

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 11 June 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
Municipal Building, Widnes

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 Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill	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 on Tuesday, 10 September 2024

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

Part I

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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>	
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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, 6 February 2024
at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, J. Gallagher, N. Goodwin and P. Wright.

Also in attendance: Councillor C. Plumpton-Walsh

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

SAF24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Action

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided some feedback from the Cheshire Police and Crime Panel meeting, which he attended along with Councillor Martha Lloyd-Jones on 2 February 2024.

The Panel received a report from the Police and Crime Commissioner which proposed a 4.99% increase to the policing element of the council tax bill 2024/25. This would amount to an extra £12.50 a year for a band D household and this was agreed by all four of Cheshire's borough councils.

SAF25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no public questions had been received.

SAF27 THE CORPORATE PLAN - THE BIG CONVERSATION ANALYSIS AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Board received a report from the Corporate Director, Chief Executive's Delivery Unit, which gave an update on 'The Big Conversation', since it was presented at the last meeting in November 2023. The report shared the analysis of the consultation and outlined the next steps.

The report set out the five themes which had all been scored highly by stakeholders in terms of what they deemed to be a priority:

- 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%; and
- Working towards a greener future – 78%.

In addition to these, stakeholders were asked to identify any additional themes which they felt were significant and those were the environment, local economy and housing. This feedback resulted in a sixth priority being created called "Place and Community".

Members were advised that the consultation closed on 30 November 2023 and the total number of responses received was 1,076; an analysis of the feedback was outlined in the report.

A copy of the draft Corporate Plan was emailed to Members on 6 February 2024 for information and this would be presented to the Executive Board for approval on 22 February 2024. Thereafter, it would be launched in April 2024.

Members noted the information presented to them and the following comments were noted from discussions:

- it was felt that the priorities were similar to the current Council priorities and that not enough was being done to tackle issues such as environmental concerns, regeneration in the Borough and lack of social housing;
- a Member of the Board referred to "Halton 2000", a consultation exercise which was carried out in the year 2000 and they felt that little improvements had

been made as a result of this. It was suggested that the Council should learn from past experiences; and

- another Member suggested that there was a general complacency in the public, not just in Halton, because people did not have any faith that changes would be made and therefore this might have been a reason why more people did not complete the survey.

RESOLVED: That:

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

SAF28 SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE & STRATEGY

The Board received a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration which provided an update on the development of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and the Safer Halton Governance and Strategy.

CSP's were created when the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed responsibility on Local Authorities and Police Chiefs to meet regularly to discuss crime and disorder issues within their respective areas. The aim of the CSP in Halton was to make it a safe place to live and work; its functions were outlined in the draft strategy.

Members were advised that the Safer Halton Partnership Strategy had recently been revised along with its governance arrangements and priorities to ensure that it was fit for purpose. This work was supported by an additional resource, funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and it had been agreed that focus would be given to:

- Safer Halton Governance structure;
- Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Community Safety Partnership Strategy/Partnership Plan; and
- Safer Halton Partnership Delivery Plan.

The draft Strategy set out the priorities which were data driven and governance led. To date, the priorities that had been agreed were:

- 1) Anti-Social Behaviour;

- 2) Domestic Abuse;
- 3) Serious and Organised Crime;
- 4) Integrated Offender Management;
- 5) Counter Terrorism;
- 6) Hate Crime;
- 7) Substance Misuse;
- 8) Serious Violence; and
- 9) Road Safety.

The three year over-arching Strategy would be implemented on 1 April 2024. Thereafter, annual delivery plans would be developed which would set out clear actions.

A number of workshops had been held with partners who sat on the SHP and these had been well received. Members were advised of the advantages of having such a partnership in place, including access to funding opportunities. Through work carried out in recent months, over £160,000 of funding had been secured.

The following additional information was provided in response to Members questions:

- There were data arrangements in place between Council systems and Cheshire Police;
- Dangerous dogs – if these were at a rented property and causing a nuisance then the matter needed to be reported to the landlord. If there was a safety concern then the matter should be reported to the Police;
- Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review – a tool available for residents to report unsatisfactory outcomes of anti-social behaviour. This would be reported to the Local Authority and the Enforcement Team would then work with agencies involved, for example housing providers, Police etc to review actions and assess if these had fallen short of procedures; and
- A presentation on Serious Violence Duty would be delivered to the next Board meeting and this would include details on the impact of knife crime. Cheshire Police had focussed on “stop and search” which had resulted in a significant number of weapons being confiscated. Work was also being carried out in schools to deliver educational programmes.

