

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

16 September 2014



Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on the key issues discussed at the July 2014 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board.

Domestic Homicide Review Workshop

2. It was agreed at the SDP meeting in May that there was a need to ensure that lessons learned through the Domestic Homicide review process were understood within partners organisations. A similar exercise was undertaken for the first DHR the partnership investigated and this proved to be a valuable experience for partner organisations. This workshop approach, with engagement and practical exercises was well received by practitioners. To progress the learning a larger scale symposium engaging with practitioners and supervisors is being developed. This will incorporate lessons learned from recent DHRs which have taken place in Durham.
3. The Embedding the Lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews event will take place on 23 September 2014 at the Durham Centre, Belmont. The membership of the SDP and Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group (DAFEG) have been invited and asked to cascade the information to appropriate people in their organisations. Other organisations and services involved in the community safety agenda in Durham have also been invited to the event, including members of the SSC Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. The event covers 3 main topic areas:
 - Information sharing and communication
 - Impact of drugs, alcohol and mental health - toxic trio
 - Training and practice improvement

Domestic Abuse Referral Pathways

5. Currently within County Durham there are a number of options available for victims seeking support for domestic abuse. A previous domestic homicide review and a serious incident demonstrated that there needed to be a clear pathway for a victim on how a referral is recorded and actioned across agencies. Nationally this issue has been supported by inclusion in the recently published Home Office report which provides an overview of lessons learned in terms of Domestic Homicide Reviews. In response to these findings the SDP requested a review of the processes within County Durham.
6. In early 2014 a review of domestic abuse referral pathways was undertaken in County Durham. The Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) requested a simple referral pathway for disclosures of domestic abuse to ensure frontline practitioners could make appropriate referrals.
7. The review found that public information exists online on Durham County Council's suite of webpages developed in relation to Domestic Abuse. Access to information is also available through posters and leaflets which are distributed using marketing and communication networks across the County for individuals wishing to self-refer to domestic abuse services. The route for this is clearly identified as contacting the specialist domestic abuse service commissioned by Durham County Council, Harbour Support Services. Contact information for the specialist service is displayed on all marketing and communications materials that is produced and distributed and it is also included on DCC domestic abuse web pages.
8. The task and finish group has completed work on a referral pathway and it is anticipated that the roll out of a simple process will enable more agencies to identify cases of domestic abuse and make appropriate referrals into the MARAC and other support services. The referral pathway in diagrammatic form will be available on line, where possible links to websites and supporting referral forms will be included. Supporting guidance, based on the model, will also be available alongside a directory of support services for domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway will be one of the workshops at the Embedding Lessons Learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews conference in September.

County Durham Drugs Strategy 2014-17

9. The draft Drugs Strategy 2014-17 was presented to the Safe Durham Partnership Board as part of the consultation process. The aim of the Strategy is *to prevent harm, restrict supply and sustain a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact on communities and families*. This is the first countywide strategy for drugs harm reduction. The final strategy will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for agreement in November 2014.

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will also be involved in the consultation process.

