



Hartlepool  
Borough Council



# Safer Hartlepool Partnership

## Agenda

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Time:** 1.00pm

**Location:** Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

**Members:** Safer Hartlepool Partnership

**Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor Riddle, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council

Councillor Oliver, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council

Denise McGuckin, Chief Executive, Hartlepool Borough Council

Kieran Bostock, Director Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Helen Wilson, Hartlepool District Commander, Cleveland Police (VC)

Jo Heaney, Chair of Youth Offending Board

Gordon Bentley, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)

Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit

Sean Smith, Cleveland Fire Authority

**Other Members:**

Jonathan Brash, MP for Hartlepool (C)

Chris Woodcock, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council

Matt Storey, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

Michelle Hill, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Representative, Safer Communities

Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group

Alison Sutherland, Executive Director of Children's Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

Jill Harrison, Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council

Non-Voting Observer, Councillor Jorgeson, Representative of Audit and Governance Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council



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## 1. Apologies for absence

## 2. To receive any declarations by members

## 3. Minutes

- 3.1. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2026.

## 4. Items for consideration

- 4.1. Community Payback Engagement and Impact Update – *Operation Manager, Community Payback North East*

## 5. Any other business which the chair considers urgent

## 6. Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006

### Exempt items

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

## 7. Items requiring decision

- 7.1. Domestic Homicide Related Death Review (para 2) – *Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)*

## 8. Any other confidential items which the chairman considers urgent

## For information

Date of next meeting – To be confirmed



# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

16 January 2026

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

**Present:**

**Responsible Authority Members:**

Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Helen Wilson, District Commander, Cleveland Police (Vice Chair)

**Other Members:**

Jonathan Brash, MP for Hartlepool (Chair)  
Chris Woodcock, Acting Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Matt Storey, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland  
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group

Non-Voting Observer, Councillor Jorgeson, Representative of Audit and Governance Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 John Lovatt was in attendance for Jill Harrison (Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council)

**Also Present:**

Councillors Shane Moore and Amanda Napper  
Sergeant Thomas Legg and Anna Waddington, Cleveland Police  
Tracey Brittain, Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

**Officers:**

Phil Gleaves, Youth Justice Service Manager  
Phil Hepburn, Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager  
Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager  
Steve Hilton, Senior Public Relations Officer  
Joan Stevens, Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Manager  
Jo Stubbs, Principal Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

## 19. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Karen Oliver and Owen Riddle, Gordon Bentley (North East and North Cumbria Integrated

Care Board), Ann Powell (Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit), Sean Smith (Cleveland Fire Authority) and Jill Harrison (Executive Director of Adult Services and Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council).

## **20. Declarations of Interest**

None

## **21. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2025**

Minutes approved

## **22. Development of a Domestic Abuse Strategy**

*(Interim Director of Public Health)*

### **Purpose of report**

To provide members an opportunity to comment on the draft Domestic Abuse Strategy.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Interim Director of Public Health advised members that the current Domestic Abuse Strategy for Hartlepool was due to end this year and a needs assessment had been carried out to inform the development of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy for 2026-2029. This was a requirement under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The needs assessment had reviewed the level of need for domestic abuse services and identified 3 key strategic themes which had been used to inform the draft strategy:

- I. An insufficient availability of support services of victims and survivors, particularly those hidden from services or with complex needs.
- II. Children affected by domestic abuse are not consistently recognised as victims in their own right and current services are not always responsive to their needs
- III. A lack of consistent accountability for perpetrators of domestic abuse and existing intervention services may not be sufficiently effective in changing behaviour or reducing repeat offending.

Consultation on the draft strategy would run until 30 January 2026 with the final strategy due to be considered for approval by Adult Services and Public Health Committee in March 2026. Members were asked to give their feedback on the draft strategy as appended to the report.

