

**ANNUAL REPORT  
SAFEER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD  
APRIL 2017 – APRIL 2018**



Councillor Dave  
Thompson  
Chair

Creating a 'Safer Halton' remains a key priority for the Council and its partners and empowers confidence in our residents and visitors that they are supported and protected from harm.

The Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board is focussed on meeting the needs of our communities to help keep them safe and it seeks to explore and anticipate emerging issues.

I am satisfied, as Chair of the Board that we have considered, responded to, and reported on the main issues affecting Halton and explored new areas that have not previously been scrutinised. We have also sought to respond to issues that are immediately of concern to us, such as responding to the Grenfell disaster to see what lessons can be learnt in Halton.

I thank my colleagues who sit on the Board for their contributions to the work of the PPB and to those officers and guests who presented to the Board. We have been extremely fortunate to have excellent support and reporting from our officers. In particular, to Chris Patino and Mike Andrews for their briefing and work in organising topics and reports. I wish Chris a very speedy recovery.

Finally, I want to make clear that Halton is a relatively safe place to live, visit and work due to the combined efforts of the Council and its many partners and that commitment will be just as robust in the year ahead.

**Councillor Dave Thompson**  
Chair, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

**MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

During the municipal year 2017-18 the Board comprised of 11 elected members: Councillors Thompson (Chair), Plumpton-Walsh (Vice-Chair), Abbott, Baker, Edge, Gerrard, Hill, P. Lloyd-Jones, Loftus, Osborne and Zygadlo.

The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety, Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Adults, Environmental Health and Safer Halton Partnership. The Board is also represented on the Safer Halton Partnership and Cheshire Police & Crime Panel.

The board also completed a programme of 'scrutiny visits' over the last year.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 4 times during the year.

The programme of activity for the Board over the 2017/18 period covers the following:

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

In 2017/18 the PPB has been undertaking scrutiny topic visits rather than being focused on lengthy single item reviews. It was proposed to visit a number of areas to improve awareness and provide a direct 'on-site' means of scrutiny with the potential to offer feedback to the various agencies. The topic areas identified for visits were:-

- Police Custody Suite;
- Stay Safe;
- Police Dog Operations;
- Cream fields;
- Match Day Operations – Select Security Stadium
- Night Time Economy.

Officers and partner agencies fed into these scrutiny visits so that the Board could see the enforcement options available and experience the activity and initiatives that take place.

The group were impressed by the outstanding work and wide spectrum of activity taking place. Work includes education and deterrent programmes, through to support and wellbeing services.

## SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

The Board continue to monitor and note the actions of the Partnership, ensuring that significant agenda items are brought to PPB for scrutiny. Feedback from the Board is, in turn, made to the Partnership via my attendance at Partnership meetings.

## CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

The Board received regular updates on the Police and Crime Panel, including taking the opportunity to comment on the Police and Crime Commissioners Annual Report.

A new operating model within Cheshire Police was introduced last year and the Board was pleased that two LPUs were formed in Halton. Overall, despite £38 million of cuts in government grant, policing in Halton was felt to be working well

and the new Police & Crime Commissioner has a productive working relationship with the Council.

## SUMMARY OF WORK AND ISSUES IN 2017/18

### **Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Police & Crime Plan 2016-21 for Cheshire is a Plan for all of Cheshire. It sets the priorities which Simon Byrne, the Chief Constable, will deliver so that people feel safe in their homes and communities and sets out the PCC's commitment to be your voice in policing in Cheshire. In developing the Plan, he has consulted with the community as well as speaking to partners and listening to the Chief Constable on the emerging policing threats for our county.

The Plan sets out a vision for the next four years in which Cheshire will have a Constabulary focused on community policing, putting victim's first.

### **Emergency planning**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning team during the last year.

Members received a presentation which highlighted the Teams key duties and responsibilities, statutory duties, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015, key plans in place to ensure resilience within Halton, exercises that take place at COMAH sites in the borough, implications for the Council of the Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996, details of Emergency Centres and work with partners.

In addition the team had responded to a number of major incidents in the previous 12 months, from incidents at Residential Care Homes, Silver Jubilee Bridge and major fires in the Borough.

### **ASB Victim and Witness Service**

The Board received a presentation from the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim and Witness Service which was designed to deliver independent and confidential support to residents aged over 10 years who were experiencing nuisance and/or anti-social behaviour in Halton. The service was part of the work of the Safer Halton Partnership Community Safety Team.

The presentation outlined how the Service received referrals, carried out assessments and agreed and reviewed a Support Plan.

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on:

- The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy 2016-19 – 4 priorities;

- The Partnership Processes – Information Sharing and Problem Solving Groups;
- ASB interventions (Tools and Powers);
- The positive work being carried out in partnership with the Police, Council, Registered Social Landlords (incl Private), Mental Health Services, Youth Offending, Education etc to make Halton safer.

### **Joint Working Party on White Ribbon**

The Board received an update report on the progress on the current White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) and an outline of the process for the Council to seek corporate status for the borough.

The principles of the award were that local authorities should express a commitment to involving men in anti-VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) and produce a preliminary action plan on how this commitment would be achieved. The action plan should be aimed at reducing incidents of violence against women such as discrimination, harassment or victimisation and fostering good community relations. It should also have a specific White Ribbon emphasis of increasing male participation in anti-VAWG events and strategies as well as raising awareness and the profile of these issues amongst men.

The WRC team would work with the authority on the development of an action plan, providing feedback and suggestions as necessary. It was suggested that the Community Safety Manager, supported by the local Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, would act as a liaison point with the WRC and oversee implementation.

### **Cheshire Fire and Rescue**

The Board considered a copy of the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Annual report for Halton 2016-17, and received an update on the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-18 (IRMP).

On behalf of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Lynsey McVay attended the meeting and outlined the Service performance in Halton during the past year and compared the different type of incidents attended to previous year performance.

The Board discussed the installation of sprinkler systems in new build properties and in existing high rise buildings. It was noted that the Fire Service had set aside a budget to install sprinkler systems in high rise buildings, however, only a small number of Housing Associations had chosen to proceed. Halton Housing Association had yet to stall a sprinkler system at Churchill Mansions.

Members of the Board were invited to contact Ms McVay to arrange a visit to a fire station or to attend the Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Performance meeting in July.

### **Organised Crime**

The Board received a presentation from Mike Andrews, Community Safety and

CCTV Manager, on the Council's response to Organised Criminal Gangs and the Government Strategy to tackle 'County Lines' and Criminal Exploitation.

The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy placed significant emphasis on the importance of effective local partnerships. In order to support this a partnership group, chaired by David Parr (Chief Executive), had been set up to tackle organised crime groups in Halton (Operation Portfolio). The aim of Operation Portfolio was to deliver an effective partnership response to the threat posed by serious crime and organised crime groups impacting on communities in Widnes and Runcorn.

### **Alcohol and Substance Misuse**

The Board received an update report and a presentation on the work carried out across the partnership in the Borough to tackle alcohol and substance misuse. In addition, the Board noted work involving the establishment of the Cheshire and Merseyside Five Year Forward View Alcohol Board and the Drink Less Enjoy More Campaign across Cheshire and Merseyside.

### **Cyber Crime**

The Board considered a report and a presentation on the emergence of cyber-crime as a local threat to communities and the work of TITAN. The presentation set out the types of cyber-enabled crimes and the role of The TITAN unit, whose mission was to tackle organised crime groups causing the greatest levels of harm to communities in the North West.

### **Schools and Education**

The Board received a presentation from PC Jane Tetlow which provided Members with an oversight into the role of the Youth Engagement Officer, Safer Schools Partnership. Halton had two Officers and the Youth Engagement Officer for Widnes, PC Jane Tetlow, was in attendance and provided examples of her work to support educational establishments, staff, pupils and the community locally.

Members noted that the Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership also involved multi-agency working and fostering positive relationships between the schools and police service. One of the main roles of the Partnership was to provide the young people of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington with the relevant tools to facilitate self-awareness and self-insight. This would enable them to make informed decisions to avoid becoming offenders or victims of crime.

### **Grenfell**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which advised on the actions and activities the Council had undertaken following the tragic events that took place in Kensington and Chelsea with the Grenfell Tower Fire.

Following the tragic events that took place at Grenfell Tower on 14th June 2017,

the immediate focus was on the type of cladding used on residential tower blocks greater than 18m tall. The Council was required, as also were all Registered Social Landlords, to send various returns to Government in relation to buildings in their ownership. The Council provided all information requested within the timescales set. As the Council does not own any housing stock, most returns were therefore nil returns.

### **Night time economy**

The board received a detailed report on the positive work that is being carried out in partnership with the Police and Council to make Halton night time economy safer.