

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Thursday 11 February 2021

at 10.00am

in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'remote meeting', a web-link to the public stream will be available on the Hartlepool Borough Council website at least 24 hours before the meeting.

MEMBERS: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors Buchan, Cassidy, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, James and Loynes.

Standards Co-opted Independent Member: Ms Clare Wilson.

Standards Co-opted Parish Council Representatives: Parish Councillor John Littlefair (Hart) and Parish Councillor Alan O'Brien (Greatham).

Local Police Representative: Superintendent Sharon Cooney.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021 (to follow).

4. AUDIT ITEMS

No items.

5. STANDARDS ITEMS

5.1 Community Governance Review – *Chief Solicitor (To follow)*

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

- 5.2 Referral from Council – The Review of Sanctions Currently in Place -
Councillor Tony Richardson – *Chief Solicitor*

6. STATUTORY SCRUTINY ITEMS

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

- 6.1 Audit and Governance Committee's Investigation into Anti-Social Behaviour in Hartlepool:-
- a) Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan Update – *Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)*
 - b) Anti-Social Behaviour Action Plan Update – Presentation – *Representatives from Thirteen Group*
 - c) Update on Think Family (Troubled Families) Programme – *Assistant Director (Children's Services)*
- 6.2 Verbal Update from Harbour Support Services – *Tees Valley Service Manager*

Health Scrutiny

- 6.3 Coronavirus in Hartlepool Update - Presentation - *Director of Public Health*

7. OTHER ITEMS FOR DECISION

No items.

8. MINUTES FROM THE RECENT MEETING OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

No items.

9. MINUTES FROM THE RECENT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH

No items.

10. TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

- 10.1 Minutes from the meeting held on 20 November 2020.
- 10.2 Update from meeting of Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee on 29 January 2021 – *Members of Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Joint Committee*

11. MINUTES FROM RECENT MEETING OF SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

- 11.1 To receive minutes of the meeting held on the 13 November 2020.

12. REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

No items.

13. DURHAM, DARLINGTON AND TEESSIDE, HAMBLETON, RICHMONDSHIRE AND WHITBY STP JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

No items.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

For information: -

Date and time of forthcoming meetings –

Thursday 18 March 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

7 JANUARY 2021

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor: Ged Hall (In the Chair).

Councillors: Bob Buchan, Tom Cassidy, Lesley Hamilton, Brenda Harrison, Marjorie James and Brenda Loynes.

Standards Co-opted Members:
Ms Clare Wilson – Independent Member

Also Present: Gavin Barker and Cath Andrew, Mazars.
Phillip Kerr, Contracts Manager, North East NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service

Officers: Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health
James Magog, Assistant Director, Finance
Noel Adamson, Head of Audit and Governance
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager
Angela Armstrong, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

57. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from

58. Declarations of Interest

None.

59. Minutes of the meetings held on 23 November and 10 December, 2020

Both confirmed.

60. Coronavirus in Hartlepool Update (*Director of Public Health*)

The Director of Public Health gave a presentation detailing the rates of Coronavirus in Hartlepool together with an update on the numbers hospitalised and those that had died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test result. The presentation also updated Members on the availability of testing throughout the town. There was great concern that the mixing during Christmas and New Year was leading to a significant increase in cases.

Members commented that the national press often quoted figures much more up-to-date than those quoted in this meeting. The Director stated that the figures quoted on national/regional news were often unverified as there was generally a 3 to 4 day lag in the information that was supplied to the local authority. Members also commented that test centres needed to be located nearer the centres of outbreaks as shown on the 'heat maps' in the presentation, particularly the areas of highest deprivation. The Director supported the comment but stated that he understood it was likely there would be no new testing locations.

There was discussion around the recording of Covid-19 on death certificates, the role out of vaccinations and the support being provided to children and families from deprived backgrounds during the lockdown when they were required to learn at home. Members considered that as well as a lack of IT equipment support, where there was such support there also needed to be support with internet and electricity costs. The Statutory Scrutiny Manager indicated that she would seek responses where possible on Members questions/comments.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

61. Mazars Report- Annual Audit Letter (*Assistant Director, Finance*)

The Mazars' representative outlined the contents of their Annual Audit letter to the Council following the conclusion of the 2019/20 audit. The final sign-off of the audit had unfortunately been delayed beyond the statutory date due to a delay in the conclusion of the Pensions Fund Audit; a similar situation to quite a number of authorities in England. Mazars had issued an unqualified statement on the Council's financial position and also an unqualified value for money conclusion.

The Mazars representative drew Members to the increase in audit fees which had been agreed with the Director of Resources and Development; this was a situation common to all authorities due to the increase in work due to changes in regulations. There had also been a change in the code of audit practice which would be reflected in the audit plan.

A Member sought details of the background to the changes in the audit regulations which had been outlined in the report which the Assistant Director, Finance indicated had been reported to past meetings and would be sent to the Member.

Recommended

That the Mazar's Annual Audit letter to the Council be noted.

62. Internal Audit Plan 2020/21 Update (*Head of Audit and Governance*)

The Head of Audit and Governance reported on the first quarter progress against the 2020/21 Internal Audit Plan. The Head of Audit and Governance particularly highlighted the Teams response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the work undertaken in relation to payments made as part of the Governments Business Support programme. Checks to ensure the validity of payments are carried out internally using analysis tools provided by the Government and externally via the Experian credit reference agency provided by the National Fraud Initiative programme. Members of the team are also supporting the Councils track and trace response one day a week.

Members welcomed the report and the Chair asked after the Team's morale during these difficult times. The Head of Audit and Governance thanked the Chair and Members for their concern and indicated that the team were well used to home working and had adapted well to the new ways of liaising with colleagues due to the restrictions on visits and face to face meetings.

Recommended

That the report be noted

63. Treasury Management Strategy (*Assistant Director, Finance*)

The Assistant Director, Finance outlined the main aspects of the annual Treasury Management Strategy which included a review of Treasury Management activity for 2019/20 including the 2019/20 outturn Prudential Indicators; and a mid-year update of the 2020/21 Treasury Management activity. The report enabled the Committee to scrutinise the recommended 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy before it was referred to the full Council for approval.

A Member referred to the recent election results in the USA and questioned if a US stimulus package would have an adverse effect on the Council's investments. The Assistant Director commented that much would depend on the size of any proposed stimulus package and whether the effect would extend beyond internal US markets.

The Chair noted the Government was benefitting from some very low interest rates at present and asked if there were any dangers from increasing interest rates. The Assistant Director stated that an increase in interest rates may have an effect on the Government's ability to support the wider economy and this may impact on Local Government funding in the future. The Council was not exposed to a significant interest rate risk due to the size of the capital programme, but ultimately future borrowing requirements would still need to be affordable and this would be demonstrated through the prudential framework.

Recommended

That the following proposals be approved for referral to full Council for approval.

Treasury Management Outturn Position 2019/20

1. Note the 2019/20 Treasury Management Outturn detailed in section 4 and Appendix A of the report.

Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 Mid-Year Review

2. Note the 2020/21 Treasury Management Mid-year Position detailed in section 5 of the report.

Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 (Prudential Indicators)

3. Approve the prudential indicators outlined in Appendix B of the report.

Borrowing Strategy 2021/22

4. Core borrowing requirement – following the securing of exceptionally low interest rates approve that the remainder of the under borrowing is netted down against investments.
5. To note that in the event of a change in economic circumstances that the Director of Resources and Development may take out additional borrowing if this secures the lowest long term interest cost.
6. To authorise the Director of Resources and Development to implement Treasury Management arrangements which minimise the short and long term cost to the Council.

Investment Strategy 2021/22

7. Approve the Counterparty limits as set out in paragraph 8.7 of the report.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

8. Approve the MRP statement outlined in paragraph 9.3 of the report.

64. Business Continuity *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services provided members with an update on the Councils Business Continuity arrangements, following a report presented to the Committee in December 2019 by the then Assistant Director (Environment and Neighbourhood Services). The Assistant Director stated that the Covid-19 Pandemic had caused a review of the business continuity arrangements and these were being worked through by officers.

A Member suggested that during the pandemic lockdown it would be useful for business premises that were open had a 'star rating' similar to the food hygiene rating for their approach to meeting the lockdown regulations. Such an approach could also help businesses such as barbers/hairdressers be open to the public. Some businesses had indicated that they would be happy to work under such an arrangement. Officers indicated the suggestion would be referred on for further consideration.

Recommended

That the report be noted and a further updated provided to the Committee in six months' time.

65. Revised Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Co-Opted Members and Best Practice Recommendations *(Chief Solicitor and Monitoring Officer)*

The Chief Solicitor outlined the revised model Code of Conduct for Elected Members and Co-opted Members which the Committee was asked to consider before referral to full Council for adoption.

In January 2019, the Committee on Standards in Public Life published a report on ethical standards in local government. Essentially, the report considered all aspects of the current regime relating to the conduct of Elected Members and set out 26 recommendations for change. Although the recommendations were published in January 2019, the LGA only produced a draft Code and concluded its consultation on the draft Code in summer 2020. A submission from this Committee had been made as part

of that consultation. The Final Model Code has now been published by the LGA and is attached. Notwithstanding this, the Cabinet Office are checking on the progress of local authorities implementing the list of best practice in the autumn of 2020.

Members noted the suggestion that the threshold for the recording of gifts and hospitality was suggested to be increased from £25 to £50 under the LGA's proposals. Members agreed that retaining the £25 threshold would be more appropriate in Hartlepool. Members also expressed the concern that while the new Code of Conduct was an improvement, without any real and appropriate sanctions it was likely to be as ineffectual as the old code. The Chief Solicitor noted Members comments and indicated that there may be future consideration of sanctions by the government.

The Independent Person commented that there had been recent reports on the appointment of new Independent Persons and asked where the process was at this time. The Chief Solicitor stated that there had been a number of enquiries for the positions. If these did not result in completed applications, there would be a further advertisement of the positions.

Recommended

1. That Constitution Committee and Council be recommended to retain the threshold for the recording of gifts and hospitality at £25.
2. That, subject to 1. Above, the Constitution Committee and Full Council be recommended to approve the revised Code of Conduct.

66. Independent Complaints Advocacy Service Update (Statutory Scrutiny Manager)

The Contracts Manager from the North East NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy Service (ICA) provided the Committee with an update in relation to the level and type of complaints from Hartlepool residents being dealt with by the ICA service. It was highlighted that the Covid-19 Pandemic had had a significant effect on complaints as all Trusts stopped work on complaints between mid-March and the end of June 2020. As a consequence, public demand for the service had dropped by 50%. The Contracts Manager updated the Committee with the ICA's performance statistics including those specific to Hartlepool.

The Contracts Manager reported that one consequence of the remote working that had to be adopted was the effects on the deaf community and how the wearing of masks had been a significant issue for them.

Members questioned if the fall in numbers could be due to people using the local Healthwatch service. The Contracts Manager stated that the ICA did keep in touch with local Healthwatch groups and had referrals from them in the past. The Healthwatch remit was, however, wider than the ICA's.

Members questioned if the ICA was aware of the numbers of complaints that went direct to health trusts. The Contracts Manager stated that the ICA did have a member appointed to the North Tees and Hartlepool Trust's Patient Care Committee and from the quarterly figures reported there, the ICA supported around 20% of all complaints.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

67. Update on Orthodontic/Dentistry Provision in Hartlepool (*Statutory Scrutiny Manager*)

The Scrutiny Support Officer provided an update on the NHS England's re-procurement of orthodontic services in the North East. It had been hoped that a representative from NHS England would be present at the meeting but unfortunately due to changing priorities with the roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine, this had not proved possible. However, a written update had been provided and this had been circulated to Members of the Committee ahead of the meeting.

A Member commented that while they had read the NHS England update, the position 'on the ground' was entirely different with patients only being able to access dental services on an emergency basis when a extraction was the most likely treatment. This was unacceptable. Other Members confirmed this situation and the Scrutiny Support Officer undertook to feed Members concerns back and seek a formal response. Members suggested that it would be beneficial to the public if there were some information on the Council website as to where they could go for emergency treatment.

