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**Report of Peter Appleton, Head of Planning and Service Strategy**

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**Purpose of Briefing Note**

1. To provide members of the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues discussed at the May Safe Durham Partnership Board meeting.

**Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015**

2. The Contest Silver Group, Chaired by DCC Michael Banks, are undertaking an audit of the collective response to the general duty in the Act to prevent violent extremism. Each Specified Authority that has a responsibility to fulfil the general duty has been requested to identify the specific expectations of them and their response to those expectations. The outcome of the audit will be reported to the Safe Durham Partnership in September.
3. The Prevent Self-Assessment, usually completed by the Contest Silver group in March of each year, has been delayed pending the result of the audit. The self-assessment assists the group in assessing the level of progress on a five point scale against each of the three Prevent objectives. The impact of the new duty, and its added burden, will mean that a new baseline score will need to be set along with new improvement targets. This will be achieved in July upon the commencement of the new duty. There will be no requirement to amend the self-assessment criteria which remain relevant to the Prevent duty.
4. Work has been progressing to ensure schools have the best opportunity to be prepared for the commencement of the Prevent duty and beyond. In terms of Prevent awareness the following has been undertaken or is planned:
  - Director's briefings have been held with Head Teachers.
  - Reports have been presented to the Safe Durham Partnership, Children and Families Partnership Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and the Local Safeguarding Adults Board.
  - An e-learning product has been developed by Durham County Council and will be made available to all schools.
  - All schools will be invited to 'Prevent' awareness raising seminars to be held in July and September 2015. The Seminars will be delivered by Durham County Council's Children and Adults Services (CAS) and Durham Constabulary Prevent Team.

5. Durham County Council are progressing 'Channel' arrangements (a multi-agency panel for referral and support). The Strategic Manager Youth Offending Service will Chair the group, when required. National Channel Duty guidance was published on 23 April 2015. The development of local procedures has begun with the formulation of a local Channel guidance document and checklist, a Channel Panel meeting declaration for information sharing within that meeting and a Support Plan template.

## **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence**

6. Following the Safe Durham Partnership governance review, a new thematic group has been implemented to manage and co-ordinate both Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. This group is co-chaired by the Head of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities.
7. A key issue for the group moving forward will be develop arrangements for joint commissioning of support services for victims with other partners including the Police and Crime Commissioner and Health colleagues.
8. High Level Objectives for the group have been agreed and these now include the priorities of Prevention, Provision, Protection and Pursue. The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015-18 has been updated to reflect these objectives.

## **Offender Checkpoint**

9. The Checkpoint project aims to provide a credible alternative to criminal justice sanctions by identifying and supporting the critical pathways of need for arrested adults with the result that many of these people 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. Adult arrested persons would be offered a 'contract to engage' based on critical pathways of offending. The 'contract to engage' in most cases will withhold prosecution procedures if the client meets objectives of an agreed plan of interventions and support to address the underlying causes of their offending identified through a critical pathways checkpoint assessment at custody suites.
10. The Police and Crime Commissioner has received £154,050 from the Police Innovation Fund for 2015/16 and £98,000 in 2016/17 (a £500,000 bid was submitted for a two-year project) to deliver the Checkpoint Project. Additional resources have also been allocated by partners – both monetarily and in kind, to give additional capacity and resilience to the project.
11. Phase 1 of Checkpoint went live in Darlington on 7th of April. The purpose of this initial pilot in Darlington is to identify and resolve issues, identify gaps in service and to get the programme running smoothly. This was extended to the South Durham on the 11th of May.
12. Brief intervention training has been provided to around 400 custody staff and Checkpoint briefings to all front line police staff began rollout on 7th April. Training is currently ongoing with custody staff to identify eligible cases and to ensure that the programme is explained positively and correctly to victims.

13. There are currently 8 navigators in post; 1 navigator provided by NECA (using funding allocated by the Darlington Drug and Alcohol Team's grant from the PCC), and 4 navigators, provided in kind, by the National Probation Service. They have all undergone training and are based across Darlington and Bishop Auckland custody suites in phase 1. The contract for 3 Lifeline navigators has been formally agreed and they commenced their roles as Checkpoint Navigators on the 16th May.
14. The Governance Board had its second meeting on 7th May. The terms of reference for the Governance Board, and project plan, have been established and signed off by the Board.
15. The Board has consulted on and agreed the job description of the navigators. Board members have contributed to the development of a mandatory induction training plan for all navigators, to ensure consistency and quality assurance.
16. A communications and media strategy for Checkpoint is being developed.

### **Safe Durham Partnership Board Development Day**

17. A development session is being held on 30<sup>th</sup> June, facilitated by the Institute of Local Governance (ILG) at Durham University.
18. The agenda will focus on:
  - Policy developments following the election of a Conservative Government and the implications for the Community Safety Partnership and our strategic priorities moving forward.
  - A focussed session on Cyber Crime and how this emerging issues can be tackled using a multi-agency approach.
  - A focussed session on Child Sexual Exploitation and the implications for both the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Safe Durham Partnership in tackling this issue.

### **Domestic Abuse Referral Pathways**

19. In 2014 the Safe Durham Partnership requested a simple referral pathway for disclosures of domestic abuse to ensure frontline practitioners could easily make appropriate referrals.
20. Nationally this has also been supported by the inclusion of this issue within the recently published Home Office report which provides an overview of lessons learned in terms of Domestic Homicide Reviews.
21. A new Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway (DARP) has been produced and agreed. Details are available at [www.sorrysnotenough.co.uk](http://www.sorrysnotenough.co.uk)
22. DCC Public Health (CAS) are currently developing an e-learning course which will be available across the Partnership to both statutory and voluntary agencies free of charge. The course looks to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse and to highlight referral pathways and refers to the County Durham DARP. Performance information in relation to employees and frontline practitioners accessing and

completing the course will be available which will give an indication of levels of awareness of the Pathway.

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## **Appendix 1 – Implications**

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**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