

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



23 March 2015

Draft Council Plan 2015-2018- Refresh of the Work Programme

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with information contained within the draft Council Plan 2015-2018, relevant to the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This enables the opportunity for Members to refresh the Committee's Work Programme to reflect the 6 objectives and subsequent actions identified within the draft Council Plan for the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme.

Background

2. The current Overview and Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the Council Plan, Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions, Sustainable Community Strategy, Safe Durham Partnership plans and strategies, performance and budgetary control data and changes in Government legislation.
3. In relation to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members will recall that the Work Programme was refreshed at the Committee meeting held on the 20 June 2014, ensuring that areas of focus were in line with current and forthcoming priorities within the Committee's remit. Further areas of focus for the Committee have been added throughout 2014 to reflect changing Government policy and at the request of Members.

Council Plan 2015- 2018

4. The Council Plan is the overarching high level plan for the County Council, which covers a four year period, is updated on an annual basis and is to be agreed by a meeting of Council. The plan sets out how the Council will consider the corporate priorities for improvement and the key actions the Authority will take in delivering the long term goals in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council's own improvement agenda. Attached as Appendix 2, is the Altogether Safer section of the draft Council Plan for Members consideration.
5. A small number of proposed changes have been made to the objectives and outcomes from the previous year's Council Plan within the Altogether Safer priority theme. As suggested by the Committee at its meeting in January, Casualty Reduction is an objective and Counter Terrorism has been identified as an emerging issue within the Council Plan. In addition, minor wording changes have been made to some of the remaining objectives. The previous wording contained in the plan for last year is detailed below in parentheses for comparative purposes.

6. Within the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme, the focus is to work with partner organisations, as part of the Safe Durham Partnership, to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.
7. The Council supports the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in its strategic plan to deliver a day-to-day operational response to issues impacting on our neighbourhoods. The Council will work with partners to involve the community in tackling priorities, with the aim of creating a safer county and contributing to an Altogether Better Durham. Below are the relevant objectives and actions for the Altogether Safer priority theme:
 - **Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - S1 Increased public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour
 - S2 Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime
 - **Protect vulnerable people from harm**
 - S3 Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce the associated harm. (2014/17 wording: Provide protection and support to improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and their children)
 - S4 Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm
 - S5 Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response and recovery
 - **Reduce re-offending**
 - S6 Prevent repeat offending
 - **Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction**
 - S7 Reduced harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities
 - S8 Reduced harm caused by drugs/substances
 - **Casualty Reduction**
 - S9 Develop a safer road environment
 - **Embed the Think Family approach**
 - S10 The most vulnerable families are diverted from offending and anti-social behaviour
8. The draft Council Plan also identifies a series of actions detailing the work which needs to be undertaken by the Authority in order to deliver the above areas.
9. In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the council, the safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Committee is therefore responsible for scrutinising the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. At its meeting on 16th February, the Committee considered and responded to the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan. It is to note that with exception to 'Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, the priority objectives are aligned to the objectives within the Council Plan and include the following outcomes.

Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

- Increase public confidence in the ability of partners to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour issues that matter to communities
- Reduce anti-social behaviour – including low level crime and secondary fires
- Create high quality, clean, attractive, accessible environment

Protecting vulnerable people from harm

- Prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence and reduce associated harm
- Ensure that all victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence have 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
- Reduce the impact of hate crime

Reducing re-offending

- Prevent inter-generational offending
- Prevent repeat offending

Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs/substances – through prevention, restricting supply and building recovery

Embed the Think Family Approach

- 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

- Implement CONTEST (national strategy)
- Challenge extremism and intolerance

Road Casualty reduction

- Improve education and raise awareness
- Improve health and wellbeing of communities through road casualty reduction
- Develop a safer road environment

Current Work Programme

10. During 2014/15, the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny Reviews, systematic 6 monthly reviews of progress against recommendations and overview presentations in relation to the following areas:

In depth Scrutiny Review

- ***Organised Crime***
- ***Drug Treatment Services***
- ***20 mph limits/zones***

