

# Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021 - 2025



Better for everyone

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## Foreword

Welcome to the Safe Durham Partnership Plan (SDPP) 2021-2025. We must acknowledge the global coronavirus pandemic, Covid-19 has impacted on all services across the County from early 2020. As promised, this year on refresh will take this into account to ensure we continue to deliver services and utilise resources effectively to make Durham a safer place to live, work and visit.

The Safe Durham Partnership was formed in 2009 and over the last twelve years we have had significant success in tackling crime and disorder through the underlying principles of working together.

The partnership has shared challenges and best practice regarding the issues faced with working in a Covid-19 environment. From this there are a number of cross cutting themes which supported the work of the Safe Durham Partnership:

- The importance of good communication and how this helps identify need, allocate resources, re-assure the public and improve the morale of staff.
- New ways of working have been developed that have not only helped deliver services in a different way during the pandemic but have shown better and more efficient and better ways of working that can be carried forward as best practice for the future.
- There have been some great examples of partnerships coming together to deliver the support needed in the community. It's essential we continue to do this to ensure we are ready to respond effectively in these uncertain times.
- We all have a responsibility to make sure that we continue to identify and support those who need extra help, support and advice over this period.

Over the last year we have had numerous successes, including:

- The Safer Streets Initiative, which supports victims of domestic burglary in one of our worst hit areas. Offering crime prevention advice and target hardening for them and the surrounding properties in order to prevent further incidents in the area.
- Moving training and awareness sessions for Prevent; Counter Terrorism onto an online platform in order to ensure staff are aware of how to protect and safeguard our children and most vulnerable from the risks of extremism and radicalisation.
- Using new technologies to ensure victims can still ensure their voice is heard by the courts whilst protecting them from the risks of Covid-19.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, a Domestic Abuse Communications Plan has been developed working collectively with specialist provider, Harbour Support Services, in a multi-agency approach to supporting vulnerable families during lockdown.
- Pharmacies that are commissioned by the council to deliver pharmaceutical services for opioid drug users are to begin supplying naloxone from September 2020 to individuals currently, or with a history of, using opioids or carers, family members, or friends liable to be on hand in case of overdose.

We will continue to work in partnership to address the issues that are most effecting those either working or living within County Durham. Those crimes that effect our most vulnerable will continue to be the focus of our partnership response such as Domestic Abuse, Hate Crime and the emerging issues around County Lines, where vulnerable individuals are preyed upon and groomed by organised criminal gangs in order to expand their reach and influence.

We need to react to the increasing use of technology to perpetrate crime by ensuring a better understanding of cybercrime. Raising awareness of how we can protect ourselves from the numerous ways that perpetrators can steal our identities, access our finances and disrupt our businesses is a continued area of work.

We are also strongly committed to supporting victims to cope and recover from their experience through a range of services customised to the specific needs of individuals.

We want to work jointly together, using the best skills and expertise in our different organisations to meet our shared priorities. We can only do this by working together and supporting our communities and voluntary sector organisations, charities and social enterprises to make County Durham a safer place.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued commitment to achieving our vision during these challenging times.

**Keith Wanley**

Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership  
Area Manager, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue



**Cllr Lucy Hovvels MBE**

Vice Chair of the Safe Durham Partnership  
Portfolio Holder for Adult & Health Services, Durham County Council



## What is the Safe Durham Partnership?

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities to form a Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to tackle crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment and to reduce re-offending. In County Durham, the CSP is the Safe Durham Partnership.

The Safe Durham Partnership is required by statute to develop an annual strategic assessment. Its purpose is to enable the Safe Durham Partnership Board to:

- Identify its strategic priorities for the forthcoming year;
- Identify key crime and disorder risks and threats to the community.

The Strategic Assessment includes restricted data and as such is only for use by members of the Safe Durham Partnership and its partner agencies, however, the contents of this strategic assessment has been used to refresh this Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

There are currently six 'responsible authorities' on the Safe Durham Partnership, who have a legal duty to work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and to reduce re-offending.

Membership of the Safe Durham Partnership is made up of the following partners:

### Responsible authorities:

- Durham County Council
- Durham Constabulary
- County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
- National Probation Service \*
- Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company \*
- County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group

### Additional members:

- Office of the Police, Crime & Victims' Commissioner
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
- HMP Durham
- Voluntary and Community Sector

### \*The National Probation Service and Durham and Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company.

By June 2021 the National Probation Service (NPS) will have responsibility for managing all offenders on a community sentence or licence following release from prison in England and Wales and will continue to deliver those services reserved to the public sector such as advice to court. There will be 11 probation areas across England and Wales. This will include the introduction of 10 new probation areas in England with existing arrangements remaining unchanged in Wales.

## **Covid-19 and our Response**

On a national basis, the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted crime and illicit economies such as organised crime, terrorism, street crime, online crime, illegal markets and smuggling, human and wildlife trafficking, slavery, robberies and burglaries.

The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime has stated that whilst the impact of pandemic in the short term indicates a decrease in some organized-criminal activities, especially during lockdown, it has provided new opportunities for crime in other areas, causing a change in the "organised-criminal economy" that may be more long term (GIATOC, 2020). During lockdown restrictions within the UK, there are fewer people on the streets, causing a decrease in street crime. With a larger population staying indoors at home, thefts and residential burglaries were reported to have decreased.

However, there have been increases in counterfeiting and fraud directly related to the Covid-19 pandemic and more reports of cybercrime, domestic abuse, and hate crimes. All aspects of crime increase the fear of crime within local communities, especially during times of crisis. National reports suggest increases in fraud especially targeting elderly vulnerable people (Action Fraud, 2020).

Lockdown restrictions can especially impact on women with existing vulnerabilities such as poverty, homelessness, poor mental health and past experiences of trauma, and who are victims of sexual abuse and sexual violence (Changing Lives, 2020).

This issue can be related to, but is often distinct from, domestic abuse – also a significant and pressing concern – affecting women including those who are being systematically targeted for sexual exploitation.

Work is currently being undertaken to address significant court backlogs, some through online means, and how local agencies can start to address the issues relating to social distancing to enable cases to continue through the courts. Prison releases have been delayed ensuring all individuals are suitably housed on returning to their local area. This action has helped reduce the numbers who are homeless and living on the streets.

Digital mechanisms are currently being utilised to engage those engaged by the National Probation Service. This may cause inequalities in some clients being able to access health and social care support due to a lack of access to suitable equipment.

In Durham, a rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) was initiative to provide a 'snapshot' insight into the direct and indirect impact of Covid-19 lockdown on inequalities. The key priorities identified by the HIA also reflect Marmot's national review on inequalities, which suggest by reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour within communities can increase levels of health and wellbeing.

The Safe Durham Partnership will also work closely with the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership, in particular through the work of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Executive Group and the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group to look at the importance of addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences.

## County Durham Vision 2035

The County Durham Vision 2035 is a document developed with partners to provide a shared understanding of what everyone wants our county to look like in 15 years' time

The County Durham Vision 2035 was written together with partner organisations and the public and sets out what we would want to county to look like in 15 years' time. It provides strategic direction and enables us to work together more closely, removing organisational boundaries and co-delivering services for the benefit of our residents. This vision is structured around three ambitions which are:

- More and better jobs
- People live long and independent lives
- Connected communities

A new partnership structure framework was agreed by the County Durham Partnership (the overarching partnership in County Durham) in September 2020 which ensures the County Durham partnership structure aids delivery of the County Durham Vision 2035.

The new partnership structure underneath the County Durham Partnership is:

- **Safe Durham Partnership – Statutory**
- Health and Wellbeing Board (and Outbreak Engagement Board) – Statutory
- Economic Partnership
- Environment and Climate Change Partnership

In addition, the County Durham Together Partnership which will be responsible for countywide approaches.

