

Special Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee



1 December 2016

Road Safety – Young Drivers and the Fatal Four

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information in advance of the Committee's Special Meeting on road safety focusing on young drivers and the fatal four.

Background

2. At its meeting in June 2016, the Committee agreed its work programme and requested to hold a focused session with partner agencies on Road Safety that looked at young drivers and the fatal four causes of accidents. Outcomes of this topic contribute to the Safe Durham Partnership and Council Plans objective of 'Implement measures to promote a safe environment' that includes the action to 'Develop a safer road environment'.
3. It is to be noted that young drivers are those aged between 17- 24 years old and the fatal four causes of collisions are speeding, drink/drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt and distraction e.g. using a mobile phone.
4. Nationally, the Department for Transport's publication 'Reported road casualties Great Britain, annual report: 2015' reported that there were 1,730 people killed, 22,144 serious injured and 162,315 slightly injured in road traffic collisions in 2015. Of this total, there were 314 deaths where the person was aged between 17 to 24 years old and of which 63% were motor vehicle drivers. Although fatalities fell by 2% nationally between 2014 and 2015, they increased by 9% within the North East region which is the largest increase in the UK.
5. In advance of the Committee's meeting, supporting information is attached in Appendix 2 that contains a Department for Transport Report titled 'Facts on Young Car Drivers' that was published in June 2015.
6. Locally in September 2016, a press release from Road Safety GB reported that between 2011 to 2015, there have been 38 young drivers have killed on the region's roads, 440 seriously injured and almost 4,000 slightly injured. However, a total of 64 young people have died in that time, including passengers and pedestrians. Within County Durham it was reported that between the age of 17 – 24 there has been 16 people killed and 102 seriously injured.

7. Road Safety has been a topic of great interest to the Committee. In September 2016, the Committee considered a presentation on activity of the Road Safety Reduction Partnership reporting casualty statistics and work of the partnership through education, engineering and enforcement.
8. The Committee receive quarterly performance reports and members have also attended partnership events including WiseDrive and the Safety Carousel. In addition, the Chair of the Committee also took the lead for the Overview and Scrutiny Review on implementation of 20 mph limits that was cited within the Council's submission that won a MJ (Municipal Journal) Award for Governance & Scrutiny in June 2016.
9. Within this context Dave Wafer, Chair of the Road Safety Reduction Partnership will be in attendance to provide:
 - an overview presentation of the issue of young drivers and the fatal four within County Durham
 - focused presentations on activity that is currently being delivered and why this approach is taken.
10. Following these presentations, a question and answer session will be held with members and officers. Outcomes from the Committee's meeting will be included within a response from the Committee to the Road Safety Reduction Partnership and Cabinet Portfolio Holder.

Recommendation

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

Background Papers

None

Contact:	Tom Gorman, Corporate Scrutiny and Performance Manager
Tel:	03000 268 027
Contact:	Jonathan Slee, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Tel:	03000 268 142

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk - None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty – This report scrutinises the work being done to reduce road casualties in young drivers aged between 17 and 24 as they are statistically over-represented in comparison with older drivers aged 25 and above

Accommodation - None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications – None