

**ANNUAL REPORT
SAFEER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD
APRIL 2018 – APRIL 2019**



Councillor Dave
Thompson
Chairman

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 that we have considered, responded to, and reported on the main issues affecting Halton but also explored new areas that have not previously been scrutinised such as our considering of Childhood Criminal Exploitation. Concern for the welfare of children and young people have in fact been continuing theme this year the importance of which was brought home to us when knife crime resulted in the loss of life of 18 year old Eddie O'Rourke.

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 briefings and organising of reports.

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
Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During the municipal year 2018-19 the Board comprised of 11 elected members:
Councillors Thompson (Chair)
Cllr Plumpton-Walsh (Vice-Chair),
Cllr Sandra Baker
Cllr Ellen Cargill
Cllr Eddie Dourley
Cllr Valerie Hill
Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones
Cllr Kath Loftus

Cllr Geoffrey Logan
Cllr Gareth Stockton
Cllr Geoff Zygadllo

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

The board also reviewed White Ribbon as a topic this year and has helped review an action plan which will see the Council secure corporate White Ribbon status.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met 4 times during the year.

The programme of activity for the Board over the 2018/19 period. The boards work programme covered the scrutiny of relevant Executive Board decisions relevant to the Boards business, scrutinising the performance of the Safer Halton Partnership and relevant partners under the Crime and Disorder Act, together with monitoring performance against these service plans. Covers the following:

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. Where necessary we pick up on issues at the Partnership for added review and scrutiny at the PPB.

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.

Since 2010 the Cheshire police budget has endured over £60 million of cutbacks in government funding, which means the force is spending about 37% less on policing, in real terms, than it was nine years ago. According to national figures, there are 135 fewer Cheshire police officers now than in 2010. Another £12 million of savings is expected over the next 2 years meaning close attention is required to be spent on how the force is shaped and changes over the coming years.

The Police & Crime Commissioner has a productive working relationship with the Council and a new Chief Constable has recently been appointed with whom we hope to contain good relations.

SUMMARY OF WORK AND ISSUES IN 2018/19

Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police & Crime Plan 2016-21 for Cheshire sets the priorities which the new Chief Constable, will deliver so that people feel safe in their homes and communities and sets out David Keane's (the Police & Crime Commissioners) commitment to listen to people and involve them in reviewing policing priorities.

Environmental Crime

The Board scrutinised an update report from Cheshire Police regarding the multi-agency response to the illegal and anti-social use of off road motorcycles.

Initiatives recently undertaken included:

Operation Scrambler had been launched for the summer period to deal with illegal and anti-social use of off road motorcycles, mini moto's and quad bikes. As part of this a new DNA spray was used which was funded by the Council, Halton Housing and the Halton Community Safety team;

A UK week of action ran from Monday 27th August to Sunday 2nd September 2018 aimed at reducing the number of serious and fatal collisions involving motorcyclists.

Officers were stopping and engaging with motorcyclists who committed moving traffic offences such as speeding and dangerous riding as well as anti-social offences such as excessive noise. They would also be encouraging motorcyclists to enhance their skills, knowledge and check their person protective equipment; and in addition to motorcyclists, Officers would be targeting all road users who endangered the lives of themselves and others.

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.

Border Agency Partnership Operations

The Board considered a report from Mr J. Mckibbin who outlined to Members the work the North West Border Agency carried out in Halton. The Border Force has a law enforcement command within the Home Office, the Border Force secured the border and promoted national prosperity by facilitating the legitimate movement of individuals and goods, whilst preventing those that would cause harm from entering the UK. This was achieved through the immigration and customs checks carried out at ports and airports. Border Force officers worked at 140 sea and air ports across the UK and overseas and their responsibilities included:

checking the immigration status of people arriving in and departing the UK;
searching baggage, vehicles and cargo for illicit goods or illegal immigrants;
patrolling the UK coastline and searching vessels; gathering intelligence; and
alerting the police and security services to people of interest

