents and each other.

The children have agreed to attend school, commit positively to education and attainment and manage aggressive behaviour.

Agencies are now working with the family to achieve their goals and identify outcomes that will benefit the family and the community; reducing the need for agencies to become as heavily involved in the future.

**High Impact Localities**

Problem profiles were carried out for the 12 areas of the County that have the highest impact on services and suffer most from crime and disorder.

Partners have come together at both the local and strategic level to consider the most appropriate responses and develop action plans specific to each individual area.

We have provided communities greater opportunity to engage and to be involved in delivering solutions.

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators are getting active and communities are working together to build strong and cohesive relationships between young and old.

Support has also come from our Area Action Partnerships, Councillors and Housing Associations.

We are now delivering a number of projects across the 12 areas.

**Case Studies – High Impact Localities**

A six month Community Alcohol Partnership pilot has been carried out in **Stanley**. The aim was to unite local partners and stakeholders with the retail trade to tackle the high volume of under-age drinking.

The ASDA Safe Stores Partnership in **Peterlee Town** was put in place to address issues of crime and anti-social behaviour linked to the store. This partnership has seen a 33% reduction in ASB and a 59% reduction in theft.

The award winning Youth/Intergenerational Café in **Horden** is designed to bring older residents and young people together and is aimed at reducing reports of anti-social behaviour. It has attracted additional funding and now runs sessions on a Monday evening.

A new Good Landlord, Good Neighbour Agreement in Horden sets some basic standards that everyone can expect from residents, landlords and letting agents.

The Agreement was developed with input from residents. It can only be enforced by residents, landlords and letting agents working with each other to ensure any problems caused by bad behaviour of any party is highlighted and resolved.

In Jan 2012 a project designed to focus on void properties and environmental issues was launched in **Coundon Grange**.

The Area Action Partnership, Durham County Council, the Private Landlords Association and Housing Associations have funded work to fit void alarms to properties, along with polycarbonate window and door shields.

Tenants in the area have also benefited from a multi-agency drive to smart-water their valuables. Initial feedback from residents about the project has been very positive.

More people are joining Neighbourhood Watch and three new Area Associations have been created. Coordinators have accessed funding to refer 61 vulnerable and elderly residents for dusk-till-dawn lighting.

Area Action Partnership funding has been secured for Taxi Marshals in **Bishop Auckland Town Centre** to help people make their way home safely.

In addition it has funded two youth outreach workers who have joined with the 4Real service to provide support and diversion for young people vulnerable to alcohol harm. Young people are also being sign-posted to positive activities.