Systematic Review

- **Neighbourhood Wardens**

Areas of Overview Activity

- **Safe Durham Partnership Plan Refresh 2014-18**
(All objectives)
- **Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment**
(All objectives)
- **Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2014-17**
(All objectives)
- **Progress of initiatives and enforcement activity undertaken by the Consumer Protection Team**
(Objective Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction – Action S7)
- **County Durham Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2015-2017**
(Objective Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction – Action S7)
- **Transforming Rehabilitation – A Strategy for Reform**
Objective Reduce re-offending action S6
- **Safe Durham Partnership Domestic Abuse Service Developments**
(Objective - Protect vulnerable People from harm - Action S4)
- **County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation document 2014/15**
- **County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service – Risk of hoarding within households**
(Objective - Protect vulnerable People from harm - Action S4)
- **Multi Agency Interventions Project**
(Objective Reduce anti-social behaviour)
- **Activity of the Road Casualty Reduction Forum**
(Objective - Casualty Reduction)
- **Safe Durham Partnership Reducing Re-offending Strategy**
(Objective – Reduce re-offending)
- **Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Crime Act 2014**
(Objective – Reduce anti-social behaviour)
- **Counter Terrorism**

Performance monitoring

11. Quarterly performance reports on 'Altogether Safer' performance indicators and Council Plan objectives

Police and Crime Panel

12. The Committee has a joint working arrangement with the Durham Police and Crime Panel (PCP) that is crucial to provide a communication between the PCP and the Committee. This arrangement includes receiving update reports from the PCP at each Committee meeting and prior to undertaking an in-depth study into a crime and disorder issue, discussion takes place between both the Chairs of the PCP and Committee and Secretariat to avoid duplication of effort and resources. It is to acknowledge that Panel members were invited to a performance session with the Committee on key areas of policing with Durham Constabulary in October 2014. This session also included a tour of the newly opened headquarters.

Gaps within current Work Programme

13. Having considered the Altogether Safer section of the draft Council Plan for 2015 – 2018 and draft Safe Durham Plan the following could be considered for inclusion within the Committee’s work programme.

Council Plan

Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

- ASB – implementation of the Joint Partnership Team

Protect Vulnerable People from harm

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Organisational resilience and emergency preparedness

Reduce Re-offending

- *County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2014/16*
- *Restorative Approaches*
- *Transforming Rehabilitation*

Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction

- Implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Casualty Reduction

- *Work of Partners within the Road Casualty Reduction Forum to - Improve education and raise awareness*
- *Improve health and wellbeing of communities through road casualty reduction*
- *Develop a safer road environment*
- *20 mph policy and implementation*

Cross Cutting Arrangements

14. The draft Council Plan also identifies the following areas from other ‘Altogether’ themes that are linked to objectives and actions within ‘Altogether Safer’. In addition areas for improvement within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan also cross cut with areas of the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Altogether	Objective	Action	Link to Altogether Safer	OSC
Better for Children and Young People	A Think Family approach is embedded in our support for families	C8. Children are safeguarded and protected from harm	S4. Safeguarding children and adults whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm	Children and Young People
Healthier	Reduce health inequalities and early deaths	H5.Reduced levels of alcohol and drug related ill health	S7 Reduced harm caused by alcohol to individuals, families and communities S8 Reduced harm caused by drugs/substances	Adults, Wellbeing and Health

Altogether	Objective	Action	Link to Altogether Safer	OSC
Greener	Deliver a cleaner, more attractive and sustainable environment	Reduced environmental crime	S2 Reduced incidence of anti-social behaviour and low level crime	Environment and Sustainable Communities

Review topics

15. The Committee are currently concluding its work on organised crime and are also involved in projects on 20 mph limits and implementation of an integrated service for alcohol and substance misuse that focuses on recovery. However, Members are requested to suggest a potential topic for future review activity throughout 2015/16 and agree at its meeting in June.

Next Steps

16. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the appropriate section from the draft Council Plan, Appendix 2 (copy attached) to inform the Committee work programme for 2014 -2015, reflecting on the current work programme detailed in paragraphs 9 and 13 above and paragraph 15 for future review activity.
17. Members will receive a further report at the next Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirming/agreeing the Committee's work programme for 2015- 2016 based on today's discussion and agreement.