The SDPP will form part of the delivery mechanism for the Vision, with a remit to deliver the following vision objectives and also work with other partnerships on shared priorities and cross-cutting issues. The Safe Durham Partnership along with its subgroups, will take the lead on delivering the following objectives contained within the vision:

- Future free from harm due to drug and alcohol misuse
- Support for victims to cope, recover and engage in the justice system
- Work with communities most affected by long term empty properties
- Tackle crime and anti-social behaviour
- Address the underlying causes of crime and community tensions
- Actively take steps to encourage community cohesion
- Provide a range of activities and opportunities to divert people away from crime and anti-social behaviour

In addition, they will work closely with the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership who will deliver on the objective to make sure children and young people are safe

As mentioned above, the Safe Durham Partnership will not just fulfil the objectives in the Vision but also has a duty to meet our statutory obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



## **Approach to Wellbeing**

The County Durham Approach to Wellbeing has been adopted by the Safe Durham Partnership as a means of ensuring all organisations and services within the county consider wellbeing as a common currency; it includes everything that is important to people and their lives. It is designed to promote whole system change and to invoke a culture where the wellbeing of the County's residents is considered in every decision that is made whether this be regarding decisions about people or places or the systems designed to support them.

Our approach has six guiding principles which are all underpinned by a strong evidence base. These principles affirm the key role that communities can play in supporting their own residents and the significant improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes that can result from involving communities more in decisions that affect them. A community can be defined as a geographical community or a community of interest such as people living with dementia or asylum seekers.

Our approach has people and places at its heart. Working with communities, building on the assets of those communities, supporting the positive development of the neighbourhoods that people live in and fostering the resilience and empowerment of these communities through the support offered to everyone, and importantly to those who are most vulnerable.

Our approach highlights the importance of supporting systems – encouraging alignment of activities across agencies and sectors and ensuring that services are commissioned and delivered in a way that is collaborative and supportive. For those who require more formal interventions or treatment, our approach supports person-centred interventions that are empowering rather than stigmatising. Through commissioners and providers of services across the sectors the model helps to provide a framework against which we can address the needs of peoples, communities and neighbourhoods whilst working towards a cultural change. This means ensuring all services self-assess against the model using the structured framework that helps to reflect on current practice and will inform future decisions about how local work and activities can support the wellbeing of people living in communities.

Over time it is aimed that the model will be integrated into commissioning decisions, supporting providers to deliver services that place improving wellbeing at the centre of service delivery.

Finally, and most importantly, all our actions need to be informed by local conversations with people and communities – using and building on their knowledge and learning from their own experiences of knowing what they need, what is right and what works for them. In doing this we will also ensure that the model is dynamic, adapting, changing and that it is shaped and developed over time by County Durham residents.

## The Safe Durham Partnership Strategic Assessment and Durham Insight

The Safe Durham Partnership is required by statute to develop an annual strategic assessment. To provide current data and information for stakeholders which is easy to access, a series of web-based factsheets has been developed which is part of Durham Insight which is a shared intelligence, research and knowledge base for County Durham, informing strategic planning across Durham County Council and its partners. This site includes in depth Insight factsheets and lots of topic-based intelligence including infographics, maps and story maps. New intelligence content is regularly added, and the site is continuously being developed and improved. [www.durhaminsight.info](http://www.durhaminsight.info). Key messages from the Integrated Needs Assessment have been identified for each priority below.

### Policy drivers

Key factors which impact on community safety have been drawn out from the strategic assessment and Durham Insight and utilised to inform the priorities for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. This has been coupled with the major policy drivers for improving community safety and any Covid-19 implications.

- Coronavirus Act 2020
- Channel guidance
- Cyber crime
- Domestic Abuse Bill 2020
- BLM (Black Lives Matter)

Coronavirus Act 2020 provides a set of measures giving public bodies and the Government the tools and powers they needed to carry out an effective response to this public health emergency. The implementation of measures within the act could have a direct impact on services and resources provided by partners and therefore the delivery of actions with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Channel is part of the Prevent strategy. The process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism. The refreshed Channel duty guidance, which has implications for how Channel panels are delivered across England and Wales was launched during November 2020. This will enable us all to manage the vulnerability of individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism more effectively.

There have been increases in cybercrime and fraud due to the Covid-19 pandemic as many people are now working from home and using the internet more than ever.

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 aims to create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. The Bill is due to receive royal ascent imminently and will also update legislation accordingly.

Black Lives Matter (BLM) is a political and social movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all racially motivated violence against black people. Although there was an increase in community tensions within regions of higher ethnic minority populations, County

Durham did not see the scale of demonstrations and targeting of national monuments related to the slave trade that were seen in other parts of the country. However, tensions are monitored, and any potential areas of concern highlighted by partners so that suitable actions can be taken to address any issues. Gypsies, Roma and Travellers are the largest BAME (Black and Minority Ethnic) population in County Durham. They have a long-established history as part of our community in County Durham. We have a duty to encourage race equality, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations.

## **Consultation**

Extensive public consultation on the Vision identified housing as a key consideration for local people. The selective licensing initiative, as part of a wider strategic approach outlined in the County Durham Housing Strategy, supports the aims of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2020-2025 and the Safe Durham Partnership's vision that Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe.

Placing Selective Licensing within the remit of the Safe Durham Partnership recognises the potential positive impacts for both tenants and landlords associated with selective licensing in problematic areas, including better quality and safer property standards, fewer empty properties, reduced levels of homelessness and safer, more pleasant areas to live due to lower levels of crime, littering and other anti-social activity.

Other areas included the need to 'accept' and to value diversity and the Safe Durham Partnership will take the lead on actively taking steps to encourage community cohesion to support more resilient and cohesive communities. The consultation also supported a greater emphasis on road safety which is included in this plan.

Tackling alcohol and substance misuse reduction has been identified as one of the priorities of this plan which support vision consultation feedback in relation to tackling alcohol misuse.

Following consultation in 2020 for the Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2020-25 there was strong support for the priorities within the Plan. There were 72 responses to the consultation and over four in five people agreed with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. Comments included:

“We strongly agree with the Safe Durham Partnership Plan and it complements many other Strategic Partnership Plans as well as the County Durham Vision.”

“Feeling safe is what binds communities and makes it a good place to live”

The draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25 was again subject to public consultation via the Durham County Council website and included the Area Action Partnerships, voluntary and community service and the Youth Council.

## Our Vision

The Safe Durham Partnership's vision is underpinned by the strategic assessment and is:

**'Durham is a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe'**

## Our Strategic Priorities

The Safe Durham Partnership has six strategic priorities which set out what we will focus on to make Durham a county where every adult and child will feel and be safe. These priorities are:

- **Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community**

Being and feeling safe both in our homes and within the wider community impacts on both our emotional and physical wellbeing. It also directly impacts on our personal resilience as well as impacting overall on a community's resilience, confidence and cohesion.

- **Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm**

For the vast majority of victims, the experience is new and completely unexpected. Many of them are vulnerable and some have mental health problems. It's essential that appropriate support is available to help them cope and recover from their ordeal.

People can be vulnerable for all sorts of reasons including; learning or physical disabilities, mental health, alcohol and substance misuse, age or discrimination. Vulnerable people are of increased risk of being targeted by predatory perpetrators of crime and being groomed in order to be exploited sexually, criminally or financially.

- **Prevent: Counter Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism**

Becoming radicalised can happen to anyone anywhere for numerous reasons, such as a traumatic event, prejudice or a skewed ideology. No matter the reason there may be warning signs that can help identify those people that may be at risk. If we can refer these individuals early enough into suitable interventions and support, we may be able to prevent devastating life changing incidents from occurring.

- **Reduce reoffending**

Prevention and early intervention initiatives can have an impact on diverting individuals away from offending in the first place. Targeted and desistance-based interventions are also required to rehabilitate individuals effectively and reduce reoffending. The Criminal Justice System needs to be effective in turning lives around and stopping people reoffending through support rather than punishment.

This will help reduce crime, reduce the number of victims and make our communities safer. Where those people who are harmed by crime or conflict choose to, then a restorative approach can bring the harmed and the harmer together in a number of ways, enabling everyone affected by the incident to play a part in repairing the damage and finding a positive way forward.

- **Alcohol and substance misuse reduction**

Alcohol and substance misuse have strong links to both offending and vulnerability in acquisitive crimes to further fund the addiction such as shop lifting and burglary to the impacts on reducing inhibitions and changing the behaviours of individuals leading to domestic and sexual abuse and night time economy violence.

- **Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime**

Cybercrime continues to rise in scale and complexity, impacting on a greater number of victims, affecting essential services, businesses and private individuals alike. However less complex means are also very successful such as phishing for personal information using bogus information.

