

# CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM AGENDA



**Thursday 16 February 2012**

**at 2.00pm**

**in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

**MEMBERS: CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM:**

Councillors Aiken, S Akers-Belcher, Brash, Cranney, Hall, Ingham, Lauderdale, Loynes, Maness, Morris, Payne, Richardson, Shaw, Simmons, Sirs, Sutheran, Tempest, H Thompson and Wells.

Resident Representatives: Robert Farrow, Peter Goodier, Ted Jackson, Evelyn Leck, Steven Mailen, Brian McBean, Noma Morrish and Julie Rudge (2 vacancy)

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 4. MINUTES**
  - 4.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2011
  - 4.2 Matters arising
- 5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME and WARD ISSUES (maximum of 30 minutes)**

Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton  
Burn Valley  
Elwick

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 (Attached and Presentation to be made at meeting) - *Anti Social Behaviour Research Officer*

**7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR INFORMATION**

- 7.1 Hartlepool Rural Plan – *Central Neighbourhood Manager*  
7.2 Community Involvement and Engagement Review Update (Verbal Update)

**8. ITEMS FOR DECISION**

- 8.1 Minor Works Report – *Central Neighbourhood Manager*

**9. WARD ISSUES**

# ***CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM***

**20<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

## ***MINUTES OF THE MEETING***



**WARDS**  
Burn Valley  
Elwick  
Foggy Furze  
Grange  
Park  
Rift House  
Stranton

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm. at the Civic Centre

### **PRESENT:**

Chair: Councillor Kevin Cranney - Foggy Furze Ward

Vice-Chair: Evelyn Leck (Resident Representative)

Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher	- Rift House Ward
Councillor Jonathan Brash	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Gerard Hall	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor John Lauderdale	- Burn Valley Ward
Councillor Carl Richardson	- Grange Ward
Councillor Jane Shaw	- Stranton Ward
Councillor Chris Simmons	- Grange Ward
Councillor Hilary Thompson	- Elwick Ward
Councillor Ray Wells	- Park Ward

### **Resident Representatives:**

Bob Farrow, Ted Jackson, Steve Mailen, Norma Morrish and Julie Rudge

Public: Beryl Clark, C Corbett, Gordon and Stella Johnson, Ray McAndrew, William Morrish and Ray Waller

Officers: Denise Ogden, Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services)  
Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central)  
Mike Blair, Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager  
Jon Wright, Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager  
Fiona Srogi, Waste Management Team Leader  
Alison Carberry, Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer  
Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer  
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

### **15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Martyn Aiken, Peter

Ingham, Brenda Loynes, Sarah Maness, George Morris and Robbie Payne

## 16. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

None

## 17. MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS OCTOBER 2011

The Forum were asked to consider the following minor works schemes: -

1. **South Parade Traffic Safety Scheme** - £5,000 toward implementation of road humps. Total scheme cost of £15,000. Resident Representative Bob Farrow expressed his opposition to this proposal saying it would just displace the problem to the adjoining street where children played on the grassed area. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager advised that this scheme was subject to a full public consultation prior to implementation
2. **Dalton Street bin store fencing scheme – Resident Representative Julie Rudge declared a personal non-pecuniary interest in this item** - £5,278 to cover the total cost of a scheme to fence off this area with lockable gates. The Vice-Chair highlighted that this land belonged to the NDC Trust which the Neighbourhood Manager confirmed saying that as the problems related to Titan House the Council had been asked to intervene.
3. **Chandlers Close Footway Construction** - £500 to cover total cost of a scheme to construct a footway over the grassed verge to enable elderly residents to access vehicles
4. **Waldon Street Traffic Management Scheme** - £5,000 toward a scheme to provide build outs north of the Lister Street junction. Total scheme cost of £10,000. The Vice-Chair expressed her support for this proposal, saying the build-outs should be extended to the Brewery. The Chair confirmed that chicanes had been proposed to prevent lorries reversing.
5. **Burbank Estate Dropped Crossings** - £6,000 to cover the total cost of a scheme to install dropped crossings at identified locations
6. **Sheriff Street Housing Painting Scheme** - £7,020 to cover the total cost of a scheme to repaint the front door and window sills of 80 properties. Match funding would also be sought. The Vice-Chair queried whether residents would be contributing and this could set a precedent for other areas to request similar improvements. The Chair advised that opportunities for residents to contribute would be looked at but officers were keen not to stall the project if private landlords did not wish to provide funding.
7. **Manor Close** - £2,400 to cover the total cost of a scheme to remove a grassed area and provide additional parking. Resident Representative Steven Mailen highlighted the involvement of the Parish Council in this scheme.
8. **Park Avenue** - £5,000 toward a scheme to upgrade the lighting. Total cost of the scheme £8,000. Resident Representative Ted Jackson requested an update on

lighting in the rest of the Park Ward. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager confirmed that there were other schemes in place for this area but this one had been the highest priority. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager added that current Council policy was to replace street lights over 40 years old and he knew of at least one other similar scheme for the Park Ward in the current municipal year. The Senior Regeneration Officer would be able to give Mr Jackson a detailed update.

9. **Gladys Worthy Court** - £2,849 to cover the total cost of a scheme to erect a bow topped fence to prevent cycles cutting through and force them to follow the footway and pass through a gated entrance.

10. **Masefield Road** - £5,800 to cover the total cost of a scheme to replace grassed verge with tarmac outside nos 64-78. In response to a query from Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher the Chair confirmed that a dropped kerb would also be included.

## Decision

That the proposed schemes, as detailed above, be recommended to the Transport and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder for approval.

## 18. PRESENTATION – REVIEW OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

The Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) advised that following a review of community involvement and

engagement Cabinet had approved the following changes:

- That the Neighbourhood Consultative Forums be held on a quarterly basis until May 2012
- That the role of Resident Representative be disbanded in May 2012
- That Police and Community Safety meetings and Parish Liason meetings be cancelled
- That a Borough wide Neighbourhood Issues Forum be introduced from May 2012
- The a new role – Neighbourhood Voice – be introduced to replace Resident Representatives from May 2012
- That Neighbourhood Action Plans be refocused onto the 5% most deprived neighbourhoods
- That the Mayor will meet with Parish Council Chair twice per year

Further information was given on the proposed 'Neighbourhood Voice'. There would be one person assigned to each of the 11 new wards introduced following the boundary changes. Neighbourhood Voices would need to live in the ward they represented and have been part of a properly constituted residents association which had been in existence for at least a year. They would elected through the Neighbourhood Issues Forum for a 2 year term.

The Assistant Director highlighted that these changes had not yet received final approval from Council and were subject to change pending discussion at the Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

Changes would also take place to the Hartlepool Partnership. The Hartlepool Partnership Board had been disbanded along with the Culture, Leisure and Community Partnership and Environment Partnership. In their place would be the Strategic Partners Group. This would meet 4 times a year and comprise 4 theme groups. Face the Public events would be held for each of the theme groups once a year and the Strategic Partners Group would be expected to attend at least 2 of these meetings per year.

The Assistant Director also referred to the Police and Social Reform Bill which would introduce the post of Police and Crime Commissioner, to be voted on by the public.

The following issues were raised:

**Councillor Jane Shaw** – Wards will lose out if they're unable to elect a Neighbourhood Voice

A full debate on the role of Police Commissioner should take place as the person appointed will be paid an obscene amount of money which should be spent on policing the streets and have the power to remove the Chief Constable should they wish to. The Neighbourhood Manager advised that voting would take place on 15<sup>th</sup> November at which time a full and frank discussion could taken place. However as this was Government policy it could not be prevented.

**Councillor Carl Richardson** - 42 of the 43 constabularies in the country had opposed the introduction of a Police Commissioner along with the Police Authority, all Labour MPs and the vast majority of Conservative MPs. This was an anti-democratic move which would put a lot of power into one person's hands

**Resident Ray McAndrew** – Moving from 3 neighbourhood area forums to 1 borough wide Neighbourhood Issues forum would not work. Meetings would take too long, cost too much and involve too much travelling for the vast majority of attendees.

**Chair** – Would there be enough residents associations to provide the required Neighbourhood Voices? The Assistant Director advised that nominations could come from other groups so long as they were constituted and had been in existence for at least a year. The most important thing was that they represent their community as a whole rather than their individual views.

