

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Safe Durham Partnership Update

21st June 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 and Scrutiny Committee with a summary update on key issues discussed at the May Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board meeting.

Open Water Safety

2. The Safe Durham Partnership agreed a new outcome in relation to 'Improved Understanding of Open Water Safety' within the refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership 2016/19.
3. A report was provided to the Safe Durham Partnership Board to provide information regarding the actions taken by Durham County Council and its partners in relation to Open Water Safety; to provide the background into the development of Durham City Safety Group (CSG) and Council's Open Water Safety Group (OWSG) and to provide governance arrangements for both groups.
4. Both water safety action groups, OWSG and CSG, have made significant progress in relation to improving physical infrastructure and public awareness of hazards associated with open water, from a Durham City and County wide perspective. In doing so, the Council and its partners have become a national example of best practice with regards to water safety management within Durham City.
5. The CSG will continue to meet on a quarterly basis and monitor and review the physical and cultural safety improvements introduced. The future challenge for the CSG, aside from physical control measures, is to develop a sustainable, long term programme for education and awareness of open water safety risks, particularly those linked to the night time economy of the City Centre. More specifically the targeting of 'at risk groups' which most research indicates to be males aged between 15 and 26.
6. In terms of the OWSG, collaborative working with partner organisations will continue in 2016, with particular emphasis being placed on preventative and educational initiatives for local schools and to ensure key water risk are appropriately managed and communicated to stakeholders. The development of a calendar of water safety initiatives and events for 2015/16 will be effective in coordinating approaches and avoidance of duplication of campaigns and activities.
7. The Safe Durham Partnership Board have agreed that in terms of governance arrangements, both groups will become sub-groups of the Safe Durham Partnership, reporting in on a six-monthly basis.

Safe Durham Partnership Governance Review

8. At the Safe Durham Partnership Board development session held on 30th June 2015 it was agreed that a Governance Review would be undertaken to ensure the structures and membership of the Safe Durham Partnership was still fit for purpose. Any changes to governance arrangements will feed into future planning documents (eg Safe Durham Partnership Plan).
9. The final report containing recommendations will be presented to the Safe Durham Partnership Board in July.

Victim Care and Advice Service

10. The Safe Durham Partnership were updated by the Office of the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (OPCVV) on the new victim needs assessment and onward referral service that commenced with effect from 1st April 2016.
11. Victim referral services, up to the 31st March 2016, were delivered by Victim Support via a grant from the PCC for Cleveland and the PCC for Durham. A procurement exercise, in collaboration with the Cleveland Office of the PCC, commenced in September 2015 to select a provider to commence service delivery from 1st April 2016. Safe in Tees Valley have been awarded the contract.
12. The service commissioned was specified to take account of the most recent Victims Code of Practice. The Code of Practice forms a key part of a national strategy to transform the criminal justice system by putting victims first and making processes more responsive and easier to navigate. In essence the shift was to offer support to all victims of crime and replace the previous approach that only offered support if the crime was classified within a group of categories determined by the Home Office. This means that support can be offered to victims assessed as vulnerable in relation to age, social isolation, hate crime, repeat victimisation, having a physical or learning disability or other mental health needs.
13. The benefits of this new service which include:
 - Tailored to the needs of local communities rather than organisational need;
 - Locally based service that is flexible and can adapt to any identified need for change quickly;
 - Based on a collaborative approach to risk and needs assessment processes that enable speedy onward referral/access to appropriate service/support for victims;
 - Victim rather than process centred;
 - Reduces the number of steps involved in the current automated data processing arrangements thereby enabling a more speedy response to victims in urgent need;
 - More effective liaison with police and other partners to reduce duplication for victims;
 - Focuses resources on the most vulnerable and those in greatest need

Checkpoint Update

14. The Safe Durham Partnership Board received a report updating progress with the Checkpoint Project.
15. A Checkpoint needs assessment is undertaken at the first meeting with the navigator. From the self-disclosure data, it can be seen that males and females equally identified Attitude, Thinking and Behaviour (24%), Alcohol (21%), and Mental Health (18%) as the most common factors contributing to their offending, health and wellbeing.
16. Phase 2 (Randomised Control Trial) commenced on the 8th February. This allows for a robust, academic comparison of Checkpoint's effectiveness against traditional disposals.

Prevent (Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015)

17. The Safe Durham Partnership Board received a report providing progress on the Prevent Duty.
18. All specified authorities in County Durham continue to work towards meeting their individual responsibilities within the Act. A formal review of the collective approach was initiated in March 2015 and included non-statutory agencies such as Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Fire and Rescue Service. At the latest review point (March 2016) the collective progress was recognised as being strong and it is anticipated that the review will successfully conclude in September 2016.
19. Productive cooperation, required by the Act, has led to the shared assessment of the risk to County Durham, a combined effort to train trainers and deliver training across every organisation and a joint approach to implementing a Channel Panel to provide support and intervention to those who may be vulnerable to radicalisation.
20. In addition, the partnership has reached out to nearly all childcare institutions, the out-of-school-sector, registered child minders and foster carers; providing Prevent Seminars, briefings and regular communications.

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy

21. The Safe Durham Partnership Board received a report on the refreshed County Durham Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy.
22. The refreshed strategy brings together the two agendas into one strategic document with national and local policy and research information brought up to date. Priority groups are unchanged though high level objectives have been updated which reflect a governance review of this agenda in January 2015 and the need to continually progress the aim of the strategy; to reduce the prevalence of domestic abuse and sexual violence in County Durham.

Recommendations and reasons

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

- (a) Note the contents of the report.

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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