

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 6 February 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

S. Young

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Chris Carlin (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Laura Bevan	Labour
Councillor Irene Bramwell	Labour
Councillor Dave Cargill	Labour
Councillor Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Alan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrats
Councillor Aimee Skinner	Labour
Councillor Pamela Wallace	Labour

Please contact Kim Butler on 0151 511 7496 or e-mail kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is to be confirmed.

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
2. MINUTES	1 - 6
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
<p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.</p>	
4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	7 - 9
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) THE CORPORATE PLAN - THE BIG CONVERSATION ANALYSIS AND THE WAY FORWARD	10 - 16
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Carlin (Vice-Chair), Baker, Bevan, Cargill, Goodall, A. Lowe, Ratcliffe, Skinner and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh and Bramwell

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, R. Freeman, J. Gallagher, N. Goodwin and A. Wallace.

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
There were no Chair's announcements to be made.	
SAF17 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no public questions had been received.	
SAF19 CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY DRAFT 2024-2028 COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN	
The Board received a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, which outlined the proposed changes to fire and rescue provision across Cheshire.	
Cheshire Fire Authority was in the process of consulting on its draft 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), which outlined a series of proposals to help achieve its vision of a Cheshire where	

there were no deaths, injuries or damages from fires and other emergencies. The aim of the CRMP was to deliver more fire prevention and protection activities in order to reduce risks in the community and it proposed several changes to the way in which emergency cover was provided for a better response across Cheshire.

Members were advised that 1.1 million residents lived across Cheshire and there were 28 fire stations and 35 fire engines. Seventeen of those engines were full-time and 18 were on-call. Members also noted that the main cause of fire was smoking materials and older people were 26 times more likely to die in a fire. Other causes of fire included wildfires and lithium batteries.

The draft CRMP aimed to deliver more fire prevention and protection activities to reduce risk in the community and proposed several changes to the way in which emergency cover was provided, in order to deliver a better response across Cheshire. Details of the prevention, protection and response proposals were set out in the report.

The overall package of proposals would cost an additional £57k, however this would be funded through efficiencies within existing budgets.

The consultation process started in October 2023 and would end in January 2024. Thereafter, the initial feedback would be reviewed and the new CRMP would be launched in April 2024. The new model would be implemented in January 2025.

Members of the Board were reminded about the joint working arrangements in place in terms of emergency planning which included the Fire Service as well as other partner agencies. This included work with the 9 COMAH sites in Halton and the Safety Advisory Groups, which were run to ensure public safety for events such as Creamfields which attracted 70,000 people into the Borough every year.

Following discussions, it was agreed that the Council would explore how the home visits made by the Fire Service could be optimised in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

SAF20 THE CORPORATE PLAN - THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE

The Board received a presentation which provided an

Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space

update on 'The Big Conversation'.

The Board previously received a report about the 'The Big Conversation' at its meeting in June and were reminded that the initiative was about engaging with the public so that they understood the challenges that the Council was facing. It was an approach between the Council and those who lived or worked in Halton to work together to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life. A stakeholder analysis and a Communication Plan had been developed in order to generate and establish as many opportunities as possible to involve all stakeholders in many different ways.

Members were advised that up until 13 November over 1,000 responses had been received and a breakdown of responses by source was provided. The report outlined the promotion, consultation and engagement carried out so far, as well as the emerging themes. The gaps and actions were set out and some examples were given to how these had been addressed e.g. visits made to Riverside College and Family Hubs in both Runcorn and Widnes; information had been shared via social media to target relevant groups; and iWalkers had targeted those wards with low responses.

It was noted that the consultation would end on 30 November 2023, after which an analysis would be undertaken to identify the key priorities. January and February 2024 would see further consultation with stakeholders prior to the Corporate Plan being finalised in March, ready for its launch in April 2024.

Members of the Board discussed the report and they suggested that further youth organisations be approached; these would be identified by the Board. They also suggested that the Catalyst Museum be contacted.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) continue to endorse the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.

Councillor Aimee Skinner left the meeting.

SAF21 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR TOOLS AND POWERS

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided

an overview of the tools and powers that were available to the Council in response to anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 sets out powers to tackle anti-social behaviour and the guidance for Local Authorities was refreshed in March 2023.

The legislation required the relevant local agencies to be satisfied that the specific legal tests and safeguards set out in the legislation were met before the 2014 Act powers were used. These tests were intended to help ensure the appropriate and proportionate use of the powers and that they were used to target specific problems or specific circumstances. Those powers were:

- Early and Informal Interventions;
- Civil Injunctions;
- Criminal Behaviour Order;
- Community Protection Notice; and
- Public Space Protection Order

Members were advised that the Council worked collaboratively with partner organisations to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Board discussed the report and following discussions, Members were advised to email the community enforcement mailbox with any concerns. They were also reminded that they could direct residents, who had ongoing anti-social behaviour issues, to the Council website where they could request an Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review. It was noted that there were criteria for this which was outlined on the website.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report.

SAF22 YOUTH DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITY

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration regarding the diversionary activity for young people in the Borough.

VIBE was commissioned by the Council to deliver engagement with young people three nights per week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) in both Runcorn and Widnes. Youth Workers target hotspots identified by the Safer Halton Partnership and support young people by developing relationships and connect them into positive activities.

VIBE had extensive partnership work in the Borough with a number of agencies and funding sources including:

- Good Choices – funded by Cheshire Police;
- Positive Vibes Programme – funded by Cheshire Police;
- Short Breaks Group Support Service (Saturday Club) – funded by Halton Council;
- Vibe Outdoors – Sports Short Breaks – funded by Halton Council (Short Breaks Grant);
- Inclusive Needs Club – funded by Halton Council (Young People’s Grant);
- Where’s Your Head At? – funded by The Arconic Foundation;
- Detached Youth Club – Hallwood Park & Palacefields – funded by Riverside;
- Detached Youth Club – Windmill Hill – funded by Windmill Hill Big Local; and
- Halton Youth Cabinet – funded by Halton Council

During the school summer holidays 2023, VIBE was one of many providers who engaged with children and young people in holiday activities and food sessions at Crow Wood Park, Runcorn Ski Centre and Windmill Hill areas. This was funded by the Department of Education.

