

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27th October 2015



Checkpoint

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of a presentation on the Checkpoint programme from Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the Checkpoint Board.

Background

2. At its meeting in June 2015, the Committee agreed its work programme to include a presentation on the Checkpoint programme. Information within this presentation is linked to the 'Reducing re-offending' sections of the Altogether Safer objective within the Council Plan 2015/18 and Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2015/18.
3. The Checkpoint programme, launched in December 2014, aims to reduce the number of victims of crime by reducing reoffending. The programme offers eligible offenders a four month long contract to engage with services as an alternative to prosecution and offers interventions to address the underlying reasons why they committed the crime to prevent them from doing it again.
4. It is to note that not all offences can qualify for the Checkpoint programme. Serious offences such as rape, robbery or murder will not be eligible for Checkpoint and the programme does not include driving offences, cases of domestic abuse or hate crime.
5. The offender is supported through the process by a specialist 'navigator' who completes a detailed needs assessment and creates a tailored contract to which could include interventions around any of the issues the offender may have. Within this context, should the offender successfully complete the contract and has not reoffended, no further action will be taken against them. However, if they reoffend or fail to complete the contract they will be prosecuted and the courts will be informed of the circumstances of their failure to complete the contract.
6. Alan Reiss, Chief of Staff will be in attendance to provide Members with an overview of the programme including its progress to date and future developments.

Recommendation

7. Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the report and presentation and comment accordingly.

Background Papers

None

Contact: Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer Tel: 03000 268142

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder –The report and presentation includes information on reducing re-offending within the Altogether Safer element of the Council and Safe Durham Partnership Plans.

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None