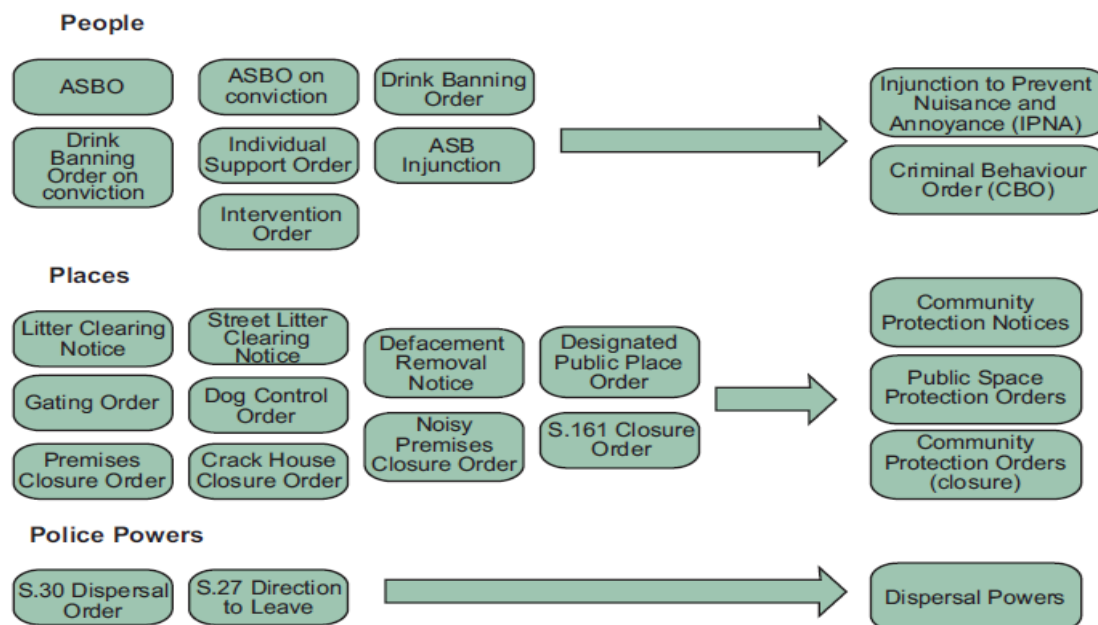
Youth Justice Plan

10. It is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement a statutory annual youth justice plan setting out:
- How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded
 - How the YOS will be composed and funded, how it will operate, and what functions it will carry out.
11. The plan highlights key achievements for 2013/14; key priorities; the service improvement plan for 2014/15; and the partnership pooled budget. The Plan was signed off by Full Council in July.
12. Key Achievements include:
- Improving performance in two of the three national outcome measures (First Time Entrants and Re-offending) and maintaining the previous year's good performance in the third (Use of Custody)
 - The integrated pre/out of court structures which have resulted in 81.4% reduction in first time entrants (from 1129 in 2007/8 to 210 in 2013/14)
 - Reducing re-offending by 13.1% (binary rate) and 15.6% (frequency rate). (Source: PNC data; MoJ, March 2014)
 - Reducing all offences committed by young people by 47.6% (2010/11 - 2013/14)
 - Reducing the number of young people offending by 50.5% (2010/11 - 2013/14)
 - Increasing victim participation in CDYOS' work with young people: 62.4% in 2013/14 compared to 51.8% in 2012/13
 - A child centred approach - where safeguarding of young people is a priority alongside preventing re-offending
 - Delivering work in the communities where young people and families live
 - Allocating over 5,000 hours of court ordered reparation in 2013/14.

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

13. Parts 1 to 6 of the Act introduce simpler, more effective powers for tackling anti-social behaviour, which provide better protection for victims and communities, act as a real deterrent to perpetrators and give victims a say in the way their complaints are dealt with.
14. The provisions in Parts 1 to 4 replace the existing 19 powers to deal with anti-social behaviour with six faster, more effective ones. In addition new tools and powers are being introduced which are detailed below.

Rationalisation of ASB tools



15. Injunctions to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance (IPNAs) replace a series of existing powers including Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). The Government will allow a wide range of agencies to make applications on behalf of others, such as the Police (including the British Transport Police), local authorities, and registered social landlords.
16. Community Protection Notices (CPN) can be used to tackle any behaviour that has a detrimental effect on the quality of life in a community and which is persistent and unreasonable. They will be more flexible than the orders they replace. The new powers can be used by local authorities, police, registered housing providers and can be used by non-specialists.
17. The 'Community Trigger' can be invoked if a victim/community/business feels that agencies have not taken adequate action regarding an ASB incident and the problem persists. One or more of the partners within the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) could be required to take steps to resolve the problem, and reply to the complainants within a set period, explaining what it proposed to do. The reply would be copied to the Police and Crime Commissioner who would have the power to call in the CSP if it was considered that the proposed response was inadequate.
18. The Act includes a clause on the Community Remedy which aims to make the process for dealing with low level crime and anti-social behaviour out of court transparent to victims and the public, with fair and meaningful punishments. The Government proposal will introduce legislation to allow Police and Crime Commissioners to give victims of low level crime and anti-social behaviour a say in the punishment of the offender. What is on the Community Remedy menu in a particular area will depend on the views of victims and the public.
19. The Anti-social Behaviour thematic delivery group of the Safe Durham Partnership have been planning towards the implementation of these new

powers. A Scoping Day was held in January 2014 with a range of partners to look at the challenges and opportunities of the ASB, Crime and Policing Act, following which six working groups were formed to implement a plan of actions in preparation for when the new ASB tools and powers come into force. These groups comprise a number of agencies, including social housing providers.