The Chair highlighted concerns around the need to create clear pathways and engage with multi-agency partners, specifically high street banks. He felt that it was critical that workers in these organisations be fully trained to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and be able to signpost victims to get the help they needed. The Interim Director of Public Health advised that financial institutions were not yet fully involved in the system wide response but would deal with these issues already. Partnerships continued to evolve.

The Chair referred to the large numbers of people being brought to Hartlepool from the South, some of whom may be victims of domestic abuse. If this was the case the authorities needed to be made aware so that appropriate support could be offered. If other local authorities did not provide this information or transported people without making them aware of where they were being taken then this should be flagged up as it could be damaging to the person concerned and Hartlepool. The Interim Director of Public Health advised he was unable to provide numbers in terms of those who had moved into the area in this manner but indicated that people were sometimes moved for good reasons and this was a national challenge.

### **Decision**

That the draft strategy and members feedback as detailed be noted.

## **23. Retail Crime Investigation – Final Report** *(Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee)*

### **Purpose of report**

To present the Audit and Governance Committee's findings following completion of its investigation into retail crime in Hartlepool and seek approval of its recommendations.

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee presented the findings of its investigation into retail crime. Cleveland has one of the highest rates of retail crime and shoplifting in the country which is a concern both financially and in terms of the staff safety. The report gave a clear picture of the scale of the problem and potential reasons behind it, primarily substance abuse. Crimes of this type tended to be committed by repeat offenders and were regularly under reported due to a belief that nothing would be done from a legal perspective. Eight recommendations for a way forward were identified. A joined up approach would be needed to solve this

problem but central to this must be safeguarding workers from violence and abuse. The investigation had been impeded by a lack of engagement from involved parties however in the case of shop owners it had been conducted over the busy Christmas period so this was somewhat understandable. He thanked all those who had engaged and the scrutiny officers for their work as part of the investigation.

The Chair requested an update from the District Commander around the police response. She confirmed that there were dedicated officers posted in the Victoria and Burn Valley areas and there had been significant reductions in retail crime in a number of areas. There was a national focus on this. Sergeant Legg advised that in many cases shop owners were reluctant to report this to the police because of community links to the perpetrators. He estimated around 34% of incidents were reported.

The Chair accepted that the police were under pressure but noted there would be a number of perpetrators who would be jailed then reoffend when released. Sergeant Legg indicated there were procedures in place allowing offenders to be targeted and given conditions around their release.

The Chair suggested the formation of a Retail Crime Forum would be appropriate as it would give retailers a platform to express their views and concerns. The Police and Crime Commissioner advised that a retail Business Partnership was due to commence in a few weeks and a Retail Crime Summit had recently taken place. The findings had been similar to the Audit and Governance Committee report and a lot of retailers had wanted to look at what sentences were being given and whether custodial sentences were correct. He did not want any response to have a negative impact on economic priorities. The Chair acknowledged the work behind the scenes but it did not help if people were scared or intimidated

The Chair thanked all those who had engaged with the Audit and Governance Committee investigation and the scrutiny officers for their work.

#### **Decision**

- I. That the Retail Crime investigation report be noted and the recommendations agreed
- II. That progress on the investigation be brought back to the Audit and Governance Committee annually.

## **24. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Action Plan 2025/26** *(Assistant Director (Regulatory Services))*

**Purpose of report**

To provide an overview of Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance linked to the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan 2024/27.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Community Safety Plan has a strategic objective to make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit. This would be accomplished by focusing on anti-social behaviour, drugs and alcohol, domestic violence and serious violence. An action plan had been prepared covering each priority and partners were expected to provide an outline of their work. Since the previous update additional actions had been added covering the York Road ramp, off road bike, retail crime and deliberate fires. The recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee retail crime investigation had also been added. Links to other partner action plans were also included.