Members noted that the priorities for the Border Force were to:

Deter and prevent individuals and goods that would harm the national interests from entering the UK, facilitate the legitimate movement of individuals and trade to and from the UK; protect and collect customs revenues for trade crossing the border; provide excellent service to customers; and provide demonstrable effectiveness, efficiency and value for money

On behalf of the Board, the Chair agreed to write to both local MP's to highlight the cuts to Home Office services in Halton and the potential further reductions in service.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

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

On behalf of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Stuart Devereux 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 noted:

A new Fire Chief had been recently appointed;
The increase in recruitment of apprentice Fire Fighters in Cheshire;
Details on the Fire Station Build Programme and the current Fire Service Property Enhanced Programme;
Information on the blue light collaboration;
The outcome of the staff survey and Information on the diverse nature of the safe and well visits carried out in the borough.

Organised Crime Gang - Childhood Criminal Exploitation

The Board endorsed a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented Halton's response to Organised Criminal Gangs and the Government Strategy to tackle County Lines and Childhood Criminal Exploitation. The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy placed significant emphasis on the importance of effective local partnerships. To support this, a partnership group had been established, chaired by the Chief Executive to tackle organised crime groups in Halton (Operation Portfolio). The key objectives of the partnership group were outlined in the report.

Donna Wells from Young Addaction, was also in attendance to provide a presentation which highlighted the work by the service to deliver The Criminal Exploitation Project – Risk and Resilience. This was a project which aimed to prevent children being drawn into criminal activities by older criminals and gangs. Approximately 40 young people had taken part in the project delivered to groups and one to one and included support from the Amy Winehouse Foundation and Gangs Line. It was noted that feedback from those children and parents who had been involved in the project had been positive.

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.

Public Space Protection Order- Dog Control

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided Members with the results of a public consultation exercise that was undertaken in respect of the Council's proposal to introduce a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). The Order would help tackle dog fouling and other forms of irresponsible dog ownership and the Board was requested to make recommendations to the Executive Board in that respect.

The new PSPO would be in the form of a single Order that would include the control measures contained within the existing Orders, as well as new requirements that those in control of dogs must comply with. The specified locations where some existing control measures applied would also be extended under the new PSPO.

Members noted that the proposed PSPO had been subject to a public consultation exercise which ran from 6th July to 28th September 2018. As a result, 922 responses were received and details of these, in respect of the following, were outlined in the report:

- Exclusion of dogs;
- Dogs on leads;
- Dog fouling;
- Restriction on the number of dogs walked at a time; and Fixed penalty notices.

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.

Night time economy

The board scrutinised 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.

The report provided information on the numerous partnership visits that have been undertaken with Immigration enforcement, Cheshire Special Constabulary, Cheshire Police Drugs Dog and Trading Standards and will continue to work closely with all departments.

The Board were pleased to see the results from the above operations have resulted in five arrests for Immigration offences, two being deported and two arrested for drug related offences.

Manchester Port Authority

The board considered details of the work of the Manchester Port Authority particularly in relation to Halton.

On behalf of Manchester Port Health Authority (MPHA), Andrea Smith, Steve Seddon and Councillor Morley attended the meeting and provided the Board with an overview of the role of the Authority. MPHA was the local authority for the Manchester Ship Canal and River Weaver including the ports of Eastham, Ellesmere, Manisty, Standlow, Ince, Weston, Runcorn, Partington, Irlam and Salford. The Authority was responsible for a wide range of public health controls including:

- Ship sanitation inspections and certificates;
- Food standards, food safety and water quality (ships and land);
- Infectious disease control;
- Environmental protection;
- Pest control;
- Smoke free legislation;
- Emergency planning; and
- Import controls for high risk products of non-animal origin.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked the MPHA for their informative presentation and invited those Board Members who wished to attend a Boarding Inspection of shipping at Runcorn Docks to contact him and he would arrange this with the Authority.