Recommendations

18. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the information contained in the Altogether Safer priority theme of the draft Council Plan 2015 -2018, Appendix 2 (copy attached).
19. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee refresh the work programme for 2015 - 2016 by discussing and considering those actions identified within Appendix 2.
20. That the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on the 19 June 2015, receive a further report detailing the Committee's work programme for 2015 -2016.

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Appendix 1: Implications (taken from report to Cabinet 18th March 2015)

Finance - The Council Plan sets out the corporate priorities of the Council for the next 3 years. The Medium Term Financial Plan aligns revenue and capital investment to priorities within the Council Plan.

Staffing - The Council's strategies are being aligned to achievement of the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Risk - Consideration of risk is a key element in the corporate and service planning framework with both the Council Plan and Service Plans containing sections on risk.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - Individual equality impact assessments have been prepared for each savings proposal within the Council Plan. The cumulative impact of all savings proposals in total has also been presented to Council and will be updated as savings proposals are further developed. In addition a full impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the Council Plan. The actions in the Council Plan include specific issues relating to equality and aim to improve the equality of life for those with protected characteristics. The Plan has been influenced by consultation and monitoring to include equality issues. There is no evidence of negative impact for particular groups.

Accommodation - The Council's Corporate Asset Management Plan is aligned to the corporate priorities contained within the Council Plan.

Crime and Disorder - The Altogether Safer section of the Council Plan sets out the Council's contributions to tackling crime and disorder

Human Rights – None

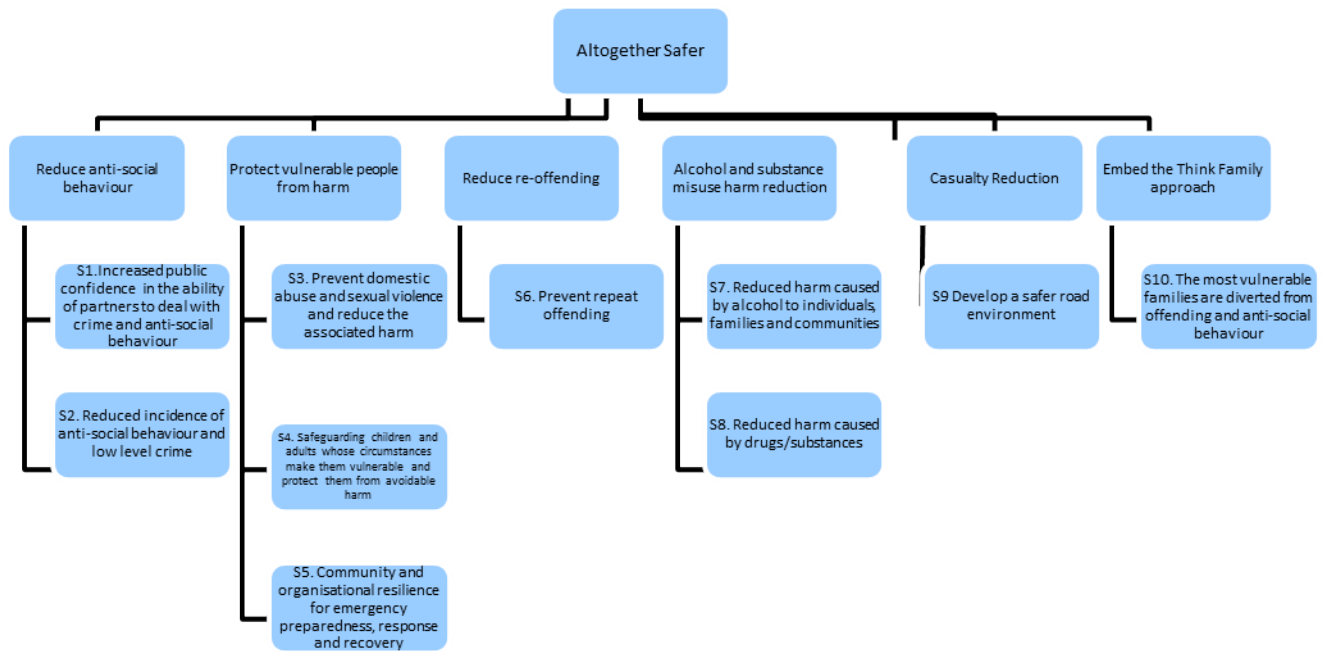
Consultation - Council and partnership priorities have been developed following an analysis of available consultation data including an extensive consultation programme carried out as part of the development of the interim Sustainable Community Strategy and this has been reaffirmed by subsequent consultation on the budget. Results have been taken into account in developing our resourcing decisions

