

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



**Refresh of the Safe Durham
Partnership Plan 2015/18**

Safe Durham Partnership

6 January 2015

**Report of Rachael Shimmin, Corporate Director Children and
Adults Services, Durham County Council**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of an overview presentation on the draft refresh of the Partnership Plan 2015-18.

Background

2. The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that Durham County Council, along with the other responsible authorities (Durham Constabulary, Clinical Commissioning Groups, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, National Probation Service and the Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company) develop and implement a Partnership Plan.
3. The regulations also require that an annual Strategic Assessment is completed which informs the development of the new Plan every three years and its annual refresh. The Strategic Assessment is an intelligence document which includes an analysis of crime and disorder levels, recommended strategic priorities, results of public consultation and an assessment of the extent to which the Partnership Plan for the previous year has been implemented.
4. Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 require local authorities to have a committee to scrutinise the way in which persons and bodies responsible for tackling crime and disorder discharge their functions. The Council's constitution specifies that the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the crime and disorder committee for purposes of this legislation. Within this context, the Committee were actively engaged and commented on the 2013 Strategic Assessment in December 2013 and development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17 at its meetings in February and April 2014.
5. A report was presented to SSC Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 28th October 2014 which outlined the Objectives and Outcomes Framework in the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and the process for refreshing the Plan for 2015/18.

Current Position

6. The 2014 Strategic Assessment recommended no change to the existing strategic objectives, which remain aligned to the objectives within the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan. Each objective is managed by a multi-agency thematic group.
7. The refresh of the Partnership Plan 2015/18 describes the progress and achievements of the Safe Durham Partnership over the lifetime of the 2011/14 Partnership Plan and updates on progress in 2014/15. It describes how it will deliver sustainable improvements by working in partnership. The Plan describes why each objective has been prioritised, the key challenges to meeting each objective, an understanding of how the objectives will be delivered and how we will know if we have been successful.

Objectives and Outcomes

8. The strategic objectives were reaffirmed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board in September 2014. A consultation process with partners, Area Action Partnerships and Overview and Scrutiny is taking place between November 2014 and January 2015 which may change or add to the associated outcomes which are contained within the draft refresh of the Partnership Plan 2015/18.
9. The current strategic objectives and outcomes for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18 are shown below:
 - **Reduce anti-social behaviour**
 - i. Increase public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to communities
 - ii. Reduce anti-social behaviour, low level crime and secondary deliberate fires
 - iii. Create high quality, clean, green, attractive, accessible environment
 - **Protecting Vulnerable People from Harm**
 - i. Provide protection and support to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children, whilst working towards preventing its occurrence within County Durham
 - ii. Tackle sexual violence and the negative impact it has on individuals and families.
 - iii. Reduce the impact of Hate Crime
 - **Reducing Re-offending**
 - i. Prevent inter-generational offending
 - ii. Prevent repeat offending

- **Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction**
 - i. Reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities.
 - ii. Reduce the harm caused by drugs/substances through preventing harm, restricting supply and building recovery.
- **Embed the Think Family Approach**
 - i. Embed 'Think Family' and 'Stronger Families' into offender and victim services as part of the prevention and early help approach
- **Counter Terrorism and prevention of violent extremism**
 - i. Implement 'CONTEST' (national strategy)
 - ii. Challenge extremism and intolerance
- **Road Casualty Reduction**
 - i. Improve education and raise awareness
 - ii. Improve health and wellbeing of communities through road casualty reduction
 - iii. Develop a safer road environment

10. The outcomes that support the strategic objective 'Protect Vulnerable People from Harm' are likely to change following the changes to the Domestic Abuse Forum Executive Group in respect of taking on strategic responsibility for Sexual Violence. A draft joint delivery plan has been developed and will be presented for agreement at the development session of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group in January 2015. This includes new outcomes which may be subject to change following the development session. The Partnership Plan will then be amended accordingly.

11. Current outcomes are:

- Provide protection and support to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children - whilst working towards preventing its occurrence within County Durham;
- Tackle sexual violence and the negative impact it has on individuals and families; and
- Reduce the impact of hate crime.

12. The outcome in relation to hate crime remains unchanged, however, the other outcomes are likely to change to:

- Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm.
- Ensure that all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have the access to the right help and support throughout the criminal justice process and that services are available to address their needs.
- Improve the criminal justice response to tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Strategic Actions

13. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan includes a number of Strategic Actions that identify the key areas of work which the SDP Board will focus on, linked to objectives and outcomes.
14. The number of strategic actions has reduced slightly from 77 to 76 with some actions completed and some replaced to align with new and/or developing strategies and action plans, i.e. the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Action Plan.

Recommendations and reasons

15. Members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

Note the content of the report and receive a presentation to engage the Committee in the development of the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18; in particular to provide comments on the outcomes underpinning the strategic objectives.

Background papers

None.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance

Action Plans are in place to support the delivery of the Partnership Plan. The Police and Crime Commissioner has allocated funding to support the delivery of those action plans.

Staffing

The Plan will be implemented using existing resources. Durham County Council will contribute to the delivery of the plan in partnership with other responsible authorities.

Risk

No adverse implications.

Equality and Diversity/ Public Sector Equality Duty

An impact assessment in relation to Equality and Diversity implications will be undertaken as part of the development of the Partnership Plan.

Accommodation

No adverse implications.

Crime and disorder

The Partnership Plan outlines the Safe Durham Partnership priorities for tackling crime and disorder in County Durham.

Human rights

No adverse implications.

Consultation

Consultation with the community through Area Action Partnerships, Police and Communities Together (PACT), Safe and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee and stakeholders has been undertaken as part of the Strategic Assessment/Safe Durham Partnership Plan development process.

Procurement

No adverse implications.

Disability Issues

No direct adverse implications. An impact assessment will be undertaken on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Legal Implications

The Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 require that Durham County Council, along with the other responsible authorities, develop and implement a Partnership Plan.