It is costing the UK billions of pounds, causes untold damage, and threatens national security. According to the National Crime Agency home-grown cyber criminals are becoming more sophisticated and therefore a rising threat. Although young criminals are often driven by peer kudos rather than financial reward, organised UK cybercrime groups are motivated by profit.

For each strategic priority we will firstly explain why it is a priority by interpreting the appropriate data sets and trends. We will then look at why this is important by understanding the impact it has on the area and the lives of those affected. A case study is also provided to give an example of how working together effectively we can make a real difference for people living within County Durham.

### **Alignment with other key strategic plans**

Protecting vulnerable children and adults is a key priority for the Safe Durham Partnership; and it is important that there are close links with the Safe Durham Partnership and the statutory Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan has been developed in close collaboration with the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner's office, drawing on a clear body of evidence and understanding of the needs of communities in County Durham. The priorities which each plan sets are therefore aligned, and the partners work closely to ensure they are delivered to meet the needs of our local communities. Please refer to Appendix 1 to see how the Safe Durham Partnership Plan aligns to other plans.

## **Strategic priority 1: Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community**

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Antisocial behaviour
- Safer Homes
- Road Safety
- Hate crime and community tension

### **Evidence base**

- On average there are around 51,000 crimes per year reported in County Durham.
- The monthly crime rate averages at 8 crimes per 1,000, this dropped to between 6 and 7 crimes per 1,000 during April and June 2020.
- The crime rate historically is 97 crimes per 1,000 (2018/19 & 2019/20, excludes ASB), in the 12 months to September 2020 this dropped to 93 per 1,000
- There are on average 7,000 ASB incidents per quarter in County Durham (Council and Police ASB data). During the first 6 months of 2020/21 this increased to an average of 8,700.
- ASB (2018/19 & 2019/20) rates in County Durham historically is 53 per 1,000 (Council and Police ASB data). In the 12 months to September 2020 this increased to 58 per 1,000.
- During 2019/20 the fire service attended 243 house fires and delivered 16,360 home safety visits. In the first six months of 2020/21, 119 house fire were attended and 1,742 home safety visits carried out.
- In 2019/20, across CDDFRS area, 50% of all primary fires were deliberate and 89% of all secondary fires were deliberate
- In the East coast area that the Arson Suppression Group are focusing on (Wheatley Hill, Peterlee, Easington, Horden etc), over the last 5 years in this area, car fires alone account for 47% of deliberate primary fires and loose refuse alone accounts for 53% of deliberate secondary fires.
- In 2019/20, County Durham Fire and Rescue Service had the third highest rate of deliberate secondary fires per 100,000 population, the two highest rates are in our neighbouring Services in Tyne and Wear and Cleveland showing this is a regional issues and not just County Durham.
- In 2019/20 County Durham Fire and Rescue Service had the highest rate of deliberate primary fires per 100,000 population, with Tyne and Wear and Cleveland in second and third place respectively, again demonstrating this is a regional issue.
- Public confidence is in line with the Most Similar Groups (MSG) average.
- 54% of respondents to the National Crime Survey think Council & Police are dealing with crime issues that matter to the local area.
- Hate crime incidents increased locally by almost 27% between 2016-17 and 2019-20. 259 incidents were recorded in the first six months of 2020-21, the highest number of incidents in the first six months of any year since 2016/17.

- Hate crimes have been increasing locally over the past few years, in 2019-20 there had been a 127% increase compared to 2016-17. 437 crimes were recorded in the first six months of 2020-21, a 27% increase compared to the first six months of 2019-20 and a 144% increase compared to the first six months of 2016-17.

### **Why is it important?**

County Durham remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the country, and partners are committed to ensuring that local people feel safe and are safe in communities with low crime rates which are more cohesive and resilient. With regards to Covid-19, partners are aware of these issues and to understanding the complexities of the societal changes that have accompanied the national emergency. This is an ongoing and evolving picture with agencies also adapting their service delivery to meet demand and public expectation.

Whilst incidents of anti-social behaviour continue to be managed this is an area which can have a significant impact on our communities and individuals and County Durham remains higher than the national average. Problem solving approaches and partnership working remains key to addressing anti-social behaviour and a more place-based approach linking in with other areas of partnership work is being considered moving forward.

Hate Crime is an area subject to under reporting where the key challenge is to ensure that victims are confident to report, and that once reported, the hate element is recognised so that support and safeguarding can be provided.

The number of both Hate incidents and Hate crimes have increased steadily over the last few years. It is difficult to attribute the increase to any one single factor and is more likely to be a result of a combination of increased confidence in reporting, an increase in the actual number of incidents, and changes to crime recording standards relating to certain harassment incidents now being classed as crimes.

Resilient and cohesive communities are more likely to engage with services and report crime and anti-social behaviour. In order to achieve this there are range of tools and powers available to partner organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour. However our real strength in communities lies in the recognition of place based community assets and seeking to mobilise these in order to support each other, listening to the individuals within those communities in order to improve a sense of belonging and purpose so that people are safe and free from the fear of crime.

Identifying vulnerable people within our communities and ensuring they receive the support needed to prevent them becoming either victims of crime or becoming exploited can only be done by working together through schemes such as Safer Homes or the Rough Sleepers and the Night Shelter winter nights work.

The Safer Homes scheme run in partnership with County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and Durham Constabulary offers free fire safety advice and free smoke alarms where required. Referrals can also be made under the scheme for free crime prevention advice via the police. Referrals to health specialists are also available for a range of health and wellbeing issues if required.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Community Risk Officers have continued to visit the very high risk clients to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities get the support they need.

A safe, strong and prosperous community is also a cohesive one. It is important that people have a sense of belonging and feel proud about where they live. It is also important to understand the impact which tensions and conflict may have on our local communities. The implementation of the Community Cohesion Toolkit will ensure that issues around community tensions are identified sooner to ensure a partnership response and avoid escalation. The Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) will have a key role to play, feeding in issues around community tensions and implementing schemes that will help form a more cohesive community.

Road safety is an issue that cuts across local councils, emergency services and health. Incidents can have a devastating far reaching and long-term impact on those involved and their families. Having a road network that encourages sustainable travel and road users that are safe is a priority of the council and its strategic partners. This is achieved through a targeted partnership approach to address those key road user groups over-represented in casualty statistics and those individuals or groups who engage in risk taking behaviours.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, our ability to meet residents face-to-face has been diminished, we have developed a number of education tools to assist in road safety delivery. This is supported by publicity campaigns aimed at encouraging safe and sustainable road use, particularly on the school journey.



## **Case Study – GRT (Gypsy, Roma, Traveller) Communities**

Gypsies, Roma and Travellers have a long-established history as part of our community in County Durham. We have a duty to encourage race equality, eliminate discrimination and foster good relations.

A large unauthorised encampment arrived in the county during the early summer. A resident in the locality reported this to the local authority. During the conversation the complainant became very angry and made a threat to damage the caravans belonging to the families and threatened to set fire to them.

The Gypsy Roma Traveller Services (GRTS) team was informed immediately about the comment made who then contacted Durham Constabulary to follow up the report.

Key partners and Durham County Council Health and Safety were contacted to make them aware of the incident and advised they should assess potential risk in respect of any contact/visits to the area and the DCC Equality and Diversity team to make them aware of the incident.

Durham Constabulary visited the complainant and issued a verbal warning about his conduct. It was explained that his behaviour was totally unacceptable and further incidents could lead to him being convicted of a racially aggravated offence.

A tension monitoring form was completed and then discussed at the local multi-agency problem solving meeting to make partners aware of the situation.

In order to help reduce further tensions in the community further interventions were arranged to help educate and inform residents about Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities such as the Holocaust Memorial Day event and Community Safety Roadshows as well as plans to set up a community forum. This forum brings together members of the GRT communities with key members of the community and officials to ensure that these issues are less likely to happen in the future.