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None

Altogether Safer



Our Vision

As a responsible authority of the Safe Durham Partnership, we work closely with partner organisations to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham and play a key role in the development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan describes the 'Altogether Safer' priority objectives and outlines the strategy for tackling crime and disorder and responding to these priorities. The Plan demonstrates how strong leadership, planning, performance management and problem-solving will result in action plans which aim to deliver positive outcomes for our communities.

We will continue to support the Safe Durham Partnership in delivering on shared priorities, building on achievements and working together to meet the challenges ahead. Working in partnership is essential to achieving our vision, which is for County Durham to be 'a county where every adult and child will be, and will feel, safe.'

An emerging issue for us is counter terrorism, as recent national and international events have led to the government increasing the national threat level to 'severe'. The Counter Terrorism and Security Bill places local authorities at the heart of 'Prevent', the government's strategy for preventing people being drawn into terrorism and so, together with partner organisations, we will need to build on existing work to respond to this emerging issue.

To help achieve our vision, Altogether Safer has the following high level objectives:

1. Reduce anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is linked to everyday problems such as noise, abandoned cars, litter, vandalism and intimidation and can affect people's happiness and pride in their local communities. Although reported anti-social behaviour has reduced over the past 5 years, it is still one of the main issues the people of County Durham want the police and partners to tackle.

As a result, we will support the work of the Safe Durham Partnership through the development of the **Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan** to identify what the crime and disorder issues are in the local area and how the partnership plans are responding to them.

There are many complex factors that contribute to ASB within our communities; deprivation, unemployment, alcohol and substance misuse being just a few examples. To be truly effective we must tackle these underlying causes, and one such initiative to address this is our **Community Action Team (CAT) Programme Scheme**, an eight week rolling programme which brings together residents and a range of organisations to identify and tackle local concerns such as housing, environmental concerns, noise, underage drinking and smoking. The CAT programme includes 5 priority area based initiatives per year.

The Safe Durham Partnership has been engaged in activity such as the 'Getting Involved Campaign' which encourages people to get involved with Neighbourhood Watch, Speed Watch and the Green Dog Walkers scheme. Initiatives such as Operation Aires engages young people in fun activity to raise awareness of the harm caused by alcohol and the impact it can have on behaviour.

The 'Multi-Agency Intervention Service' works with adults who persistently cause, anti-social behaviour or crime in order to change their behaviour. The service develops a package of support and intervention based on individual needs. It will help to resolve some of their problems and to stop further anti-social behaviour or crime being committed. The service also supports victims so they can be reassured that the offending behaviour will stop.

We will continue to work with partners to tackle ASB and low level crime and will **strengthen the effectiveness of the Joint Partnership Team** through improved sharing of information and intelligence, integrating the work of our Safer Neighbourhood Units with other community safety operations and fully utilising the combined range of enforcement powers available, including those set out in the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

2. Protect vulnerable people from harm

Protecting vulnerable people from harm has been identified as a key priority for us and our partners through the Safe Durham Partnership and work taken forward is closely linked to the work of the local Safeguarding Adults Board and Local Safeguarding Children Board, where appropriate to do so. This priority includes effectively responding to, and better protecting, those vulnerable individuals and communities most at risk of serious harm, improving the safety of domestic abuse victims and their children, reducing repeat incidents of domestic abuse, as well as supporting those who are a victim of sexual violence.