**Councillor Jane Shaw** – People would not have the time to spend on a Borough-wide meeting. It would be less constructive and more costly than the current system.

**Councillor Gerard Hall** – Would members of a NAP Forum be eligible to be Neighbourhood Voices? The Assistant Director advised that at the moment they would not but this was up for consideration.

It was right that Parish Councils should have regular access to the Mayor but this highlighted them as a route of communication and consultation.

The Local Strategic Partnership had brought partners together in a positive way to discuss strategic issues. It was important that the membership of the new Strategic Partners Group be considered as carefully as possible.

Given the reduction in Wards and Councillors the role of Councillor would become more difficult and need much more commitment. Councillors should continue to be seen as residents' first

point of reference as resources continued to reduce

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services) for attending the meeting and answering questions.

#### **19. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2011**

Approved

#### **20. MATTERS ARISING**

**Former Co-operative building** – Resident Ray McAndrew advised that he had not been satisfied with the actions of HBC Officers (as stated in the report) but had decided not to pursue the matter as changes would not be made. He thanked the Neighbourhood Manager for arranging the meeting however.

**Yellow Lines** – Councillor Jane Shaw requested that a list showing where parking enforcements were in place be provided to her. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that all temporary yellow lines had now been removed therefore any existing lines were enforceable. The Chair asked that a press release be put out to that effect as people were unaware that this was the case. Resident Representative Ted Jackson understood that a legal order was required to introduce new yellow lines. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed this, saying the legal process was underway. However officers did not want to confuse the issue by saying some lines were in the process of being made enforceable. Resident Ray Waller suggested that a list of non-operational bus stops should also be provided so drivers were aware whether or not they could stop there. Resident Ray McAndrew asked that the

disused bus stops on Arncliffe Gardens be removed.

**Victory Square** – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that broken glass around the area be cleaned more thoroughly rather than swept to the side.

**Young Street** – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to the decision not to resurface Young Street. She felt that using the uncertain future of the Odeon cinema as a reason was silly given that the back of the Odeon had been resurfaced previously. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that the scheme would be reconsidered the following year.

**Lowthian Road scrap dealer** – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to noise pollution caused by a scrap dealer breaking up metal in the backstreet during the early hours of the morning. Residents had emailed the Council's noise nuisance team and waited 10 days for a response. The Neighbourhood Manager apologised for this delayed response.

**20s Plenty** – Resident Gordon Johnson queried whether Tarnston Road could be included on the priority list following a recent car accident. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that following a poor consultation response Cabinet had decided not to introduce 20s Plenty town-wide. In the future individual areas would be considered by the Portfolio Holder following public consultation. Councillor Jonathan Brash recommended that Mr Johnson contact the Park ward councillors to organise public support for a future scheme in the Tarnston Road area.

**Selective Licensing** – in response to a request from Councillor Carl Richardson at the previous meeting the Principal

Housing Advice Officer gave a brief update on Selective Licensing. In May 2011 the service had relocated back to the Housing Services Division of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods and was now based in Park Tower. Since then there had been a full review and internal audit of the system and an extensive action plan had been prepared. Cabinet had agreed to a 12 month delay to the second phase of selective licensing in order to ensure that the issues raised were properly addressed

Councillor Jonathan Brash, in his role as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Transition, praised officers for their decision to delay selective licensing until all the problems were resolved. While current implementation had made a difference it would be a waste of money and resources to expand until the system was working correctly. These delays did not impact upon the Council's desire to deal with problems with housing and landlords and the enforcement strategy as a whole was designed at taking a tougher stance. Planning Committee had recently agreed to delegate powers to officers which would enable them to act more quickly and aggressively and legal action would be speeded up. Councillor Brash indicated that he had asked officers to prepare a document giving details of their enforcement rights to private tenants

Councillor Carl Richardson queried whether tenants had been informed about these delays. The Principal Housing Advice Officer confirmed that those people affected in the nominated areas had been told and information was available on the Council website. The Chair suggested that residents groups also be informed. Councillor Chris Simmons echoed this suggestion. He expressed regret at the delay but appreciated that resources were reduced.

Councillor Gerard Hall commented that it was important to ensure the methodology was right before continuing and would therefore support the delay as recommended by officers

## **21. PRESENTATION – RECYCLING SERVICES**

The Waste Management Team Leader informed members of the current consultation into kerbside recycling. Views were being sought on the current containers being used and how residents thought the service could be improved. Forms were available online or at Council buildings and a number of drop-in sessions were scheduled to take place at libraries and community centres. The consultation would run until the end of the year.

Resident Representative Julie Rudge queried whether the consultation would involve collection in specific areas as she lived on a boundary. The Waste Management Team Leader advised that areas for collection had been decided using route optimisation software but this could be reconsidered as part of the review.

Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to the recent Government announcement that Council's would be offered funding to return to weekly collections. He advised that these monies would only cover 10% of reintroduction costs for Hartlepool while at the same time landfill charges were increasing. It was for these reasons, and the lack of public support, that Cabinet had decided not to apply for this additional funding. Resident Ray Waller referred to other parts of the country where collections had reverted to weekly. In some cases the size of bins had reduced significantly and recycling had stopped. He commented that there was already a weekly collection in place

in Hartlepool albeit that different items were collected.

The Chair thanked the Waste Management Team Leader for attending the meeting and answering questions.

<b>22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME / WARD ISSUES FROM WARD MEMBERS AND RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES</b>
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### **Foggy Furze**

**Windermere Road** – Resident Representative Bob Farrow advised that repairs to a pothole had been put on hold until the housing build was completed

### **Stranton**

**Dropped kerbs** – Resident Representative Norma Morrish thanked officers for providing these

**Signage** – Resident Representative Julie Rudge indicated that signage directed to Mill House Leisure Centre in the Lowthian Road area was incorrect.

### **Elwick**

**Salt bins** – Resident Representative Steven Mailen queried whether these had been placed. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that these were in the process of being placed and that if a bin had been in a certain area the previous year it would be returned.

**Signage** – Resident Representative Steven Mailen reported that road signs leading from Worsett Lane in Dalton Piercy through Hart Village had collapsed. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate

**Dalton Back Lane** – Resident Representative Steven Mailen advised that trees in this area needed to be cut back

**Mud on roads** – Councillor Hilary Thompson warned drivers that increased farm activity meant there would be a lot of mud on roads around the villages

### **Grange**

**Murray Street** – Councillor Carl Richardson indicated that a van appeared to be permanently parked outside Richardson's Properties. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate.

### **Burn Valley**

The Vice-Chair raised concerns regarding the following incidents:

- A cyclist being knocked off his bike on the Burn Valley Roundabout
- A lady being attacked in Stockton Road
- A near miss for a blind lady and her carer by a car in Burn Valley Gardens

Residents felt that the area was not being looked after and police patrols were rare. The Chair reported that a traffic survey would be undertaken amid concerns about speeding in that area. The Vice-Chair commented that requests had been made for speed humps or road narrowing to slow down traffic and aid pedestrians in crossing. She also queried whether the CCTV camera was fixed or could be moved remotely. The Neighbourhood Co-ordinating Manager was confident it could be moved. The Vice-Chair also highlighted that the telephone box was being used by drug dealers. The Chair asked that this information and the

concerns raised be passed on to the Council's Community Safety Department and the Police.

**Allotment holders** – The Vice-Chair queried whether a town-wide meeting between officers and allotment holders was planned for the future. Councillor Jonathan Brash referred to a previous scrutiny investigation and very well-attended meeting which had resulted in a number of controversial changes. Councillor Hilary Thompson, who had been the responsible Portfolio Holder at the time, advised that the consultation, which was still ongoing, had encompassed a number of issues and involved allotment holders and residents from the areas concerned. An allotment forum had taken place and more were planned, however the Vice-Chair commented that those who had attended had felt they were not given a chance to voice their concerns.

**Road patching** – Resident Ray McAndrew queried what material was being used as there appeared to be a 'lip' round the new patches. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that the material, Sharps Asphalt, had been trialled previously and the 'lip' would fade quickly.

**Shrewsbury Street / Oxford Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew asked why the t-junction had been hatched out. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager was unaware this had been done but surmised it was a way to ensure drivers would go straight on at the crossing and turn left.