The Council also commissioned VIBE to:

- Provide a youth club targeting support for young people impacted by parental drug and alcohol use; and
- Develop and deliver a resilience programme targeted at young people at risk of county lines and exploitation.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report.

SAF23 MISCHIEF, HALLOWEEN & BONFIRE IMPACTS

The Board received a verbal update on the experience and impacts of Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night across the Borough.

Members were advised that according to Police reports, it had been one of the quietest periods over the last few years. There had been some hotspots in some locations across the Borough but, overall the feedback received had been positive.

Members of the Board also reported that they had received information about some incidents, one in particular where some cars had been vandalised on Mischief Night. It was suggested that some incidents had gone unreported.

It was noted that in previous years, money had been allocated to clean up the Borough following bonfires and damaged cause on Mischief Night. However, as this service was not required in 2022, no budget had been allocated for this year. The service had again not been required during the Mischief and Bonfire period 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report.

Meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 6th February 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).
- 1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chair will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None identified.

8.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None identified.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	6 February 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Corporate Director, Chief Executive's Delivery Unit
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	The Corporate Plan - The Big Conversation Analysis and the way forward
WARD(S)	Borough Wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To share with the Board an analysis of 'The Big Conversation', which is integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, and to outline the next steps to ensure that this will take effect from April 2024.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **that Board continues to endorse the approach to facilitate the implementation of a new Corporate Plan.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

The Big Conversation was about engaging with the public to share the challenges that the Council is facing and to establish what is important to people in the Borough.

It was an approach between the Council and those who live or work in Halton to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life.

A Stakeholder Analysis together with a Communications Plan was developed in order to generate and establish as many opportunities as possible to involve all our stakeholders in many different and varied ways.

The Big Conversation consultation opened on July 28th 2023 and closed on November 30th 2023, what follows is an analysis of the feedback.

3.2 Promotion, Consultation & Engagement:

3.2.1 Breakdown of responses by source:

Total Number of responses: 1076

This was the second biggest response ever to a Halton Borough Council survey.

Comms Meta Advert	223
HBC Staff	222
Comms Carers Centre	136
Comms Organic Facebook	124
Comms Media	64
No Reply	41
Inside Halton	39
Comms Flyer	34
Comms Partner	30
Comms HBC (Home page)	27
Comms Short URL	18
Comms Organic LinkedIn	16
Comms Community	14
Comms Linnets	13
Comms School Crossing Patrol	12
Comms Hale Village Coffee Morning	12
Active Ageing	11
Comms Organic X	9
Comms iWalkers	7
Comms Visually Impaired Group	6
Comms Halton Voices	5
Comms Colleges	3
Comms Vikings	3
Comms Dementia Group	3
Comms Schools	2
Comms Organic Threads	1
Comms TUC	1
Total Number of Responses	1076

3.2.2 Response by Age Group:

Age Group	Response Rate: Number / Percentage %
16 - 19 years	14 / 1%
20 - 24 years	11 / 1%

25 – 34 years	79 / 8%
35 – 49 years	266 / 26%
50 – 64 years	387 / 37%
65 – 74 years	191 / 19%
75 – 84 years	55 / 5%
85 years or over	15 / 1%
Prefer not to say	17 / 2%
No Reply	41
Total	1076

Census 2021 (by comparison):

Data	Percentage %
16 – 19 years	4.3
20 – 24 years	5.2
25 – 34 years	12.8
35 – 49 years	9.4
50 – 64 years	20.6
65 – 74 years	11.2
75 – 84 years	5.6
85 years and over	1.9

3.2.3 Response by Area:

- Runcorn: 55%
- Widnes: 45%

3.2.4 Consultation Success:

862: Direct (Speaking directly to stakeholders and listening)

11,840: Indirect (Social media, partner's newsletters and flyers)

Specific Forums and Venues attended:

General Public:

- Halton Trades Union Congress
- Visually Impaired Group
- Friends of Hale Village Coffee Morning
- Eat at the Heath Community event
- Windmill Hill Shops
- Women's Institute
- Fellowship Centre
- Women's Group (St John Fisher Club)
- i-Walkers
- Kingsway Leisure Centre
- Catalyst Museum

Print & Social Media:

- Inside Halton Magazine
- LinkedIn
- X
- Thread
- Facebook
- HBC Homepage

HBC Workforce:

- Emails to staff
- Video message

Adult's Services:

- Healthy & Active Ageing events
- Partners in Prevention event
- Dementia Group meeting
- Care Home visit (Millbrow)
- Flyer distribution by Adult Social Work Services Teams
- Feature in Young Carers & Adult Carers newsletters

Children's Services:

- Primary School Heads
- Children's Provider Network Meeting
- Halton Youth Cabinet
- Family Hub Centres
- Riverside College
- School & College newsletters
- Flyers distributed by Children's Services Teams

Partners:

- Halton Patient Participation Group
- Cheshire Constabulary
- Halton & St Helens Voluntary Community Action
- Health Improvement Team
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Public Health Vaccination Team

Businesses:

- Halton Chamber of Commerce Network Meeting
- Halton & Warrington Business Fair
- Halton Chamber of Commerce
- Business Improvement & Growth
- Sci-Tech Daresbury Business Breakfast

3.3 **Emerging Themes:**

3.3.1 The 5 themes in order of response priority were:

- Improving health, promoting wellbeing and supporting greater independence: 93%
- Building a strong, sustainable local economy: 91%
- Supporting children, young people and families: 89%
- Tackling inequality, helping those who are most in need: 84%
- Working towards a greener future: 78%

3.3.2 **Level of agreement to all of the 5 suggested themes was very high.**

Identifying other potential corporate plan themes, the top 3 identified by our stakeholders were:

- Environment / Open spaces / Litter / Overgrowth / Maintain green spaces / Keep street free of litter and weeds.
- Regeneration / Business / Economy / Support growth and town centres
- Housing / Affordability / Increase supported living / protect green spaces / Improved infrastructure

3.3.3 It is proposed that we recognise this level of engagement with our stakeholders and form a 6th priority, which encompasses all of the above, under the title '**Place and Community**'.