Strategic Priority 1	Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community			
Work areas	Anti-Social behaviour (ASB)	Safer Homes	Road Safety	Hate Crime and Community Tension
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners in order to be more efficient and effective in combatting the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Deliberate Fires</li> <li>○ Fly tipping</li> <li>○ Derelict/ abandoned properties</li> <li>○ Horses</li> <li>○ Noise</li> <li>○ Other statutory nuisances</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve public confidence in the Police and Council for tackling crime and ASB</li> <li>• Communicate successes in order to build confident communities</li> <li>• Clear use of a partner problem solving approach to improve the delivery of agile interventions utilising the Local Multi-agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) process</li> <li>• Collaboration with Area Action Partnerships and the Voluntary and Community Sector in tackling long term anti-social behaviour in high impact areas</li> <li>• Consideration of a place-based approach for ASB and potentially other areas of partnership work</li> <li>• Analyse the method and motivation for the various forms of arson experienced on the east coast</li> <li>• Seek a peer review from another areas that has experienced arson and understand how they have addressed this</li> <li>• County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) Information Services provide data daily direct to Durham Police for analysis.</li> <li>• The Arson Reduction Team to collaborate with the DCC Derelict Properties Group and Regeneration Team to develop a register of 'at risk' premises</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver a range of interventions to improve private sector housing and living standards</li> <li>• Introduce wide-scale licensing of private landlords</li> <li>• Work with identified residential licensed premises to support them to review their annual risk assessment to ensure that safety control measures are maintained in good condition</li> <li>• Provide annual assurance to SDP around fire safety issues including safe and wellbeing visits</li> <li>• Ensure referrals for target hardening properties for a specific need i.e. domestic violence, harassment, self-neglect, hoarding for those most vulnerable</li> <li>• Fire safety awareness training delivered to partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on delivering schemes to address those road user groups that are overrepresented in casualty statistics</li> <li>• Undertake an annual review of all reported injury collisions to establish those road user groups or risk-taking behaviours that contribute to casualties in the county</li> <li>• Task the County Durham and Darlington Casualty Reduction Forum with producing and publishing an annual delivery plan to support the road safety strategy</li> <li>• Provide annual assurance to SDP around road safety issues including reporting of performance, delivery of campaigns and local safety schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and reduce the true level of hate crimes and incidents</li> <li>• Increase reporting of hate incidents through the Hate Hurts Campaign</li> <li>• Develop a multi-agency communications strategy, demonstrating a cross-organisation and cross-sector approach, including a message that there should be zero-tolerance of hate crime. This to be aimed at all sections of society.</li> <li>• Review of reporting mechanisms and pathways</li> <li>• Review how organisations share intelligence</li> <li>• Review of the use of evidence to ensure effective prosecutions</li> <li>• Map the support for victims and identify gaps in effective support</li> <li>• Understand the issue of incitement in relation to 'disability hate crime', and the common connections between 'disability hate crime' and 'crimes against disabled people' through joint working with the Joint Hate Crime Action Group and the Law Commission</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy (in development) Arson Suppression Group Action Plan</b>	<b>County Durham and Darlington Fire and rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan and Community Safety Strategy</b>	<b>County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategy 2020</b>	<b>Joint Hate Crime Action Plan</b>

## **Strategic Priority 2: Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm**

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence
- Organised Crime and County Lines
- Victims

### **Evidence base**

- Violence and sexual offences are the most reported crimes locally, at a rate of 40.7 per 1,000 (July 2018 – Jun 2019) which is similar to the North East but higher than England.
- There were almost 1,500 rape and sexual offences in County Durham in 2019/20, at a rate of 2.7 per 1,000. During the first three months of 2020/21 rape and sexual offences decreased but have since returned to normal levels. However, between July and September 2020 rape increased to above average levels particularly in August.
- There were over 11,000 domestic abuse related crimes recorded in County Durham (2019/20) which is equivalent to 21 crimes for every 1,000 people. For the first two quarters of 2020/21, 7,900 domestic abuse related crimes have been recorded.
- There were 6,982 referrals to Harbour in 2019/20, compared to 5,140 in 2018/19 a rise of 38%. Referrals continue to rise with the six refuges across the North East constantly at full capacity.
- 3,213 victims of crime took up the offer of help from (Victims Care and Advice Service 2019/20). During the first six months of 2020/21, 217 victims have taken up the offer of support.
- The National Crime Agency states nationally that 69% of County Lines Drugs supply related to Crack and Heroin. (December 2018).
- The National Crime Agency reports that there were 2000 individual drug deal line numbers in the UK and half of these can be branded as County Lines. (December 2018).
- The National Crime Agency concluded that 91% of individuals recorded nationally associated with County Lines offending were male, however they believe that the number of females as both offenders and victims of exploitation were underrepresented. (December 2018).

### **Why is it important?**

Being a victim of crime can have devastating consequences for both the individual and those closest to them. This can include entry into a criminal justice process which can be confusing and frightening as well as intrusive. It is important that we ensure appropriate and timely support is available to all victims at each stage of the process to ensure they are able to cope and recover from the experience. During the recent Covid-19 pandemic this support has been essential and commissioned services have continued to offer support either in line with restrictions regarding face

to face meetings or extending remote provision through video enabled technology or telephone contact.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence are hidden crimes that are significantly unreported. This violence and abuse have a major and long-lasting impact on victims, witnesses, children and young people, whole families and the wider community. Most victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence are women and girls, but men and boys can also be victims.

Durham Constabulary expects to see an increase in demand from domestic abuse incidents as improvements are made in identifying victims and increasing confidence amongst victims to report abuse. The harm of domestic abuse to the victim is substantial and is often linked to complicating factors such as alcohol, drugs and mental health.

Children are affected by Domestic Abuse in their households. Actions focus on the long-term impact and risks associated with children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse and information sharing across agencies. Sexual offences against children remains an area of concern, specifically in relation to contact offences which are largely committed by persons known to the child and often within the family unit.

We aim to significantly reduce the number of repeat victims and serial perpetrators of domestic abuse through early intervention and ensuring that more hidden victims are identified and offered support.

County lines facilitates the purchase of illicit drugs by drug users in smaller towns and rural areas and requires exploitation of the vulnerable, including children and those with mental health or addiction problems, at all points of their drug supply routes. Albeit relatively rarely, UK investigations have encountered children from what people might perceive to be more stable or more affluent backgrounds who have been groomed for county lines dealing.

A small number of County Lines have been identified in the Durham Constabulary area. There has been an effective (pursue) response using proactive measures to gather evidence and prosecute those involved, closing down the lines involved.

However, it is recognised that there is an emerging crack cocaine market developing in the force area and effective partnership working (prepare and protect) is required to prevent further county lines activity being imported into the area and to ensure an effective safeguarding response if further lines take hold. This is being developed by the Constabulary working with all relevant agencies through the Child Exploitation Group.

We are working with Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership to raise awareness with staff and partners of what criminal exploitation and county lines is, what to look for and where to report concerns and intelligence.

We are also working with the Safeguarding Adults Board to raise awareness of modern slavery. Durham County Council has developed a Modern Slavery Charter

which focusses upon three key aims; prevention, protection and partnership working. Making sure the appropriate agencies disrupt the organised criminal gangs involved in this activity effectively and ensuring partners understand the nature of this harm to enable practitioners to recognise its signs and respond appropriately so that potential victims get the support and help that they need.

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### **Case Study 1 – Victims Care and Advice Service**

Mrs D was a victim of robbery at knifepoint and at her place of work. Following the crime, she was terrified at even the thought of returning to work, she also felt scared, anxious and nervous when at home and during times when she needed to leave her home to carry out simple tasks like shopping. This was all in addition to the anxiety and isolation already being experienced due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Following a referral to the Victim Care and Advice Service and in step with Covid-19 regulations a Victim Care Officer was able to conduct safe garden visits with Mrs D at her home and was also able to go on socially distanced walks with her in order to carry out a needs assessment, develop a recovery plan and put the required support in place. This included support to Mrs D regarding the subsequent Criminal Justice proceedings as the offender had been identified.

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions Mrs D was able to access the support she required to help her cope and recover; she was able to return to work, she felt safer both inside and when leaving her home, and was also fully supported and well informed throughout the criminal justice process linked with the prosecution of the individual who had offended against her.