**York Road** – Resident Ray McAndrew commented that paint was peeling off the lampposts leading down past the One Life Centre. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager agreed that street furniture outside new buildings should be as tidy as possible but stressed

that budgets were tight. However he would investigate whether funding could be identified. Mr McAndrew also advised that some of the lampposts at the junction next to Huckelhoven Way had never been painted. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate.

**Salt bins** – Councillor Jonathan Brash requested that the Council be more proactive in ensuring that areas around elderly residents' properties were kept free from snow and ice. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated that the Council would be distributing 200 snow shovels to voluntary organisations in the town. Councillor Brash asked that officers contact the Burn Valley residents association regarding this service.

**Blakelock Gardens** – Councillor Gerard Hall reported problems with speeding traffic which some residents felt had been exacerbated by the installation of lights and a control system near Brinkburn junction.

**Brinkburn Road** – Councillor Gerard Hall asked that the location of the tactile crossing be looked at following a near miss involving a speeding car and disabled pedestrian.

**Eamont Gardens** – Councillor Gerard Hall referred to a garage site on the corner. The garages were owned by Housing Hartlepool while the land they stood on was council-owned. Given that current Council policy was for disused buildings to be redeveloped or demolished he asked what action was being taken. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that there had been consultation with local residents and she would confirm the outcome of this.

<b>23. DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</b>
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The next meeting would take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in the Council Chamber

The meeting concluded at 3:50pm

Chair

## **ACTION SHEET FROM NOVEMBER 2011 MEETING OF THE CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**Yellow Lines – Councillor Jane Shaw requested that a list showing where parking enforcements were in place be provided to her. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that all temporary yellow lines had now been removed therefore any existing lines were enforceable. The Chair asked that a press release be put out to that effect as people were unaware that this was the case. Resident Representative Ted Jackson understood that a legal order was required to introduce new yellow lines. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed this, saying the legal process was underway. However officers did not want to confuse the issue by saying some lines were in the process of being made enforceable. Resident Ray Waller suggested that a list of non-operational bus stops should also be provided so drivers were aware whether or not they could stop there. Resident Ray McAndrew asked that the disused bus stops on Arncliffe Gardens be removed.**

An attempt has been made to issue a press release in relation to this issue, but unfortunately the Hartlepool Mail didn't want to publish. A further attempt will be made, but there is no guarantee it will make it to press.

All areas designated as bus stops should NOT be parked on. If there are areas where buses are currently not in service, then people should approach the Council's Traffic Section, and if appropriate the markings will be removed to allow parking. In most cases the sign will remain in place, stating "Currently Not in Use." This is to allow the bus stop to be brought back into use should services come back into operation, as introducing a stop from scratch can prove problematic, particularly in residential areas.

The Arncliffe Gardens stops have been permanently removed, as services had been re-routed out of the street altogether, rather than ceased running.

**Victory Square – Councillor Jane Shaw asked that broken glass around the area be cleaned more thoroughly rather than swept to the side.**

The cenotaph area is litter picked and mechanically swept every day, including Saturday and Sunday. In addition to this the cleansing regime has been improved, the teams now use blowers to cleanse under the seating and the less accessible areas.

**Young Street – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to the decision not to resurface Young Street. She felt that using the uncertain future of the Odeon cinema as a reason was silly given that the back of the Odeon had been resurfaced previously. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that the scheme would be reconsidered the following year.**

The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager has confirmed that Young Street will be included in the 2012 – 2013 carriageway resurfacing program.

**Lowthian Road scrap dealer – Resident Representative Julie Rudge referred to noise pollution caused by a scrap dealer breaking up metal in the backstreet during the early hours of the morning. Residents had emailed the Council's noise nuisance team and waited 10 days for a response.**

After monitoring the situation at the Lowthian Rd Triangle, the Council's environmental enforcement officers have worked closely with the rental agents, gathering evidence on their behalf to prove the tenant was in breach of his agreement.

This was substantiated by photographic evidence taken of the garages whilst the tenant was moving/breaking items in the back lane on several occasions, which was causing a lot of distress to the nearby residents and bringing down the amenity of the area.

Due to the perseverance of the environmental enforcement team, the rental agents support, and the support of residents in the area the agent has been able to serve an eviction notice on all three of the garages. One of the garages, number 16, has to be emptied by 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, and the other two by 8<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012.

**20s Plenty – Resident Gordon Johnson queried whether Tarnston Road could be included on the priority list following a recent car accident. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager advised that following a poor consultation response Cabinet had decided not to introduce 20s Plenty town-wide. In the future individual areas would be considered by the Portfolio Holder following public consultation. Councillor Jonathan Brash recommended that Mr Johnson contact the Park ward councillors to organise public support for a future scheme in the Tarnston Road area.**

There had previously been no mention about 20 mph limits for Tarnston Road, from councillors or residents, but Councillor Brenda Loynes has asked about the possibility of vehicle activated signs. This will be investigated in the new financial year as a possible scheme. A further possible VAS for Elwick Rd/ Egerton Rd, has been requested by Councillor Ray Wells and will be considered in the new financial year.

## **STRANTON**

**Signage – Resident Representative Julie Rudge indicated that signage directed to Mill House Leisure Centre in the Lowthian Road area was incorrect.**

There is a sign directing traffic to turn left at the north end of Avenue Road, but this is to turn into Raby Road, not left again into Lowthian Road.

## **ELWICK**

**Salt bins – Resident Representative Steven Mailen queried whether these had been placed. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager confirmed that these were in the process of being placed and that if a bin had been in a certain area the previous year it would be returned.**

The Highways section has confirmed that all the salt bins have been positioned as per previous years.

**Signage – Resident Representative Steven Mailen reported that road signs leading from Worsett Lane in Dalton Piercy through Hart Village had collapsed. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate**

The Highways Inspector has carried out a driven inspection of all the back lanes checking for any damaged signs. All defects have been identified and signs ordered.

**Dalton Back Lane – Resident Representative Steven Mailen advised that trees in this area needed to be cut back**

Len Young the Horticulture Supervisor has advised that all necessary flailing and cutting back will be carried out this financial year.

**Mud on roads – Councillor Hilary Thompson warned drivers that increased farm activity meant there would be a lot of mud on roads around the villages**

The Environmental Supervisor has been liaising with the farmers to ensure that the roads are cleansed and kept accessible for all.

## **GRANGE**

**Murray Street – Councillor Carl Richardson indicated that a van appeared to be permanently parked outside Richardson's Properties. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate.**

The Highways section have investigated the van and the situation is now resolved.

## **BURN VALLEY**

**The Vice-Chair raised concerns regarding the following incidents:**

**A cyclist being knocked off his bike on the Burn Valley Roundabout, Residents felt that the area was not being looked after and police patrols were rare, the Vice-Chair commented that requests had been made for speed humps or road narrowing to slow down traffic and aid pedestrians in crossing.**

The motorist involved in this incident was cycling around the roundabout wrong way. When the driver got out to help the cyclist, assisted by a passing taxi driver, he appeared to be under the influence of "dubious" substances. This seemed to be confirmed when, as soon as calling the Police to the accident was mentioned, he made a miraculous recovery, leapt on his bike and cycled off at great speed.

Several speed surveys have been carried out at this location in recent months, unfortunately there was little evidence to support the speeding claim. A member of the Traffic and Transportation Section will continue to monitor the situation and speed surveys will be carried if deemed necessary.

**Shrewsbury Street / Oxford Road – Resident Ray McAndrew asked why the t-junction had been hatched out. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager was unaware this had been done but surmised it was a way to ensure drivers would go straight on at the crossing and turn left.**

Complaints were received (particularly from a visually impaired resident) about vehicles turning left out of Shrewsbury Street without slowing down sufficiently. They were then becoming aware of the pelican crossing being in

operation too late, increasing the risk of accidents. The hatching is a way of discouraging drivers from cutting the corner.

**York Road – Resident Ray McAndrew commented that paint was peeling off the lampposts leading down past the One Life Centre. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager agreed that street furniture outside new buildings should be as tidy as possible but stressed that budgets were tight. However he would investigate whether funding could be identified. Mr McAndrew also advised that some of the lampposts at the junction next to Huckelhoven Way had never been painted. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager to investigate.**

With regard to Park rd Bob Golightly will arrange for an inspection to identify any columns that need painting, hopefully this work will be undertaken in the current financial year.