Recommended

That the report be noted and the concerns of Members be reported back to NHS England.

68. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) - Quarterly Update (*Chief Solicitor*)

The Principle Democratic Services Officer reported that the quarterly update on activities relating to surveillance by the Council and policies under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2011 showed that there had been no requests for the use of the regulations and, therefore, a nil return had been submitted.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

69. Minutes from the Recent Meeting of The Health and Wellbeing Board

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2020 were received.

70. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

None.

The meeting noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 11 February 2021 commencing at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 12.00 noon.

CHAIR

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 February 2021



Report of: Assistant Chief Solicitor

Subject: COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - ELWICK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents feedback from consultation with stakeholders in Elwick Parish and invites this committee to formulate a view upon the extent to which the proposals are implemented for consideration by Full Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A community governance review enables a principal council to review and put in place new arrangements and make changes to current community governance systems and structures, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area.
- 2.2 The Government has emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of services.
- 2.3 All principal councils have a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they receive a valid petition. For a petition to be valid it must be signed by 250 residents.
- 2.4 Upon receipt of valid petitions the Council must, as a matter of law undertake a community governance review and must do so in accordance with the statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government (“DCLG”) has produced guidance for Principal Councils on undertaking community governance reviews and it has been duly considered in our proposed approach. The guidance highlights the legislative requirements that a review must have regard to, namely that it: - reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and is effective and convenient. Influencing factors that should also be considered are: - the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

- 2.6 On 6 February 2020 Hartlepool Borough Council received a valid petition from 281 residents proposing that the area of the existing parish, immediately to west of Close Beck Wynyard (see **Appendix 1**) be removed from Elwick Parish Council and that a stand-alone Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) be established in relation to that area. Ten numbered points were made in support of the petition (see **Appendix 2**).
- 2.7 Receipt of the petition was reported to Full Council on 19 March 2020 and the terms of reference (including timetable) were approved by Full Council on 20 October 2020.
- 2.8 There have been two periods of consultation (23/10/20 – 04/12/20 and - 18/12/20 - 29/02/21) and responses have been invited from all local government electors in the area under review, the parish council, local businesses and public and voluntary organisations (such as schools and health bodies). Letters were sent to all residents and the consultation was also publicised in the Hartlepool Mail and on the council's social media accounts.
- 2.9 Of the 745 consultation letters sent, 93 responses were returned (12.5% response). Of those responses 97.8% (91 people) have been supportive of the proposal. Only 2.2% (2 people) have objected to the proposal, both of whom point to the additional level of bureaucracy that an additional parish would create. These consultation responses must also be considered alongside the 281 residents of the area who had signed the original petition.
- 2.10 A consistent theme in the support for the proposals is that Wynyard has evolved into a community with a clearly identifiable and cohesive character that is separate and distinct from the rural nature of Elwick. The responses also point to benefits of decisions being made on a local level and that a newly formed parish will be best placed to make and implement those decisions.
- 2.11 The proposal has the support of the Wynyard Residents Association and Elwick Parish Council.
- 2.12 Members attention is drawn to the following issues from the guidance:
 - The general rule that a parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is a size of a viable administrative unit of local government.
 - New or revised parish electoral arrangements come into force at ordinary parish elections, rather than parish by-elections, so they usually have to wait until the next scheduled parish elections. They can come into force sooner only if the terms of office of sitting parish councillors are cut so that earlier parish elections may be held for terms of office which depend on whether the parish is to return to its normal year of election.

- There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors. The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.
- The 2006 local government white paper, Strong and prosperous communities, stated: We will make it clear that there will be a presumption in favour of the setting up of parish councils so that local authorities will be expected to grant communities' requests to set up new parish councils, except where there are good reasons not to, and that existing parish councils are not to be abolished against the wishes of local people. The Coalition Government's 2013 consultation paper on setting up new parish councils said: We believe that localism is best achieved when it is led by the local communities themselves. We see town and parish councils as playing a vital role in helping local people to make this happen.

3. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Committee is asked to formulate a view in relation to the below to assist Full Council in its consideration of the community governance review:-

i) Should the area in question be removed from Elwick Parish Council?

3.2 If 'yes' to (i) above:

ii) Should a stand-alone Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) be established in relation to that area?

iii) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the new parish?

iv) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the Elwick Parish?

The proposed Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool) has 704 electors and Elwick Village has 491. The guidance would suggest that 7 councillors would be an appropriate number on each.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 If a decision is made to remove the proposed area from the Parish Council there may be a small impact on the Council's budget in terms of a reduction in the concurrent functions payment made to the Parish Council for grass cutting services undertaken by the Parish Council. The payment amounts to £7,446 per annum and relates to services which can either be carried out by

Hartlepool Council or the Parish. This will need to be reviewed to reflect the reduced area and the saving will need to be allocated to meet the costs of the Council undertaking these services directly.

- 4.2 From the Parish Council's perspective the removal of the proposed area would reduce the properties paying the Council Tax precept levied by the Parish Council and they would need to address this reduction in income by reducing spending, or increasing the Council Tax precept they levy.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake a community governance review in response to the receipt of a valid petition.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That this Committee formulates a view on the proposals, outlined in Section 3 above, as to the extent that the consultation proposals are implemented.
- 6.2 That the Committee's views be included within the Managing Director's business report to assist Full Council on 25 February 2021 in its consideration of the proposals.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

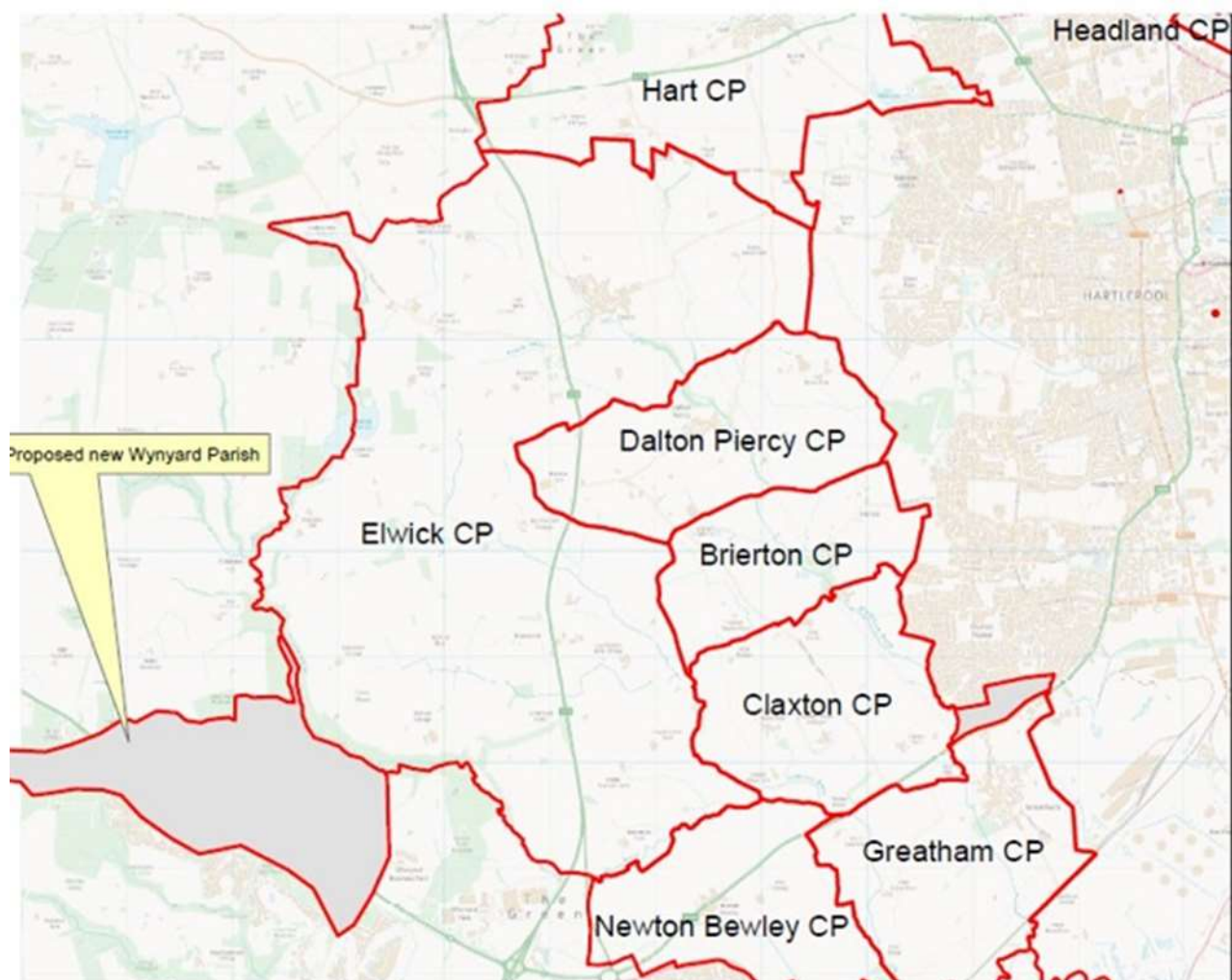
- 7.1 Functions relating to the conduct of Community Governance Review under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 are reserved exclusively to Full Council. Views of this committee are invited to feed into the Managing Director's business report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Guidance on community governance reviews - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf
- 8.2 Full Council - 19 March 2020 and 20 October 2020 (report and minutes)
- 8.3 Consultation responses are available should any member wish to review them.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

- 9.1 Neil Wilson
Assistant Chief Solicitor
Neil.wilson@hartlepool.gov.uk
TEL: 01429 284 383



Hartlepool Borough Council

Wynyard Residents Association

3rd February 2020

Dear Sir or Madam

Request for a Local Community Governance Review

Please accept this as a formal request from Wynyard Residents Association, on behalf of Wynyard residents to conduct a Local Community Governance review as set out in "The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007". We would like to request that Wynyard be withdrawn from Elwick Parish Council and established as a Parish, with its own council for the following reasons;

- 1) Wynyard residents wish this change to take place
- 2) Wynyard is large enough to be a financially viable council in its own right
- 3) Wynyard has grown exponentially since its original inclusion in Elwick Parish Council.
- 4) Planning applications approved for dwellings, and enshrined within the Hartlepool Local Plan, will mean it will grow by a minimum further 60% in the next few years
- 5) Wynyard is not geographically linked with Elwick by footpaths, rights of way or roads – other than main roads that are not suitable for any form of transport other than a car and the distance of 9 miles cannot support a claim for these to be one community
- 6) Wynyard is not culturally in keeping with the rest of the Elwick Parish area or population
- 7) Wynyard would be a "cohesive community" as defined in "Communities and Local Government Guidance on community governance reviews" (March 2010) – at present Elwick Parish area cannot meet the criteria for this with Wynyard included in it
- 8) Elwick Parish Council has two well established residents' associations linked to it, from very different communities, with very different needs. It cannot effectively meet the needs of both
- 9) Wynyard differs from Elwick in that it has no community facilities or infrastructure – Elwick has both. This means that the current Parish council are trying to deal with two very different communities with totally different needs
- 10) Wynyard has been historically underrepresented on Elwick Parish Council and for many years was not represented at all. The residents of Wynyard feel disenfranchised by not having their own parish council that can exclusively focus on Wynyard issues

We have gathered a substantial number of elector names in support of this change from Wynyard residents residing in the Hartlepool Borough, see attached sheets. These have been gathered in less than four weeks and from less than 50% of the dwellings on the estate. We believe this shows substantial community support for this change and meets the requirements of a "Community Governance petition". We have discussed where the most reasonable boundary would be for a new council to effectively represent Wynyard and the consensus is that the Neighbourhood and Master Plan dividing line between Wynyard Neighbourhood and Master Plan boundary and the Western Parish's Plan boundary would be our preferred, and the most effective boundary. We strongly believe that a new Parish for Wynyard would support the creation of a "distinctive and recognisable community of place with its own identity" as mentioned in section 50 of the "Guidance on community governance reviews". We would be happy to supply any further information we can to aid any potential review.

