

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

Safe Durham Partnership Update

15 February 2016



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 & Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues from the November 2015 and January 2016 Safe Durham Partnership Board meetings.

Desistance Model

2. A representative from the Durham, Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company provided the Board with a briefing on the subject of 'desistance' and learning themes from her research in Canada and North America as part of a Winston Churchill Fellowship.
3. The learning that has been taken from people who continue to be involved in criminal activity or who have managed to cease offending has highlighted the critical role which identity, one's sense of 'self', plays in the process of desistance. This sense of identity can be changed through environment, experiential family and group support and the opportunity to give something back. The Board heard examples of social action projects being used to help the community and give offenders a sense of 'self'.
4. A series of cross-sector workshops to communicate this desistance model to partners, including Elected Members, will be developed in 2016/17.

Funding

5. The allocation of the Community Safety Fund for 2016/17 has been agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership Board and the Police and Crime Commissioner; and includes the following key priority areas:
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Reducing Reoffending
 - Youth Offending Service
 - Checkpoint Programme
6. A funding sub-group is in place to source additional funding streams to support the strategic objectives of the Safe Durham Partnership.

Safer Homes Update

7. The Safer Homes Project was initiated in September 2014 as a result of the partnership being successful in its application for £500,000 from the 'Transformational Challenge Award'. The award was designed to encourage public services to work in partnership to commission, manage and deliver services in the best possible way.
8. The main focus of the project was to transform the way in which isolated, vulnerable and elderly people receive crime and fire safety advice as well as protection. Along with practical help to make homes safer, the project was also hoping to improve the health and well-being of those people involved, with the project designed to foster further collaboration with as many frontline health care professionals, practitioners, families and friends as possible in order to reach the most vulnerable members of the community.

Actions delivered

9. A centralised referral system managed by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) ensures the referrals for vulnerability to fire and, or crime are allocated to the appropriate service. As of November 2015 this had resulted in 2018 referrals made through Safer Homes with 834 for police and 1184 for fire. This figure also includes 110 hoarders who have been identified compared to 6 during the same period last year.

Outcomes

10. Since Safer Homes has been established the project has contributed towards CDDFRS seeing a reduction of approximately 20% in the number of dwelling fires between September 19th 2014 and 31st March 2015 compared to the same period last year. Since the work became mainstream in April 2015, the first quarter of 2015/16 has seen this trend continue with a 12% reduction compared to the same period last year. With regard to dwelling burglaries there was a reduction of (5.9%) in the period September 2014 to March 2015 which again has continued into 2015/16 with the first quarter seeing a 9.8% reduction compared to the same period last year.
11. Safer Homes is now normal working practice for both CDDFRS and Durham Police with all high risk community safety enquiries being classed as Safer Homes. It has also become an integral part of the recently reviewed 'Fire Fatality Protocol'.

Next Steps

12. The project is now beginning to engage with GP surgeries, clinics and walk in centres to raise awareness of the process and establish the referral links.
13. In early 2016 the installation of domestic sprinkler systems and 'secured by design' standard crime preventative equipment will begin in social housing

accommodation across the county as part of a £360,000 match funding initiative with the housing providers.

Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2014/15

14. The Annual Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report provides information on the current position of the SAB and outline achievements during 2014/15.
15. Much of the work of the SAB in 2014/15 focussed on preparing for the implementation of the Care Act in April 2015, which places adult safeguarding on a statutory footing and implements changes to the way in which safeguarding enquiries are managed.
16. Key Achievements from the SAB include increased promotion and reporting of safeguarding issues, revision of the SAB website and the appointment of Jane Geraghty, as an independent chair to both the SAB and LSCB.

Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Annual Report 2014/15

17. The Durham LSCB Annual Report 2014/15 sets out the work of multi-agency partners to ensure effective arrangements are in place to safeguard and protect vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.
18. Some achievements and progress highlighted in the Annual Report include:
 - Development of the Early Help Strategy
 - The introduction of a County Durham Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
 - Development and implemented the 'Collaborative working and information sharing between professionals to protect vulnerable adults and children' information sharing protocol
 - Developed a Safeguarding Framework to improve links with Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Families Partnership and Safe Durham Partnership
 - Development of a Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy and delivery plan
 - Developing and implementing a Child Sexual Exploitation audit and sharing the information through other council and partnership structures
 - Supported 'Never Do Nothing' training (a safeguarding standard for voluntary and 3rd sector organisations)
 - Set up a Young People's Reference Group for the LSCB
 - Developing a new LSCB website, with input from young people
19. The Durham Local Safeguarding Children Board has agreed the following priorities for 2015-18:
 - Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation
 - Improving Early Help

- Reducing Neglect (contributory factors are domestic abuse; alcohol misuse; substance misuse; parental mental health)
 - Reducing self-harm and improving young people's self-esteem
 - Increase the voice of the Child
 - Ensuring that each agency is accountable for delivery of its own safeguarding responsibilities
20. The Safe Durham Partnership Board will continue to work with the LSCB in relation shared or similar priorities. For the Safe Durham Partnership Board this will be by contributing to the development of actions covering Hidden Harm in respect of domestic abuse; alcohol misuse, substance misuse, sexual violence, child sexual exploitation and female genital mutilation.

Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation

21. The Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Programme was established in 2012. Since that time progress has been made by partners in directing resources to target violent individuals involved in gangs and safeguarding the most vulnerable.
22. There are 52 areas of the country identified by the Home Office as Ending Gang and Youth Violence areas. None of these 52 areas are in the North-East of England.
23. The Home Office's refreshed approach has been circulated to Chairs of Community Safety Partnerships. The refreshed approach includes 'reducing violence and knife crime' as one of six key priorities and the Board have agreed that the Partnership will take action in relation to this through the Reducing Re-Offending Group.

Prevent

24. A multi-agency response has been developed to take forward the work under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. As part of raising awareness, a nationally acclaimed Counter Terrorism expert will be providing seminars in April 2016 to County Council staff, elected members and partners.

Recommendations and reasons

25. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

Note the contents of the report.

Contact:	Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager – Policy, Planning & Partnerships
Tel:	03000 267 312
Contact:	Caroline Duckworth, Community Safety Manager
Tel:	03000 265 435

Appendix 1 – Implications

Finance – N/A

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