RESOLVED: That the draft Safer Halton Partnership Governance and Strategy be received and comments made be noted.

SAF29 DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE

The Board received a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on strategic and service developments in delivering the Council's duties on domestic abuse.

Members were reminded that the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Service transferred to the Council in January 2023 and a report was presented to the Board in February 2023. The service underwent a restructure and recruitment was underway to increase capacity in the team, including a Case Worker who would work with perpetrators and a Domestic Abuse Advocate Educator, who would work with the 14 GP surgeries in Halton to raise educational awareness about domestic violence. The additional staff would help support the team and respond to service demands which were exceptionally high; Halton was the second highest in the country with 174 live cases and 90 cases pending.

The report also provided an update on the following areas:

- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) - a workshop was held in November which focused on a significant piece of Halton research led by Safelives. This resulted in a high quality report which would help shape a work programme for the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and improve local services in Halton;
- White Ribbon – in October 2023, Council supported a motion to obtain accredited status from White Ribbon. The Domestic Abuse Partnership Board would govern the White Ribbon Steering Group and work was in progress; and
- Halton Resolve – this work had been commissioned to support an emotional health and wellbeing service for children, young people and families to reduce the impact of domestic abuse; this was being developed by the Children's Society. During July and September 2023, 30 children and young people received a referral.

The following additional information and comments were noted:

- Domestic abuse also affected older people;

- Members to be given the opportunity to be involved in the White Ribbon Steering Group;
- Members to be offered the opportunity to attend any future Workforce Development Sessions which were held to raise awareness on domestic abuse; and
- Men were also victims of domestic violence. Members were reassured that Halton operated a universal service and the Police also supported targeted approaches for individuals who presented as victims, for example, those in custody.

RESOLVED: That the Board note and comment on the report.

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 11 June 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 and Performance Board
DATE:	11 June 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director – Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Safer PPB Annual Report June 2023 – May 2024
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive the Annual Report of the Safer Policy and Performance Board and to note the many contributions made to the ongoing work of the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be approved.

3.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 4.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**
- 4.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
- 4.3 **A Healthy Halton**
- 4.4 **A Safer Halton**
- 4.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no direct implications for these priorities.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

6.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 6.1 There are no direct implications for this priority.

7.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None identified.

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

- 8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

ANNUAL REPORT**SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD****JUNE 2023 – MAY 2024**

<p>Councillor Norman Plumpton-Walsh</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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, working closely with Partners.</p> <p>I and the other Elected Members are satisfied that we have considered, responded to, and reported on the main issues affecting Halton but also looked at any potential new areas that may not have previously been scrutinised.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Finally, I want to make clear that Halton is a 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.</p> <p>Councillor Norman Plumpton-Walsh Chairman, Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board</p>
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MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES

During the municipal year 2023-2024 the Board comprised of 11 elected members:

Cllr Norman Plumpton-Walsh (Chair)

Cllr Chris Carlin (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Sandra Baker

Cllr Laura Bevan

Cllr Irene Bramwell

Cllr Dave Cargill

Cllr Louise Goodall

Cllr Alan Lowe

Cllr Margaret Ratcliffe

Cllr Aimee Skinner

Cllr Pamela Wallace

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, issues related to Asylum Seekers and Refugees, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, and the Safer Halton Partnership. The Board is also represented on the Safer Halton Partnership and Cheshire Police & Crime Panel.

The primary function is to focus on the work of the Council (and its partners) in seeking to ensure that the environment within the Borough is safe for local people to enjoy, and to scrutinise progress against the Corporate Plan in relation to the Safer Halton Priority.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The full Board met four times during the period, June, September, November, and February. The Board's work programme during 2023/2024 covered the scrutiny of relevant Executive Board decisions related to the boards business, scrutinising the performance of the Safer Halton Partnership and relevant partners under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, together with monitoring performance.

OVERVIEW & SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP

This report provides an overview from across the period 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024. The board has been consistently updated on the landing of the new Community Safety & Protection division since it's formulation on 1st February 2023 which has continued to go through a period of change during the year.

The division has brought together a range of service areas to join Community Safety services. As a whole it provides support and services to residents when they most need it; from being at risk of harm, having experienced trauma, or are vulnerable. The division also strives to tackle negative behaviour, shift outcomes, and generate safer neighbourhoods and communities.