When asked how the Council can support these themes, the top 3 responses were:

- 'Provide opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interest them, keep them safe and make them happy'.
- 'Create vibrant town centres for everyone to enjoy across the Borough'
- 'Continue to ensure local people are able to enjoy the Borough's parks and green spaces'

3.3.4 In terms of the ways our stakeholders can support the 5 popular themes, these were as follows:

- 'Spending money with local shops and businesses'
- 'Doing our best to stay healthy and active'
- 'Being a good neighbour'

3.5 **Timeline:**

- November 30th 2023: Consultation ended
- December 2023: Analysis undertaken
- January 2024: Key priorities identified and agreed / summary developed / shared with stakeholders via drop-in sessions within council buildings and open engagement at community spaces
- February - March 2024: Corporate Plan finalised and approved at key forums
- April 2024: the New Corporate Plan is launched

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no specific policy implications at this stage, however the output of this process will be a new contemporary and relevant Halton Borough Council Corporate Plan. This will form the basis of the Council's Corporate Policy framework in the immediate term.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None. The development of the new Corporate Plan is being delivered within existing budget and resource provision.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 The Corporate Plan is Halton Borough Council's key strategic document. This plan sets out the main vision, themes and values of the Council.

'The Big Conversation' has helped to determine the Council's new set of priorities, which will be translated into the plan.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 If the Council had continued with the same priorities that were in place in previous years, given the socio-demographic and economic changes that have taken place over the last few years, there was a significant risk that the current Corporate Plan would lose its relevance.

7.2 That would lead to the Council failing to maintain engagement with the people of Halton, and its workforce, around where resources are best targeted in the contemporary environment.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Equality and Diversity will be an integral part of the new Corporate Plan priority under the Big Conversation banner of 'Tackling inequality, helping those who are most in need.'

8.2 The Big Conversation consultation process was fully inclusive in terms of consulting a wide and varied range of stakeholders, which covered the 9 protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010.

8.3 An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the plan development process.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 At this stage it is evident that there will be a specific priority around climate change, with the theme receiving full support under the Big Conversation banner of 'Working towards a greener future'.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	6 th February 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Safer Halton Partnership Governance & Strategy
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide an update on the development work on the Community Safety Partnerships (CSP), Safer Halton governance and strategy.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

1) Members comment on the priorities and draft strategy for Safer Halton.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Safer Halton has had a focus in recent months on re-visiting governance arrangements, priorities, and strategy to ensure they are fit for purpose.

3.2 Safer Halton Partnership received reports in June, September and December 2023 with Members of the multi-agency partnership actively engaging in a review process which culminated in a workshop in November 2023.

3.3 This work has been supported by an additional resource, funded by the Police & Crime Commissioner. The approach agreed was to focus on: -

- **Safer Halton governance structure** including how the partnership interacts with other partnerships including reviews of terms of reference and membership and information sharing agreement.
- **Strategic needs assessment** – working with the Constabulary Analyst to ensure the partnership is considering Halton data and intelligence that informs and sets out Halton priorities contributing to strategy / partnership plan

development.

- **Community Safety Partnership Strategy/Partnership Plan** - review and set out a forward strategy for community safety and crime prevention for Halton. Consulting with partners and community to understand priorities and the lived experience to articulate key objectives that best impact for Halton residents.
- Articulate a **Safer Halton Partnership delivery plan** – building on the strategy / partnership plan develop an action / delivery plan to set out key objectives and a work programme that responds to Halton’s priorities through key deliverables and building resilience for Halton. The delivery plan established would then be reviewed annually.

3.4 Develop a **Communication and Engagement** framework that sets out partnership approaches and campaigns including the development of web-based information and social media.

3.5 **Safer Halton Governance Structure**

This has been revisited and a mapping exercise to understand the partnerships links and representation in local partnerships and Cheshire level partnerships. The diagram in **appendix one** provides the strategic governance landscape for Safer Halton Partnership.

3.6 Moving forward, the agenda planning, and business setting of Safer Halton will be reviewed. Considering the governance landscape of the Partnership set out in the diagram, it is imperative the connections to the wider partnerships are strengthened and there is a robust approach to understanding responsibilities, linkages, shared delivery and emerging areas of policy development, statute, and future work. The agenda planning will be reviewed to look at standing agenda items and annual updates.

3.7 **Strategic Needs Assessment**

The Constabulary Analyst has supported the process providing and presenting data to inform the development of the priorities with an evidence led approach.

3.8 There will be an annual Strategic Needs Analysis provided moving forward, which will be considered annually in Q4 to ensure Safer Halton Partnership annual delivery plans post April are in keeping with Halton’s needs.

3.9 **Community Safety Partnership Strategy/Partnership Plan**

A draft strategy has been developed and shared with Safer Halton, appended to the report, **appendix two**.

3.10 The document is in a draft form, following agreement of the priorities and content, the Council’s design team will present a revised

corporate document.