We will work with partners to implement the **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Delivery Plan** to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse in County Durham. We will do this through implementing the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group joint training plan, taking action to reduce the risk of victims and bringing perpetrators to justice by implementing the new integrated service model.

Work will also be undertaken to ensure the implementation of **the first strategic plan for the new statutory Safeguarding Adults Board**, in line with the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

We have a statutory duty, as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to provide an Emergency Response Service. We are supported by Durham and Darlington Civil Contingencies Unit and other key voluntary agencies, to ensure that it provides **organisational resilience and emergency preparedness**, response and recovery arrangements through its Emergency Response Team.

3. Reduce re-offending

The government's objective to reduce crime and the number of victims of crime demonstrates a continued focus on re-offending.

We will continue to support the Safe Durham Partnership in delivery of the Reducing Re-offending Strategy 2014/17. We will support effective offender management interventions such as Checkpoint, Integrated Offender Management, Womens Diversion Scheme and Restorative Justice, to reduce levels of re-offending.

We will implement the **County Durham Youth Offending Service Youth Justice Plan 2014/16** and reduce first time entrants to the youth justice system, by implementing a quality assurance framework and improvement plan for pre-court work and working with partners to implement the Out of Court Disposals scrutiny process. Durham and Cleveland Local Criminal Justice Boards are working in partnership to implement and operate an out of court disposal scrutiny process. Out of court disposals allow the police to deal quickly and proportionately with low level, often first time offending which could be more appropriately resolved without going to court. It provides the opportunity for interventions to be put in place to prevent further offending and gives prompt resolution for victims. Further improvements will be made to assessment and planning interventions framework which is used to assess why individuals commit a crime and how the person can be prevented from further offending.

We will work with partners to implement a restorative approaches training programme for DCC staff, to enable them to deliver restorative practice within their role so that re-offending is reduced and people are kept out of the criminal justice system.

We will continue to provide the Safe Durham Partnership with strategic level co-ordination of partnership issues relating to the Ministry of Justice 'Transforming Rehabilitation' programme during the transition of probation services across County Durham. We will work with the National Probation Service, Durham Tees Valley Probation Community Rehabilitation Company and HMP Durham through the contract post award process and delivery of new working arrangements.

4. Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction

Alcohol and substance misuse contribute to a significant proportion of crime and anti-social behaviour. Alcohol is a contributory factor in many incidents of domestic abuse and sexual violence. It is also a significant factor in child neglect and child protection. Alcohol consumption plays a substantial part in homicides and domestic homicides, whilst alcohol misuse causes harm to people's health, mental health and can impact on the ability of individuals to access or sustain employment.

Drug misuse is a serious issue not only to the health and wellbeing of the individual affected by it, but to that of their families and the wider community. Tackling drug misuse requires a co-ordinated approach involving a wide range of partners.

We will continue to **implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy** to reduce the impact of alcohol-related crime and disorder. As part of this work, we will improve the sharing of alcohol-related violent crime data between hospital emergency departments and partners and use the shared data to prevent alcohol-related violent crime.

Our multi-agency alcohol seizure procedure has been highlighted as national good practice by the Home Office Alcohol Team. It has contributed to the reduction in anti-social behaviour and has helped us understand more about how children and young people access alcohol. This has provided the opportunity for them to engage and benefit from early intervention.

We and the Safe Durham Partnership will implement the **County Durham Drug Strategy 2014/17** to reduce drug use and drug-related incidents and to sustain a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact on communities and families.

The 'Recovery Academy Durham' is just one of our services aimed at building recovery. Clients benefit from working with trained peer therapists who have had similar experiences. After the client has graduated they are offered a secondary programme to help with education, employment, training and ongoing recovery support.

Following the tragic deaths of three university students in the river Wear in Durham city over a fourteen month period, the council has been working closely with the university, the police, Durham Students' Union and the cathedral as the City Safety Group to agree and implement a series of actions and measures to improve personal and riverside safety in the city. These actions include working with students and licensed premises in the city to ensure that alcohol is supplied and consumed in a safe and sensible way.