Yours sincerely



Kit Lofthouse
Wynyard Residents Association

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 February 2021



Report of: Assistant Chief Solicitor

Subject: GREATHAM COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents feedback from consultation with stakeholders in Greatham Parish and invites this committee to formulate a view upon the extent to which the proposals are implemented for consideration by Full Council.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A community governance review enables a principal council to review and put in place new arrangements and make changes to current community governance systems and structures, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the review area.
- 2.2 The Government has emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy, and result in more effective and convenient delivery of services.
- 2.3 All principal councils have a legal duty to carry out a community governance review if they receive a valid petition. For a petition to be valid it must be signed by 250 residents.
- 2.4 Upon receipt of valid petitions the Council must, as a matter of law undertake a community governance review and must do so in accordance with the statutory guidance.
- 2.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government (“DCLG”) has produced guidance for Principal Councils on undertaking community governance reviews and it has been duly considered in our proposed approach. The guidance highlights the legislative requirements that a review must have regard to, namely that it:- reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area under review, and is effective and convenient.

Influencing factors that should also be considered are:- the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion, and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

- 2.6 On 05 March 2020 Hartlepool Borough Council received a valid petition from 257 residents proposing that the area of the existing parish, immediately to the north of Stockton Road (South Fens) (see appendix 1) be removed from Greatham Parish Council but without an alternative Parish Council being established.
- 2.7 Receipt of the petition was reported to Full Council on 19 March 2020 and the terms of reference (including timetable) were approved by Full Council on 20 October 2020.
- 2.8 There have been two periods of consultation (23/10/20 – 04/12/20 and - 18/12/20 - 29/02/21) and responses have been invited from all local government electors in the area under review, the parish council, local businesses and public and voluntary organisations (such as schools and health bodies). Letters were sent to all residents and the consultation was also publicised in the Hartlepool Mail and on the council's social media accounts.
- 2.9 Of the 925 consultation letters sent, 92 responses were returned (10% response). Of those responses 77% (71 people) supported the proposal, 19% (17 people) were against the proposal and 4% (4 people) expressed no opinion. These consultation responses must also be considered alongside the 257 residents of the area who had signed and supported the originating petition.
- 2.10 Of those who support the proposal a common theme is that the residents of Greatham Village and those of South Fens do not view themselves as being part of a single cohesive community. They point to the geographical differences, the clear dividing boundary (the A689) and that the distinct nature and appearance of the areas.
- 2.11 Of those who oppose the proposal it is a common theme that the status quo should be maintained, change is not necessary and that the two areas share a sense of togetherness.
- 2.12 Members attention is drawn to the following issues from the guidance:
 - The general rule that a parish is based on an area which reflects community identity and interest and which is a size of a viable administrative unit of local government.
 - New or revised parish electoral arrangements come into force at ordinary parish elections, rather than parish by-elections, so they usually have to wait until the next scheduled parish elections. They can come into force sooner only if the terms of office of sitting parish councillors are cut so that earlier parish elections may be held for terms

of office which depend on whether the parish is to return to its normal year of election.

- There is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population. Research by the Aston Business School Parish and Town Councils in England (HMSO, 1992), found that the typical parish council representing less than 500 people had between five and eight councillors; those between 501 and 2,500 had six to 12 councillors. The National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25.
- The 2006 local government white paper, Strong and prosperous communities, stated: We will make it clear that there will be a presumption in favour of the setting up of parish councils so that local authorities will be expected to grant communities' requests to set up new parish councils, except where there are good reasons not to, and that existing parish councils are not to be abolished against the wishes of local people. The Coalition Government's 2013 consultation paper on setting up new parish councils said: We believe that localism is best achieved when it is led by the local communities themselves. We see town and parish councils as playing a vital role in helping local people to make this happen.

3. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 The Committee is asked to formulate a view in relation to the below to assist Full Council in its consideration of the community governance review:-

i) Should the area in question be removed from Greatham Parish Council?

3.2 If 'yes' to (i) above:

ii) What should be the council size (number of councilors) in the Greatham Parish?

Greatham Village has 773 electors and the guidance would suggest that 7 councillors would remain an appropriate number.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 If a decision is made to remove the proposed area from the Parish Council there may be a small impact on the Council's budget in terms of a reduction in the concurrent functions payment made to the parish council for grass cutting services undertaken by the parish council. The payment amounts to £1385 per annum and relates to services which can either be carried out by Hartlepool Council or the Parish. This will need to be reviewed to reflect the

reduced area and the saving will need to be allocated to meet the costs of the Council undertaking these services directly.

- 4.2 From the Parish Council's perspective the removal of the proposed area would reduce the properties paying the Council Tax precept levied by the Parish Council and they would need to address this reduction in income by reducing spending, or increasing the Council Tax precept they levy.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 It is a legal requirement under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake a community governance review in response to the receipt of a valid petition.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 That this Committee formulates a view on the proposals, outlined in Section 3 above, as to the extent that the consultation proposals are implemented.
- 6.2 That the Committee's views be included within the Managing Director's business report to assist Full Council on 25 February 2021 in its consideration of the proposals.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

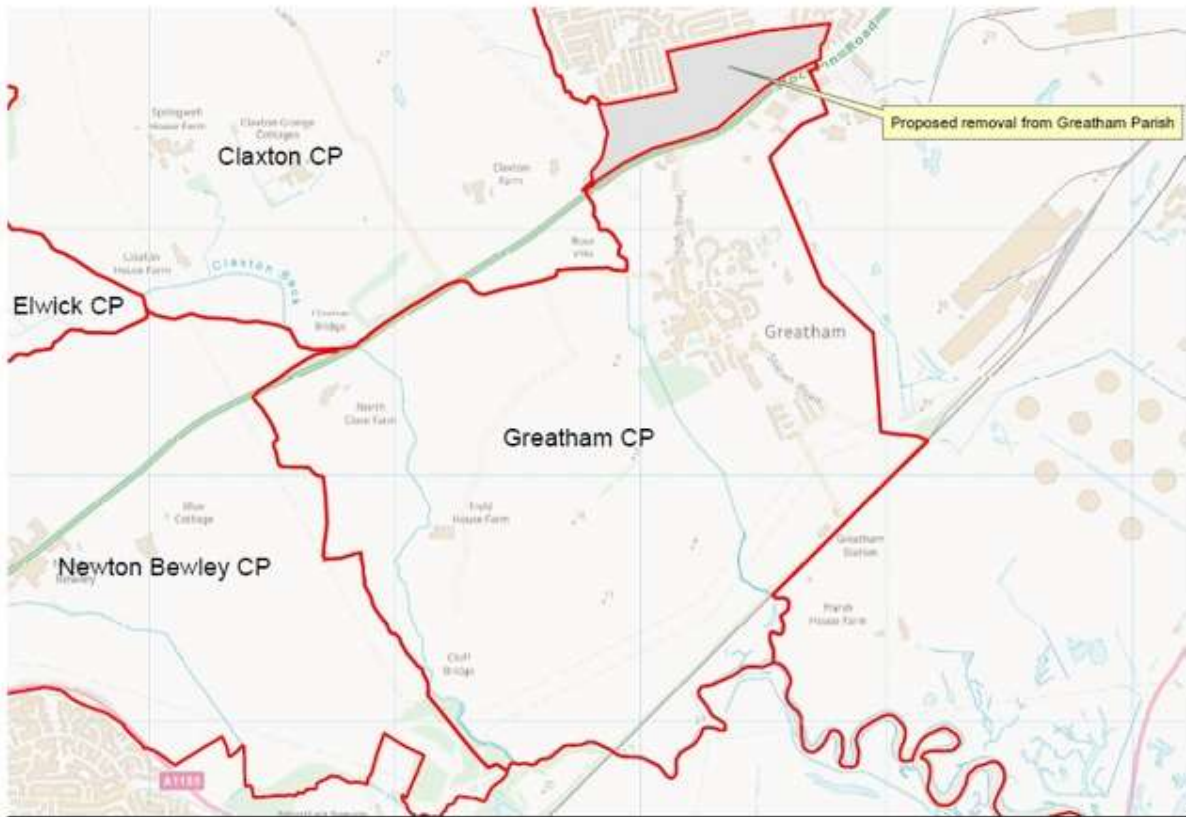
- 7.1 Functions relating to the conduct of Community Governance Review under Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 are reserved exclusively to Full Council. Views of this committee are invited to feed into the Managing Director's business report.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Guidance on community governance reviews - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf
- 8.2 Full Council - 19 March 2020 and 20 October 2020 (report and minutes)
- 8.3 Consultation responses are available should any member wish to review them.

9. CONTACT OFFICER

- 9.1 Neil Wilson
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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11th February 2021



Report of: Report of Chief Solicitor

Subject: REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL – REVIEW OF
SANCTIONS IMPOSED ON COUNCILLOR TONY
RICHARDSON

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of the referral from Council on the 28th January 2021 and seek a review of the sanctions imposed on Councillor Tony Richardson.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Council on the 28th January 2021 received a report in relation to a review of political proportionality and was asked to confirm a number of amended group appointments.
- 2.2 During the course of discussions, Councillor Tony Richardson expressed an interest in contesting a number of the nominations made for available committee seats. It was, however, noted that an investigation undertaken by the Audit and Governance Committee, on the 22nd January 2020, in relation to a potential breach of the Member code of conduct had resulted in a number of recommended sanctions against Councillor Tony Richardson. One of which specifically prohibits his appointment as a member of any committee for the remainder of his current term of office.
- 2.3 The recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee were considered by Council on the 10th June 2020 (minute no. 13) and the imposition of the following sanctions approved:
- That Full Council notes the findings and recommendations arising from the hearing that took place on 22 January 2020;
 - That Full Council terminates the membership of Councillor Tony Richardson on the Licensing, Planning and Local Joint Consultative Committees, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Coalition;
 - That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson shall not be appointed as a member of any committee for the remainder of his

current term of office and shall discourage any member from designating him as a substitute for them on any other committee;

- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson consider resigning as an elected member of Hartlepool Borough Council.
- That Full Council considers censure of Councillor Tony Richardson and issues the following formal statement:

“Hartlepool Borough Council is pleased to note that Councillor Tony Richardson accepts that he has breached the Council’s Code of Conduct and that he has apologised for doing so. The promotion of racist and offensive material in any forum falls well below the standards expected of those in public life and such actions cannot and will not be tolerated. The actions of Councillor Tony Richardson are not representative of this Authority or the communities that it represents and as such the Authority has worked to impose the most appropriate and stringent sanctions that are available in law.”

- 2.4 In light of Councillor Tony Richardson’s request to contest a number of the nominations made for available committee seats, and his commitment to attend meetings and training, Council has requested that the Audit and Governance Committee review the imposed sanctions to determine if they should be lifted.
- 2.5 To assist the Committee in consideration of the Council referral, a copy of the report considered by Council on the 10th June 2020, and minute (No. 13), are attached at **Appendix A and B** respectively.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 That the:-

- i) Audit and Governance Committee review the imposed sanctions imposed on Councillor Tony Richardson to determine if they should be lifted.
- ii) Recommendation(s) of the Audit and Governance Committee be referred to Council for consideration at its meeting on the 25th February 2021.

