

# Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021 – 2025

## Consultation Report 22 January – 21 February 2021

### Background

The Safe Durham Partnership is responsible for working together with organisations such as the police, fire and rescue service and NHS to help to improve safety and reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse in the county.

The Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2021-25 will set out what we will focus on to focus on to make the county safe.

In 2019, we consulted on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan, however, we were anticipating changes in the following year, so we monitored changes on a local level, in laws and national policies, the economy and emerging threats and adapted the plan to reflect those events.

Therefore, between January and February 2021, we consulted on the changed plan to obtain the views of the general public and interested organisations on how we intend to keep County Durham a safe place to live, work and visit.

Our priorities in the plan were:

- Promote being safe and feeling safe in the community
- Support victims and protect vulnerable people from harm
- Prevent: Counter terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism
- Reduce re-offending
- Alcohol and substance misuse reduction
- Tackle and prevent cyber enabled crime

### The consultation

We promoted the consultation amongst a wide range of community groups and organisations, in particular, those who represent communities with protected characteristics. In addition, we promoted the consultation to the general public via social media, the website, and the press as well as made direct contact with local businesses, the community and voluntary sector and interested organisations such as:

- Area Action Partnerships
- Housing providers
- Town and Parish councils
- Business Durham
- Elected members and organisations represented on the Safe Durham Partnership Board
- Safer, stronger Overview and Scrutiny Committee

An online survey enabled responses and we provided easy read versions of the Plan to help people to better understand the plan. We attended a range of meetings including one with Youth Council to specifically obtain the views of young people.

## **The responses**

There were 55 responses to the public consultation. 76% of respondents agreed with the plan overall and 23% neither agreed nor disagreed with the plan. Between 81% and 100% of respondents agreed with each of the separate six priorities.

The Partnerships Team Leader and the Apprentice Young People's Commissioner presented an animated video (designed by the Apprentice Young People's Commissioner) to the County Durham Youth Council via Microsoft Teams plus a question and answer session. This included questions and comments relating to extremism, cyber security and reducing re-offending. The Youth Council were encouraged to respond to the consultation.

There was a marked difference in the age ranges who responded to the consultation, with approximately 30% of the respondents being between the ages of 11 and 15. This is primarily due to the Microsoft Teams based consultation and discussion that took place with the County Durham Youth Council who were fully engaged in the consultation process.

General feedback included the following:

- a) The importance of involving residents and the community when making decisions.
  - This links in with the approach to wellbeing highlighted within the plan.
- b) Fear of hate crime related abuse was another area of concern raised by a resident.
  - Tackling hate crime and community tensions are work areas key areas identified within the plan. The following are examples of key deliverables within the plan that will help address this concern:
    - 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.
    - Increase reporting of hate incidents through the Hate Hurts Campaign.
- c) There were concerns raised about vulnerable people being isolated and unable to access services.
  - Supporting victims and protecting vulnerable people is a work area within the plan. The following are examples of key deliverables within the plan that will help address this concern:
    - To provide co-ordinated end to end care and support for victims and ensure effective pathways and timely support are in place.

- All young people who become a victim or witness are offered appropriate support.

## **Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee feedback**

The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the SDPP at their meeting on 1 March 2021. The Committee supported the plan's vision and priorities. The following comments were made by the committee that led to amendments within the document:

### **Priority 1: Promote being safe and feeling safe in the community**

- a) Off road motorcycle and quads were a particular issue in relation to anti-social behaviour and nuisance throughout the County and there was a request that these be mentioned within the plan.

Action – added a core deliverable to develop a partnership action plan to tackling nuisance motorcycles and quads.

- b) The committee also proposed that the issue around secondary fires should be a separate stand-alone priority and not encompassed within anti-social behaviour.

Action - Following discussion at the SDP Board this recommendation was agreed, and a separate work area was given to this issue titled Arson and Deliberate Fires with underlying actions developed by the Arson Suppression Group.

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

- c) The wording of the priority was confusing, Prevent: Counter terrorism and extremism as it sounded like the aim was to stop people countering this issue.

Action – Changed the wording to Prevent Strategy: Countering terrorism and extremism.

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

- d) The terminology used within the plan on a page mentioning digital hygiene was felt to be unclear and some people may not understand its meaning.

Action: Wording changed to cyber safety and some examples added.

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