- 3.11 The Safer Halton Partnership have been continuously consulted with the development of the document. A workshop held on 30th November 2023 focussed on the priorities and in some cases themed i.e. serious organised crime covering exploitation, county lines etc with some additional items flagged i.e. serious violence duty, road safety, cybercrime. The priorities agreed to date are: -
1. Anti-Social Behaviour
 2. Domestic Abuse (to potentially include violence against women and girls and sexual violence)
 3. Serious and Organised Crime (including county lines, modern day slavery/exploitation and financial crime/scams)
 4. Integrated Offender Management
 5. Counter Terrorism
 6. Hate Crime
 7. Substance Misuse
 8. Serious Violence (to focus on statutory duty as of 31st January 2024)
 9. Road Safety
- 3.12 Further contributions were invited and some of the priority areas are still developing.
- 3.13 There was an emphasis on ensuring alignment with Police & Crime Commissioner priorities and the opportunity to benefit from consultation findings on the future role of CSP's. These are:-
- Prevent and tackle crime.
 - Make Cheshire's Road safer.
 - Deliver justice for victims of crime.
 - Protect vulnerable and at-risk people.
 - Improve public confidence in policing.
 - Modernise the police service.
- 3.14 The timescale for implementation on 1st April 2024, to be a three-year strategy.
- 3.15 **Safer Halton Partnership Delivery Plan**
A draft was shared at the workshop and agreed a format that follows the 4 p's, pursue, prevent, protect, prepare. This is being populated for Q4 of the current year to assist with drawing down of PCC funds for the current year and will be the template moving forward. The format is anticipated to provide information on delivery and outcomes thus necessitating the need for an outcome's framework.
- 3.16 **Communication and Engagement Framework**
This is identified as a separate piece of work, getting the strategy and delivery plan progressed has been the key tasks however, the works on this has commenced and a draft will be shared in due course with the partnership

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Key pieces of legislation that govern the work of Safer Halton are:-
Crime & Disorder Act 1988
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
Counter Terrorism & Securities Act 2015

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Articulating and formalising the CSP role and priorities is essential to fulfilling statutory obligations and strategic relationships with the PCC and other strategic bodies. This will also enable the CSP to pursue funding opportunities with other agencies and funding bodies

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Safer Halton Partnerships strategy and delivery plan impacts directly on this priority through its preventative work for children and young people along with the work on Domestic Abuse, multi-agency approaches with Integrated Offender Management and Youth Justice Service and wider Community Safety approaches to deliver diversionary activities and work towards making neighbourhoods safer.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Safer Halton Partnership work includes workforce development on raising awareness and skills to tackle priorities such as domestic abuse. External funding secure through the partnership will also support employment opportunities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The partnerships activities contribute to generating a safer environment in Halton. A safer environment positively impacts on residents' health and wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Partnerships work contributes directly to this priority. Programmes of work vary from reactive to pro-active, providing support to victims where needed, working to shift outcomes build resilient communities in Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Community safety measures and licensing responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The partnership strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents, and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and

vibrant communities.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 To operate robustly in addition to the community safety partnership meeting its obligations there needs to be rigour in the governance and structure arrangements. A failure to have this in place will result in loss of resources and reputational harm to Halton.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Safer Halton Partnerships work includes a priority around Hate Crime which supports marginalised cohorts of Halton's community.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

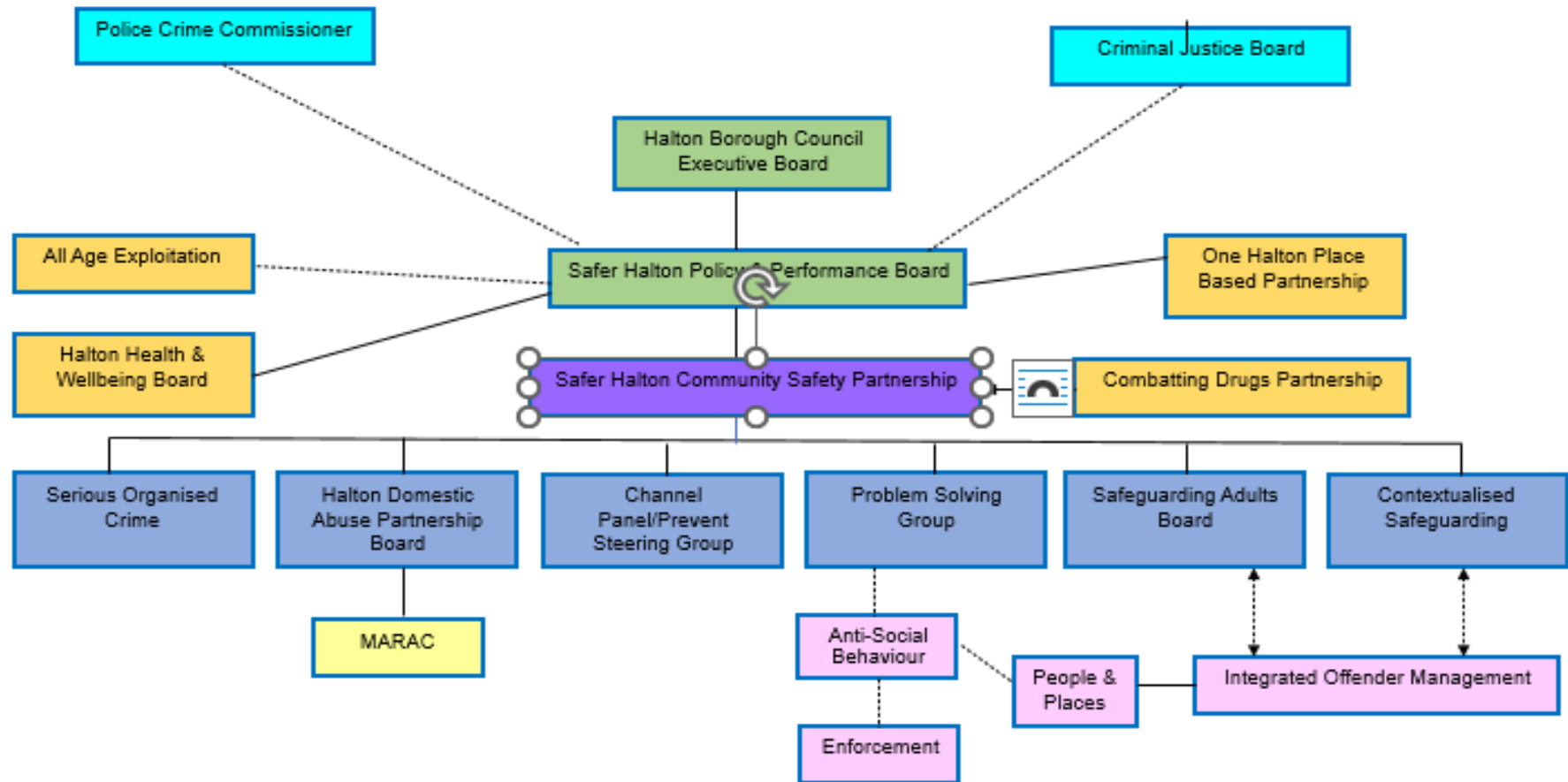
9.1 None identified.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.