Contact Officer:- Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager
Chief Executive’s Department – Legal Services
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 284142
Email: joan.stevens@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

- Council:
 - Political Proportionality Review – 28th January 2021
 - Findings of the Committee following the Hearing of a Standards Complaint against Councillor Tony Richardson - Report of Audit and Governance Committee – 20th February 2020
 - Consideration Of Sanctions Against Councillor Tony Richardson – Report Of The Audit And Governance Committee – 10th June 2020
- Audit and Governance Committee:
 - Consideration of Investigation Report – SC01/2020 (NFP) – 20th January 2020

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

(Extract)

10 June 2020



Report of: Chief Executive

Subject: BUSINESS REPORT

9. CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNCILLOR TONY RICHARDSON – REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- 9.1 Following the receipt of a complaint about Councillor Tony Richardson and a subsequent investigation, the Audit and Governance Committee conducted a hearing on 22 January 2020. The outcomes of the Audit and Governance Committee's hearing were reported to Full council on 20 February 2020 along with a request that additional sanctions be considered. Full Council agreed that consideration of these additional sanctions should be deferred pending receipt of an independent review regarding the appropriateness of the procedures that had been followed and an opinion upon the merits of awaiting the outcome of a related investigation being undertaken by Cleveland Police.
- 9.2 This review has now been undertaken and the opinion of leading counsel is attached at **Appendix 3**. Counsel's review and opinion is based upon the following established facts:

- That Hartlepool Borough Council's Audit and Governance Committee were charged with determining a complaint that had been made in respect of the Council's Code of Conduct and not whether a criminal offence had been committed.
- The legal tests to be applied when considering a breach of a code of conduct and a criminal offence are very different.
- This breach of code was entirely and unequivocally accepted by Councillor Tony Richardson.
- The burden of proof and whether or not it is to the civil or criminal standard is immaterial for the purpose of this complaint. Councillor Tony Richardson accepted that he had shared the posts that were complained of and this acceptance would have been sufficient to satisfy either burden. Whether or not a fact is proved to either standard of proof is however only pertinent insofar as it relates to the elements of the breach/offence under consideration.
- The outcome of Audit and Governance Committee has been passed to Cleveland Police who have confirmed (in writing on 17/01/20 and again verbally on 05/03/20) that they have no reason to object to the Council dealing with its complaint in accordance with its procedures.

9.3 With due regard to this independent opinion, Full Council is now asked to consider the following recommendations made by the Audit and Governance Committee:

- That Full Council notes the findings and recommendations arising from the hearing that took place on 22 January 2020;
- That Full Council terminates the membership of Councillor Tony Richardson on the Licensing, Planning and Local Joint Consultative Committees, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Coalition;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson shall not be appointed as a member of any committee for the remainder of his current term of office and shall discourage any member from designating him as a substitute for them on any other committee;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson consider resigning as an elected member of Hartlepool Borough Council.
- That Full Council considers censure of Councillor Tony Richardson and issues the following formal statement:

“Hartlepool Borough Council is pleased to note that Councillor Tony Richardson accepts that he has breached the Council’s Code of Conduct and that he has apologised for doing so. The promotion of racist and offensive material in any forum falls well below the standards expected of those in public life and such actions cannot and will not be tolerated. The actions of Councillor Tony Richardson are not representative of this Authority or the communities that it represents and as such the Authority has worked to impose the most appropriate and stringent sanctions that are available in law.”

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Extract)

10 June 2020

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and was an online remote meeting in compliance with the Council Procedure Rules Relating to the holding of Remote Meetings and the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The Ceremonial Mayor (Councillor Loynes) presiding:

Following a roll call, it was noted that the following Elected Members were present:-

COUNCILLORS:

C Akers-Belcher	S Akers-Belcher	Black
Brewer	Brown	Buchan
Cartwright	Cassidy	Fleming
Hall	Hamilton	Harrison
Howson	Hunter	James
King	Lauderdale	Lindridge
Little	Marshall	Moore
Prince	A Richardson	C Richardson
Smith	Stokell	Tennant
Thomas	Ward	Young

Officers: Gill Alexander, Chief Executive
Chris Little, Director of Finance and Policy
Hayley Martin, Chief Solicitor
Claire McLaren, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
Sally Robinson, Director, Children's and Joint Commissioning Services
Jill Harrison, Director, Adult and Community Based Services
Denise McGuckin, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Amanda Whitaker, David Cosgrove, Denise Wimpenny and Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Team.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting there was a one minute silence in memory of those lost during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chair of Council expressed her appreciation for all the hard work and dedication shown by Council staff and Elected Members in managing the Covid crisis and the manner in which new and key services were being delivered.

13. CONSIDERATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNCILLOR TONY RICHARDSON – REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive reported that following the receipt of a complaint about Councillor Tony Richardson and a subsequent investigation, the Audit and Governance Committee had conducted a hearing on 22 January 2020. The outcomes of the Audit and Governance Committee's hearing had been reported to Full council on 20 February 2020 along with a request that additional sanctions be considered. Full Council had agreed that consideration of these additional sanctions should be deferred pending receipt of an independent review regarding the appropriateness of the procedures that had been followed and an opinion upon the merits of awaiting the outcome of a related investigation being undertaken by Cleveland Police. This review had now been undertaken and the opinion of leading counsel was appended to the report. With due regard to this independent opinion, Full Council was asked to consider the following recommendations made by the Audit and Governance Committee:

- That Full Council notes the findings and recommendations arising from the hearing that took place on 22 January 2020;
- That Full Council terminates the membership of Councillor Tony Richardson on the Licensing, Planning and Local Joint Consultative Committees, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Coalition;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson shall not be appointed as a member of any committee for the remainder of his current term of office and shall discourage any member from designating him as a substitute for them on any other committee;
- That Full Council resolves that Councillor Tony Richardson consider resigning as an elected member of Hartlepool Borough Council.
- That Full Council considers censure of Councillor Tony Richardson and issues the following formal statement:

“Hartlepool Borough Council is pleased to note that Councillor Tony Richardson accepts that he has breached the Council’s Code of Conduct and that he has apologised for doing so. The promotion of racist and offensive material in any forum falls well below the standards expected of those in public life and such actions cannot and will not be tolerated. The actions of Councillor Tony Richardson are not representative of this Authority or the communities that it represents and as such the Authority has worked to impose the most appropriate and stringent sanctions that are available in law.”

On concluding presentation of report, the Chief Executive highlighted that Councillor T Richardson had asked that the following statement be read out at the meeting:-

“I sincerely apologise for any offence that I may have caused by sharing the Facebook posts. I maintain that I am not a racist person but I do believe that I have been significantly careless and naive; it was honestly not my intention to cause any offence.

I hope with accepting these sanctions the residents of Hartlepool will forgive my carelessness and naivety and allow me to help the people of Fens & Rossmere Ward as I have been doing for the past 3 years.”

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright and seconded by Councillor S Akers-Belcher:-

“That the recorded vote be put on the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee”

In accordance with Rule 8 of the Council’s Procedure Rules Relating to the Holding of Remote Meetings, a recorded vote was taken.

Those for

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Councillor S Akers-Belcher, Black, Brewer, Brown, Buchan, Cartwright, Cassidy, Fleming, Hall, Hamilton, Harrison, Howson, Hunter, James, King, Lindridge, Little, Loynes, Marshall, Moore, Prince, C Richardson, Smith, Stokell, Tennant, Thomas, Ward and Young

Those against

None

Those abstaining

None

The vote was carried and the recommendations agreed.

The meeting concluded at 10.05 p.m.

CEREMONIAL MAYOR

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11th February 2021



Report of: Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)

Subject: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACTION PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For information. To provide the Committee with an update in relation to the development of an action plan in response to the Committee's recent investigation into anti-social behaviour.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At a meeting of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) on 4th September 2020 the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee presented a detailed report highlighting the findings and recommendations of an investigation into Anti-social Behaviour in Hartlepool.
- 2.2 At that meeting the SHP agreed the recommendations put forward and determined that an Action Plan would be developed that would be brought back to SHP at its meeting in November.
- 2.3 Due to other commitments, the draft Action Plan was delayed and was not presented in November but instead, was presented to the SHP on 22nd January 2021.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee have been transposed into an Action Plan that is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The Action Plan contains reference to the body or agency that is considered to be the most appropriate to take responsibility for each specific action and it has been populated with updates of actions already undertaken.
- 3.3 Anti-social behaviour has been identified by the SHP as one of its three key priorities in the Community Safety Plan 2020/21 and a Strategic Assessment recently undertaken to inform the development of the next Community Safety

Plan has recommended that anti-social behaviour remain as a key priority for 2021-24.

- 3.4 A multi-agency Working Group has been established that will look exclusively at the issues of anti-social behaviour and how, working together, progress can be made to tackle it.
- 3.5 In addition to the above, and in response to ongoing concerns regarding the increase and prevalence of fly tipping in the town, a multi-agency Fly Tipping Working Group has also been established, which includes representatives of local voluntary groups that contribute towards keeping Hartlepool tidy.
- 3.6 Updates on the work of both of the above groups, plus progress made against the ASB Action Plan, will be provided to this committee as required.
- 3.7 In addition to the above and attached, a verbal update on further progress will be provided to the Committee.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Financial Considerations	No relevant issues
Legal Considerations	No relevant issues
Consultation	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	No relevant issues
Section 17 of The Crime And Disorder Act 1998 Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee notes the contents of this report.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

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 Sylvia.pinkney@hartlepool.gov.uk

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ACTION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE / PROPOSED ACTION ⁺	FINANCIAL / OTHER IMPLICATIONS	LEAD OFFICER	COMPLETION DATE*
a) Perception of Anti-Social Behaviour				
<p>i) That in response to concerns regarding under reporting of ASB in Hartlepool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work be undertaken with Nottingham Trent University and partner organisations (including Police, Fire Brigade and RSL) to explore the overlaying of data, including Office for National Statistics, risk factors and identified characteristics, to highlight areas of unreported ASB and plan the future focus of resources; and - Based on the area identified following the overlay of data, a focused exercise be undertaken to promote reporting. 	<p>An approach has been made to Nottingham Trent University to establish how we can work together.</p> <p>To be carried out as part of the work with Nottingham Trent University.</p>		<p>Sylvia Pinkney</p> <p>Sylvia Pinkney</p>	<p>Discussions with Nottingham Trent university commenced December 2020.</p> <p>Dependant on above discussions</p>

ii) That as part of the overlaying of data referenced in (i) above, the Audit and Governance Committee receive, as part of its 2020/21 Work Programme, a further report on the correlation between areas with significant levels of rented accommodation and ASB.	To be carried out as part of the work with Nottingham Trent University.		Sylvia Pinkney	Dependant on above discussions
<p>iii) That options for the involvement of young people in Hartlepool (potentially through the Youth Council and Children in Care Council) in the development of the below be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A promotional campaign to redress the perception that young people are the primary source of ASB. - A young person focused approach to preventing and responding to ASB. - Improved communication with young people about the impact of ASB and the diversionary activities that are available.' 	The Youth Council/Children in Care Council/Youth Service can be asked if they would like to be involved in this piece of work.		<p>Zoe McKenna</p> <p>Zoe McKenna/ Young People</p> <p>Zoe McKenna/ Young People</p> <p>Zoe McKenna/ Young People</p>	

b) Partnership Working				
<p>i) That in terms of the Integrated Community Safety Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Team be commended on their success in bringing agencies together in a ground-breaking partnership arrangement to deliver enforcement and education activity within the resources available; and - Existing levels of staffing be maintained to ensure the sustainability of current activities and that a review of the current enforcement responsibilities be undertaken to ensure that the Team's enforcement responsibilities are balanced and have no negative impact on its ability to respond to ASB as a priority. 	Ongoing.		<p>Chair A&G</p> <p>Sylvia Pinkney</p>	April 2021
<p>ii) That the Cleveland Fire Brigade be commended on the value of their inter-agency working, in terms of ongoing home visits as a useful tool for the identification of vulnerable individuals.</p>			Chair A&G	
<p>iii) That the Audit and Governance Committee receive, as part of its 2020/21 Work Programme, a further report on the development of relationships between both primary and secondary schools and older people/residential homes.</p>	<p>In the current climate, this work cannot be delivered due to the vulnerability of older people/people in residential care. Schools in Hartlepool link up with care homes within their community to build cross generational links and</p>		Amanda Whitehead	

	relationships. This is down to individual schools and there is no one programme delivered across Hartlepool.			
iv) That in terms of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership partners, that:				
- The partners commit and sign a pledge to prioritise anti-social behaviour as a significant crime and record / respond to it accordingly;	ASB has been identified as one of the three high priority areas for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for 2020/21.		SHP	December 2020
- An anti-social behaviour update be included as an annual item on SHP agenda to raise the profile of anti-social behaviour and enable all partners to feedback any issues and/or areas of good practice in dealing with anti-social behaviour;	An ASB group is to be established to lead on the delivery of this priority through 2021.		SHP	December 2020
- That enforcement action be expanded and the resulting issues of displacement of ASB be monitored and reported to the SHP; and	Performance against agreed PI's for ASB will be reported back to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on a quarterly basis.		Sylvia Pinkney	June 2021
- A Member Champion for anti-social behaviour be appointed and appointed to sit on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership to demonstrate the Council's commitment to dealing with anti-social behaviour.	To be discussed with Safer Hartlepool Partnership Chair.		SHP	January 2021