### **Case Study 2 – Community Peer Mentors**

M, a 25 years old woman called County Durham Together Community Hub. She was feeling very low and upset, had ongoing legal issues after suffering from harassment for a number of years from her ex-partner. She needed help as she didn't understand the letters or information she was being given and didn't feel supported by the legal profession. She was taking anti-depressants to cope. The police and solicitors were involved in dealing with the case however she was very confused and didn't understand correspondence she was receiving from police. Her medication was making her feel unwell and she felt unsupported.

M agreed to allow these issues to be discussed with her GP and was happy to be referred to other organisations for further support. It was identified that M required further support with regards to her mental wellbeing and medication and referrals to Wellbeing for Life, Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and to Community Peer support mentor programme were made.

M was grateful for support from the hub and recognised that she had other issues and that they were happy for future support. Community Peer Support mentor made contact with M and immediately built up a rapport and provided support and practical advice. A Social prescribing link worker also contacted M and made an appointment to review her medication. She was also contacted by CAB to discuss legal support.

M was thrilled by all the support she received, she stated that this has really helped her feelings of isolation and feeling that no one cares. Her mental wellbeing has improved greatly and having support from Community Peer Support mentors ensured that she didn't feel socially isolated.

Strategic Priority 2	Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm		
Work Areas	Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence	Organised Crime; County lines	Victims
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all agencies have a good understanding of the impact of domestic abuse with a specific focus on coercive and controlling behaviour</li> <li>• To continue to further develop a suite of sustainable intervention providers to ensure a consistent approach to work with perpetrators</li> <li>• Continue to monitor and meet standards in respect of risk and needs assessment to ensure the needs of people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence are met</li> <li>• To educate children and young people on the importance of respectful and healthy relationships in order to prevent future offending or victimisation</li> <li>• Ensure that all Operation Encompass notifications are processed within timescales and appropriately responded to by education settings</li> <li>• To continue to support and promote appropriate campaigns in relation to domestic abuse and sexual violence</li> <li>• Maintain strong links between Domestic Abuse Sexual Violence Executive Group and the Durham Safeguarding Children partnership to ensure issues requiring multi-agency and individual partner response are identified and addressed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership to raise awareness with staff and partners of what is county lines, what to look for and where to report concerns and intelligence</li> <li>• Work with Durham Safeguarding to raise awareness and explain the nature of this harm, enable practitioners to recognise its signs and respond appropriately so that potential victims get the support and help they need</li> <li>• Appropriate agencies to work together to disrupt the organised criminal gangs involved in this activity effectively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide co-ordinated end to end care and support for victims and ensure effective pathways and timely support are in place</li> <li>• Deliver positive outcomes for victims and witnesses</li> <li>• Enable the victim's voice to be heard throughout the criminal justice system processes</li> <li>• All young people who become a victim or witness are offered appropriate support</li> <li>• Ensure relevant information is available to all victims and witnesses in relation to all aspects of their experience</li> <li>• Ensure group discussion and action planning is focused, targeted and results in tangible outcomes for victims and witnesses</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Group (DASVEG) Action Plan</b>	<b>Operation Sentinel Action Plan Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Strategy Child Exploitation Group Action Plan</b>	<b>County Durham and Darlington Victims and Witnesses Group Delivery Plan Reducing Re-offending Strategy</b>

## Strategic Priority 3: Prevent: Counter terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Preventing people being drawn into terrorism
- Support the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks and mitigate the impact of such an attack

### Evidence base

- The UK threat level for International Terrorism changed to Severe which means an Attack is Highly Likely from Substantial (an Attack is Likely) in November 2020.
- The threat level reached Critical – the highest level, where an Attack is Expected Imminently on two occasions during 2017, a year during which there were five terrorist attacks resulting in 36 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

### National statistics

- There were 215 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the 12 months to September 2020, 48 fewer than the number in the previous 12-month period (a fall of 18%). Of the 215 arrests:
  - 62 (29%) resulted in a charge, of which 55 were for terrorism-related offences.
  - 84 (39%) persons were released pending further investigation
  - 41 people (19%) were released without charge.
  - 20 (9%) faced alternative action, for example receiving a caution or recalled to prison.
  - 8 (4%) cases were awaiting an outcome to be assigned at the time of data provision.

### Why is it important?

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed Prevent on a statutory footing and requires all specified authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Local Authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation. The Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) 2018 confirms that the threat to the UK comes from Islamist terrorists while extreme right-wing terrorism is described as a growing threat.

Counter Terrorism Strategy 2018 has the following objectives:

- **Pursue** - To stop terrorist attacks (the remit of the police and security services)
- **Prevent** - To stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists
- **Prepare** - Where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact
- **Protect** - To strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks

It has been recognised that people are spending more and more time online due to the restrictions caused by Covid-19. This has increased the access by extremist and



radical groups to our most vulnerable in society and provided a new narrative that can be exploited to further their ideals and agenda.

It is recognised that mental health plays a key part in exploitation, taking advantage when people are at their most vulnerable. Loneliness, community cohesion and poverty have a significant effect on mental health, therefore working closely with support services and care workers, ensuring they have the necessary training and access to resources is key to identifying any concerns at an early stage, thus preventing further harm.

Prevent awareness is a key strategic objective of the local contest delivery plan. Through the Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Darlington Partnership, the Silver Contest Group's plan has now been updated to incorporate activities across partners to ensure training is aligned to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile but also to ensure we understand strategic delivery.

The Channel Programme is a key part of the Prevent strategy. There is a requirement for local authorities and others to provide support for people who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism, before they commit an offence. This process aims to provide support to individuals at an early stage and help protect them from radicalisation.

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## Case Study – Channel

D was a 16 year old boy referred to Prevent in October 2019

He suffered from severe childhood trauma, living in Local Authority care, drug user, regular missing from home and excluded from College.

D had repeatedly expressed a hatred towards Muslims and racially abused Asian people which had resulted in him being dismissed from the Army Cadets.

After referral to Prevent a bespoke multi-agency support package was provided including a Home Office Intervention Provider, Social Worker, Counselling Services and his case was accepted to be discussed at the Channel multi-agency safeguarding panel. It was established that D had aspirations to join the Armed Forces and had been due to enrol at Military College. As a result of his willingness to engage, the Armed Forces Prevent Lead was (for the first time) invited to take part in Channel.

The positive engagement resulted in D successfully joining the military five months after the Prevent referral where he is now thriving in a new career and has successfully attained GCSE level qualifications. There has been continuing support for his family with his Mother giving credit to Prevent for 'changing her son's life' and offering to speak with other parents in a similar position. Both D and his family have also agreed to promote their positive experience with Prevent and Channel which will be used as a best practise case study for training and future engagement purposes.

The subject's Social Worker commented that '...The multi-agency working and information sharing was outstanding ... This good practice example demonstrates how education and intervention can really have a longstanding, positive impact and change someone's life for the better'.

<b>Strategic Priority 3</b>	<b>Prevent: Counter terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism</b>	
<b>Work Areas</b>	<b>Prevent people being drawn into terrorism</b>	<b>Support the work to strengthen our protection against terrorist attacks and mitigate the impact of such an attack</b>
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise the Prevent Duty Toolkit to assess Prevent against statutory requirements and best practice delivery</li> <li>• Deliver a wide range of PREVENT awareness raising to staff of specified authorities and the childcare sector to ensure they know how to recognise when someone is vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism and understand how to refer them for support and intervention</li> <li>• Work in partnership to understand and respond to levels of intolerance and extremism that can raise community tensions</li> <li>• Promote the use of the adult/child referral pathways and ensure all staff know how to make a Prevent referral</li> <li>• Transition the Channel intervention and support programme to Durham County Council and put in place protocols for implementation as required by operation Dovetail</li> <li>• Implement the Channel Duty guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the threat and vulnerability from terrorism and extremism relating to terrorism in County Durham</li> <li>• Raise awareness of the importance of reporting suspicious incidents among professionals and the community</li> <li>• Collaborate with the Local Resilience Forum and County Durham Safety Advisory Group on issues of Prevent, Protect and Prepare</li> <li>• Raise awareness of how to protect crowded places from, and respond to, a terrorist attack</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>County Durham and Darlington Silver Contest Delivery Action Plan</b>	

## Strategic Priority 4: Reduce Reoffending

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Prevent offending and inter-generational offending
- Prevent reoffending

