

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

6 January 2015



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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues from the November Safe Durham Partnership Board.

Safeguarding Adults Annual Report 2013/14

2. The Safeguarding Adults Annual Report was presented to provide information about the current position of the County Durham Safeguarding Adults Board and what was achieved during the year 2013/14.
3. Key achievements include:
 - a. Safeguarding referrals have remained stable at around the 2200 level for the last three years. This is a sizable increase from the 726 referrals that were received in 2008/09 and testament to the awareness raising and training provided by the Board.
 - b. Attendance at SAB training events has exceeded the 5000 mark for the third successive year and university accredited training has been delivered to the first cohort of assistant social workers.
 - c. The User Survey has been redesigned to bring it into line with the DH safeguarding principles identified above. General satisfaction levels of those receiving a safeguarding investigation are around 75% with respondents feeling safer, listened to and pleased with the outcome of the safeguarding investigative process.

Cyber Crime

4. An emerging issue identified in the Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment was the threat from cyber-crime. Analysis has shown that the highest reported category in Durham Constabulary force area was fraud accounting for 35% of total cybercrimes and these include dating scams, goods and services not received. This was followed by violence against the person offences, typically harassment committed by ex-partners who had breached orders, accounting for 20%. Cybercrimes of a sexual nature accounted for 15% and these included self-generated images and inciting child to engage in sexual conversation. In response to this emerging area of risk, a multi-agency strategy to tackle cyber-crime will be developed.

Communications and Marketing Plan

5. As part of the Governance Review, marketing and communications leads from Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, Durham and Darlington Fire & Rescue Service and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner met to review and develop a refreshed Media Protocol and Communications Strategy. Both documents were presented and signed off at the September 2014 Safe Durham Partnership Board.
6. A joint marketing and communications plan up to the end of March 2015 was agreed which included new campaigns and activities related to community safety, for example the “sorry is not enough” campaign, launched on 4th December to raise awareness of domestic abuse over the festive period, drink driving campaign and “Dry January” campaign. Better use of social media will be explored when carrying out marketing and communications activities.

Funding

7. Funding plans for 2015/16 have been agreed in relation to the Community Safety Fund provided to the Safe Durham Partnership by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Agreed projects that support the priorities of the Police and Crime Commissioner that are to be funded include:
 - a) Durham County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officers;
 - b) A contribution to the Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service;
 - c) Adult Offender Mentor post (one of four in the Integrated Offender Management Unit)
 - d) Fully integrated pre-court / out of court system for the Youth Offending Service
 - e) Positive Futures programme managed by the Youth Offending Service

Integrated Restorative Practice

8. As part of the Ministry of Justice’s commitment to Restorative Justice, Police and Crime Commissioners are receiving £6.25million of funding in 2014-15 to build capacity and commission Restorative Justice provision, as part of their wider victims’ service grant. Local funding allocated to the PCC for Durham is £68,000 in 2014/15 and £140,000 in 2015/16.
9. The Durham PCC has called together partners from across Durham and Darlington to map existing Restorative Justice work and develop funding proposals. Gill Eshelby, as the strategic lead for Restorative Practice, attends on behalf of the Safe Durham Partnership. It is the PCC’s intention to appoint two RJ Coordinators, one for Durham and one for Darlington. The posts will be until March 2016 with regular review and monitoring of the role during this period.

Transforming Rehabilitation

10. The Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme has resulted in the split of probation services. A new public sector National Probation Service is dealing with offenders who pose the highest risk of serious harm to the public. Twenty one regional private sector Community Rehabilitation Companies will manage all other offenders.
11. A Transforming Rehabilitation Task and Finish Group is in place and members have been working to mitigate risks and issues that include; the speed of change for planned reforms; partnership working arrangements for statutory and non-statutory responsibilities; management of Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) contract post award and timely agency access to offenders in resettlement prisons.
12. The 'Preferred Bidder' status for the Community Rehabilitation Company for the Durham Tees Valley area has been won by ARCC (Achieving Real Change in Communities) Community Interest Company. The preferred bidder status means that ARCC are now the only supplier with whom MoJ is in talks to arrange the Community Rehabilitation Company contract within Durham Tees Valley. Once the preferred bidder stage has concluded, the final offer will be presented and the contract awarded.
13. ARCC is a consortium of agencies from the public, private and third sectors:
 - Changing Lives in Durham Tees Valley CIC (Community Interest Company)
 - Thirteen (Registered Social Landlord)
 - The Wise Group, (Social Enterprise)
 - Safe in Tees Valley, (Charity)
 - The Vardy Foundation (Charity)
 - Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
 - Stockton Borough Council
 - Darlington Borough Council
14. The contract was signed on 18th December 2014 and after this point the operating model, staffing and financial details of the contract submission will be made available to the ARCC and subsequently to the members of the Transforming Rehabilitation Task & Finish Group. The group are currently awaiting contact details for the Contract Management Team from the Ministry of Justice who will join the group. All risks and issues will be reviewed by the Group once the details of the contract are known.

Domestic Abuse Referral Pathways

15. 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.

16. A referral pathway has been developed and rolled out. The development 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 is in diagrammatic form and is online, with links to websites and supporting referral forms. Supporting guidance, based on the model, is also available alongside a directory of support services for domestic abuse. See www.sorrysnotenough.co.uk for the details.

Recommendations and reasons

17. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report.

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Appendix 1 – Implications

Finance – The Safe Durham Partnership agreed funding proposals in relation to the Community Safety Fund provided to the Safe Durham Partnership by the Police and Crime Commissioner

Staffing – N/A

Risk – N/A

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – N/A

Accommodation – N/A

Crime and Disorder – The Safe Durham Partnership update provides an overview of reports and discussions from the Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Human Rights – N/A

Consultation – N/A

Procurement – N/A

Disability Issues – N/A

Legal Implications – N/A