[illegible]

2020/21 Work Programme, a further report on the implementation of promised increases in Neighbourhood Police and PCSO numbers in Hartlepool.	15 PCSO's and awaiting the arrival of two further officers. Additionally the teams are supported by a Community Safety Team who work with diverse and hard to reach communities. Each morning the demand on the Neighbourhoods Teams is reviewed and a monthly activity report is produced. In addition to the above, each ward now has a PCSO.			
c) Reporting and Satisfaction				
i) That the outcome of the Thirteen's pilot scheme to increase the reporting of ASB, and online app, be evaluated and its potential roll out to non-Thirteen customers explored.	The development of the app will be discussed at the Community Safety Team at its next meeting and a representative from Thirteen will present the outcome to a future meeting of the Committee date tbc.		Angela Corner – Thirteen	
ii) That the development of further options for the reporting of anti-social behaviour be explored alongside more traditional reporting mechanisms, including: - Online and use of electronic apps (including the Fix-My-Street scheme); - More innovative ways for older people to report anti-social behaviour; and	This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Group, specifically an examination of the Council's website and how the issue of ASB can be found by one 'click'.		Sylvia Pinkney	Discussions have commenced. Development of online platform is dependent on capacity of multiple agencies/ departments

- A potential single point of contact.				
iii) That issues relating to the need for multiple reports / contacts before action is taken by partners be explored to ascertain if there is a demonstrable issue and identify ways of addressing potential problems.	This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Anti-Social Behaviour Group.		Sylvia Pinkney	Work commenced January 2021
iv) That a review be undertaken to identify ways to improve: - Satisfaction levels with anti-social behaviour interventions; and - Keep victims (including individual residents, groups of residents and shop owners) informed of progress throughout the process for dealing with any reported incidents.	This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Anti-Social Behaviour Group.		Sylvia Pinkney	Work commenced January 2021
d) Support and Promotion				
i) That a town wide campaign be undertaken advertising prevention / enforcement activities, successes and outcomes, with the aim of promoting and encouraging reporting and improved communication with victims of ASB.	This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Group.		Sylvia Pinkney	December 2021
ii) That the Council number for reporting ASB be promoted more widely within local communities to	This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Partnership Anti-		Sylvia Pinkney	December 2021

help reinvigorate Neighbourhood Policing, leading to enhanced problem solving activity within localities to tackle ASB and other community issues.	Social Behaviour Group.			
iii) That in 6 months' time the Audit and Governance Committee receive, as part of its 2020/21 Work Programme, a further report on the continuation/replacement of the Think Family Programme (Troubled Families) and its activities in relation to ASB.	An update on the Troubled Families Programme can be provided in January/February on the progress of the scheme during 2020/21.		Jane Young	
iv) That in light of issues with awareness and take up of support services for victims of ASB, the package of services be evaluated to ascertain if it is fit for purpose and whether alternative support mechanisms need to be identified which better fits the needs of victims.	Ongoing		Sylvia Pinkney	April 2021

<p>v) In relation to the Community Trigger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Whilst it is referenced on Hartlepool Borough Council's web site, further promotion be undertaken, including the need for it to be referenced on the new Police single point of contact reporting system; - The potential implications of increased promotion of the Community Trigger on the workload of the Integrated Community Safety Team be evaluated and responded to accordingly; and - The outcome of discussions between the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the Victims and Witness Group on the implementation of the Community Trigger be reported to a future meeting of the Committee. 	<p>Work will be undertaken to improve ASB reporting on the Council's website, including reference to external partners and how complaints can be made (such as the Community Trigger).</p> <p>Discussions have taken place in relation to Community Trigger at the PCC Working Together Meeting – there has been concerns from Local Authority colleagues in relation to capacity to deliver Community Trigger. In addition to the above in August 2020 the Victims Commissioner wrote an open letter to the Home Secretary in relation to Community Trigger. Following the publishing of the ASB help report – the PCC now publishes information in relation to community trigger on their https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.</p>		<p>Sylvia Pinkney</p> <p>OPCC</p>	<p>January 2021</p> <p>April 2021</p>
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	uk/how-can-we-help/problems/anti-social-behaviour-and-neighbour-disputes/			
vi) That Elected Members are not being utilised to their full capacity in terms of the value that could add to the work of the Integrated Team and the ASB prevention / intervention process. To facilitate this:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A full training programme to be provided covering the sources of advice and support available, formal routes of reporting through the Contact Centre and criteria / potential use of the Community Trigger; - A publicity campaign need to be undertaken to promote the role of Members as part of the mechanism for reporting of ASB and supporting residents; and - Regular briefings/communications be provided for Ward Councillors on ASB issues in their own Ward. 	<p>A Members training plan for 2021/22 is being developed.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to how this can be achieved.</p>		<p>Sylvia Pinkney Lorraine Bennison</p> <p>Comms/ Lorraine Bennison</p> <p>Sylvia Pinkney/ Lorraine Bennison</p>	<p>May 2021</p> <p>July 2021</p>

e) Solutions				
i) Mirroring arrangement with schools, the potential to have a named PCSO contact for all residential/care homes be explored.	Police update – each ward now has a PCSO and any issues surrounding a care home would be resolved in partnership with the Community Safety Team.		Cleveland Police	
ii) That ways of addressing ASB be found by working 'with' communities across all age groups, rather than doing it 'to' them, including the development of a campaign to 'Take Back Neighbourhoods' and promote pride in local community through social responsibility and collaborative working.	<p>This will be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Fly Tipping Group has been established that includes local litter picking groups 		Sylvia Pinkney/ Comms	Commenced Jan 2021
iii) In recognition of the value of organised play activities/facilities in communities across Hartlepool, as an alternative to ASB, a review of activities/facilities be undertaken and their location publicised.			Gemma Ptak	
f) Education and Engagement				
<p>(i) That in terms of the excellent work being undertaken as part of the ASBAD and Crucial Crew programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All schools across the town be encouraged (via Head Teachers, Chairs of Governors and PHSE Lead Officers to participate in the ASBAD / Crucial Crew Education Programme; and 	There is a high uptake of Crucial Crew from schools and this is promoted and encouraged.		Craig Blundred/ Joanne Andrews/ Sylvia Pinkney	Due to the involvement of schools and the impact of covid, it is unlikely to progress before 2022.

- The future funding of ASBAD/Crucial Crew Education Programmes be reviewed to assist in their sustainability going forward.	The funding arrangements are to be reviewed to ascertain if this can be secured within base budget.		Craig Blundred/ Joanne Andrews/ Sylvia Pinkney	Subject to ongoing corporate budget position
ii) That anti-social behaviour prevention / intervention be promoted as part of existing local authority, and partner provided, engagement and activity programmes (e.g. free swims and holiday hunger).			Gemma Ptak	
iii) That the identification of role models (such as local celebrities) to take part in ASB education and prevention activities be explored.			Sylvia Pinkney/ Comms	December 2021
iv) That as part of a wider ASB programme of engagement, all primary and secondary schools across Hartlepool be encouraged to commit to an agreed schedule of activities involving the Police, Fire, NEAS and local authority.	PSCHE curriculum – recently been reviewed as new responsibilities came in in September 2020. LA can only agree to encourage a schedule of activities and will require the provision of information to schools from organisations on their offer.		Amanda Whitehead	
v) That a campaign be undertaken to dispel the myth that young people are the primary instigators of ASB.	Covered in a(iii) above. This will also be investigated as part of the work of the new Safer Hartlepool Partnership Anti-Social Behaviour Group.		Sylvia Pinkney/Zoe McKenna/ Young People	July 2021

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 February 2021



Report of: Statutory Scrutiny Manager

Subject: ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INVESTIGATION –
ACTION PLAN UPDATE FROM THIRTEEN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To welcome representatives from Thirteen who will join the meeting to provide the Committee with a presentation to update the Committee on progress against actions within the Action Plan of the Committee's investigation into anti-social behaviour in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Committee's investigation into anti-social behaviour and associated action plan was concluded in March 2020. Updates will be provided on the progress of the actions contained within the Plan on a regular basis.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

During the investigation into anti-social behaviour representatives from Thirteen Housing informed Members of the Committee of the introduction of a pilot scheme to increase the reporting of anti-social behaviour. The Committee will be provided with an update on the progress of this pilot and the potential to roll it out to non-Thirteen customers.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Audit and Governance Committee note the update and seek clarification on any issues, where required.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Contact Officer:- Joan Stevens – Statutory Scrutiny Manager
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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 February 2021



Report of: Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services

Subject: THINK FAMILY – HARTLEPOOL TROUBLED FAMILIES
PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

1.1 Non Key.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 This report provides an overview of the Troubled Families Programme, known locally as Think Family and the positive impact it has had on families with multiple and complex needs since its inception in 2012. Details on what is currently known about the extension of the programme to 2022 are also outlined in this report.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The national Troubled Families programme was initially formulated in the aftermath of the 2011 riots with an ambition of transforming the way services work with families and how partner organisations work together to deliver and effective intervention strategy.

3.2 Although the programme has evolved since its launch in 2012, the main aims of the programme - to improve outcomes for families, transform local services and reduce reliance on costly specialist services – have remained the same. These aims are driven by a service transformation grant and a 'payment by results' funding structure.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 No options submitted for consideration other than the recommendation(s).

5. DELIVERY MODEL OF PHASE ONE OF THINK FAMILY

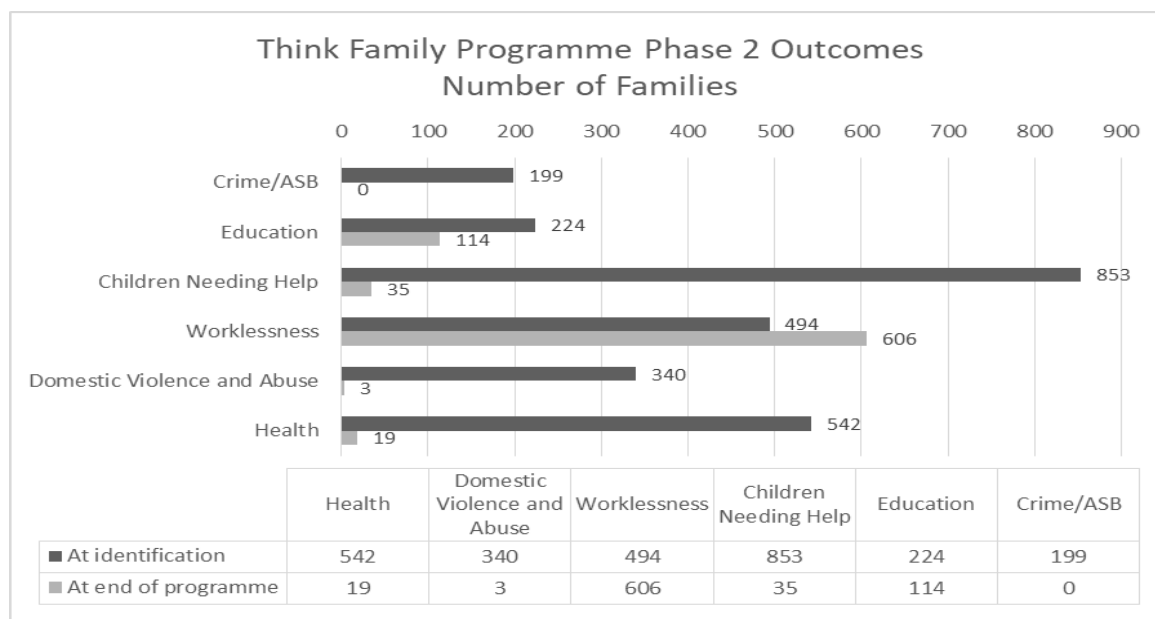
- 5.1 The original Troubled Families Programme, also known as 'phase one' ran from April 2012 to March 2015. Hartlepool was mandated to identify 290 families that met two or more of the three headline criteria and support them to achieve positive outcomes. The criteria were:
- Poor school attendance (85% or below over three consecutive terms) and school exclusion;
 - Youth crime and anti-social behaviour; and
 - Adult unemployment.
- 5.2 Positive outcomes were evidenced by a reduction in negative behaviours sustained for a minimum of six months known as significant and sustained progress and offered a financial incentive of 'payment by results' (PBR) to the local authority. Alternatively, supporting an adult in the family into employment for a minimum of 26 weeks was also a positive outcome which yielded a PBR payment.
- 5.3 In addition to the above, the Council also had to adhere to the following principles of the programme:
- Families have an assessment that takes into account the needs of the whole family;
 - There is an action plan that takes into account all relevant family members; and
 - There is a lead practitioner/key worker for the family that is recognised by the family and other professionals involved with the family.
- 5.4 A multi-agency team was established with the aim of piloting new ways of working to improve outcomes for families. The team was made up of a Youth Offending Worker, a Family Support Worker, two Probation Officers, an Attendance Officer and a Housing Officer. There were also a number of professionals that had dedicated time to work alongside the team and were part of the 'virtual team'; including three Anti-Social Behaviour Officers, a Substance Misuse Worker and a Domestic Violence Worker. In addition to this, the team had access to case supervision and training from the Local Authority's Psychology team.