**Salt bins – Councillor Jonathan Brash requested that the Council be more proactive in ensuring that areas around elderly residents' properties were kept free from snow and ice. The Highways, Traffic and Transportation Manager indicated that the Council would be distributing 200 snow shovels to voluntary organisations in the town. Councillor Brash asked that officers contact the Burn Valley residents association regarding this service.**

Grit bins are mainly located at bends and inclines, however consideration will be given to having grit bins placed outside of OAP homes as part of overall snow policy for next year. In the meantime we will consider and prioritise requests.

After the severe weather of last winter the Neighbourhood Management Team identified and prioritised areas for snow clearance. The areas chosen were those of high amenity and areas which house predominately elderly residents.

We also have 3 resident snow volunteers in the central area that will be able to assist with snow clearing around OAP homes.

**Blakelock Gardens – Councillor Gerard Hall reported problems with speeding traffic which some residents felt had been exacerbated by the installation of lights and a control system near Brinkburn junction.**

Vehicles do speed at times on Blakelock Gardens, as previous surveys have confirmed, but as a designated emergency route for the Fire Service physical traffic calming measures would be difficult to implement. The crossing installed last year should actually help regulate speeds, as drivers now have the possibility of being faced with a red light.

**Brinkburn Road – Councillor Gerard Hall asked that the location of the tactile crossing be looked at following a near miss involving a speeding car and disabled pedestrian.**

An inspection has been carried and although there appears to have been a near miss, the positions of the crossings are probably the best. They are positioned at the narrowest point, therefore less distance to walk from footway to footway.

**Eamont Gardens – Councillor Gerard Hall referred to a garage site on the corner. The garages were owned by Housing Hartlepool while the land they stood on was council-owned. Given that current Council policy was for disused buildings to be redeveloped or demolished he asked what action was being taken. The Neighbourhood Manager confirmed that there had been consultation with local residents and she would confirm the outcome of this.**

The Estates and Assets section have confirmed that an offer has been made to purchase this site, with a proposal to build two residential dwellings. A report will be taken to the Portfolio holder early next month.

# Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy

## Draft

## 2012-2015



# Contents

Foreword .....	5
Defining Domestic Violence .....	6
National Policy and Context .....	7
Domestic Violence in Hartlepool .....	11
What has been done to tackle domestic violence in Hartlepool? .....	13
What more can we do? .....	17
Strategic Priorities .....	24
Monitoring and Resourcing the Strategy .....	25

## FOREWORD

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the Hartlepool Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015 which has been developed by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

The strategy builds on excellent work that has been going on in Hartlepool for a number of years now.

Despite this, Domestic Violence continues to be of great concern with incidents reported to the Police on a daily basis. Behind each report lies untold misery to those directly involved and also the rest of the family. We need to support the whole family to break the cycle and bring about better outcomes for everyone.

This strategy brings together representatives from the statutory and voluntary sectors to achieve this common goal.



**Stuart Drummond**  
**Mayor of Hartlepool**

## Defining Domestic Violence

Nationally and internationally there are numerous definitions of domestic violence.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has adopted the Government definition of domestic violence as follows:

*“any incident of threatening behavior, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality”*

This includes issues of concern to Black and Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) communities, such as so called ‘honour based violence’, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Forced Marriage. (Home Office, 2008).

Domestic violence is rarely a one-off incident and should instead be seen as a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the abuser seeks power over their victim. Domestic violence occurs across society, regardless of age, race, sexuality, gender identity, religion, wealth and geography.

## National Policy and Context

Over recent years, national and local government have increasingly recognised the complex issues relating to domestic abuse and the importance of tackling domestic violence, both in terms of the social and economic costs. During the last few years we have seen the introduction of;

- **Specialist Domestic Violence Courts** which provide a specialised way of dealing with domestic violence cases in magistrates' courts. They represent a multi agency approach by police, probation, prosecutors and support services to supporting victims through the criminal justice system and share information better so that more offenders are brought to justice.
- **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors** (IDVAs), who are independent professional advisors that work with victims from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options available to victims and develop coordinated safety plans.
- **Independent Sexual Violence Advisors** (ISVAs), who provide support and advice to victims of recent and historic sexual violence and abuse throughout and beyond the criminal justice process.
- **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferencing** (MARAC) which is a multi agency meeting that focuses on the safety of high risk domestic violence victims. Probation, Police, Housing, Local Authority, Health and IDVA are a few of the agencies that attend MARAC.
- **Sexual Assault Referral Centres** (SARC) are one-stop locations where victims of recent sexual assault can receive medical care and counselling quickly and where forensic evidence can be captured for potential prosecutions.
- **Sanctuary Schemes** which enable households at risk of violence to remain in their own homes and reduce repeat victimisation through the provision of enhanced security measures (Sanctuary) and support.
- **Perpetrator programmes** that provide structured group work to support perpetrators of domestic violence address the attitudes and beliefs which underpin their abusive behaviour. In order to tackle domestic violence there needs to be a focus on addressing the violent and abusive behaviour of those who perpetrate it and there are currently very few avenues of practical support - especially for perpetrators who recognise they have a problem and would like to change their behaviour, and for young people who perpetrate violence in their relationships to challenge their violent behaviour before it becomes entrenched.

A great deal of work has also been undertaken by national Government and agencies to raise awareness and deal with the issues of **Forced Marriage** which is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or, in the case of some vulnerable adults, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress is involved. Forced marriage is a violation of human rights and a form of child/adult domestic abuse. Also, in tackling **Honour-Based Violence** which includes assault, imprisonment and murder where the person is being punished by their family or their community for being perceived as bringing “shame” or “dishonour” to the family.

We have also seen the implementation of new legislation to support victims of domestic violence:-

- In June 2011, **Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs)** were piloted for one year in three police force areas. The DVPO which, if made by the Magistrates Court, may require the alleged perpetrator to not contact the victim or return to the victim's address for a minimum of 14 days and maximum of 28 days. This recognises the fact that immediately after a domestic violence incident, the victim may require immediate protected time and support.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR)**, were established on a statutory basis under section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 and came into force on 13th April 2011. Overall responsibility for establishing a DHR rests with Community Safety Partnerships which are required to undertake a multi-agency review when a person has been killed as a result of domestic violence; to make sure lessons are learned and professionals understand fully what happened and most importantly, to identify what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future.
- **The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007**, which came into force on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008, provides for three types of applicant who may apply for a Forced Marriage Protection Order. They are the victim, anyone on their behalf with the permission of the court and a relevant third party. A relevant third party may apply on behalf of a victim and does not require the leave of the court. Local authorities, once designated will be able to act as a relevant third party.

In November 2010, the Government published the **Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)** strategic narrative which outlined its vision in tackling violence against women and girls. Its key aims were to:

- *prevent such violence from happening in the first place by challenging attitudes and behaviors' which foster it, increasing understanding and intervening early where possible*
- *provide adequate levels of support where violence does occur*
- *work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families*
- *take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice*

### National Picture

Domestic violence can get progressively worse over time and can happen to anyone. There are factors that can increase risk and there are a certain number of 'givens' when we look at the nature and extent of domestic violence. For instance we know that:

At least 750,000 children a year witness domestic violence. Domestic violence is a major indicator of risk to children and young people. (Dept of health, 2003).

On average, two women a week are killed by a male partner or former partner. (Povey, (ed.), 2004, 2005; Home Office, 1999; Department of Health, 2005.)

At least 1 in 4 women in the UK will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, often with years of psychological abuse. (Council of Europe, 2002)

Almost 1 in 5 women will experience sexual assault in their lifetime (British Crime Survey 2009/10)

30% of domestic violence starts in pregnancy. (Lewis and DRife, 2001, 2005; McWilliams and McKiernan, 1993)

In 2009, the Forced Marriage Unit, which is a joint initiative with the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, received 5000 enquiries and handled approximately 400 cases in 2007, 167 involved repatriation to the UK. (From answer to Parliamentary question, Vernon Coaker MP, 30/1/08)

The minimum cost of violence against women and girls in the UK is £37.6bn. (S Walby, The Cost of Domestic Violence Up-date 2009 Lancaster University)

Domestic violence is a hidden crime and as such it is greatly under reported with only a minority of incidents of domestic violence reported to the police, varying between 23% (Walby and Allen, 2004) and 35% (Home Office, 2002; see also British Crime Survey, 1998; Dodd, et al., 2004). Therefore, relying on Police data gives us an incomplete picture and we need to look more widely for supporting data from other agencies. However, we also know that victims have increasing confidence in the Police and are more likely to report incidents of violence now than they have in previous years.