Appendix One Draft Governance/Partnership Structure

HALTON COMMUNITY SAFETY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



Appendix Two Draft Strategy



Safer Halton **PARTNERSHIP**

Draft Safer Halton Partnership - Strategy 2024 – 2027

Introduction

The Community Safety Partnership

Strategic Co-ordination

Strategic Needs Assessment

Partnership Members

Safer Halton Priorities

Introduction

I am pleased to present Safer Halton Partnership's Strategy for 2024-27. Tackling crime and disorder to improve Community safety is a priority for us in Halton and we will continue to work together to ensure that issues the community are facing are at the forefront of our work as we understand the long lasting impacts of crime and disorder can have on individuals, families, business and our communities.

The priorities are linked to the whole systems approach that focuses on people and places aligned with the One Halton Health and Wellbeing Board and correlates to the Police and Crime Commissioner Plan for Cheshire. We know that people who feel safe and secure in their home and community is a contributing factor to them feeling and staying healthy.

This strategy sets out our key priorities over the next 3 years but we are mindful of the need to be flexible to meet new challenges should they emerge so we will review this strategy annually to ensure we meet the changing environment in which we work. We have partnership leads for each of them to enable individual delivery plans to be developed and implemented.

Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones

Executive Board Member - Community Safety

The Community Safety Partnership

Community Safety Partnerships were created when the crime and disorder act 1998 placed responsibility on Local Authorities and Police Chiefs to meet regularly with responsible authorities to discuss crime and disorder issues within their area. They are tasked to carry out an annual Strategic Assessment with a strategy and plan. The aim of the partnership is to work together to make Halton a safe place to live and work. It will do this by tackling identified crime and disorder priorities to mitigate the risk to Halton's residents.

The partnership is continually evolving and in more recent years there has been the emergence of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and the requirement to liaise and work with their office. The area of responsibility is also constantly developing and it now has the additional responsibility of the Serious Violence Duty

and Domestic Homicide Reviews. There is also an increasing link with Public Health in particular when looking at the risk and harm of drugs and alcohol.

Safe Halton Partnership is chaired by Halton Borough Council and meets quarterly with terms of reference that are in place and reviewed annually.

The functions of Safer Halton Partnership are:

- *To fulfil the statutory requires of a Community Safety Partnership as set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.*
- *Prepare a Strategic Needs Assessment at least once a year.*
- *Prepare and review a forward strategy for community safety and crime prevention.*
- *Prepare, agree and implement a Partnership Delivery Pan that will be refreshed each year.*
- *Refresh the Terms of Reference and Membership of Safer Halton Partnership each year.*
- *Develop and review information sharing protocols across the partnerships.*
- *Manage performance against the objectives set out in the Partnership Delivery Plan.*
- *Manage and monitor the Partnership Delivery Plan including funded projects.*
- *Co-ordinate the work of partner agencies in developing a safe Halton.*
- *Engage with other relevant strategies.*
- *Adopt a victim focused approach across all work streams in line with the PCC Plan.*
- *Report progress of Safer Halton Partnership to Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board and One Halton Health & Wellbeing Board.*
- *To understand and work in partnership to deliver interventions to target Child Sexual Exploitation.*
- *To fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews.*
- *To fulfill statutory obligations in relation to Serious Violence Duty.*
- *Ensure all appropriate measures are undertaken in relation to Counter Terrorism.*
- *Recognise support that partners can provide to the Right Care Right Place agenda.*

Strategic Co-ordination

Safer Halton Partnership does not and cannot exist in isolation from other partnership and boards. In order to manage its work, Safer Halton Partnership will convene and provide strategic leadership to whatever supporting groups it requires.

Other strategies and boards include:

Operational Problem Solving Group

Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership

Cheshire Criminal Justice Board

Halton Children and Young People Safeguarding Partnership

Contextualised Safeguarding Operational Group

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board

Halton Combatting Drugs Partnership

Cheshire Road Safety Group

Asylum and Refugee Multi-Agency Forum
Integrated Offender Management
Emergency Planning / Cheshire Local Resilience Forum
Channel / Prevent Board
Cheshire Road Safety Group

Strategic Needs Assessment

Every year a strategic assessment of crime and disorder within Halton is carried out. This is used to inform the Safer Halton Partnership priorities.