6 DELIVERY MODEL PHASE TWO OF THINK FAMILY

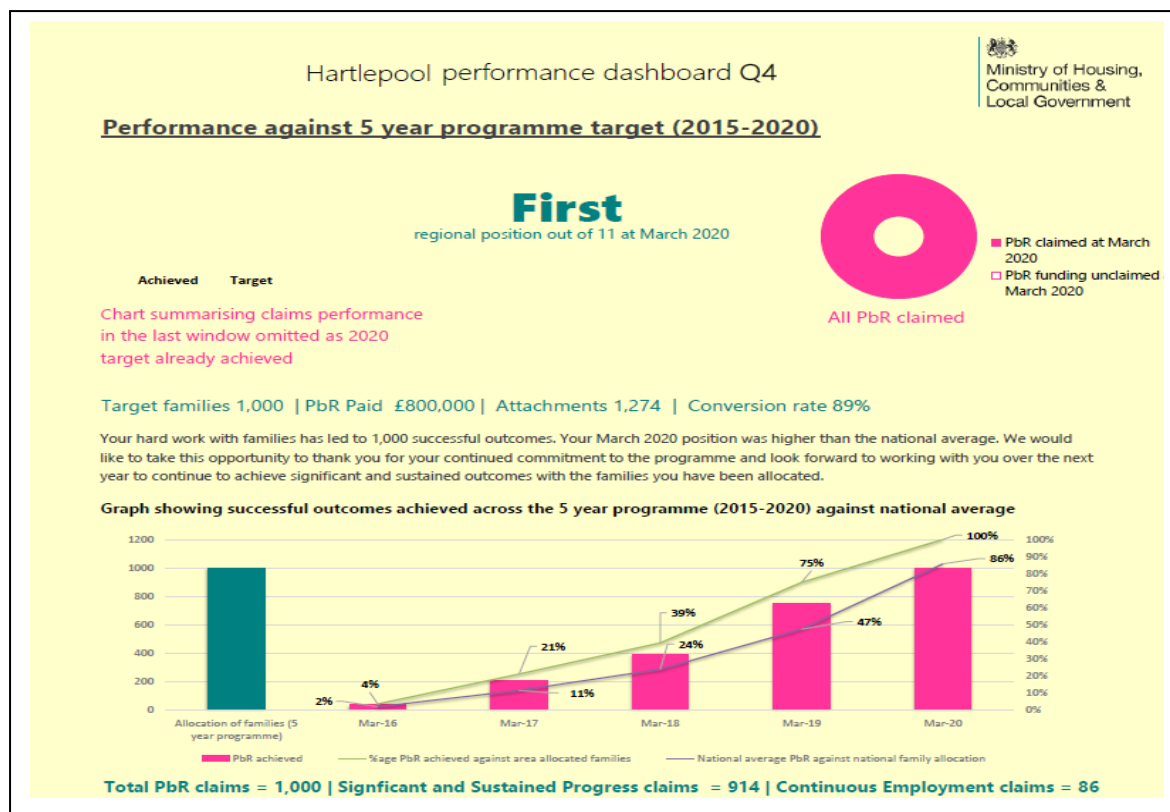
- 6.1 Fifty-one of the highest performing areas, including Hartlepool, were invited to be early adopters of phase two of the programme in September 2014. This gave us the opportunity to influence the operating model for the national rollout of the programme in April 2015. Phase two ended in March 2020.

- 6.2 The basic principles of the programme remained the same but with the addition of a requirement to develop a local Family Outcomes Plan which reflected the expanded six key headline issues and the focus on adults as well as young people (see **Appendix 1**):
- Staying safe in the community: Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
 - Getting a good education and skills for life: Children who have not been attending school regularly or have multiple exclusions;
 - Improving children's life chances: Children of all ages who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood;
 - Improving living standards: Families experiencing or at risk of worklessness, homelessness or financial difficulties;
 - Staying safe in relationships: Families affected by domestic violence and abuse; and
 - Living well, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing: Parents and children with a range of health problems.
- 6.3 The principle of significant and sustained change remained but was made more ambitious with an expectation that headline problems would be completely resolved and behaviour change sustained for a minimum of six months rather than just a reduction in certain behaviours.
- 6.4 Hartlepool was mandated to identify and secure positive outcomes for 1000 families. This would have been difficult for one team to manage so the Think Family Team were disbanded and former members returned to their substantive posts charged with disseminating learning from phase one as the programme was mainstreamed across Council services.
- 6.5 In order to ensure the efficacy of the programme, MHCLG implemented a robust performance monitoring system which formed part of the terms of the programme. Local authorities had to submit quarterly data returns regarding family progress and contributions to the national impact study as well being subject to two inspections by MHCLG during the lifetime of the programme.
- 6.6 Hartlepool exceeded all targets by identifying and supporting 1324 families to achieve positive outcomes. HBC was identified, through MHCLG's own performance monitoring, as being the top performing authority in the North East for positive outcomes.

7 POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THINK FAMILY



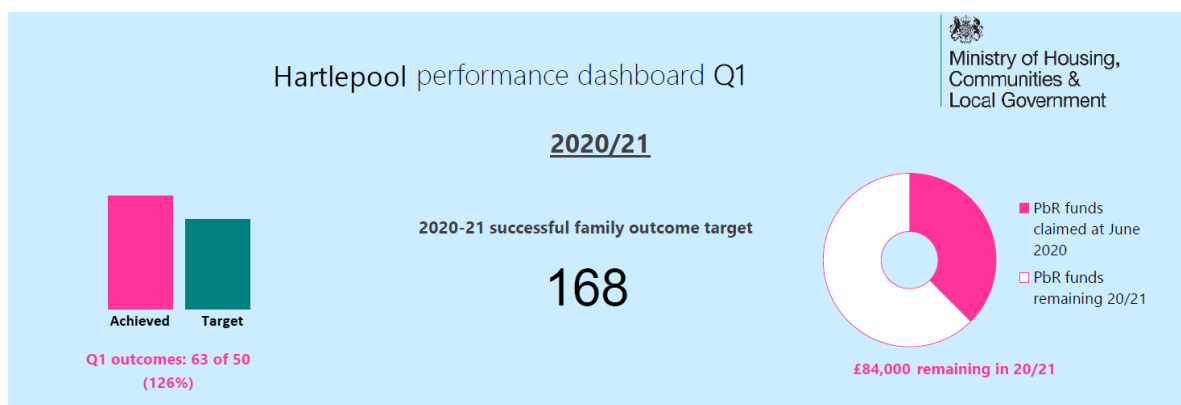
- 7.1 In phase two, there have been particular successes in the areas of crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and health. The health category includes both substance misuse and physical and mental health. These can all be life-long issues but the measure of success is that the health need is managed and the individual is engaging with their care plan. The table below shows progress made based around identified need during phase two of the programme.
- 7.2 The only anomaly is the worklessness criteria which is due to the way that families are identified. Now that Think Family is mainstreamed, a significant proportion of families are identified by a key worker. Employment is not always the primary focus of key workers in the early days of working with a family, therefore, this tends to be picked up after the family had already been identified. This is a valid method but does skew the data. In fact, our seconded Think Family Employment Advisor supported adults in 86 families into sustained employment. In addition to this, she has supported families to access benefit entitlement which has stabilised many families who were struggling financially as well as helping adults who were already in work but were also experiencing poverty.
- 7.3 At the end of Phase two Hartlepool was identified through MHCLG's own performance monitoring as being the top performer in the North East for positive outcomes as the chart below shows.



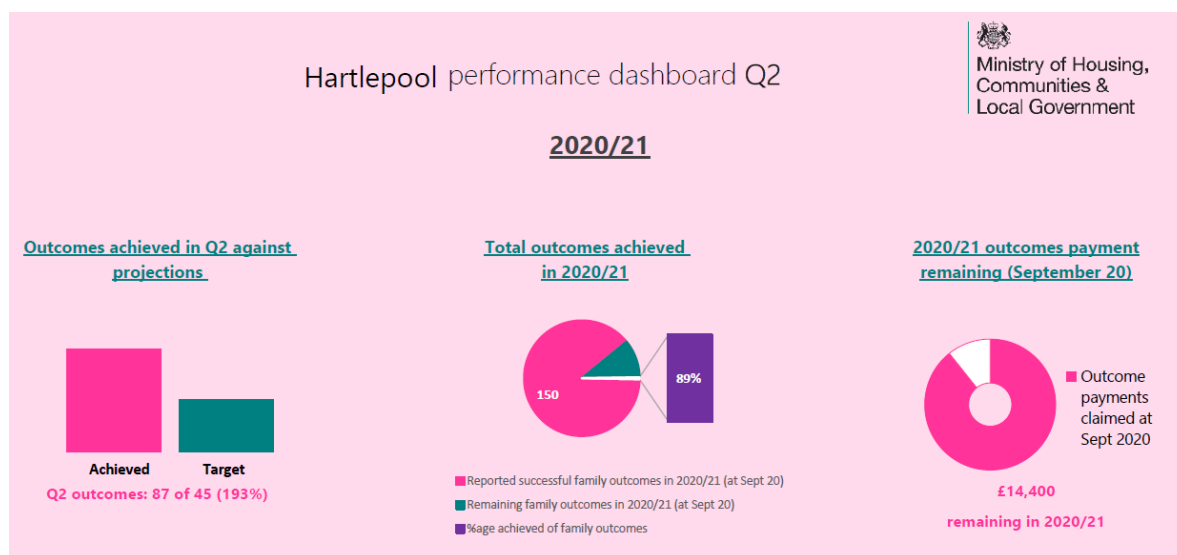
8. SUBSEQUENT EXTENSIONS OF THINK FAMILY

- 8.1 A transformed third phase of the programme was planned for April 2020, however, due to the prioritisation of Britain's exit from the European Union, the MHCLG took the decision to extend the programme by 12 months with no fundamental changes, and start the third phase in April 2021.
- 8.2 For this additional year, Hartlepool was mandated to work with an additional 168 families to achieve positive outcomes. As we had achieved our target for phase two a whole quarter early, we were able to prepare and start working with families immediately.
- 8.3 Partnership working through the Community Safety Hub has been crucial to the success of tackling anti-social behaviour. Individuals and patterns in incidents are picked up in a timely way and Cleveland Police have invested in an Early Intervention Co-ordinator who works directly with children and young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. This joint investment in tackling ASB has resulted in the positive outcomes that can be seen in the data which, due to the programme being mainstreamed, is received from the ASBU, cross referenced and reported back to MHCLG.