The division operates in a multi-agency environment working intensely with internal and external stakeholders such as Social Care, Police, Integrated Offender Management, Youth Justice partners, Housing providers, third sector partners, commissioned services, Government agencies and funding bodies. At the centre of this work is the Safer Halton Partnership, a statutory partnership to fulfil obligations of a Community Safety Partnership which each local authority area must have.

The board received reports and considered items:

June 2023

The Big Conversation

Annual Report on Community Safety April 2022 – May 2023

County Lines

Dog Control

The Big Conversation - the Council's approach to formulating a new Corporate Plan to take effect from April 2024. The approach engaged residents and stakeholders so that they understood the challenges of the Council and had the opportunity to contribute their views and priorities.

County Lines – the board received a presentation from the Northwest Regional Organised Crime Unit setting out the organised distribution of illegal drugs across networks which mostly exploits young or vulnerable people. The presentation provided an insight into work going on in Halton and the wider footprint.

Dog Control – the board received a report on the Council's public space protection order which aims to tackle dog fouling, dogs on leads, exclusion of dogs, dogs on leads by direction, a restriction on the number of dogs walked at a time and evidence of the means to pick up dog faeces in Council parks and open spaces.

September 2023

Police & Crime Commissioners Office

Cheshire Police Halton Performance

Emergency Planning Annual Report

Enforcement Team & Community Trigger Update

White Ribbon

Police & Crime Commissioners Office – Cheshire Police Crime Commissioner attended the meeting presenting the PCC plan and six priorities.

Cheshire Police Halton Performance – The Constabularies Area Commander and Chief Inspectors for Runcorn & Widnes provided a thorough presentation on the forces and Halton's performance which demonstrated a positive position with reduced crime and tackling of crime in the borough.

Emergency Planning Annual Report – the board received a report which set out the functions work programme ensuring the Council's statutory duties for control of major accident hazards (COMAH), pipeline safety regulations and civil contingencies and the role of a category one responder. The board were advised a whole Members session would be delivered ahead of full Council in October.

Enforcement Team & Community Trigger Update – the Board received a report which provided an update on the Council's work on anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and waste enforcement and alcohol licensing. This included an update on Community Trigger which is now referred to as Anti-Social Behaviour Case review.

White Ribbon – the Board received a report setting out an action plan for the Council to be accredited which would support the Council's motion in October. The approach demonstrates a commitment to ending men's violence against women and girls and is part of the Council's wider approach to domestic abuse which provides a service offer to support all gender victims of abuse.

November 2023

Cheshire Fire Authority Draft Community Risk Management Plan

The Corporate Plan/The Big Conversation

Anti-social Behaviour Tool & Powers

Youth Diversionary Activity

Mischief, Halloween & Bonfire Impacts

Cheshire Fire Authority Draft Community Risk Management Plan – the Board was attended by Cheshire’s Chief Fire Officer setting out proposed changes to the fire and rescue provision across Cheshire. Consultation on the proposals ended in January 2024 with implementation of the agreed operating model in January 2025.

The Corporate Plan/The Big Conversation – the Board received an update on engagement and feedback into the process to assist with shaping the Council’s Corporate Plan.

Anti-social Behaviour Tool & Powers – the board received a report setting out the tools available to the Council to tackle ASB detailed in the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014. The board were advised the legislation requires relevant local agencies to ensure specific legal tests and safeguards set out in the act are met before utilising the powers which are:

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

Members were advised the Council works collaboratively with partner agencies in tackling anti-social behaviour through the Problem-Solving Group, a sub-group of Halton’s Community Safety Partnership, Safer Halton.

Youth Diversionary Activity – a report was provided setting out the Council’s commissioned service with Vibe detailing provision on Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays for outreach youth work in agreed locations responding to hot spot areas.

Vibe also shared their extensive work programme:

- Good Choices – funded by Cheshire Police to tackle substance misuse.
- 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.

Mischief, Halloween & Bonfire Impacts – the Board received a verbal update on how the occasions had gone and were advised the Police had reported it was one of the quietest years. There were some hotspots that were targeted however, overall, it was a positive position.

February 2024

Corporate Plan, the Big Conversation analysis, and the way forward

Safer Halton Partnership Governance & Strategy

Domestic Abuse Service

Corporate Plan, the Big Conversation analysis, and the way forward – the board received a further update on the results of the engagement and themes that had emerged:

- 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%; and
- Working towards a greener future – 78%

The Board were advised a sixth priority place and community had also been identified. The draft corporate plan had been circulated to Members for comment, this would be presented to Executive Board for approval 22nd February 2024 and thereafter launched in April 2024.