The strategic assessment for 2022 tells us that the total number of crimes recorded in Halton has increased by 1% from 13,418 in 2021 to 13,546 in 2022. However, when comparing data over 5 years crime in Halton it appears that the crime rate has remained stable since 2018.

The total number of incidents recorded in Halton has remained static with a very small decrease from 30,864 in 2021 to 30,821 in 2022 and overall since 2019 has decreased from 34,733.

Safer Halton Partnership Members

The partnership is made up of local key strategic organisations.

Statutory members include;

Halton Borough Council

Cheshire Police

Cheshire Fire and Rescue

Merseyside and Cheshire NHS

Other members involved but not under the same statutory duty include;

Housing

Voluntary Sector

Public Health

Police Crime Commissioner

Youth Offending Service

Department of Work and Pensions

Education/Childrens Services

Health including Mental Health

Outside of the core membership, where appropriate, we will seek to work with relevant partners across the public, private and voluntary sector. These partners may be co-opted for targeted work for inclusion in the delivery plan and funded initiatives.

Safer Halton Partnership Priorities

Many of the priorities do not change year to year as they follow long-terms trends but our strategic priorities will be established for a three year period. The partnership recognises that it may need to re-focus our priorities to respond to emerging issues and changing trends so these will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Following the Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder in 2022 the Community Safety Partnership agreed 9 priorities. Importantly they align with the priorities set by Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The current priorities identified are:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour
2. Domestic Abuse – to potentially include VAWG, sexual violence

3. Serious and Organised Crime
4. Integrated Offender Management
5. Counter Terrorism/Prevent
6. Hate Crime
7. Substance Misuse
8. Serious Violence
9. Road Safety

1. Anti-Social Behaviour

We recognize the deep and lasting impact that anti-social behaviour has on victim's health and wellbeing and the wider negative impact on the community. Safer Halton Partnership has strong multi-agency arrangements and interventions which are making a difference.

There are different levels of ASB across the borough. We share information between partners so that we can respond to emerging issues in neighbourhoods and deliver relevant local responses with place-based delivery models. Using a problem-solving approach, we are able to respond appropriately with a number of interventions. Anti-social behaviour fluctuates through the year with certain spikes at key dates ie Halloween, Bonfire Night and school holidays and we plan specific operations at these times.

Aside from legal power, partner agencies work together to deliver sensitive mediation interventions including restorative justice approaches, which guide the offender to address their behaviour and the impact this has on their victims.

Areas of Focus

- *Youth ASB*
- *Scrambler bikes/e-scooters/bikes etc*
- *Dangerous Dogs*

2. Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent in 2021 and became the largest piece of legislation in history in relation to Domestic Abuse. The Act replaces a responsibility on Local Authorities to create a Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. There is significant cross over in membership between both boards. The strategic direction and the response to DA will be driven by the LDAPB. However, SHP will retain over of Domestic Homicide Reviews and ensure there is a strategic line of sight between both boards.

Halton Safer Partnership is committed to ending Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and wants Halton to be a place where women and girls are safe and feel safe to pursue their lives free from fear and harassment. We believe that with effective earlier intervention, joint working and a drive to challenge the culture and attitudes that give rise to all forms of abuse, we can make Halton a safe place for women and girls to live, work and enjoy their leisure time.

Areas of Focus

- *Links to Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and domestic Homicide Review*
- *Drug/Alcohol related domestic abuse*
- *Stalking and harassment (links to SVD – most prevalent form of serious violence)*

3. Serious Organised Crime

Serious and organised crime (SOC) is criminal activity that is planned, coordinated and committed by people working individually, in groups, or as part of transnational networks. It usually centres on acquiring money, profit, influence and power. It is likely that SOC affects more UK citizens, more often, than any other national security threat. It has a daily impact on citizens, public services, businesses, institutions, national reputation and infrastructure.

When tackling Serious and Organised Crime Halton follows the four government objectives to tackling this crime ;

- target and relentlessly disrupt the SOC criminals and networks that cause the most harm;
- build the highest levels of defence and resilience in vulnerable people, communities, businesses and systems;
- stop the problem at source, and identify and support those at risk of engaging in criminality; and
- establish a single, whole-system approach.

Areas of Focus

- Modern Day Slavery
- All Age Slavery
- Cyber Crime - Sexual/Scams/Financial
- Country Lines

4. Integrated Offender Management – *to be further developed*

Integrated Offender Management (IOM) brings a cross-agency response to the crime and reoffending threats faced by local communities. The most persistent and problematic offenders are identified and managed jointly by partner agencies working together.

Areas of Focus

- *reducing the negative impact of crime and reoffending*
- *reducing the number of people who become victims of crime*
- *helping to improve the public's confidence in the criminal justice system*

5. Counter Terrorism / Prevent - *to be further developed*

The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (the Act) as modified by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019, placed a duty on a number of

organisations, including the local authority, to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

The Prevent Duty sets out the guidance for the local authority and its partners to prevent people becoming terrorists or engaging in extremism leading to terrorism. Halton’s Channel Multi-Agency Partnership has been in existence since 2015. Its focus is not to criminalise people but entirely to safeguard those at risk of radicalisation and support them to change direction in a way that will help them.

Areas of Focus

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6. Hate Crime

Hate crime not only harms its victims, it also harms their families and communities. It can include verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and damage to property.

Safer Halton Partnership is committed to tackling hate crime. We want to raise awareness of what a hate crime is and help people understand that it is not right to target individuals based on their identity.

A [hate crime](#) is any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or anybody else, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone’s race, religion, sexual orientation, transgender identity or disability. These aspects are known as ‘protected characteristics’.

Area of Focus

- Education – to raise awareness of what a hate crime is and help people understand that it is not right to target individuals based on their identity.
- Development of procedure and policies?