Domestic violence impacts disproportionately on women and children, although it is recognised that men can also be victims of domestic violence, they are less likely to have been repeat victims and less likely to be seriously injured. (Scottish Executive Central Research Unit, 2002). Women account for 89% of victims of the most severe ongoing violence (i.e. four incidents or more) and the violence used by men against female partners is much more severe. (Walby and Allen, 2004)

Domestic violence occurs in all communities and is experienced across all social groups irrespective of age, class, disability, gender, race, religion, sexuality, socio-economic status or lifestyle. Domestic violence also occurs in a range of relationships including heterosexual, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) and also within extended families. While perpetrators are often partners, they may also be boy/girlfriends, parents, parents-in-law, siblings or ex-partners.

We also know domestic violence causes significant health problems including physical injuries, self harm, eating disorders, attempted suicide, depression and anxiety and other mental health problems, and substance misuse. The consequences of domestic violence include poverty, unemployment and homelessness and impacts on employers by decreasing the productivity of employees, increasing absenteeism and staff turnover.

## Domestic Violence in Hartlepool

There is still a great deal to learn about the nature and extent of domestic violence in Hartlepool. The picture we have at present is based mostly on data and information provided by the Police, but we also know that a large number of victims will not report every attack to the Police or may wait until the violence increases in severity before reporting it. They may instead seek assistance from their GP, or go to A&E, or disclose to a friend or Health Visitor. Therefore, to understand the true picture in Hartlepool, which is necessary to make provision for services and preventative interventions, data needs to be collected and analysed from all agencies that are touched by victims and families of domestic and sexual violence.

Based on the 2001 census figures, Hartlepool has a population of 89,600 which can be broken down into;

Females	37200
Males	34200
Children under 16yrs living in the Borough	18200

Using the Violence Against Women and Girls ready reckoner, and based on regional data from the British Crime Survey, the estimate for an area the size of Hartlepool would be that:

4,800 women and girls aged 16-59 have been a victim of domestic abuse in the past year
2,000 woman and girls aged 16 -59 have been a victim of sexual assault in the past year
5,700 women and girls aged 16-59 have been a victim of stalking in the past year

The estimated cost of domestic and sexual violence in an area with the population size of Hartlepool would be:

£5,886,000	physical and mental health care costs
£3,708,000	criminal justice costs
£698,000	social services costs
£17,025,000	other costs include housing, civil & legal and employment costs

The total of £27,318,000 does not take into account the human and emotional costs of domestic violence which are significant. The cost of domestic violence is very high, both in terms of human suffering and financial cost to services.

From 1st April 2010 to 31 March 2011, Police in Hartlepool dealt with (Police data):

2846 domestic violence related incidents of which 765 were recorded as domestic related crimes. Not all incidents reported to the police are defined as crimes. Emotional abuse for example is not defined as a crime but can have a serious and lasting impact on the person

66% of these crimes involved physical violence

1.5% related to sexual violence

35% of crimes were committed whilst the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol

Of these incidents and crimes:

82% of victims were female

310 children were present in the house when the incident took place

80% involved intimate partners who were 18 and over

14% of victims were assessed as High Risk

7% of victims were assessed as Very High Risk

158 of cases had been discussed at the MARAC

Repeat victimisation continues to be an issue



## What has been done to tackle domestic violence in Hartlepool?

In 2010, Paul Walker, Chief Executive of Hartlepool Borough Council established and chaired a Domestic Violence Development Group with a view to improving joint working between relevant public bodies and establish a clear picture of the effectiveness of what was being delivered in Hartlepool. Following from this, a report was produced; 'Domestic Violence – Mapping of Services in Hartlepool', and set out areas for improvement.

The Authority also examined its own processes, systems and procedures and compared them to best practice to see how improvements could be made. Early 2011, Voluntary Sector service providers and HBC officers met to discuss and agree priorities which were identified as:

- Prevention, including workforce development
- Support to female victims with children, to include a IDVA service
- Refuge and 'move on' accommodation
- Support to children in households with domestic violence
- Support to female victims
- A male perpetrator programme
- Support to male victims
- Security improvements to victims' homes (target hardening)

Additionally, work has been undertaken to examine and discuss why such low numbers of minority groups report domestic violence and what can be done to encourage and support victims to report.

In July 2011, a Domestic Violence Commissioning Event was held, when a wide range of Partners came together to discuss the essential domestic violence services that needed to be commissioned and delivered in Hartlepool and to agree the strategic objectives for the Domestic Violence Strategy 2012-2015.

At an operational level, a multi agency Domestic Violence Forum has been reconstituted and will meet every quarter. The first meeting was held in October 2011 and will be chaired by Hartlepool's District Commander.

Hartlepool's Domestic Violence Strategy 2007-2010 outlined the priorities and planned actions to reduce domestic violence in Hartlepool using prevention and education; supporting victims and improving access to domestic violence services; increasing detections and positive enforcement outcomes; and developing methods of data collection and data sharing.

There have been a number of key achievements during the life span of the strategy which include:

Implementing a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC); this confidential meeting is held every three weeks in Hartlepool where information about very high risk clients is shared and discussed in order to enable safety and support measures to be put in place. On average nine cases are discussed at each meeting and between January 2011 and October 2011, 123 cases were listed with 33% of cases heard are as the result of repeat incidents (Cleveland Police Vulnerability Unit).

Having trained and accredited Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to address the safety of high risk domestic abuse victims and their children and they also serve as the victim's primary point of contact.

Establishing a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) in Hartlepool; this received accreditation in April 2010 from the Home Office and Ministry of Justice.

The provision of a voluntary perpetrator programme to deliver a structured programme for men who are violent or abusive to their partners and wish to change their behaviour.

The Probation Service also delivers the Community Domestic Violence Programme (CDVP) for perpetrators of domestic violence, which can be imposed as part of a Community Order, Suspended Sentence Order or as an additional Licence condition where the License is of sufficient duration to complete the Programme. However, many perpetrators of domestic violence never, or only infrequently, come into contact with the Police, let alone the courts and the probation service.

The aim of the programme is to help them stop their offending and contribute to the safety of children and young people living in homes where there is domestic violence.

The establishment of Helen Britton House, a Sexual Assault Referral Centre based in Middlesbrough which provides services to all victims of rape across the Tees Valley area. It provides essential physical, mental and support services tailored to meet the needs of victims that can be responded to within one location.

An Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA) who provides support to victims who have been sexually assaulted or raped, regardless of whether their case is being dealt with through the Criminal Justice System or not.

The **Police** are usually the first agency to respond to incidents of domestic violence and in July 2009, Cleveland Police changed the way in which it dealt with child and adult abuse and domestic violence by establishing two Vulnerability Units - North (Stockton and Hartlepool) and South Tees (Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland). The teams brought together the working practices of child abuse investigations, vulnerable adult abuse investigations and serious and complex cases of domestic violence. Each team, lead by a Detective Inspector specialise in child abuse work, vulnerable adult investigations and serious and complex domestic violence. Police staff are also involved in risk assessment, safety planning, preparation and dissemination of Police information and research.

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**Housing Hartlepool** is the main provider of social housing in Hartlepool and works closely with the Police and Voluntary sector agencies to support its tenants who are victims of domestic violence. It has an active policy in relation to domestic violence and undertakes target hardening of properties upon referral from a Crime Prevention Officer, and uses its powers to seek legal remedies; namely injunctions and proceedings for possession which will be sought against perpetrators where a victim has fled the family home.

**Health;** pregnancy is one of the major triggers for domestic violence and some health professionals, particularly Midwives and Health Visitors play a key role in screening and identifying women suffering domestic violence or abuse and make the appropriate referral. Domestic violence has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth (Mezey, 1997), and of maternal deaths during childbirth.

(Lewis and Drife, 2001, 2005). Between 4 and 9 women in every 100 are abused during their pregnancies and/or after the birth. (Taft, 2002)

It is also important that acute services such as Accident and Emergency Depts. have a good awareness of the issues around domestic violence. To this end Hartlepool Domestic Violence Forum works closely with North Tees Accident and Emergency Department, providing information on the help available to victims and ensuring that staff have a good understanding of domestic violence issues and how to respond to victims.