Safer Halton Partnership Governance & Strategy – the board received a report which detailed the statutory requirement on the local authority to have a Community Safety Partnership as set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998, in Halton this is Safer Halton Partnership. The board were advised the governance and strategy had been reviewed as part of the change of arrangements with the formation of the Community Safety & Protection division; this had highlighted a need for arrangements to be strengthened. A work programme had been developed to review Safer Halton's Terms of Reference, Membership and Governance arrangements and forward strategy. The draft strategy had been developed collaboratively with partners and community consultation. The nine priorities in the draft strategy are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women & Girls
- Serious and Organised Crime
- Integrated Offender Management
- Counter Terrorism/Prevent
- Hate Crime
- Substance Misuse
- Serious Violence
- Road Safety

The board were advised the strategy would be for three years from April 2024 to 2027 and annual delivery plans would be developed. This approach provides the assurance required and will set out a framework to articulate delivery and outcomes.

Domestic Abuse Service – the board received a report detailing the work of the Council’s Domestic Abuse Service noting the advocacy service had become an in-house direct service from January 2023. The report provided information on the Multi-Agency Risk Assessments (MARAC) conference held in November 2023 led by the national organisation Safelives. This is part of review work across the system in Halton which will provide a suite of recommendations for Halton’s statutory Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (HDAPB) to develop into a work programme. The report also provided an update on White Ribbon with a steering group to be established which would be governed by the HDAPB. The report also provided details on Halton Resolve, a commissioned service for young people to provide emotional and wellbeing support to children, young people and families impacted by domestic abuse.

The board has received verbal updates on the landing and evolving of the Community Safety & Protection Division during the period. Overview of key areas are:

ENFORCEMENT

The Council appointed a new Enforcement Manager who leads the programme of work for Anti-Social Behaviour, Enforcement & CCTV. The role chairs the Problem-Solving Group and leads the Council’s team responding to environmental crime, the Waste Enforcement team who have been involved with investigating 160 incidents including waste related offences.

The Dog Control PSPO renewal was led by the Enforcement Manager who also secured external funding to provide ten mobile CCTV camera’s to be deployed to hot spot locations in the Borough.

The Council’s CCTV surveillance has been through a procurement process for maintenance contract which has resulted in a change in provider.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

The Council recently appointed a new ASB Officer after a vacant period. The role provides a resource to respond to ASB, co-ordinating multi-agency approaches and dealing with ASB Case Reviews.

The governance under the Community Safety Partnership for dealing with ASB was reviewed with the Tasking & Co-ordination and Multi-Agency meetings being disbanded and one Problem Solving Group being formed.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

The service has had a period of continuous development following the transfer of the Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service to be inhouse. The team has expanded to include an additional IDVA, a Senior IDVA and a Case Officer which provides a perpetrator officer to change behaviour and outcomes.

The service and Halton's Domestic Abuse Partnership board is continuing to work with Safelives in developing Halton's system response to domestic abuse.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

In addition to the board reports and presentations the Emergency Planning Team has had a rotation in the team with a new Manager and two new Emergency Planning Officers being appointed to strengthen the authority's resources and resilience. The team have renewed key plans and updated system information and further developed the training offer for Halton's responders whilst continuing the exercise work with Halton's COMAH sites.

ASYLUM & REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

The Council appointed an Asylum, Refugee & Resettlement Officer to lead and co-ordinate Halton's response to the cohorts and changing demographics in the Borough. The role facilitates Halton's multi-agency forum and liaises with local authorities across Liverpool and Cheshire and the Regional Migration Partnership.

OTHER KEY DEVELOPMENTS

The Police & Crime Commissioners (PCC) Office works closely with local authority community safety partnerships; there is a shared data analysis resource Halton utilises to ensure priorities and work programmes are data driven.

The PCC facilitate the county's Criminal Justice Board and during the course of the year a sub-group has been established on reducing re-offending and the PCC's office has developed a partnership work stream on tackling waste crime.

Serious Violence Duty became a statutory requirement as of 31st January 2024, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to include the priority for Community Safety Partnerships and places a duty on a range of organisations to work together to have a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence. The PCC Office has co-ordinated this work across Cheshire and developed a strategic needs assessment and strategy. Additional funding to support this area of work is also managed through the PCC Office who have commissioned services in responding this this area of work.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	11 th June 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Serious Violence Duty
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present to Members the approach to Serious Violence Duty introduction led by the Police & Crime Commissioners Office (PCC).