7. Substance Misuse

The misuse of alcohol and substances has far reaching negative impacts across Halton and there has been an increase of 34% in drug offences in 2022 and both drug and alcohol related domestic abuse is up 12%. There are close links to other properties such as domestic abuse, anti-social behaviour as well as serious and organised crime.

Halton Combating Drugs Partnership (HCDP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership established to support the delivery of the ambitions as set out in “From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives”. The focus is on preventing harm from drugs.

Areas of Focus

- To break the drug supply chains
- To provide a world class treatment and recovery offer

- To reduce demand for drugs

8. Serious Violence

The Serious Violence Duty was introduced as part of the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. It requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence in their local area. This means taking a multi-agency, public health approach to understand the causes and effects of serious violence, developing a strategic response focusing on prevention and early intervention, and monitoring the impact of this preventative work.

In Halton the work will be developed and implemented as part of Cheshire Serious Violence Strategy.

Areas of Focus

Long term priorities of prevention, workforce development and intelligence-led Practice and Commissioning are in place with an immediate focus on;

- Early intervention and targeted preventative work to support children at risk of involvement in serious violence.
- Targeted work with perpetrators and victims to prevent and reduce domestic abuse-related serious violence.

9. Road Safety

The latest figures (2022) for Halton show a small rise in overall casualty numbers following last year's decrease. This is consistent with the national picture, where there have been increases in casualties of all severities over the previous 12 months (although still below pre-pandemic levels).

Area of Focus

Halton's programme covers and will continue to focus on;

- road traffic collision reduction schemes
- road safety education
- training
- publicity
- targeting effective enforcement action

Summary and Next Steps

Tackling and reducing crime and the fear of crime is a long-term aspiration and will not be achieved overnight. Crime is often linked to other social issues such as poverty, lack of education, substance misuse amongst many other others. It's important that Halton works strategically with partners and across our community to achieve change.

This strategy sets out the priorities for Safer Halton Partnership and this will inform the partnership delivery plan. The partnership delivery plan will provide information on each of the identified priorities. The document will include a 4 P's plan, an identified responsible lead agency/agencies, information on activity/progress and outcomes. Progress will monitored quarterly at Safer Halton Partnership meetings.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	6 th February 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Domestic Abuse Service
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members of the Board on strategic and service developments in delivering the Council's duties on domestic abuse.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) The Board comment on delivery and the forward programme**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Domestic Abuse Service has continued to evolve since the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate service transferred into the Council in January 2023. A re-structure process has been completed to improve terms and conditions of staff and expand the team. There are a number of vacancies currently in recruitment to increase capacity and resilience to the team including a Case Officer role to work with perpetrators to support changing behaviours.
- 3.2 Demand continues to be exceptionally high; there are currently 199 open cases with the team, 1023 cases have been closed and there are 114 cases pending.
- 3.3 The additional staff resource will provide the capacity to better respond to service demands.
- 3.4 **Identification and Referral to Improve Safety (IRIS)**
The health service plays an integral role in addressing the issue of and transforming responses to domestic abuse. The IRIS programme is a training, referral, and advocacy model to support clinicians to better support their patients affected by domestic abuse and to increase the awareness of domestic abuse within general practice.

- 3.5 IRIS provides specialist training to clinical professionals, alongside administration staff, within local general practices. IRIS training supports clinicians to recognise and respond to patients affected by domestic abuse and the programme provides a direct and trusted source for advocacy for patients following disclosure. The IRIS programme is an evidence-based, effective and cost-effective intervention to improve the primary care response to domestic abuse and is nationally recognised.
- 3.6 Following a successful application to the IRIS Project, Halton has successfully been granted £97k additional funding to set up a local IRIS programme for a 12-month pilot. The Halton Domestic Abuse Team will be supporting the delivery and a new fixed term post will be recruited to, Domestic Abuse Advocate Educator who will be providing direct training and support to the 14 GP surgeries in Halton as well as holding a case load for patients identified within these settings. Depending on recruitment timelines delivery is anticipated to commence by March/April 2024.
- 3.7 Delivery and impacts will be monitored and evaluated to inform system learning, a potential sustainability plan and way forward for the approach in Halton.
- 3.8 **Halton Public Health and Marac Review Co-creation Workshop**
On the 24th of November 2023, a second Domestic Abuse Development event of 2023 was held supported by Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, a statutory board responsible for the delivery of Halton's vision – “for everyone to be able to recognise domestic abuse, take responsibility and work together to tackle it. No one should live in fear, Halton aims to create safer homes, safer communities and safer society benefitting all our residents and reducing fear and harm.”
- 3.9 The event was to highlight and feedback the culmination of a significant piece of Halton research, led by the nationally recognised domestic abuse research institute in the UK, Safelives.
- 3.10 The Halton Public Health and Marac review provides key insight and recommendations into the issue of domestic abuse in Halton, it has been a lengthy and thorough review process, using various data sets, interviews, focus groups, surveys, and engagement with local survivors as well as local professionals. The Workshop gave the opportunity to share the findings, inform future areas of development, provide meaningful local insight, and identify barriers and challenges for change. Many stakeholders recognise the importance of tackling domestic abuse in all of its forms in Halton, and the event was positively supported and received 81 delegates attended the event, representing 16 different agencies from various Council departments, Police, Health, Probation, Department of Work and Pensions, a number of Housing Providers, and Third Sector organisations.
- 3.11 Some highlights shared at the event are:-

- Safelives estimate there are 20,000 adult victims in Halton who have experienced domestic abuse at some point in their lives since the age of 16.
- An estimated 15% of these adult victims will have experienced both partner and family abuse.
- Of the total estimated adult victims 13,500 (68%) are estimated to be female.
- Of the total estimated adult victims 6,000 (32%) are estimated to be male.

