

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Scrutiny Committee**

Safe Durham Partnership Update

20 June 2014



Safe Durham Partnership

Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on the key issues discussed at the May 2014 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board. Key issues such as Performance are covered under the main agenda.

Domestic Homicide Reviews

2. Following on from the publication of Domestic Homicide Review reports by the Safe Durham Partnership, a 'Lessons Learnt' workshop will be held in September 2014. This workshop will be targeted at practitioners and supervisors in key agencies. A number of common themes have emerged from the reviews and the workshop will focus on a number of these including information sharing, the relationship between domestic abuse, mental health and alcohol misuse, referral pathways and training.

Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17

3. Members of the Safe Durham Partnership Board approved the finalised version of the Plan, which has previously been to Overview & Scrutiny as part of the consultation process. Additional information was requested in relation to Mental Health and the links with the Gypsy, Roma Travellers Strategy and Action Plan.
4. The Plan demonstrates how the Partnership will deliver on the strategic objectives, which are:
 - a. Reduce anti-social behaviour
 - b. Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - c. Reduce re-offending
 - d. Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
 - e. Embedding the Think Family approach
 - f. Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism
 - g. Road casualty reduction.
5. Thematic groups are also in the process of developing their action plans and a Safe Durham Partnership Plan Delivery Plan is also in development and will be presented to the Safe Durham Partnership Board in July. The Plan will be presented to Full Council in September.

Welfare Reform

6. The Safe Durham Partnership tracks crime indicators and has requested analysis in terms of the possible impacts of Welfare Reform on crime and offending behaviour. The Institute for Local Governance (ILG) has produced a report which attempts to assess this impact; this work continues and Durham Constabulary is supplying data and intelligence to support this process.
7. County Durham saw an increase of police recorded crime of 9.7% in 2013/14. The types of crime showing an increase were largely in two areas. That of 'stealing offences' and violent crime, including sexual offences. The latter has been driven in part by victims of historical sexual and violent offences having the courage to come forward and being encouraged to do so as part of ongoing historical investigations.
8. In relation to stealing, the pattern of behaviour has not be seen in dwelling burglary but has been seen in other offences such as shoplifting, theft other and burglary other. The type of items stolen, where this is known, has been fuel, cash, garden equipment and tools, and food and alcohol from shops.
9. The Safe Durham Partnership Board is awaiting additional work to be undertaken by the ILG before conclusions about the impact of Welfare Reform on crime levels are drawn.

Community Safety Fund

10. The Police and Crime Commissioner has approved the spend of the Community Safety Fund for 2013/14, based on the provision of evidence that key outcomes of the funded projects have been achieved.
11. Funding plans for 2014/15 have been approved and the Safe Durham Partnership has agreed to fund the following projects in support of the strategic objectives in both the Partnership Plan and the priorities within the Police and Crime Plan:
 - a. Anti-Social Behaviour Officers
 - b. 4Real Service (Children and Young People's Substance Misuse Service)
 - c. Reducing Re-Offending Manager
 - d. Mentoring for Prolific and Priority Offenders
 - e. County Durham Youth Offending Service fully integrated pre-court system (out of court disposals)
 - f. County Durham Positive Futures Programme
 - g. County Durham Drug Intervention Programme.

Reducing Re-Offending Strategy 2014-17

12. The Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17 was approved by the Safe Durham Partnership Board. It sets out the Safe Durham Partnership's approach to reducing re-offending in County Durham. The strategic objectives are;

- **Prevent inter-generational offending**
- **Prevent repeat offending**

13. The strategy outlines our overall aspirations to reduce re-offending. For adult offenders it is necessary to continue our approach to prioritise the effective management of the most difficult, chaotic and persistent offenders. We will expand our integrated offender management principles to a wider cohort and for those young people who offend we will continue to reduce the number of children and young people entering the criminal justice system.

14. The strategy and delivery plan will be delivered and monitored by the Reducing Re-offending Thematic Group. The Strategy will be reviewed on a yearly basis in the context of major national developments for example; the Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' proposals and implementation reforming the delivery of adult offender services.

Reducing Re-Offending Manager

15. Due to Durham Tees Valley Probation Trust internal reorganisation caused by Transforming Rehabilitation, the post-holder for the Reducing Re-Offending Manager will change from the current Probation Manager, Helen Raine. The Safe Durham Partnership board have agreed the appointment of a police lead as the Reducing Re-offending Manager for the remaining financial year to oversee the Integrated Offender Management transition phase of the Transforming Rehabilitation agenda.

Transforming Rehabilitation

16. The Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme of Probation reforms sets out proposals for reforming the delivery of offender services. The Government have split probation services into two new organisations:

- A new public sector National Probation Service (NPS) dealing with all those who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public.
- Twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) managing all other offenders.

17. The Transforming Rehabilitation Task and Finish Group was established on 23 January 2014 to provide strategic level co-ordination of Safe Durham Partnership issues leading up to and during the transition of Probation services across County Durham.

18. The group have now identified representatives from NPS and CRC who will support statutory and non-statutory partnership arrangements in County Durham. Both the NPS and the CRC will be responsible authorities on the Safe Durham Partnership Board. These arrangements are to be in place from June 2014.
19. The migration of Probation ITC systems splitting into separate NPS and CRC systems with operations went live over the weekend of 1 June. Contingency plans covering Thursday 28 May through to the morning of Tuesday 3 June for both NPS and CRC were put in place and the task and finish group agreed local arrangements and circulated various points of contact for this period.

Howard League Community Programmes Award 2014

20. The Safe Durham Partnership has submitted an entry to the Howard League Community Programmes Award for our approach to Integrated Restorative Practices. Our submission has been successfully short-listed in the Restorative Justice category and the awards will be presented at the national conference by HRH Princess Royal on Tuesday 15th July.
21. As a shortlisted project representatives from the Safe Durham Partnership have been invited to attend the conference to exhibit the work. This provides an excellent opportunity to promote the work of the Safe Durham Partnership with high profile guests, policy makers, academics and practitioners. As a shortlisted project our approach to Restorative Justice will also be advertised on the Howard League website.

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – Information within this report relates to reducing crime and disorder and contributes to the Altogether Safer element of the Council Plan.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None