Many of the services available for victims are provided by **Voluntary Sector agencies**. The main agencies in Hartlepool are:

- Harbour, which is based in Hartlepool, is the main provider of domestic violence services in the town. It provides; refuge provision, outreach and resettlement support, counselling, IDVA services, a perpetrator programme, sexual violence counselling and support to male victims of domestic violence.
- Victim Support, an independent organisation based in Hartlepool, provides information, practical help, advocacy and emotional support to people who have experienced a crime and to their families and friends. Their services are free and available to everyone, whether or not the crime has been reported and regardless of when it happened. They also provide a Witness Service in every criminal court, supporting witnesses for both the prosecution and defense and comprehensive support to children at court.
- Women's Support Network (WSN), which is based in Middlesbrough, provides a free and confidential counselling service across the Teesside area for victims over 14 years of age who have suffered rape or sexual abuse. As well as providing a counselling service, WSN employ an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor to support victims of sexual violence in Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool.



## What more can we do?

We know that there is a great deal more to be done to tackle the challenges in reducing domestic and sexual violence in Hartlepool. There are groups of people who suffer from domestic and sexual abuse that are particularly vulnerable and face additional barriers to accessing support. Whilst domestic and sexual violence is under reported, it is particularly so with these groups of people and therefore we need to develop a greater understanding as to the prevalence and specific issues that they may face. These groups include:

### Children and young people

The links between domestic violence and child safeguarding are evident. The Safer Hartlepool's Strategic Assessment – Nov 2010, identified that nearly one third of domestic violence victims who accessed local voluntary sector services had one or more children aged 16 years and under. 181 children were aged between 0-5 years and a further 25 children were aged between 6-16 years.



Although not every child is affected in the same way, living with domestic abuse and violence can cause serious emotional harm in both the short and long term. More worryingly, children may also be physically and sexually abused. Children exposed to violence will react in different ways, and not every child who witnesses abuse will experience long-term difficulties. Children can also feel that the violence is their fault and experience anger, increased levels of anxiety, psychosomatic illnesses such as headaches, abdominal complaints, have low ratings in school, and may also worry that violence is taking place when they are at school or out with friends.

To help address this, Children's Services is strengthening its focus on the early identification of domestic violence in families where there are children present, including those families where indicators of domestic violence or abuse are apparent but no disclosures have been made. It will tackle this by providing a specialist domestic violence expert to provide advice, guidance and intervention in specific cases, to the Children's Early Intervention Team. It is anticipated that this approach of early identification and delivery of services to children and families will reduce the number of incidents of domestic violence, reduce the risk to children and their family and increase their safety.

The influence of domestic violence is also evident amongst young offenders with just under half claiming that DV was a factor in their lives with the majority being victims or witnesses and that it was a contributory factor in their emotional or behavioural problems, and in some cases for their involvement in the criminal justice system.

### **Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships**

Although a body of evidence exists regarding adult experiences of domestic violence, very little is known about abuse and violence in teenage relationships.

The results of a two year study 'Partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships'; (University of Bristol and the NSPCC) into this issue were published in Sept 2009 and findings showed that from a study involving 1353 young people between the ages of 13yrs and 17 yrs, overall, 88 % of young people reported some form of intimate relationship violence. Girls reported greater incidence rates for all forms of violence and experienced violence more frequently and described a greater level of negative impacts on their welfare. The research also found that younger participants (aged 13 to 15 years old) were as likely as older adolescents (aged 16 and over) to experience particular forms of violence.

Hartlepool has approx. 18,200 children under the age of 16yrs living in the borough and therefore we need to gain a clearer picture as to what the findings from the research means in terms of the young people of Hartlepool.

Additionally, a report 'Standing on my Own Two Feet'; (University of Bristol and NSPCC) represents the first UK research to focus on disadvantaged young people's experiences of violence and control in their intimate relationships and showed that impoverished teenagers are twice as likely as 'better off' youngsters to be abused by their boyfriends or girlfriends'.

This is significant as Hartlepool is ranked 24th most deprived out of the 354 Local Authorities in the Country. Hartlepool has 17 wards, seven of which fall into the top ten per cent of most deprived wards in Britain. Five wards fall into the top three per cent most deprived in Britain, and two wards are in the top one per cent most deprived.

### **People who identify themselves as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT)**

Domestic abuse is a considerable problem for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and there are limited options available to victims regarding support or advice.

The reality of LGBT relationship violence is rarely discussed both within LGBT communities and within mainstream agencies that provide support for those experiencing domestic violence. In fact, research suggests that often LGBT victim/survivors of domestic violence may not recognise or name their experiences as domestic violence. LGBT people can be reluctant to seek help for fear of homophobic or transphobic treatment, and may be unable to turn to family or friends for support if they are not 'out' about their sexuality. This can leave

LGBT people who suffer from domestic violence especially isolated and at risk of further abuse.

Sometimes the abuse looks similar to that experienced by heterosexual women but there are additional features that can be present in LGBT intimate partner violence that do not factor into heterosexual relationships. The abuser may threaten to 'out' the victim to friends, family, religious communities, co-workers, and others if he or she does not comply with the abuser's wishes. The abuser may further isolate the victim/survivor by denigrating the local LGBT community and/or scene by exploiting the homophobia victim/survivors might fear from their families of origin, neighbours, and workplace; and from mainstream agencies that should be available to provide support

Understandably, this is an under recorded crime and therefore obtaining accurate data to give a greater understanding of the scale and nature of the problem is difficult.

The Northern Rock Foundation has funded until 2013/14, a North East Regional LGBT Domestic Abuse Development Worker. Their role will be to initiate and coordinate work on this issue across the region. In doing so they will aim to:

- develop a regional LGBT Domestic Abuse Forum
- coordinate and disseminate the roll out of training
- improve monitoring, data collection and analysis for all agencies,
- develop work around increasing the awareness of the effects of domestic abuse on transgender people, particularly around provision of refuge space and other safe accommodation;
- enable mainstream agencies to make visible their services to LGBT victim/survivors.

This regional and more strategic approach will have a positive benefit for Hartlepool.

Hart Gables is the main organisation that offers support for LGBT people in Hartlepool. However, it does not offer a specific service for victims of domestic violence and instead refers victims to Harbour, which is the main provider of domestic violence services in town.

### **People with substance misuse issues**

Research into alcohol and domestic violence indicates a strong association between alcohol use, both 'drinking in the event' and long term drinking patterns.

Understanding the reasons and causes of substance misuse and domestic violence are varied and whilst substance use does not cause domestic violence, there is a clear link between the two. Women often misuse substances as a way of coping with domestic violence. Drug and alcohol use is often present in violent relationships and findings from a review of the British Crime Surveys revealed that 44% of domestic violence offenders were under the influence of alcohol and 12% affected by drugs when they committed acts of physical violence.

The Yale Trauma Study in 1991 found that abused women were:

- *Fifteen times more likely to abuse alcohol*
- *Nine times more likely to abuse drugs*
- *Five times more likely to attempt suicide*
- *45% of female alcoholics started out as abused women*

Some key issues are; that women who are problematic substance users may be excluded from services. For instance refuges often find it difficult to support women who use substances. As a result, these groups of women are particularly vulnerable to long term experiences of domestic violence and possibly homelessness and they have fewer options of where to go to find help, support or safety.

Drug, alcohol and domestic violence agencies may quite often serve the same client base. It is important therefore, for domestic violence, alcohol and drug agencies to make the links between their areas of work and provide a range of services needed by victims, survivors or perpetrators of domestic violence who also experience problematic substance misuse.

### People with Disabilities

Disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women (1995 British Crime Survey, also confirmed by data from other countries). They are also likely to experience abuse over a longer period of time and to suffer more severe injuries as a result of the violence.

In addition, between 50% and 60% of women mental health service users will have experienced domestic violence and abuse, (Dept of Health, 2003), yet the level of awareness amongst mental health professionals can be low and women are rarely asked about their experience of violence or sexual abuse.