- 8.4 The following graphs taken from MHCG's Troubled Families performance dashboard shows the data over the first two quarters of 2020/21.



- 8.5 Hartlepool has exceeded targets again, which is a considerable achievement considering the first two quarters of 2020/21 were incredibly difficult for both families and staff given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and national lockdown. Credit should be given to all those staff across all partner organisations that rose to the challenge and worked creatively to support families experiencing increased disadvantage this year.
- 8.6 As at the beginning of December 2020, Hartlepool has achieved its target of supporting 168 families to achieve positive outcomes. This places us in a good position to prepare for next year.



- 8.7 The national COVID-19 crisis has further delayed the development of a revised programme and a further 12 month extension of the current programme has been secured at the Spending Review in November 2020. At the time of writing this report, it is unknown how many families Hartlepool will be required to work with in this additional year and what changes, if any, will be made to the headline criteria. We have been assured that no fundamental changes will be made to the programme for the coming year.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The main risk to the Think Family Programme is that government decide not to pursue this programme any further after March 2022. This is unlikely as the national Troubled Families programme has proved a success, but cannot be ruled out. Should this happen, a decision would need to be taken as to whether the programme continues in its current form.
- 9.2 There is also the risk that conflicting priorities and staffing pressures mean that information sharing and partnership working are put under strain. Given their importance to the operation and performance management of the programme, it would be impossible to continue without these two key elements.

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 MHCLG carried out a cost savings exercise based on those families identified and engaged in the first two years of phase one. Each local authority had to provide details of the annual cost of delivering their programme, identifying which costs were shouldered by each of the partner organisations involved. This was then matched up with family progress information and payment by results information. The results were analysed by MHCLG's own economists and extrapolated over a five year period. It was estimated that the public purse had saved an estimated £8,781.22 as a result of Hartlepool's programme. This equates to savings of over £30,000 per family over five years. Whilst these figures seem extreme, they include savings on out of work benefits, refuge places, prison places and A&E treatment costs. For context, MHCLG estimated that the annual cost to Hartlepool partners of a family prior to intervention was £13,298, after intervention it was £2,757.
- 10.2 At time of writing, Think Family has generated £4,453,000 in income consisting of an annual service transformation grant which fluctuates year on year, attachment fees of £100 per family identified and payment by result income of £800 per family that that successfully achieves positive change.

11. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no legal implications over and above those concerning the safe sharing of information. There are information sharing agreements in place as well as privacy notices and a robust informed consent process which gives families all the information they need to make an informed choice about the sharing of their information.

12. CONSULTATION

- 12.1 Feedback was gathered from 24 families about the support they have received using a linear scale from zero to 10 as well as semi-structured interview questions. Zero indicated a negative and 10 equalled a positive.
- 12.2 Families were asked to identify how they felt about their lives both before and after intervention. 100% of families said that before intervention they were sitting somewhere between 0 – 4. 11 families felt that they were at zero (46%). Many families reported feeling alone and overwhelmed with their problems; they said that they **‘wanted to give up’** had **‘no one to turn to’** and they were **‘desperate for help’**.
- 12.3 After intervention, all families identified some positive movement along the scale. Fifteen out of the 24 families (63%) placed themselves as sitting between 8 and 10 on the scale. Families generally felt more able to think about the future, have aspirations and set goals, particularly in relation to education, training and employment.
- 12.4 Common themes identified during the interviews are listed below. The families own words are quoted where possible:
- Quality of the relationship between workers and the family: This was a key factor which involved enabling and empowering families to solve their problems.
 - Trust: This was built upon reliability, timeliness of support and encouragement of the parent/child/young person. Respondents said that problems were solved **‘without a fuss’**, **‘it was someone to lean on, a woman to understand how I feel’**
 - Communication: they felt **‘comfortable’** talking to the worker who **‘never promised anything without doing it’**
 - Intervention was client led: **‘No pressure it was all done at our pace’** and involved **‘working together and listening’**.
 - Families recognised that the process was difficult and required work from them: **‘it has been hard and difficult but glad I allowed TF into my life’**.

13. CHILD/FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS

- 13.1 The programme has a seconded DWP Employment Advisor working with families experiencing financial exclusion to support them into employment and to help them access the benefits they are entitled to.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 14.1 The programme is mainstreamed so everyone who receives a service, receives the same level of service.

**15. SECTION 17 OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998
CONSIDERATIONS**

- 15.1 Think Family has a specific focus on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour involving both young people and adults. Families must show significant and sustained pro-social behaviour change to be considered a positive outcome.

16. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 16.1 There are no staff considerations.

17. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 17.1 There are no asset management considerations.

18. SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS

- 18.1 Partnership working and information sharing has been crucial to the success of the Think Family programme. Although the collection and analysis of data for the programme is resource intensive, it is a very rich source of intelligence. It has already enabled us to drive important strategic decisions such as the commissioning of services, the restructuring of Early Help and the formation of the Community Support Team. Thought should be given to how this wealth of information and intelligence could be used to support evidence-based decision making beyond the Think Family programme.
- 18.2 To ensure the data is available to inform strategic decision making, partnership working needs to continue to ensure information sharing is both smooth and safe. There are areas where partnership working and information sharing could be improved for even greater intelligence regarding our families. For example, substance misuse and mental and physical health information are significant gaps. Whilst case recording by key workers goes some way to mitigating this, it is by no means a substitute for data that could help identify trends and gaps in service.
- 18.3 After the coming 12 month extension, there are no guarantees that the national Troubled Families Programme will be developed into a third phase. In order to continue the work started by Think Family, there needs to be clear support for the principles of the programme in Hartlepool across all partners.

19. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report

20. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 20.1 Think Family has demonstrated the effectiveness of holistic intervention for families with multiple and complex problems that include the whole family and is delivered by one trusted key worker to one plan. Although the national Troubled Families programme has been extended to March 2022, there are no guarantees beyond this. Therefore, it is worth considering how, as a partnership, we could further strengthen practice and information sharing.

21. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 21.1 None.

22. CONTACT OFFICER

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Sign Off:-

- Director of Finance and Policy ☒
- Chief Solicitor/Monitoring Officer ☒

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

1. Is this decision a Budget & Policy Framework or Key Decision? YES / NO				
If YES please answer question 2 below				
2. Will there be an impact of the decision requested in respect of Child and Family Poverty? YES / NO				
If YES please complete the matrix below				
GROUP	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE
Young working people aged 18 - 21	✓	x		
Those who are disabled or suffer from illness / mental illness				
Those with low educational attainment				
Those who are unemployed				
Those who are underemployed				
Children born into families in poverty				
Those who find difficulty in managing their finances				
Lone parents				
Those from minority ethnic backgrounds				
Poverty is measured in different ways. Will the policy / decision have an impact on child and family poverty and in what way?				
Poverty Measure (examples of poverty measures appended overleaf)	POSITIVE IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	REASON & EVIDENCE

POVERTY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Overall impact of Policy / Decision			
NO IMPACT / NO CHANGE		ADJUST / CHANGE POLICY / SERVICE	
ADVERSE IMPACT BUT CONTINUE		STOP / REMOVE POLICY / SERVICE	
Examples of Indicators that impact of Child and Family Poverty.			
Economic			
Children in Low Income Families (%)			
Children in Working Households (%)			
Overall employment rate (%)			
Proportion of young people who are NEET			
Adults with Learning difficulties in employment			
Education			
Free School meals attainment gap (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Gap in progression to higher education FSM / Non FSM			
Achievement gap between disadvantaged pupils and all pupils (key stage 2 and key stage 4)			
Housing			
Average time taken to process Housing Benefit / Council tax benefit claims			
Number of affordable homes built			
Health			
Prevalence of underweight children in reception year			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year			
Prevalence of underweight children in year 6			
Prevalence of obese children in reception year 6			
Life expectancy			

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

Department	Division	Section	Owner/Officer
Service, policy, practice being reviewed/changed or planned			
Why are you making the change?			
How might this impact (positively/negatively) on people who share protected characteristics?			
		<i>Please tick</i>	
		POSITIVELY	NEGATIVELY
Age		✓	✗
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Disability			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Gender Re-assignment			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Race			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Religion			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Gender			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Sexual Orientation			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Marriage & Civil Partnership			

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

<i>Please describe...</i>			
Pregnancy & Maternity			
<i>Please describe...</i>			
Has there been consultation /is consultation planned with people who will be affected by this policy? How has this affected your decision making?			
As a result of your decision how can you mitigate negative/maximise positive outcomes and foster good relationships?			
Describe how you will address and monitor the impact		1. No Impact - No Major Change <i>Please Detail</i>	
		2. Adjust/Change Policy <i>Please Detail</i>	
		3. Adverse Impact but Continue as is <i>Please Detail</i>	
		4. Stop/Remove Policy/Proposal <i>Please Detail</i>	
Initial Assessment	<i>00/00/00</i>	Reviewed	<i>00/00/00</i>
Completed	<i>00/00/00</i>	Published	<i>00/00/00</i>

Think Family Hartlepool

Family Outcome Plan 2020/21

Hartlepool Borough Council
Child and Adult Services



Purpose of the Think Family Outcome Plan

This document is a guide for frontline practitioners and managers across the Hartlepool to help evidence improved outcomes for families for the national Troubled Families Programme, known locally as Think Family. The programme supports families with multiple and complex problems; changing lives and transforming services for the better. This outcome framework provides a concise and clear account of the goals Hartlepool wants to achieve and against which, success can be measured and verified. Those families for whom **significant and sustained progress** or **continuous employment** has been achieved will attract a 'payment-by-result' under the terms of the programme and the national Financial Framework.

Vision

Our ambition as a children's partnership is to enable all children and families in Hartlepool to have opportunities to make the most of their life changes and be safe in their homes and communities.

We will achieve this vision through the following four principles:

- Families will have an assessment that takes account of the needs of the whole family;
- There is an action plan that takes account of all relevant family members;
- There is a lead/key worker for the family that is recognised by the family and other professionals involved with the family; and
- The objectives in the family action plan are aligned to Hartlepool's Think Family Outcomes Plan.

Identification of families and their needs

Families will be identified where they **meet two or more of the six key headline problems** set out in this plan (see below).

This outcomes plan should be applied to all families requiring support. It is not just for those families specifically identified and supported under the remit of Think Family.

As part of the whole family assessment and planning process the Lead Professional/Key Worker and the Team around the Family (TAF) will work with the family to identify all issues which need to be addressed. This will form the basis of a single multi agency Family Plan. Relevant outcomes will be drawn from this outcomes plan, against which significant and sustained progress will be judged. **In order to demonstrate that the family has achieved significant and sustained progress an outcome must be achieved for each headline problem present in the family.**

Where an additional headline problem or problems arise during the course of the intervention an outcome **must** also be achieved for these problems in order to demonstrate that the family has achieved significant and sustained progress

The 6 key headline issues (families are eligible if they have 2 or more presenting issues)

- 1. Staying safe in the community: Parents or children involved in crime or anti-social behaviour**
- 2. Getting a good education and skills for life: Children who have not been attending school regularly**
- 3. Improving children's life chances: Children of all ages who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood**
- 4. Improving living standards: Families experiencing or at risk of worklessness, homelessness or financial difficulties**
- 5. Staying safe in relationships: Families affected by domestic violence and abuse**
- 6. Living well, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing: Parents and children with a range of health problems**

Management oversight

Managers must continue to ensure that they maintain oversight of all Think Family cases, using relevant management checkpoints.