### Evidence base

- The rate of first-time entrants into the Youth Justice System has been decreasing and shows a downward trend in County Durham, with 213 entrants into the Youth Justice System per 100,000 10-17 population (Oct 18 – Sept 19)
- In County Durham 3 in 10 adult offenders re-offend. This rises to almost half for children and young people.
- The reoffending rate in County Durham is 30% (Jan 18 – Dec 18), higher than the national average (28%).
- In County Durham there are an average of 4.7 offences per offender, above the national average of 4.01.
- The reoffending rate for children and young people in County Durham is 39%, higher than the national average of 38%.
- The level of detected crime for offenders in the Integrated Offender Management cohort has fallen over the last 12 months to 44%, this is lowest rate seen since June 2018/19.
- The rate of successful completions as a proportion of all Criminal Justice clients in drug and alcohol treatment has been increasing in County Durham since Q4 2018-19. During Q1 2020-21 County Durham had a success rate of 12.5%, although this figure seems small, this is the highest rate seen in County Durham.
- Nearly 1,000 referrals were made into Checkpoint in 2019/20. Between April and June 2020, the number of referrals fell but have since returned to average levels.
- In the 12 months to June 2020 the compliance rate for Checkpoint has remained above 70%.
- Between April 2015 to September 2020, the Stronger Families Programme worked with 2,355 families who were identified as being involved in ASB or Crime. 49.1% of families achieved a successful intervention.
- Between 2015/16 and 2018/19 pre-caution disposals fell by 41%.

### Why is it important?

In order to prevent crime and stop people who have offended from committing further crimes, partners need to work together to implement effective measures to ensure adults and young people who offend are challenged and supported to desist from crime. Durham and Darlington's reducing reoffending group focuses its work on youth offending, early intervention, volume offender management and enabling desistance pathway support (the reasons why people offend).

Prevention and early intervention initiatives can have an impact on diverting individuals away from the criminal justice system. Our youth justice service has reduced the number of first-time entrants to the system significantly by offering rehabilitative support and restorative interventions to prevent further offending and

support victims of the crimes committed. This allows for a greater focus on those young people causing the most harm in our communities and those repeat young people who offend.

Desistance-based interventions are also required to rehabilitate individuals effectively and reduce reoffending. The Criminal Justice System needs to be effective both in terms of punishing those people who offend and stopping people reoffending through rehabilitation rather than punishment if appropriate. Evidence-based diversionary schemes like Checkpoint are known to be effective in improving reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of offending (such as employment, drugs, alcohol, mental health, accommodation) and diverting them away from the Criminal Justice System.

Challenges remain in relation to a coordinated approach to securing desistance pathway support, but we have been successful in securing a joint approach to housing needs and support as well as commissioning a specific pathway through substance misuse provision for those who offend. Effective offender management relies heavily upon all partner resources to provide critical pathways to steer people away from future offending. Targeted interventions are required for specific cohorts such as offender management, domestic abuse perpetrators, prison-based interventions.

The Local Criminal Justice Partnership (LCJP) is aligned to the Safe Durham Partnership and is committed to delivering an end-to-end system for rehabilitating offenders and reducing reoffending. This ensures the police, youth offending services, Crown Prosecution Service, Courts, Community Rehabilitation Company, National Probation Service and Prisons, work together with those partners responsible for providing the services which help to prevent people offending, including Public Health, Housing, Employment and Mental Health services work together so that people can get access to the support that they need. The Effectiveness and Efficiency group now has an additional responsibility of providing oversight of the LCJP recovery work in order to manage criminal justice demand system in light of Covid-19 and improve outcomes for victims and offenders.

## Case Study - Restorative Justice

An incident of criminal damage occurred, where H kicked open a front door of a family's home. This led to the children fearing being in the home and unable to sleep properly – the whole family needed to know why it had happened in order to move forward.

The police were called and following an investigation H was identified.

The case was referred to the Restorative Hub by the police officer with the agreement of all concerned. In a safe and structured face to face meeting H explained his actions to the parents who in turn were able to let him know of the impact of those actions on them and their children. H was shocked that his behaviour had caused such significant harm upon as many people, and especially children.

The parents were better able to understand H and thanked him for his honesty and were pleased that he was not being further criminalised. They could then tell the children that they had met 'the man that did it' and that he was "really sorry", which helped greatly in their recovery.

All agreed that they were pleased to have taken part and that a weight had been lifted from their shoulders. The family asked for an update in three months' time on H's behaviour, as only a period of not getting into trouble would be full proof that he had learned from this experience. This was agreed and the police confirmed that H had been in no further trouble, was doing well in school and was not associating with the same peer group.

<b>Strategic Priority 4</b>	<b>Reduce Reoffending</b>	
<b>Work Areas</b>	<b>Prevent offending and inter-generational offending</b>	<b>Prevent reoffending</b>
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify those at risk of offending and ensure appropriate support is in place to break the cycle of intergenerational offending</li> <li>• Implement early intervention strategies with the aim to divert individuals from the Criminal Justice system</li> <li>• Implement targeted interventions for those who are repeat offenders</li> <li>• Ensure critical pathway evidence informs needs-based solutions using integrated offender management principles</li> </ul> <p><b>Prevention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building our “Think Family” approach for offenders and their families</li> <li>• Aligning criminal justice interventions with children and family support initiatives to maintain links with children and families of offenders</li> </ul> <p><b>Early Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting young people to intervene as early as possible to educate and divert young people from crime</li> <li>• Encouraging appropriate use of diversion for adults such as first-time offenders</li> </ul> <p><b>Targeted Intervention</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring those offenders posing highest risk to the community are within scope of Integrated Offender Management (IOM) arrangements</li> <li>• Increasing effective community orders and alternatives to short term custodial sentences</li> <li>• Promote the safe transition and effective integration into communities from prison</li> <li>• Ensure restorative approaches are used when working with people who offend</li> <li>• Develop a whole system approach for females who offend</li> </ul> <p><b>Effective Pathways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working in partnership to improve referrals and services which address the pathways to enable effective intervention throughout the criminal justice process (priorities in accommodation, drugs, alcohol, mental health)</li> <li>• Understand where gaps in service provision are, across the whole system, and working in partnership to fill them</li> </ul>	
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>Reducing Reoffending Strategy</b>	

## **Strategic Priority 5: Alcohol and substance misuse reduction**

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Providing specialist interventions to promote recovery
- Protecting children and vulnerable adults at risk
- Strengthening leadership, management and governance

### **Evidence base**

- There are around 2,800 opiate and crack users (OCUs) in County Durham. The rate is statistically significantly lower than the North East but not significantly different to England.
- Unmet need for OCUs (estimate of the proportion OCUs not currently in treatment) for OCUs is lower in County Durham than England, but for crack users alone, it is higher.
- Drug related incidents increased by 32% between 2015/16 and 2019/20. In the first quarter of 2020/21 incidents have continued to increase and stand at 3.4% down slightly from Q1 2020/21 (4.1%).
- Between 2016/17 and 2019/20 the number of alcohol related ASB reduced by 3.5% but have increased to over 18% in the first six months of 2020/21.
- Between 2018/19 and 2019/20 Alcohol related violent crime increased almost 4% and violence against the person offences which are alcohol related have also increased to 5.5%.
- Historically, around 27% of all violent crime in County Durham is alcohol related. However, over 2019/20 and the first six months of 2020/21 we have seen alcohol related violent crime increase to over 30%.
- Drug poisoning related death rates fell by 12.7% compared to 2018, they are still statistically significantly higher in County Durham (10.6 per 100,000) than England (7.1), but lower than the North East (13.1).
- Drug misuse related death rates fell by 32.5% compared to 2018, they are still statistically significantly higher in County Durham (7.4 per 100,000) than England (4.7), but lower than the North East (9.1).

### **Why is it important?**

Although alcohol consumption per adult (aged over 15 years) has been declining since 2004, those that do drink are drinking at an increasing risk. Consumption habits have changed throughout the last two decades with twice as much alcohol now being sold from off-sales compared to the on-trade. Reasons for risks associated with alcohol include pre-loading and cheap alcohol sales, density of drinking establishments, high risk licensed premises and vertical drinking premises as well as changes in consumption habits.

Although alcohol related incidents such as public order, criminal damage or violence have been fluctuating since they peaked in July 2018, they still present a significant demand on resources.