### Black, Minority, Ethnic and Refugee (BMER)

At 1% of the population, Hartlepool has a lower non-British population compared to the average 3.4% for the North East region. Similarly, the percentage born outside the UK 2% is lower than the regional average at 5%. (North East Strategic Migration Partnership; Hartlepool Local Migration Profile Quarter 1 2011-12)

Whilst the numbers are low, the issues facing women and girls from BMER backgrounds are quite complex and they may find it more difficult to leave an abusive situation due to cultural beliefs, or concerns such as; bringing shame on the family, family pressure to stay, the abuse can be viewed as normal behaviour, or accepted, and in some cases they not trust the Police. There may also be language barriers or they don't know who to talk to or go to for help.

Other issue's that may face young people is that of being 'forced' into a marriage against their will and without their permission. This is not the same as an arranged marriage where the families take a role in choosing and introducing the marriage partners and the marriage is entered into freely by both people.

So called 'Honour' Based Violence and "honour killings" can also be an issue in some BME communities and are mainly but not exclusively against women. The crimes include; assault, imprisonment and murder where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour and bringing "shame" or "dishonour" on the family.

### Elder abuse

We know that nationally and regionally we have a growing elderly population and elderly people may become more vulnerable as they grow older and therefore more dependent on others for help and support.

Elder abuse is largely hidden and the signs are not well recognised leading to under-reporting of the problem. Organisations that deal with elder abuse such as, 'Action on Elder Abuse' identify several different types of elder abuse: physical

abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; financial exploitation and neglect – whether intentional or not. Often linked to financial abuse is coercion or intimidation.

A 'UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People' undertaken and published by the National Centre for Social Research stated that partners (51%) and other family members (49%) were most commonly reported as the perpetrators of mistreatment. The report also stated that interpersonal abuse was most likely to be experienced by women aged 66-74 and seems to virtually disappear among those aged 85 and over. Interpersonal abuse was largely carried out by partners (57%) or other family members (37%) and financial abuse increased with age for men, a pattern not seen for women

Family abuse is difficult and can make it particularly difficult for an older person to accept or confront what is happening to them.

All of these factors can make it very difficult to address elder abuse.

### Victims of Sexual Violence

Sexual abuse is often a component of domestic violence - for example, partners and former partners may use force, threats or intimidation to engage in sexual activity; they may taunt or use degrading treatment related to sexuality, force the use of pornography, or force their partners to have sex with other people. Rape and sexual assault are crimes, whether or not they take place within marriage or between partners or ex-partners

According to the British Crime Survey, serious sexual assault is most likely to be committed by someone known to the victim (89 per cent of female and 83 per cent of male victims). Just over half (54%) of female victims reported that a partner or ex-partner had been the offender (British Crime Survey 2005/06).

Only 6% of rapes reported to the police result in a successful conviction and over two-thirds of cases are lost during the Police investigation. During the period January 2011 to October 2011, there were 26 rapes reported in Hartlepool (over 16year olds) of which 50% were by partners / ex partners (Cleveland Police Vulnerability Unit 2011).

### What gaps have been identified?

- **Data:** Progress has been made in terms of collecting and sharing data to give us a more comprehensive picture of domestic and sexual violence. However, there is more that can be done, particularly in relation to Accident & Emergency data, and sharing data across agencies, voluntary sector and also between departments within the local authority.
- **Referral protocols':** to ensure that all agencies including voluntary sector, Police, Local Authority Departments, Housing and CPS are involved in developing and/or agreeing to referral protocols for clients.
- **Workforce development and training:** raising awareness of tackling domestic violence, (including forced marriage and 'honour' violence) with frontline practitioners and professionals, including Education and Health professionals through training and effective practice.
- **Strengthen protection:** for vulnerable children and pregnant mothers who are at risk and address the need for early identification and clear referral processes.
- **Identification and support:** for young perpetrators and victims of domestic violence, challenging their behaviours and attitudes.



## Strategic Priorities

The approach of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is to build on the progress made during the previous strategy, take into consideration recent research, consultation and development work and consolidate its strategic objectives for 2012- 2015 into four objectives which will cover; prevention and early intervention; support; partnership working; reducing the risk for victims and bringing perpetrators to justice.

### **One: Prevention and Early Intervention**

Through our work to prevent violence we will increase awareness and knowledge of the impact of domestic violence, services and options available and intervene early to reduce violence and the escalation of violence.

### **Two: Provision of Services**

We will continue to provide support to victims/survivors, and children whose lives are blighted by domestic violence and to perpetrators and ensure that they face minimal barriers in accessing the support they need.

### **Three: Partnership Working**

We will continue to work closely with our Partners to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families.

### **Four: Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction for Victims**

We will take action to reduce the risk to victims and their family and support the criminal justice process to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.

# Monitoring and Resourcing the Domestic Violence Strategy

This chapter considers how the strategic priorities will be achieved, how progress will be monitored and the work resourced. An action plan has been produced that details how the aims and objectives of the Strategy will be achieved.

## Performance and Monitoring

It is imperative that progress made against the Strategy is managed and monitored. This will be overseen by the Domestic Violence Forum. The action plan will be monitored quarterly and reviewed annually to ensure that delivery is being achieved as well as to ensure that it is kept up-to-date with any changes in national or local policy.

## Development

During the lifetime of the Strategy best practice will be considered and services and processes adapted as a result of experience. Improvement will also be sought through sharing information and ideas with partners, both locally and sub regionally.

## Value for Money

Local Authorities are responsible for public funds and need to demonstrate value for money. The Council will continue to work with partners, both locally and sub-regionally, to procure services, make savings and provide a consistent approach. The outcomes of the Strategy will be monitored to ensure they are cost efficient and effective.

## Resources

There are considerable pressures on the amount of resources that are available to deliver the aims of the Strategy and resources are likely to be further reduced in the future. Budgets are limited as the Council, in line with other public sector bodies has to achieve considerable savings.

Innovative solutions to attracting funding will be sought and this will involve close partnership working to look for opportunities to combine resources and bid for funding.

Domestic Violence continues to be of great concern with incidents reported to a range of agencies on a daily basis. However, it continues to be a hidden crime with untold misery having a detrimental effect on victims and their families.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership aims to break the cycle of domestic violence in Hartlepool, leading to improved outcomes for everyone affected by this issue.

## 1. Do you agree with this aim?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If no please tell us why you don't agree

# Domestic Violence Strategy Consultation 2012 - 2015

Taking into account both national and local policy, and the main strategic priorities of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership the Domestic Violence Strategy identifies a number of objectives. These objectives will help achieve the proposed aim.

## 2. We would like to know if you feel each objective is important or not important to you.

	Very important	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant	Don't know
Prevention and Early Intervention - Through our work to prevent violence we will increase awareness and knowledge of the impact of domestic violence, services and options available and intervene early to reduce violence and the escalation of violence.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provision of Services - We will continue to provide support to victims/survivors, and children whose lives are blighted by domestic violence and to perpetrators and ensure that they face minimal barriers in accessing the support they need.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Partnership Working - We will continue to work closely with our Partners to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Justice Outcomes and Risk Reduction for Victims - We will take action to reduce the risk to victims and their family and support the criminal justice process to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**3. Hartlepool Borough Councils Domestic Violence Strategy can be found by copying the following web address into a web page**

**[http://www.saferhartlepool.co.uk/site/scripts/download\\_info.php?downloadID=3](http://www.saferhartlepool.co.uk/site/scripts/download_info.php?downloadID=3)**

**If you have any thoughts on this strategy, please use the space below to tell us about them.**

**4. Finally, please let us know if you are answering this question as a member of the public, or if you are from one of the following sectors:**

☐ Member of the Public

☐ Police

☐ Local Authority

☐ Housing Provider

☐ Elected Member

☐ Fire Brigade

☐ Health Services

☐ Probation Service

Voluntary Organisation (please specify)

Thank you for spending the time to complete this survey.