5. Casualty Reduction

Overall road casualty number in the county are lower than national levels and there has been a general downward trend. Although 2013 saw the fewest number of road casualties since detailed records began in 1979, concerns remain about the level and severity of injuries to vulnerable road users, particularly children.

Numbers of people who have been killed or seriously injured remains small. The vast majority of accidents result in slight injuries. An analysis of location data for all child casualties in County Durham over a four year period shows that the majority (86%) of incidents occur within a 600 metre radius of a school. Furthermore, there are 33 schools within the county that experience collisions of more than twice the mean within this radius. National accident statistics show that pedestrians knocked down by a vehicle travelling at 40mph has only a 5% chance of surviving; at 30mph it is 45% but at 20mph, the chances of surviving rise to 95%. Reducing speed also reduces the chances of having a collision at all.

The council has therefore agreed to **introduce part-time 20mph limits** on main and distributor roads around the 33 schools with the highest accident rates, subject to local consultation and scheme design.

6. Embed the Think Family approach

'Think Family' is a multi-agency approach which seeks to provide early intervention for those families which have problems and cause problems to the community around them. It requires all agencies to consider the needs of the whole family when working with individual members of it. To 'Think Family' is to understand that children's problems do not sit in isolation from their parents, and that parents' problems impact on their children. This approach ensures that all family members are able to get the support they need, at the right time, to help their children achieve good outcomes. This means making sure that families receive co-ordinated, multi-agency, solution-focused support.

The Safe Durham Partnership and we have adopted this approach in order to provide families with the best possible opportunity to avoid involvement in crime and disorder and to reduce their impact on services. This will lead to financial benefits and will present social benefits for areas of the county where communities suffer most.

The County Durham Stronger Families Programme is currently on track to turn around its targeted number of 1320 families by May 2015. Families have received help and support delivered with a 'Think Family' multi-agency approach coordinated by a Lead Professional and a Team around the Family utilising a single multi-agency care plan in order to reduce duplication and maximise impact.

In June 2014, the Government announced plans to expand the Troubled Families Programme for a further five years from 2015/16 and to reach an additional 400,000 families across England; for Durham this means an additional 4000 families will be targeted. Due to County Durham's success in turning around the lives of families on the Stronger Families Programme it has been asked to enter the expanded programme early.

We will continue to develop and **train staff in restorative approaches for early intervention when working with families**, to prevent them from offending.

Summary

<p>Going Well:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour fell by 4.9% in 2013/14 and has fallen by two thirds since 2006/07. • The rate of adult re-offending has reduced by 65% for offenders within the Integrated Offender Management programme. • The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system reduced by 17% in 2013/14. • 93.6% of adult social care users surveyed reported that care and support services received helped them to feel safe and secure. • Repeat cases of domestic abuse are lower than the national average 	<p>Look Out For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Sorry’s Not Enough” domestic abuse campaign and a dedicated website for the public. • New tools and powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. • A new integrated drug and alcohol service delivering prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and promoting recovery. • A new Community Rehabilitation Company, ARCC (Achieving Real Change in the Community), delivering rehabilitation and offender management services. • Safe Places - a place to go for those who feel anxious, confused or unsafe.
<p>Cause for Concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not as many people have gone through drug treatment as we had hoped - a national trend. • A 9.7% rise in overall crime over 2013/14 is forecast to be followed by a 1.7% increase in total crime in 2014/15. • 11.7% of all crime was alcohol-related in 2013/14. • 15.3% of all anti-social behaviour incidents involved alcohol. • Increase to the national terrorist threat level to severe. • County Durham experiences significantly higher alcohol specific hospital admission rates than England for both men and women. 	<p>Did you know?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of Care Connect emergency calls are dealt with in 60 minutes (somebody arrives at the property) • Due to success, County Durham was selected to start phase 2 of the Troubled Families programme early (known locally as Stronger Families). • County Durham has more households in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme than anywhere else in the country. • We are planning a new model to prevent domestic abuse and tackle perpetrators by challenging behaviours. • £500,000 external funding secured for a volunteer Safer Homes Project.