Prevalence of adult victims in the past year Halton

- Safelives estimate there are 5,500 adult victims in Halton who have experienced domestic abuse at some point in the last year.
- Safelives estimate that around 8% of those adult victims will have experienced both partner and family abuse.
- Of the total estimated adult victims in the past year, 3,500 (68%) are estimated to be female.
- Of the total estimated adult victims in the past year, 1,500 (32%) are estimated to be male.

Prevalence in the past year of partner abuse (IPV) in Halton

- Safelives estimate that there were 4,000 adult victims in the local area who have experienced partner abuse in the past year.
- Safelives estimate that there were 3,000 children living in a household with partner abuse in the past year.
- Safelives estimate that there were 3,000 people using abusive behaviours in their intimate partner relationships in the past year in the local area.
- Of those 20% are estimated to be serial perpetrators of domestic abuse.

3.12 At the heart of everything we develop in Halton has to be the voices of local people, the event benefitted from having local service user voices giving their accounts and experiences, this was immensely impactful and promotes a shared understanding with professionals and key stakeholders and decision makers. Consulting with and learning from the experiences of local victims / survivors and children is key to developing plans and services that are fit for purpose. Halton recognises the importance of authentic service user voices in our local service delivery, and commits to improving existing arrangements to ensure design of services that are responsive to the needs of Halton's communities.

3.13 Having the opportunity to take stock of Halton's current position with stakeholders is essential and valuable in developing a whole system, collaborative learning approach to Domestic Abuse. This supports and informs the programme of work for the multi-agency Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, which will consider next steps and implementation of the recommendations identified. The Board strives to

continually improve Halton's local services and support available to all those affected by Domestic Abuse.

- 3.14 The Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board supports the delivery of multi-agency workforce training and development relating to domestic abuse, with key dates made available via <https://haltonsafeguarding.co.uk>.
- 3.15 **White Ribbon**
The Council supported a motion to protect women and girls in October 2018 which included accreditation to White Ribbon: - <https://councillors.halton.gov.uk/documents/g8904/Printed%20minutes%2018th-Oct-2023%2018.30%20Council.pdf?T=1>
- 3.16 HBC supported the White Ribbon Campaign in November 2023 promoting ending men's violence against women starts when we #ChangeTheStory. White Ribbon Day took place on the 25th November, actively encouraging individuals and organisations to make consistent choices and actions so that we #ChangeTheStory for women and girls to live their lives free from the fear of violence.
- 3.17 Halton's support of White Ribbon Day coincided with the second Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Development event of the year detailed in 3.3. The event launched support for the 2023 campaign and commenced a campaign of activity throughout the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. Several key issues were highlighted during the 16 days of activism, with a focus of sharing and dispelling some of the common myths surrounding domestic abuse topics and challenging stereotypes and misconceptions as well as promoting local domestic abuse services and support and self-help options for individuals, friends and family looking for advice.
- 3.18 Halton developed a social media toolkit that was promoted widely via social media focusing on daily topics, using several hashtags of note, including the popular #ChangeTheStory #WhiteRibbonDay #16Days #ChangeTheStory #WRD23 #WhiteRibbon #MakeThePromise.
- 3.19 During the 16 days of activism, both the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee bridge were lit white as a symbol of local support for the White Ribbon Campaign.
- 3.20 In addition, White Ribbon campaign material was distributed and made available to partner agencies to display to raise awareness of domestic abuse across the Borough.
- 3.21 The Council have made a commitment to achieving White Ribbon Accredited status, to achieve this the Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board will govern the White Ribbon Steering Group and is a key workstream in progress.

3.22 Halton Resolve

Resolve is an emotional health and wellbeing service for children, young people and families to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on individuals, families and the community.

3.23 In May 2023, the Council contracted Halton Resolve service (Children's Society) to provide additional support alongside Social Sare to children and young people who have already been placed on either a Children In Need (CIN), or Care Plan, and are aged between 5 to 18 years. Halton Resolve are leading the intervention programme Gateway aimed to improve victims' knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse and impact on children offering both group and 1-1 support for parents impacted by domestic abuse.

3.24 The team is made up of experienced and skilled professionals who provide an opportunity for children and young people to be believed, reassured and listened to. In all the Resolve work, the voice of the child is extremely important and central to the plan of work that takes place. It provides: -

- A safe and confidential space where a young person and family feel listened to and understood.
- Up to 12 one to one sessions of individual and family intervention to reduce risks and issues specifically related to domestic abuse that take place face to face (digitally is also an option)
- Sessions include safety planning, awareness of healthy and unhealthy relationships and resilience building to help create a toolbox of healthy coping strategies.
- Support to professionals with pre-court proceedings.

3.25 30 referrals were received between July and September 2023. Of the 30 children and young people referred, 22 young people received in person 1-1 support. 6 parents declined, 2 were declined the service as not domestic abuse related. 20 parents have been referred for the Gateway programme. All 30 children and young people have children social care involvement.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications at this stage.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications; the delivery described is within existing resources and the external funding secured to deliver the IRIS programme.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Domestic Abuse impacts children and young people's life chances. The awareness raising aims to change behaviour thus improving outcomes for future generations of children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The service has created additional roles and secured additional resources to roll out training and awareness of Domestic Abuse supporting collaborative learning across Halton's system in better understanding Domestic Abuse and the impacts.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The impacts of Domestic Abuse are far reaching significantly impacting the health system and wellbeing of those effected by Domestic Abuse. The Iris work described in the report will directly support GP Surgery staff to have increased awareness and offer support to victims at earlier points in the victim journey.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Halton experiences high risk, high harm, high volume Domestic Abuse which impacts neighbourhoods and communities. Measures to raise awareness and tackle Domestic Abuse are pivotal in striving to build strong resilient communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None to report.

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None to report.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None at present.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

None to report

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

10.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.