

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 September 2017



Safe Durham Partnership Update

Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Corporate Director of Transformation & Partnerships

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 September 2017 Safe Durham Partnership (SDP) Board meeting and related issues.
- 2 The majority of the 7 September meeting was allocated to feedback and workshop from the Local Government Association Peer Review.

Safe Durham Partnership Peer Review

- 3 The Safe Durham Partnership asked the Local Government Association to undertake a Peer Review where they work as 'critical friends' or 'trusted advisors' to support the SDP in reflecting on and improving practice by providing an external view of progress.
- 4 They conducted discussions with key personnel and visited community projects to help us to understand if the SDP is working effectively to make a difference for frontline staff and the public, which included consideration of our involvement with communities, focus on preventative work and progressing our priorities.
- 5 The peers led a workshop with members of the SDP which incorporated their feedback and looked at what improvements we can make to add further value. An action plan will be developed to take forward the action from the peer review and presented to the next SDP meeting for agreement. An update will also be provided to a Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee future meeting.

Development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan

- 6 The Safe Durham Partnership Plan for 2018-21 is being developed within the context of the wider County Durham Partnership and the Sustainable Community Strategy, which is currently being reviewed. A new streamlined approach to the plan will demonstrate how responsible authorities and wider partners will work together to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.

- 7 Discussions at an SDP development session in July and feedback from the Peer Review in September have informed the review of the priorities for the revised SDP Plan.
- 8 Consultation with local residents has also taken place in the form of the Area Action Partnership (AAP) Priority Survey, which identified Community Safety was ranked 7th out of 10 priorities by local communities and 3rd out of 10 priorities in the AAP school survey.
- 9 The following draft strategic objectives were agreed by the Safe Durham Partnership at their meeting on 7th September 2017 which outline the areas of priority for the Partnership over the next three years:
 - Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
 - Hate Crime
 - Reduce Re-offending
 - Prevent inter-generational offending
 - Prevent repeat offending
 - Alcohol and substance misuse harm reduction
 - Reduce the harm caused by alcohol
 - Reduce the harm caused by drugs
 - Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism
 - Prevent people being drawn into terrorism
 - Support the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks and mitigate the impact of such an attack
 - Promote being safe and feeling safe in your environment
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Safer Homes
 - Open Water Safety
 - Child Road Casualty Reduction in areas of deprivation
 - Cybercrime
- 10 The additional priority of Cybercrime recognises this growing area of crime.
- 11 Further consultation will take place as part of the development of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation on the strategic assessment and draft priorities for the SDP in October 2017, and will also be part of the process for the consultation of the SDP Plan.
- 12 The feedback from this consultation will be used to inform the development of the SDP Plan before agreement by the SDP in March 2018.

Home Office Creative Arts Project

- 13 The SDP and 'Durham Agency Against Crime' have used £30,000 of Home Office Innovation funding for a creative arts project which aims to raise young people's awareness of, and build their resilience to, radicalisation. College students delivered a performance at the Majestic Theatre in Darlington, on 6th April in front of over 100 guests and video interviews with the young people involved in the project highlighted how young people were unaware of radicalisation prior to being involved in the project. Following involvement in the project young people understood the importance of having their own views and felt empowered to be able to challenge behaviours of others.
- 14 A Home Office evaluator provided positive feedback on the project and the education resource developed alongside the project has generated interest from the Department for Education and the national Educate Against Hate website.

Recommendations and reasons

- 15 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