The Chair requested an update on the town centre public space protection order. The Assistant Director for Regulatory Services confirmed that this was due to be considered by Neighbourhood Services Committee with full support from the police and Police and Crime Commissioner. The consultation on the document had resulted in no real changes to the draft. The Chair urged that every possible option available under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Powers be considered including handing police powers to security personnel in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. The Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager advised that this had previously been a fairly straightforward action. The Assistant Director for Regulatory Services noted that the Public Space Protection Order could only be enforced by the local authority or Police. The Chair acknowledged this and felt given police capacity challenges the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme Powers should be used as a back up. He was reassured that the process was quick.

**Decision**

That members note the Safer Hartlepool Action Plan 2025/2026 and approve the following additions:

- I. The recommendations from the Audit and Governance Committee report on Retail Crime
- II. The additional actions from Safer Hartlepool Partnership workshops relating to Off Road Bikes, Retail Crime and Deliberate Fires.

## 25. **Strategic Briefing: Cleveland Police – Violence Against Women and Girls** *(Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland)*

### **Purpose of report**

To give a presentation on the priorities of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner for tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).

### **Issue(s) for consideration**

The Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager gave a briefing on the work being carried out by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to tackle VAWG. This was designed to support joint planning, scrutiny and a unified response to preventing harm, supporting victims and pursuing perpetrators. The prevention of violence against women and girls is a strategic requirement and a priority of the Force's Management Statement and Strategic Plan.

The Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager advised that VAWG offences accounted for 22.5% of total recorded crime in Cleveland between September 2024 and September 2025. This was an overall reduction on the previous year although crimes relating to sexual violence had increased while domestic abuse had decreased. The high number of referrals had impacted on waiting lists and resulted in funding challenges. There was a focus on making support available and accessible to victims. Details were given of the key activities to tackle VAWG through partnership working with voluntary agencies including Harbour, Halo and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust which do work around stalking prevention. Arch Teesside focus on prevention of sexual violence and had recently been given additional funding to support their work. They particularly focus on child abuse victims particularly keeping them engaged with the justice system. In terms of domestic abuse this was not necessarily perpetrated by an intimate partner but could be familial. There were also concerns around an increase in children attacking parents.

In terms of funding this is calculated based on the population of the police force area rather than crime rates or demand on victim services meaning that despite having the highest rate of violence in the country and being amongst the most economically deprived Cleveland receives less funding per person than other areas with lower crime rates. The Police and Crime Commissioner had written to the Chancellor as part of a campaign to make the system fairer. He had also responded to the Government's Independent Review of Criminal Courts welcoming their recommendations to make the justice system more effective and improve victim experiences.

Specific plans for making women and girls feel safe and supported while holding perpetrators to account were from 2025-2027 were detailed. Action plans around the night time economy and a reduction in town centre violence were also outlined.

The Chair thanked the Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager for a complex presentation reflecting the seriousness of the issue. He was pleased to see a reduction in domestic abuse and noted that if there was parity of funding the Cleveland area would be entitled to around £1 million more. In his role as Member of Parliament he had raised this issue in the House of Commons and been told there were plans to look at the current funding formula during the life of this Parliament.

A member asked what was being done in terms of getting information from schools around potential perpetrators. The Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager advised that they would be looking at key priorities with other partners but there was a concern around labelling young people at this early stage of their lives. They would work with schools and with sports providers to help support them to become healthy adults. In terms of social media work on cyber crime and digital online crimes was ongoing but this was more than VAWG with radicalisation also a concern. The Chair expressed his support as Member of Parliament for a ban on under 16s accessing social media.

The Chair noted that 84% of victims of sexual crime know their attacker and asked what the impact of this was. The Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager indicated that in many cases the victim was unwilling to pursue prosecution for this reason as the defence would make reference to the relationship. The Chair noted that the current media narrative was focused around the 16% attacked by strangers. The Policy, Partnerships and Delivery Manager acknowledged this saying they were working with partners to help correct these distorted narratives. In terms of prosecution the District Commander advised that officers were trained to gather as much evidence as possible even if a person decided they did not wish to pursue prosecution. An application could be made to the courts for an order to prevent the perpetrator from contacting the victim or coming near them. Perpetrators could also be given access to programmes such as alcohol prevention but they have to be willing to engage with this. The Chair asked that she write to him with suggestions of how to make improvements and he would take them forward with the relevant ministers.