20. Further information on the impact of the legislative changes will be reported at the next Scrutiny meeting including:
- a. Training of practitioners in the new tools and powers
 - b. Policies and procedures that will need reviewing and updating
 - c. The implementation of the new powers, including Injunctions to Prevent Nuisance and Annoyance, Community Protection Notices, the Community Trigger and the Community Remedy.

Multi-Agency Intervention Service (MAIS)

21. An update on the implementation of the MAIS project was provided to the Safe Durham Partnership Board. The implementation date will be the end of January 2015.

22. The pilot in East Durham is underway and has included feeding live cases into the FIRsT ICT system, testing the system, data checking and intelligence gathering. These areas have been monitored and evaluated as the pilot progresses, minor amendments have been made to both the system and the process. There are 32 cases now being managed through the new process, and 15 cases where there are children involved have been passed on to First Contact.

23. MAI Guidance to support use of the system is in place and has continued to be updated as the pilot progresses. A directory of Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within all services involved is also in place and this is being amended as cases occur and the process within agencies is tested.

24. A further report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny in September regarding the role of members in the MAI process.

Transformation Challenge Award Bids

25. Two bids have been submitted to the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) in relation to Community Safety; both have progressed to the full submission stage.

26. County Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service are leading a 'Safer Homes' bid. The bid is for £500,000 and, if successful, will be used to recruit more Police vetted Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers and broaden their scope to include fire safety advice and support. Volunteers will also have the opportunity to befriend those in isolation or those with dementia; helping them access activity in their community and become a point of contact in an emergency. Our volunteers, frontline professionals and services will be able to

refer our most at risk residents for specialist safety and security equipment; much of which will be transferable from one home to the next meaning we can continue to sustain our project. The project group are in the early stages of negotiation with Housing Authorities to seek additional opportunities for providing sustained home safety and security for those presenting the highest risk. The bid is currently being considered by Ministers.

27. An offender 'checkpoint' bid based on tackling the root causes of this low level offending and diverting away from the Criminal Justice System has been developed jointly, with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner identified as lead. Currently, cautions, arrest, court, and short term prison sentences do not provide the adult offender with access to support functions to address their offending behaviour. Most are leaving custody with little or no consideration of the causes of their offending or its management.
28. The proposal is to provide a credible alternative to custody by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need for arrested adults. Adults arrested will be offered a 'contract to engage', in most cases withholding prosecution if the client meets objectives of an agreed plan of interventions and support to address the underlying causes of their offending. The client would be supported by 'navigators' (mentors) who will work with them to complete the contract, received access to support services, develop resilience and behaviour change.
29. The proposal is to work with 1000 low level offenders in the first year and 2000 by the second year. The bid is for £400,000 and will be used to commission 'navigators' services; transforming custody suites including I.T. changes to the custody system to incorporate 'Critical Pathways' and to adapt partner services to incorporate 'Critical Pathways' such as Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol services, Social Care, Housing services etc. The deadline for submission of the full bid is 1st October 2014. Partners will receive notification as to whether the bid is successful in December.

Care Act 2014 – Duty to provide social care in Prisons

30. The Care Act 2014 outlines several changes in legislation relating to prisoners, which are to be implemented from April 2015. These include:
 - Local Authorities (LAs) will have responsibility for assessment, care planning, and social care service provision to prisoners in approved premises who meet eligibility thresholds for prisons within their LA boundary.
 - Social care services for prisoners will be subject to means testing as those are for people in the community.
 - Continuity of care should be ensured during transfer between prisons and on release.

A project management approach has been developed to implement the provisions in the Care Act in Durham County Council.

Howard League Community Programmes Award 2014

31. The Safe Durham Partnership submitted an entry to the Howard League Community Programmes Award for our approach to Integrated Restorative Practices. The partnership was awarded runner-up in the Restorative Justice category at the national award ceremony on 15th July.

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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 – The briefing provides information relating to the Care Act for social care provided in prisons.