

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

16 February 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 January Safe Durham Partnership Board.

Cyber Crime

2. 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%.
3. The Safe Durham Partnership are currently reviewing the implications of cyber-crime for the Partnership, and a baseline audit / health check will be undertaken by the Police with partner organisations.

Integrated Restorative Practice

4. The Safe Durham Partnership was awarded a National Howard League Community Award in July 2014 for their restorative practice work (runner-up in the Restorative Justice category). The award recognises the continued work in County Durham to embed the use of restorative practice into the everyday work of all partner agencies and diverting people from the criminal justice system.
5. A snapshot of the performance recorded by partners is presented below. Our Integrated Restorative Practice has worked with **over 7,000 people** (adults and young people) over the last 12 months.

County Durham Youth Offending Service (CDYOS)

- Face-to-face victim/young person (offender) restorative conferences: **over 80 conferences (at least 160 people)**.
- Reparation hours (work delivered by young people (offenders) either to the community in general or to victims directly): **over 4,000 hours**.
- Referral Panel meetings (a panel made up of community volunteers and a CDYOS staff member meets with the victim, young person (offender) and their parent/carer to agree a contract of intervention): **over 500 panel meetings (500 young people, 250 victims/proxy victims)**.
- Restorative interventions with young people (all young people under the supervision of CDYOS – all sentenced young people and all young people receiving an Out-of-Court Disposal – will undertake some form of restorative intervention as requested by the victim eg letter of apology/explanation to the victim, being made aware of consequences for victims, contact between victim and young person, but not face-to-face): **over 700 young people**.

Durham Constabulary (figures from January to December, 2014)

- **2141** restorative justice interventions were used as the primary disposal.
- An additional **581** restorative justice interventions were used alongside other formal police disposals.
- This gives a total figure of **2722** restorative justice interventions (**at least 5,444 people**) over a twelve month period.

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

- IOM and HMP Durham have held over **43 conferences** with 23 conferences held in a prison setting (**86 people**).

Neighbourhoods

- **35 referrals** have been received with **19** leading to a restorative conference (**at least 38 people**).

Children and Families (Residential Services and Looked After Children Services)

- Police call outs have **reduced by 50%** and this has negated the need for police investigations and the take up of court time.
- **4** restorative conferences (**8 young people**).

Emotional Wellbeing & Effective Learning Team (EWEL)

- Training undertaken with **13 schools** (within the primary, secondary and special sectors), this has included a total of **137 staff**.
- **8 schools (32 staff)** have sent staff on the rolling programme of 3 day practitioner training.
- **3 schools (42 staff)** have taken part in a pilot project of offering practitioner training to whole school staff through a more flexible training programme to fit school timetables (equivalent to the 21 hours required by the Restorative Justice Council).

- **2 further schools (63 staff)** working with pupils following exclusion from a mainstream setting have been provided with training and support to embed RA practices.

Counter Terrorism and Security Bill 2015

6. The Safe Durham Partnership received an update in relation to Counter Terrorism including events surrounding the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (the region incorporating Jordan, Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Cyprus and part of southern Turkey) have led to the UK Government raising the UK Threat Level to Severe. The terrorist organisation is also referred to as IS (Islamic State) and ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).
7. In response to the growing threat the Government presented the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill to Parliament in its first reading on 26 November 2014. The Bill was not preceded by a White Paper or a Draft Bill and was not part of a consultation. The Bill has passed through the House of Commons and had its second reading in the House of Lords on 13 January 2015. It began its House of Lords Committee stage on 20th January.
8. The Bill places a general duty on each specified authority who must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Specified Authorities are:
 - Local Authorities
 - Police
 - Prisons
 - Probation
 - Education, Further Education & Higher Education
 - NHS Trusts/Foundation Trusts
 - Clinical Commissioning Groups
9. Each specified authority will be expected to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the risk of radicalisation in their area, institution or body. No area will be deemed as risk free.
10. Section 28-30 of the Bill make provisions for Local Authorities to be the 'Responsible Local Authority' required to put in place, chair and manage a multi-agency group that will receive referrals of those who are suspected of being vulnerable to radicalisation. This will occur within, what is referred to, as a pre-criminal space. This responsibility has existed for some time within priority funded areas and is called 'Channel'.
11. A more detailed update on the Bill and other issues in relation to prevention of violent extremism will be presented to the March Committee.

Offender Checkpoint

12. The aim of 'Checkpoint' is to extend the integrated offender management principles to a wider lower level adult cohort by transforming the way offenders are dealt with through police custody suites and divert them from prosecution. Currently, cautions, arrests, attendance at court etc. do not provide the adult offender with access to support functions to address their offending behaviour. Most are leaving police custody with little or no consideration of the causes of their offending or its management.
13. Many adult offenders when arrested could be at crisis point, feeling unable to find a way out, as they are often without coping mechanisms or support networks. It is Partnership's intention that the client would be supported by 'navigators' (funding required) who will work with them to complete the contract, received access to support services, develop resilience and behaviour change.
14. Checkpoint can provide a credible alternative by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need with the result that low and medium level adult offenders are diverted away from the Criminal Justice System, (or exit the Criminal Justice System at an earlier stage), while also addressing the underlying cause of their offending behaviour.
15. In July 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership bid for a DCLG Transformation Challenge Award however it was not successful.
16. The ideas for checkpoint have continued to develop, identifying and planning the required changes to ITC / Custody systems, consulting with partners and working with Cambridge University to develop the scope of the research and evaluation.
17. A Checkpoint bid has also been submitted to the Police Innovation Fund through the Home Office in January 2015. We are still awaiting the outcome of this bid.
18. At present Durham Constabulary are developing / reshaping their ITC systems in conjunction with Cambridge University to introduce a system to identify:
 - Appropriate crime types to be included in the project
 - Appropriate offenders for Checkpoint
 - Appropriate control sample
19. A partnership working group has been formed at a Service Manager level and has begun to map what existing services Checkpoint clients can be referred into, a 'Service Offer' based on the critical pathways: Accommodation; Drug and Alcohol Misuse; Financial Management and Income; Education, Training and Employability; Children and Families; Health; Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour.

20. The development of this project comes at a time for change in probation services through the Government's 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme and there is an opportunity to align strands of offender management work with Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company. In this regard a Multi-agency Checkpoint Project Board (at Head of Service / Strategic Management level) covering Durham and Darlington will be set up to steer development of the project, its operational plans, its initialisation phase and to provide continued strategic management overview. The Project Board is the responsible group for the Checkpoint Project and report directly to the Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Darlington Community Safety Board.

Recommendations and reasons

21. 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