Alcohol is noted as a factor in many incidents of domestic abuse, sexual violence and child exploitation. The use of alcohol is also a significant factor in why children suffer from neglect or harm. Alcohol misuse causes harm to people's health including their mental health and can impact on the ability of individuals to access or sustain employment.

Drug dependency continues to be a significant driver of acquisitive crime, causing a high demand on resources. There has also been an increase in vulnerable child and vulnerable adult incidents which are drug related. Drug related violence against the person accounted for a significant portion of all drug related crime and drug offences have increased when compared with 2017/18. Crime and drug trafficking offences have increased significantly for the same period.

Drug misuse is a serious issue not only to the health and wellbeing of the individual that is affected by it, but that of their families and the wider community. The levels of substance misuse related deaths continue to rise on a national basis, with a significant number being attributed to prescription medication, cocaine and alcohol use. Death rates in County Durham have reduced during 2019/20 (ONS, 2020) to the lowest in the NE region.

Tackling drug misuse requires a co-ordinated approach involving a whole range of partners. It is not just the responsibility of organisations however; individuals and the wider community all have a role to play in reducing and preventing drug misuse.

Partners will work together to reduce alcohol and drug misuse, campaigning in partnership for changes in the law around minimum unit pricing and tackling the organised crime groups who supply illegal drugs. Preventing further misuse of drugs and alcohol is also an area of focus for the Health and Well Being Board.

Research undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic has found that consumption of alcohol increased across the country during the lockdown restrictions. The Global Drug Survey found UK drinkers started drinking earlier in the day, having more drinking days and found more evidence of binge drinking.

It is difficult to comment on drug use during Covid-19, but the heroin market is reported to be reasonably stable nationally; although some areas are reporting long waiting times and reduced quality. Whilst crack and cocaine purity appear stable in the majority of regions.

The rise in mental ill health during the Covid-19 response linked to socio-economic factors, job insecurity, debt, bereavement, social isolation and moral injury may also have implications for any future rise in levels of substance misuse.

## Case Study – Drugs and alcohol

J was referred to the Humankind Drug/Alcohol Service via their Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) Officer, for a court-imposed Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) for domestic violence. J had previously worked with the service on a number of occasions; however, he always dropped out. He had previously spent time in custody for a number of violence-related offences.

J was claiming job seekers allowance and when he got paid, he would binge drink on a bottle of vodka daily for 4 - 5 days. Then as his money is depleting, they would buy strong cider following that. The only time he didn't drink was because he had run out of money. He also bought cannabis weekly and used street diazepam when he had no alcohol as he had difficulty sleeping. J experienced some withdrawals. During his abstinent days, he complained of anxiety, stomach cramps, restlessness and sweats and had blacked out whilst drinking.

J had excellent attendance with the service and had commenced on an alcohol reduction plan using a drink diary and utilising the resources of an alcohol workbook, which offers both visual and textualised content related to the issues that surround alcohol abuse. The workbook was sent to J via post, as face to face contact had been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

J was still in a relationship, that at times, can cause him stress and he had previously used alcohol as a coping mechanism, however due to the work completed with Humankind and his alcohol consumption had reduced dramatically.

J attended two pre-recovery group meetings online via zoom every week for four weeks until he had reduced his alcohol and drug consumption to zero. He then embarked on a Reducing Alcohol and Drugs (RAD) programme, which, comprised of a 12-week community recovery programme for individuals who are no longer drinking, or taking substances and worked on gaining skills and knowledge to maintain his recovery in the community.

Strategic Priority 5	Alcohol and Substance Misuse Reduction			
Work Areas	Prevention and early intervention	Providing specialist interventions to promote recovery	Protecting children and vulnerable adults at risk	Strengthening leadership, management and governance
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the reduction of the availability and supply of illicit drugs and counterfeit alcohol addressing community perceptions</li> <li>Increase early identification and support for those affected by alcohol and drugs across the life course within a range of settings (Making Every Contact Count)</li> <li>Improve the quality and consistency of information and education about alcohol and drugs in a variety of settings including schools, colleges, University, wider community and the workplace</li> <li>Promote responsible management of licensed premises through effective implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 and best practice interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote harm reduction messages for the reduction of alcohol intake, promote needle exchange activities and overdose prevention (including naloxone provision) within a range of settings.</li> <li>Ensure that individuals, families and wider partners have access to high quality information on support options available, with specific targeting for marginalised groups</li> <li>Provide drug and alcohol specialist services to provide holistic package of care within a range of settings</li> <li>Monitor outcomes for service delivery via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the effectiveness of safeguarding and risk management arrangements for children, young people and adults where substance misuse is a factor, including overdose and substance misuse related death, those at risk of domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.</li> <li>Provide effective interagency responses for those experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage substance misuse, offending, homelessness, mental health, long-term chronic conditions</li> <li>Strengthen an integrated approach to providing support for children and families affected by parental substance misuse (cross reference with prevention and early intervention) utilising a Think Family approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the Alcohol Declaration for Safe Durham Partnership</li> <li>Promote information sharing across all partnership agencies</li> <li>Ensure there are links to other strategic plans e.g. Tobacco Plan</li> <li>Prioritise the voice of the service user to ensure the service is effective</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Strategy</b>			

## Strategic Priority 6: Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime

Areas of work included under this priority are:

- Raise awareness of the general population about staying safe online
- Reduce risk to the most vulnerable groups
- Build resilience of local businesses to the threat of cyber crime

### Evidence base

- The Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2020 indicates that almost half of businesses (46%) and a quarter of charities (26%) report having cyber security breaches or attacks in the last 12 months, at an average cost of around £3,230.
- For the year ending June 2020 the Telephone-operated Crime Survey for England and Wales (TCSEW) estimated that there were 5.9 million cybercrimes, 73% were fraud offences and 27% were related to computer misuse.
- Estimates showed that there were 733,967 fraud offences and 29,138 computer misuse offences referred to National Fraud Intelligence Bureau in the year ending June 2020.
- Within plastic card frauds, there was a 58% increase in “remote banking” fraud which reflects the greater number of people now regularly using internet, telephone and mobile banking, and the attempts by fraudsters to take advantage of this. The two highest-volume computer misuse types were “Hacking – social media and email” and “computer viruses and malware”.
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is likely to have had differential effects on trends in fraud and computer misuse offence, for example Action Fraud reported the increase in “online shopping and auctions” fraud could be accounted for by the increase in online shopping whilst the decrease in “other advance fee” fraud could be attributed to reduction in holiday fraud figures as fewer holidays were booked. However, it is too early to say whether this is evidence of a change to longer-term patterns.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/crimeinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2020#computer-misuse>

### Why is it important?

Advances in technology and cyber related crime, impacts across virtually all areas of policing. It is an enabler of crime, such as fraud, harassment, child sexual abuse and exploitation or pure cyber-dependent crime and is also a source of significant amounts of data, in both an online and offline context.

There have been increases in cybercrime and fraud due to the Covid-19 pandemic as many people are now working from home and using the internet more than ever. National reports suggest increases in fraud especially targeting elderly vulnerable people (Action Fraud, 2020). There have also been a number of scams directly relating to Covid-19 as criminals exploit the vulnerabilities of people living in the pandemic.

The impact on policing is significant, particularly in terms of maximising capability to exploit investigatory opportunities and capture evidence as part of investigations that are proving more complex. In relation to fraud offences key concerns are around under reporting, particularly in relation to the business sector where there may be a reluctance to report crimes due to reputational damage.

Targeting of individual victims is increasing and particularly among vulnerable groups. This has increased dramatically during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is important to protect individuals and organisations from becoming victims through ensuring our communities have the knowledge and ability to protect themselves against cyber-enabled fraud and crime. Every victim coming to the attention of the victim and advice service is offered information with regard to prevention of cybercrime and targeted preventative work that is being carried out by both the force and the local authority.

The huge growth in technology and digital communications has enhanced society and quality of life for everyone. However, it comes with clear risks to homes and businesses, as cyber-fraud increases and there are new patterns of criminal activity all the time.

The significant risks associated with cybercrime alongside the widely estimated understanding that the majority of cyber-attacks are preventable, make good practice critically important.