**Report of:** Neighbourhood Manager (Central)

**Subject:** HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum with some background to the Neighbourhood Planning Policy contained within the Localism Act 2011, and to update the Forum on how this is being delivered on a local level through the development of the Hartlepool Rural Plan.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Neighbourhood Planning is central to the Coalition Government's Localism Act 2011 and an integral part of the Big Society agenda. It is intended to give local people greater ownership of plans and policies that affect their area, and to provide communities with the opportunity to influence how their neighbourhood is developed in the future.
- 2.2 In May 2011, Hartlepool was successful in securing £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop and produce a Development Plan Document (DPD) for the rural area of Hartlepool. The 10 year land use and development framework will become part of the formal planning process and must be in general conformity with national planning policy and the Local Authority's Development Plan. Neighbourhood Plans also need to be independently ratified by a Referendum, before being adopted by the Local Authority.
- 2.3 In conjunction with Hartlepool Borough Council, the Headland Parish Council has also applied to DCLG to become a Neighbourhood Planning Front Runner. An announcement as to whether they have been successful is expected in February / March 2012.

## **3.0 THE RURAL AREA**

- 3.1 The rural area encompasses the five parishes of Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Hart, Greatham and Newton Bewley with the addition of Greatham Creek and Queens Meadow Wildlife Site, and the exclusion of the urban areas of South Fens, Wynyard and Kingfisher Close.
- 3.2 Based on ward data available, Hartlepool's rural area covers approximately 5,313 hectares (HBC, 2011) and has a population of 4,230 people residing in 1,810 households (TVU 2009). The area exhibits low levels of population density, and has high levels of employment in comparison to the rest of the Borough. The majority of housing stock across the area is owner occupied with 7.9% social rented and 6% private rented (Elwick Ward) and 16.2%

social rented and 6.5% private rented (Greatham ward); all of which are significantly lower than the urban area of Hartlepool (TVU, 2009).

- 3.3 The rural area faces a number of specific issues, including those related to connectivity and the withdrawal of public transport, affordable housing, traffic management in light of the close proximity of the Parishes to the A19 and the development of social enterprises and small businesses in the rural community.
- 3.3 The five Parishes are long standing and are well established in serving their local communities. They have previously collaborated on projects focussing on rural issues (for example the Parishes' commitment to the Hartlepool Rural Forum, and more recently, responding to the Ward Boundary Commission's Electoral Review) and have a clear sense of community identity and interest.

#### **4.0 HARTLEPOOL RURAL PLAN WORKING GROUP**

- 4.1 The Parishes have historically had aspirations to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, and in May 2011, were successful through the Third Wave of the Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners Scheme in securing £20,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to develop a Development Plan Document (DPD). The rural community anticipate that the production of a Rural Plan will provide an opportunity to influence how their neighbourhood is developed in the future.
- 4.2 The Hartlepool Rural Plan Working Group has been established to drive the development of the Plan, and represents the communities living within the proposed Hartlepool Rural Plan Area. The Group's Terms of Reference ensures that membership is open to two representatives from each of the rural Parishes including: Hart, Dalton, Elwick, Greatham and Newton Bewley, with a minimum of five members and representation from three Parishes required to achieve Quorum. The Ward Councillors for Elwick and Greatham are also members of the Working Group, and strong working links have been made with Officers within Hartlepool Borough Council's Planning Policy, Regeneration and Neighbourhood Management Teams, and Tees Valley Rural Community Council (TVRCC).

#### **5.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

- 5.1 The Working Group has commenced the development process by undertaking a baselining exercise in order to identify community assets, but also to gather statistical information and local knowledge about the issues currently affecting the rural area. The development of the Plan will be subject to a widespread and robust consultation process which is currently being developed, and through which the views and involvement of the wider community will be sought.
- 5.2 In addition to the resources received from DCLG, the Working Group have successfully secured between six and eight days worth of support from CABE Design Council. It is anticipated that this form of design support will enhance

and complement the development of the DPD, given the physical similarity between the villages and the environmental and building design issues.

- 5.3 The Group have recently commenced the six week statutory consultation process on designating the Neighbourhood Plan boundary (as outlined in Section 3.1). In line with the Neighbourhood Planning Policy Regulations, a copy of the boundary and a statement of the Group's suitability to deliver the plan have been uploaded to the Planning Policy homepage of the Hartlepool Borough Council website (see Paragraph 7.2 for web link) in January 2012. During this time, representations from interested parties can be made to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) in relation the boundary and / or the Group undertaking the Plan development; all of which must be considered when formally designating the boundary at the end of the statutory consultation period in March 2012.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum is asked to note the contents of this report in relation to the progress of Neighbourhood Planning in Hartlepool through the development of the Rural Plan.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 For additional information on Neighbourhood Planning, please visit:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/neighbourhoodplanningvanguards/>
- 7.2 Details on the designation of the boundary are available for viewing at:  
[http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/1004/planning\\_policy/108/planning\\_policy/5](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/info/1004/planning_policy/108/planning_policy/5))

## **8.0 CONTACT OFFICER**

- 8.1 Clare Clark, Neighbourhood Manager (Central), Hartlepool Borough Council Community Safety Office, 173 York Road, Hartlepool, TS26 9EQ

Tel. 01429 855560

email. [clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:clare.clark@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**Report of:** Central Neighbourhood Manager

**Subject:** MINOR WORKS PROPOSALS FEBRUARY 2012

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## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider improvement schemes for potential funding from the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum Minor Works Budget

## **2.0 BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION**

The total available spend on minor works schemes 2011/12 is **£58,000**, and the total committed spend to date is **£54,429**. The total Minor Works Budget available to spend is therefore **£3,571**.

After further consultation, the parking scheme previously agreed by the Forum for Manor Close Elwick Village has been withdrawn, therefore the £2,400 commitment has been added to the balance leaving **£5,971** available to spend.

## **3.0 PROPOSED SCHEMES**

- 3.1 A number of schemes are detailed below to address concerns raised by Elected Members, Residents' Representatives and residents in the Central Forum area.

### **Rift House Ward**

#### **(a) Waverley terrace**

Residents have raised concerns about the edge deterioration of the carriageway in Waverley Terrace, this attracts litter and impacts on amenity of the area. The scheme is not one that would be a priority for the Councils Highways Section, therefore the Forum is requested to approve the total cost of the scheme.

**Total cost of scheme: £2,600**

**Total Cost to the Forum: £2,600**

## Stranton Ward

### (b) Lowthian Road

Residents have asked for the pedestrian guard rail to be painted at the junction of Lowthian Road and York Road. There is no program in place or any mainstream budget for this type of work, therefore the Forum is asked to approve this scheme at a cost of £250.

**Total of cost of scheme: £250**

**Total Cost to the Forum: £250**

### (c) Church Street

The Neighbourhood Management Team has received a request from the Night Time Economy Group to ask the Central Neighbourhood Consultative Forum if they would be willing to support the taxi marshalling scheme to assist in reducing violence and anti-social behaviour linked to the night time economy in Hartlepool.

The Night Time Economy Operational Group is a multi-agency group whose remit is to reduce night time violence and anti-social behaviour in the town centre area. The group reports to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and the Alcohol Harm Reduction Group.

A number of measures and actions have been implemented over the past few years to help reduce violence and ASB including the introduction of taxi marshals on a Saturday night.

The marshals operate in Church Street from Midnight until 4:00 a.m. on Saturday night/Sunday morning. The marshals provide a valuable service in the following ways: -

- The marshalled rank provides a focal point for people who need a taxi – ensuring that they do not start walking home which can both make them more vulnerable and lead to anti social behaviour as they walk home
- It provides an ordered queuing system ensuring that there is no fighting over the next available taxi
- Marshals ensure that passengers have the means to pay the taxi driver – reducing the likelihood of passengers running off at the end of their journey
- It contributes towards the general atmosphere of 'order and control'
- The marshals act as extra pairs of eyes and ears and can report problems to the Police who are also on patrol

Violence in the town centre area has fallen by around 25% in 2011 and it is believed that the taxi marshalling scheme has contributed significantly to this success.

The marshals currently cost around £7500 per annum to operate and funding is due to expire in March. It is hoped that external sponsorship may provide some of the funding required but this may become available on a 'match funding' basis only. The scheme is managed by Cleveland Police who do not charge any management fee. The marshals are SIA licensed security staff employed through a local security company. The Forum is asked to approve this scheme at a cost of £3,121.

**Total cost of scheme:           £7,500**  
**Total Cost to the Forum:       £3,121**

#### **4.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Forum is requested to recommend to the Neighbourhoods and Transport Portfolio Holder that the above schemes be approved from the Minor Works Budget
- 4.2 The total cost of schemes proposed is: **£5,971**
- 4.3 Minor works monies remaining if schemes approved is: **£00,000**