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Members receive the presentation and comment on any key matters.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Serious Violence Duty became a statutory requirement as of 31st January 2023, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to include the priority for Community Safety Partnerships and places a duty on a range of organisations to work together to have a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence. The PCC Office has co-ordinated this work across Cheshire and developed a strategic needs assessment and strategy. Additional funding to support this area of work is also managed through the PCC Office who have commissioned services in responding to this area of work.

3.2 The PCC Office will provide an overview presentation and update on work to date including services commissioned to assist Halton responding to the objectives outlined in the strategy <https://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/healthandsocial.aspx>

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to include the serious violence priority for Community Safety Partnerships and places a duty on a range of organisations to work together to have a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report, funds to support Serious Violence Duty are received by the Police & Crime Commissioners Office who have commissioned services at County

level.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There is a direct causal link between children at risk of crime, involved in criminal behaviour and serious violence. The strategy and delivery plan aims to disrupt and provide diversionary activities to enable improved outcomes for young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The commissioned services impact on skills development for young people in Halton.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

How safe a community is directly impacts health and wellbeing of the population. The approach and services aim to positively impact residents' wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Levels of crime directly impacts residents, communities, neighbourhoods, and environments. The multi-agency approach to understanding and tackling challenging behaviours and criminal activity in the Borough will assist with enabling safer environments and building strong, resilient communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Enforcement responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The overall function 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 Failure to tackle serious violence and pro-actively work collaboratively to disrupt and improve the challenges would negatively impact the resident experience and the attractiveness of Halton.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report.

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 identified

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	11 th June 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Enforcement Team overview, including annual Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review update.
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a summary of the work conducted by the Enforcement Team.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Members note the content of the report and comment on any key matters.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 In September 2023, the Board received an update report on the Enforcement Teams progress since July 2023 when the Enforcement Team Manager came into post. The team currently covers anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, waste, and CCTV. This report provides an overview of the teams including an annual update on the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Review.

3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

Since September 2023, the service has continued to embed improved working practices with partner agencies and adapt to respond to the needs of the community. The service continues to respond to referrals from partner agencies by providing support to those experiencing anti-social behaviour, this support includes:

1. Co-ordinating action plans
2. Support with pursuing offenders and diverting away from negative behaviours.
3. Using restorative practice and early intervention

- 3.3 There are currently twelve residents being supported in this way. The service has received thirty-five referrals for this type of support since September 2023.

- 3.4 The service chairs Halton's multiagency meeting that aims to problem solve key resource intensive location and/or individuals. The governance arrangements were reviewed, and the Tasking and Co-ordination and Multi Agency Groups disbanded and was replaced by the Problem-Solving Group

which meets monthly reporting into the community safety partnership, Safer Halton.

- 3.5 The Problem-Solving Group has accepted twenty-four referrals for people and ten referrals for place. Aswell as referrals for specific locations and individuals, the meeting has taken the lead on driving forward key issues for the partnership such as the implication of changes in Dangerous Dog Legislation and broadening the use of Community Protection Notices within the partnership. Two examples of recent work are: -
- 3.6 Case Study One
Increased reporting of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and noise nuisance from a residential children's home. Multiagency approach to identify offenders and put in place anti-social behavior contracts, worked with the home to identify, and implement factors that could deter anti-social behaviour at the address. This was monitored regularly through meetings with the relevant agencies and supported by the implementation of a re-deployable camera. A multiagency walkabout took place to reassure residents and explain the course of action. Residents were appreciative and incidents at the location have subsided.
- 3.7 Case Study Two
Property causing high demand for the police and multiple reports to housing. Occupants open to several council services and vulnerable. Consultation with several agencies took place to ensure support was given and the opportunity to change behaviour was explored extensively. Behaviours persisted and a closure order was agreed and actioned, giving the community much needed respite from the negative impacts.
- 3.8 The service secured additional funding from the Police and Crime Commissioners office to upgrade and increase re-deployable CCTV cameras. The service has ten cameras, seven of which are deployed in areas of high anti-social behaviour, the remaining three are used for environmental enforcement. Camera locations are agreed in the problem-solving group and are typically in situ for 8-12 weeks.
- 3.9 Since September 2023, the service has received two requests for Anti-Social Behaviour case reviews; neither have met the threshold therefore have been progressed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, housing provider and police endeavouring to respond to residents' concerns.
- 3.10 Environmental Crime & Waste Enforcement
During the last two quarters (1st October – 31st March 2024), the Enforcement Team have been involved with investigating 160 incidents including waste related offences ranging from a single refuse sack in an entry to fly-tipping of large amounts of building waste, green waste etc. dog fouling complaints, littering complaints, storage and management of commercial waste generated from business premises, incorrect/nuisance storage of waste receptacles, waste being stored on private land, and other

forms of environmental crime.