Through the Safer Cyber Working Group, the Safe Durham Partnership will look to support and deliver this strategic priority across the partnerships structures and community sectors.

Collaboration and partnership working is needed across the county to enhance our capability to tackle cybercrime and cyber-enabled crime, which is thought to be largely under-reported. This will include programmes to raise awareness and educate communities, including the business sector, to protect themselves against cyber-enabled crime.

## **Case Study 1 – Cyber Crime**

Thirteen-year-old J was referred to the intervention workshop after hacking into a bank account and receiving a caution by the police.

J said: “I like making and breaking stuff and messing around online. “I hacked a bank account and the police came to my school. My parents were shocked I suppose.”

Discussions led to J taking part in the pilot North East cyber workshop where he worked with other young people in similar situations and was made aware of the serious implications of this activity. He was shown how he can enjoy a lucrative and legitimate career out of his interest whilst sticking to the right side of cyber law.

J has not been in trouble since this intervention took place.

## **Case Study 2 – Cyber Crime**

A is a 70-year-old man who lives alone. A was contacted by an unknown person who said he was from his local bank. A was informed that his bank account had been ‘hacked’ and he was at risk of losing all his money. He was asked to open his online bank account in order that a new and safe account could be opened to transfer his funds to. A followed the instructions he was given believing he was keeping his money safe.

Later it transpired that A had via his online bank account transferred all his money into an account controlled by the fraudulent bank staff member. A considerable amount of money had been stolen and the bank were unable to recover that money or make a refund.

A was referred to the Victim Care and Advice Service (VCAS), who gave him immediate emotional support, and the opportunity to talk about the issues affecting him. He felt embarrassed that he been ‘caught out’ so easily, and felt uneasy with regard to the fraudster knowing who he was and where he lived as he felt that he may be targeted in his own home. Advice and support was given with regard to his future online safety and reassurance with regard to his safety at home.

Arrangements were made to carry out a ‘Friends Against Scams’ presentation to A and a number of his friends at a local community group. As a consequence of the support provided A (and his friends) felt they would be more confident in identifying fraudsters both online and through other methods such as the telephone, he felt safer at home and less concerned about the embarrassment that he had suffered.

Strategic Priority 6	Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime		
Work Areas	Raise awareness of the general population about staying safe online	Reduce risk to the most vulnerable groups	Build resilience of local businesses to the threat of cyber crime
<b>Core Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver awareness raising sessions of the risks and threats of cybercrime</li> <li>• Deliver a general understanding about digital hygiene through events, seminars, marketing and communications</li> <li>• Increase awareness of those in the public, voluntary and community sectors about protecting clients from becoming a victim</li> <li>• Increase confidence to report incidents of cyber-crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with other partnerships to widely embed cyber-crime and exploit opportunities for joint working</li> <li>• Work with the voluntary and community sector to identify means of communicating digital hygiene to those who have vulnerabilities (e.g. older people)</li> <li>• Work with education, youth support and other networks working with children and young people to identify those vulnerable to entering or remaining in cyber-crime activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the business sector to promote Cyber Essentials and programmes of support as a means of protecting businesses from cyber crime</li> <li>• Work with the education sector to develop opportunities for raising awareness of cybercrime with students</li> <li>• Work with the business and education sector to provide advice on recovery after a cyber-attack and encourage businesses to develop business continuity plans</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery plan mechanism</b>	<b>Safer Cyber Working Group Action Plan</b>		

## **Enabling factors**

There are a number of enabling factors that are relevant to all actions in this strategy to ensure that it is delivered.

### **Strategic focus**

- Engage in cross cutting activity that enables access to external funding
- Aligned community priorities to strategic needs
- Develop innovative and effective interventions

### **Communication**

- Marketing and Communications takes place in collaboration across all organisations
- Effective information sharing protocols
- Promoting success

### **Performance Management**

- Strong analysis available to inform the local approach
- Performance framework to enable monitoring against outcomes, targets and delivery plan
- Comprehensive data sharing among partners
- Robust evaluation/assessment of utilised interventions

### **Knowledge and skills**

- Upskilling through shared knowledge and expertise
- Understanding partners roles and priorities
- Making use of all available tools and powers within the Home Office guidance and partner agencies

### **Partnership working**

- Shared resources
- Learning from best practice and commitment to replicate across the County and the community to be able to respond appropriately
- Working towards co-commissioning of services where appropriate
- Collaboration takes place within the public, private and voluntary sector
- Joint commissioning and pooling budgets where appropriate

### **Community Engagement**

- Engagement with communities
- A cohesive and integrated society where there is confidence to report issues
- Well established community groups willing to work with partners
- Building resilience and around empowering and enabling communities to feel safer
- Empowering communities to take actions to help make their own communities safer
- One of the biggest assets we have are communities and the non-statutory activity that already go on within them



## **Performance Management Framework**

While this Plan is ultimately owned by the Safe Durham Partnership, it is the subgroups which have a role in managing the associated actions, ensuring that they are delivered, as well as responding to any emerging trends or changes in crime and disorder patterns.

The Safe Durham Partnership has in place a Performance Management Framework structured around the strategic priorities. In addition to performance measures linked to the strategic priorities, the framework includes key indicators of crime for the Safe Durham Partnership to monitor activity trends in this area.

Performance management arrangements of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan are refreshed on an annual basis and incorporated into the Safe Durham Partnership Performance Management Framework. This ensures responsibility and accountability of the strategic actions within the Plan.

In addition, each group which supports the work of the Safe Durham Partnership has a specific action plan and performance management framework that directly supports the delivery of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Each priority within the strategic plan has a separate S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timed) delivery plan that is owned by a thematic subgroup and monitored regularly by the Safe Durham Partnership through the chairs of each subgroup.

## Appendix 1: Priorities and links to other partnership strategic plans.

Safe Durham Partnership priorities and alignment to other Strategic Partnership Plans					
Safe Durham Partnership	Children and Young People's Strategy 2019-22	Safeguarding Adults Board Strategic Plan 2018-21	Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Plan 2019-20	County Durham Housing Strategy July 2019	Durham County Council Homelessness Strategy 2019-22
Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community		Prevention and early intervention		Maintain and improve standards across County Durham's housing stock and wider housing environment	
Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm	Protect and support those children and young people in need of help and protection.	Prevention and early intervention	Reducing Child Sexual Exploitation/ Criminal Exploitation and Neglect	To provide housing advice, assistance & support for older & Vulnerable People	Provide a range of support services to reduce the risk of households becoming homeless
Prevent; Counter Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism		Prevention and early intervention	Prevent children and young people from being drawn into terrorism.		
Reduce Reoffending	Provide support for young people who have offended or been victims of crime				
Alcohol and Substance Misuse Reduction	Improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children with a specific focus on vulnerable children and young people (5-24)				
Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime					

## Safe Durham Partnership priorities and alignment to other Strategic Partnership Plans

Safe Durham Partnership	Durham Police, Crime and Victims Plan 2018-21	Cleveland and Durham Local Criminal Justice Partnership Plan 2018-21	Youth Justice Plan 2019-21	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25
<b>Promote being safe and feeling safe in your community</b>	Tackle and prevent hate crime  Prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour  Improve community safety in rural areas	High public confidence in the criminal justice system		Living Well and Ageing Well
<b>Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm</b>	Tackle and prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence in all their forms  Tackle and prevent fraud  Tackle and prevent modern slavery  Ensure that victims are supported at all stages of the criminal justice system	Positive outcomes for victims and witnesses	Putting victims, especially young victims, and Restorative Justice at the heart of everything we do	Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well
<b>Prevent; Counter Terrorism, Radicalisation and Violent Extremism</b>	Safeguard vulnerable people			Living Well and Ageing Well
<b>Reduce Reoffending</b>	Address the root causes of offending and support the rehabilitation of people who have offended	Reduce intergenerational and repeat offending	Targeting our resources on those young people committing the most offences	Living Well and Ageing Well
<b>Alcohol and Substance Misuse Reduction</b>	Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs			Living Well and Ageing Well
<b>Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime</b>	Tackle and prevent cyber-enabled crime			Living Well and Ageing Well

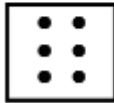
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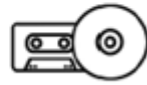
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