The Chair asked that a copy of the presentation be circulated to all members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership

**Decision**

That the presentation and information given to the Partnership be noted.

**26. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Chair reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 5pm. This would be a face the public event around anti-social behaviour. He asked that members promote this meeting to ensure maximum attendance.

The meeting concluded at 2.25pm

CHAIR



## Safer Hartlepool Partnership

13 March 2026

**Report of:** Operation Manager, Community Payback North East

**Subject:** Community Payback Engagement and Impact Update

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### What is community payback ?

Community Payback is a court ordered requirement as part of a community sentence, where individuals are ordered to complete unpaid work in the community. The court sets a number of hours to be completed, and the work is designed to be beneficial to the local area, allowing individuals to make amends for their offences by giving back to the community. It provides an opportunity for them to develop new skills, build work habits and gain a sense of responsibility, while delivering tangible benefits to the places where they live and work

#### 1. Attendance schedule

The community payback team attended Hartlepool four times a week, carrying out unpaid work at the following locations.

- **Wednesday** : Dodworth Walk
- **Thursday** : North Road Cemetery
- **Friday**: Kingsley Avenue
- **Sunday**: Dodworth Walk

#### 2. Hours completed ( September 2025 February 2026)

Over the 6 month period, the team has delivered a total of 1,823 hours and 38 minutes of unpaid work . The breakdown of the months is as follows:

Appointment Month	Sum of Hours Offered	Sum of Hours Credited
September 2025	366.17	191.1666667
October 2025	887.50	464.5
November 2025	863.17	440.3333333
December 2025	632.88	160.6333333
January 2026	663.17	311.4166667
February 2026	584.42	255.3333333
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3997.30</b>	<b>1823.383333</b>

### 3. Full time equivalent ( FTE ) Calculation

To put the volume of work into context, we have calculated the equivalent of these hours in terms of full time permanent positions.

Based on a standard full time working year of 2,080 hours ( 40 hours per week x 52 weeks ):

- Total hours delivered over 6 months : 1,823.30 hours
- Annualized equivalent : 1,823.3 hours x 2 = 3,646.60 hours
- FTE calculation:  $3,646.60 / 2,080 = 1.75$  FTE

This means over the past six months, the community payback team have delivered the equivalent of nearly two full time permanent members of staff in unpaid work hours for Hartlepool Borough council

### 4. Importance of working relationship

The regular attendance of the payback team at Hartlepool is not just about the hours completed – it is built on a strong and valuable working relationship with you as the beneficiary

The partnership ensures :

- **Consistent and reliable support** : the team attends on set days each week, providing a steady stream of support to maintain and improve Hartlepool sites.
- **Tailored engagement** : we work closely with you to understand your needs and priorities, ensuring the work carried out directly benefits the local community and the sites you manage.
- **Mutual benefit**: For the people on probation, this partnership provides meaningful work experience, a chance to give back to the community, and an opportunity to develop skills and responsibility. For the partnership, it delivers cost effective, quality work that might otherwise be difficult to resource.

We are committed to maintaining and strengthening this relationship to continue delivering positive outcomes for both the Hartlepool community and for the individuals completing their unpaid work.

### **5. Request for future tasks support**

As we continue our work at Hartlepool , we are keen to ensure we are addressing your most pressing needs.

I would like to ask everyone around this table: if you have any upcoming tasks that require assistance such as painting, strimming, path edging , litter pick , fly tipping removal or other similar projects please let us know. We would be happy to discuss how the community payback team can support you with these jobs, helping to keep Hartlepool areas well maintained and looking their best

### **6. Recommendation**

I want to thank everyone here listening to me and would be grateful for any feedback or questions.