- 3.11 As a result of these investigations, officers have been able to take 116 actions which has included the issuing of fifteen fixed penalty notices, twelve issuing of statutory notices, 89 issuing of advisory and warning letters and there are currently 9 cases pending prosecution and awaiting hearings at Magistrates Court. There will be press releases in relation to these cases once they have completed the Court process.
- 3.12 The Enforcement Team took part in an initiative in the Central & West Bank ward during the 'Great British Spring Clean' a national campaign promoted by the charity Keep Britain Tidy between the 15th and 31st March 2024. Officers conducted patrols in the ward, engaged with residents providing education regarding waste management and dog control measures. The Council's Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team were also on hand to remove waste deposited in entries and recover any evidence from the waste which was then forwarded to the Enforcement Team resulting in investigations which are currently ongoing.
- 3.13 New signs were installed on all alley gates throughout Central and West Bank reminding residents of the correct refuse procedure that must be followed. The signs also include QR codes which are easily scanned, with a link to the Councils bulky items collection service, a link to independent waste carriers who are officially registered with the Environment Agency, a link to all licensed scrap metal collectors and a link to the council's online fly-tipping report form. All households also received an information leaflet containing the same information and QR codes.
- 3.14 On the 18th of March 2024, a new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in relation to Dog Controls was implemented. The continued PSPO aims to reduce problems caused by irresponsible dog ownership in public places. The PSPO makes it an offence for dogs to be off a lead in specified areas, highlights public spaces in which dogs are not permitted (dog exclusion zones) and makes provisions for authorised officers to direct a person in charge of a dog to put and keep the dog on a lead.
- 3.15 The team have recently been working closely with the Community Payback Team with a view to setting up some partnership working in the coming months. The Community Payback Team have proved to be a big asset to the Council in the past, deploying resources into some of the more problematic areas in the borough having a positive effect hence, the service is keen to be re-establishing joint work to benefit Halton's environment.
- 3.16 Enforcement is currently undertaking a recruitment process to appoint two Neighbourhood Patrol Officers for 12 months who will be primarily tasked with day-to-day foot patrols in relation to small scale offences such as littering and dog fouling. This resource will strengthen the team, providing a high visibility presence, subsequent deterrent and allowing the existing Officers to tackle some of the more significant and wider issues across the Borough. External funding has been secured for the posts, once mobilised

the service will be evaluated for impact and an approach for sustainable arrangements developed as appropriate.

3.17 CCTV & The Control Room

Halton's control room and its CCTV Operators monitor 148 cameras across the borough. The teamwork with partner agencies such as Police, Pub Watch and Mersey Gateway to respond to incidents and maintain public safety.

3.18 The team has been operating at a reduced capacity for some time, although a 24/7 service has largely been maintained, this is unsustainable in the current format. As such a funding opportunity has been identified to increase the capacity of the service and improve resilience.

3.19 The team have been working towards improving practices and policies within the service. As this is an ever-developing area, a specialist is working with the team to produce a gap analysis, identifying any gaps in compliance and improvements. This will form the work plan for the team Manager and supervisor going forward.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Enforcement team sits within the Community Safety & Protection division which accords with the statutory functions and requirements across a range of legislation:

- Crime & Disorder Act 1988
- Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Enforcement Team impact directly on this priority through its work on tackling the causes and effects of anti-social behaviour and approaches to deliver diversionary activities and work towards making neighbourhoods safer.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There is further scoping work and service remodelling to define the services functions which will generate further training, development, and employment opportunities, growing the workforce and enabling skills development.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Enforcement Team activities positively impact the cleaner and greener environment in Halton influencing residents' health & wellbeing.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Enforcement Team responsibilities and multi-agency work, all contribute directly to a Safer Halton. Programmes of work vary from reactive to pro-active, providing support to victims where needed, working to shift outcomes and build resilient, safer communities in Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Enforcement responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The overall function 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 There are no risks associated with this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None to report.

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 identified