The Think Family team will undertake a series of agreed quality assurance checks on all cases to ensure that outcomes are reliable and accurate (for example, reviewing school census records regarding attendance, cross-check against youth crime data)

TF Criteria:	Staying Safe in the Community: Parents and young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour		
Key Indicators:	Reduction in entrants into the youth justice system Reduction in re-offending Reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour among families and children		
Identification	Significant and Sustained Progress		Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child aged 10 to 17 years has committed a proven offence* in the previous 12 months Adult ages 18+ has committed a proven offence* in the previous 12 months Adult with parenting responsibilities on a community order or suspended sentence Adult with parenting responsibilities who has less than 12 months from their release date from prison Young person how has less than 12 months from their release date from a secure unit and will be returning home Adult with parenting responsibilities subject to licence or supervision (post release) Adult or child who has been involved in an anti-social behaviour incident in the last 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proven offences by any family member in the household in the last six months No known anti-social behaviour incidents by any family member in the household in the last six months Successful completion of an ASB or Housing related ASB Order by any family member in the household Engaged in a child to adult abuse programme or family relationship programme such as Let's Get Along, Parents as Partners, Strengthening Families, Being a Parent or similar Child or adult has been referred to Channel and is engaging with an action plan Child has engaged with the YJS Knives and Weapons Awareness programme. 		Police/Community Safety/YJS/Housing Provider/PRU/VCS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult or child involved in a gang; county lines and/or serious violence including knife crime, gun crime and robbery as a victim or perpetrator in the last 12 months • Adults and children nominated by professionals because of their potential to offend or offending behaviour is of equivalent concern to the indicators above, for instance where family members are at risk of radicalisation 		
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Service Level Indicators	Source
Number of ASB incidents resulting in no further action (number of incidents)	Community Safety/Police
Number of ASB incidents resulting in further action (number of incidents)	Community Safety/Police
No. Police call outs (associated with individual family member)	Community Safety/Police
No. first time entrants to the youth justice system	YJS/Data Team
No. young offenders that go on to re-offend	YJS/Data Team
No. young people serving a custodial sentence (no. weeks served)	YJS/Data Team

*A proven offence is a formal outcome given, either in or out of court.

TF Criteria:	Getting a good education and skills for life: Children who have not been attending school regularly		
Key Indicators:	Improved school attendance		
<i>Identification</i>	<i>Significant and Sustained Progress</i>	<i>Source</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's attendance over the last three consecutive terms is less than 90% including authorised absences* Child receiving at least three fixed term exclusions in the last three consecutive terms Child permanently excluded from school in the last three consecutive terms Child is neither registered with a school nor being education in an alternative setting Child is identified as attending alternative education provision, home & hospital provision or there is an issue of equivalent concern to professional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child has attended school a minimum of 90% over three consecutive terms, including all authorised absences Child has no more than 1 fixed term exclusions over three consecutive terms Child has no permanent exclusions over three consecutive terms <p>Distance travelled measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 40 percentage point increase in attendance for all children having 40% or less attendance at the point of identification including authorised absences 	School Census/Alternative Provision Census/Key Worker/EHM/ICS/ EYES	

Service Level Indicators	Source
Missing from education: children who are neither persistently truant or permanently excluded (number of months)	Attendance Team
No. children with over 10% absence as an average across 3 consecutive terms	School Census
No. children receiving a permanent exclusion	School Census
No. children receiving a fixed term exclusion	School Census

*Rare statutory exceptions are prescribed in the Financial Framework for the Troubled Families Programme April 2020

TF Criteria:	Improving children's life chances: Children who need additional support, from the earliest years to adulthood		
Key Indicators:	Reduction in children becoming looked after or subject to a Child in Need/Child Protection Plan Improvement in family relationships/functioning Reduction in child exploitation Reduction children going missing		
Identification	Significant and Sustained Progress	Source	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child identified as needing Early Help/open to Early Help Locality Team • Child identified as Child In Need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (Child & Family Assessment/Child's Plan) • Child who has been subject to an inquiry under section 47 of the Children Act 1989 (this can include children at risk of experiencing neglect or psychological, emotional, physical or sexual abuse) • Child identified as being subject to a Child Protection Plan • Child with SEND, including social, emotional and mental health needs • Child identified as having a delay in speech, language and/or communication skills and does not have a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family closed to Early Help, Child in Need, S47 or Child Protection with no repeat referrals for six months • S47 enquiries result in No Further Action and no further enquiries for six months • Child in Need stepped down to Early Help and sustained for six months (this excludes those children with disabilities identified as Child in Need in the Children Act 1989) • Child on a Child Protection Plan is stepped down to Child in Need and sustained for six months • Child is identified at 2 - 2 ½ year review as having a developmental delay and an action plan/intervention put in place 	ICS/EHM/Children's Centres/Group Work/SystmOne/VEMT Group/School Census/EYES/Early Years Foundation Stage Profile/Nexus	

<p>EHCP*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child did not achieve a good level of development at age 5 • Child is experiencing or is at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation • Child has been missing from home in the last 12 months • Child is affected by parental conflict • Family who is or has been entitled to 15 hours free early education for two year olds but has failed to take this up • Child is nominated by professionals as having problems of equivalent concern to the indicators above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child with SEND, inc. social, emotional and mental health needs has a comprehensive support plan • Family engage in the Ready to Learn, Ready to Grow course (early language development) • Parent engages with the Health Visitor at Universal Plus or Universal Partnership Plus for a six month period following the birth of the child and is assessed as part of the Healthy Child Programme • Child's risk has reduced to a degree where they are closed to the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked Group with no repeat referral for six months • Child has not been reported missing from home in the last six months • Parents engage with a parental relationship intervention or report a sustained improvement in the quality of their relationship • Child has taken up 15 hours free early education for two year olds where they had not previously • Evidence that other significant problems is no longer of concern to professionals sustained for a period of six months 	
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Service Level Indicators	Source
No. of children assessed as needing Early Help	EHM

No. of children subject to a Child Protection Plan or assessed as Child in Need	ICS
No. cases discussed at VEMT	VEMT
Rate of teenage conceptions in under 18s	Key worker

*This must be a primary need and not linked to another impairment.

TF Criteria:	Improving living standards: families experiencing or at risk of worklessness, homelessness or financial difficulties		
Key Indicators:	<p>Increase in parents sustaining employment</p> <p>Reduction in young people 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET)</p> <p>Reduction in homelessness</p>		
Identification	Significant and Sustained Progress		Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult currently in receipt of out of work benefits or claiming Universal Credit and subject to work related conditions (required to: attend work focused interviews, meet work preparation requirements or to proactively look for work) Young person aged 16 to 18 years (up to age 25 where subject to an EHCP) who is not in education, training or employment Child at risk of leaving school with no qualifications and no planned education, training or employment Family who have accessed Local Welfare Support, Discretionary Housing Payments, Section 17 funding or Food banks in the last 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One or more persons aged 16+ who were identified as claiming a legacy benefit have sustained employment for 13 consecutive weeks or 26 out of the last 30 weeks if claiming Job Seekers Allowance or Universal Credit equivalent One or more persons aged 16+ claiming Universal Credit have met the 'administrative earning's threshold' for 26 weeks out of the last 30 where they are required to look for work and 13 weeks where they were not required to actively seek employment. AET is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £338 gross taxable pay per month for single persons £541 gross taxable pay per month for couples Adult or young person is enrolled in higher or further education or an apprenticeship for at least 13 weeks (or completes whole course if shorter) Adult or young person has completed volunteering/work experience or a programme or course which removes barriers to work Adults on out of work benefits have achieved progress to work as defined by the Think Family Progress to Work Proforma (see Appendix 1) 		DWP/EHM/TF Employment Adviser/One Stop Shop/IYSS/Children's Hub /Housing Provider/Firmsteps/i World

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family at risk of homelessness or living in accommodation which it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy (e.g. 16 and 17 years olds at risk of estrangement from their families) Families nominated by professionals as being at significant risk of financial difficulties including problematic/unmanageable debt, rent arrears and those experiencing 'in work poverty' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child leaves school with qualifications or is enrolled and attending further education or training Family have and are engaging with an income and debt re-payment plan that is improving their financial situation, evidenced by key worker case recording or other means. Family have secured appropriate accommodation 	
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Service Level Indicators	Source
Number of evictions	Housing
Number of homelessness applications (no. applications)	Housing
Number of weeks homelessness including temporary accommodation (no. weeks)	Housing
Rent arrears (value owed)	Key Worker
Housing tenure (type of landlord e.g. social, private etc)	Key Worker
No. adults claiming an out of work benefit	Key Worker (DWP can only provide information on TF families)
Young people aged 16 to 24 years who are NEET (no. months)	IYSS

TF Criteria:	Families affected by domestic violence and abuse (including stalking, coercive control, sexual violence, 'honour based violence', forced marriage and female genital mutilation)	
Key Indicators:	Reduction in incidents/impact of domestic violence and abuse for families	
<i>Identification</i>	<i>Significant and Sustained Progress</i>	<i>Source</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult or young person known to have perpetrated or is at risk of perpetrating a domestic violence or abuse* in the previous 12 months Adult or young person known to have been or is at risk of being a victim or witness of domestic violence or abuse* in the previous 12 months The household or a family member has been subject to a police call out for at least one domestic incident* in the last 12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incidents of domestic violence or abuse* involving any member of the family or having been reported to Police for 6 months Victim and/or perpetrator of domestic violence or abuse* engages with a specialist Domestic Abuse service programme and there has been sufficient progress to close the family to early help or social care services or be stepped down from CP to CIN or CIN to Early Help Victim and/or perpetrator of domestic violence or abuse* engages with their Key Worker in domestic abuse focussed intervention and there has been sufficient progress to close the family to early help and social care services or be stepped down from CP to CIN or CIN to Early Help Victim of domestic violence or abuse* is no longer in a relationship with the perpetrator evidenced by their Key Worker reporting no suspicions of the victim being in a relationship other than that of co-parent with the 	<p>Police//Lead Professional/Key Worker</p> <p>Specialist Domestic Abuse service</p>

	<p>perpetrator and there has been sufficient progress to close the family to early help and social care services or be stepped down from CP to CIN or CIN to Early Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has engaged in appropriate interventions or therapy to help them overcome the trauma of domestic abuse 	
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Service Level Indicators	Source
No. of DV incidents	Police/Community Safety
No. DV notifications from Police to Social Services (Children's Hub)	Data Team

*For identification and claim purposes, where this plan references domestic violence and abuse, it includes any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. Abuse can encompass but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional. It also includes so-called 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage and can also include stalking.

TF Criteria:	Living well, improving physical and mental health and wellbeing: Parents and children with a range of health needs		
Key Indicators:	Reduction in incidents/impact of substance misuse for families Mental health and emotional wellbeing Increase in mothers who breastfeed children		
Identification		Significant and Sustained Progress	Source
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult with parental responsibility or child with mental ill-health across mild, moderate or severe need* Expectant parents with a mental health or substance misuse problem and other health factors which may affect their parenting Adult with parental responsibility or child who currently has a drug or alcohol problem Child who is exposed to substance misuse in their home Child aged under 5 where there are concerns regarding their physical, social or emotional development Adult or young person referred by key workers and/or health professionals as having any health problems of equivalent concern e.g. a poorly managed health condition or unhealthy behaviours resulting in obesity, malnutrition or diabetes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult or child has a mental health/emotional wellbeing care plan that they are engaging with or have completed successfully or there has been a reported increase in feelings of wellbeing and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more. Expectant or new parent referred to community mental health services or post-natal depression services and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more. <p>Adult or child engaging with a specialist substance misuse care plan and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult or child has a specialist substance misuse care plan which they are engaging with or have completed successfully and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more. 	Substance Misuse Services/Key Worker Assessment/ Specialist Mental Health Services/Counselling Services/SystemOne/ Other Health Worker Assessment

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has been placed on a referral pathway by the NCMP team and there has been measurable progress recorded by the lead practitioner • Parent is engaging with their Health Visitor at Universal Plus or Universal Partnership Plus and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more. • Family engage in health focused activities to encourage healthy behaviours and/or manage a physical or mental health issue and there has been sufficient progress to step down or close to early help or social care with no step up or repeat referrals for six months or more. 	
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Service Level Indicators	Source
Dependent on alcohol (no. of months)	Key worker
Dependent on non-prescription drugs (no. months)	Key worker
Suffering from mental health issues (no. months)	Key worker
No. children assessed by Social Worker as having parental mental health issues as a factor	Data Team (ICS)
No. children assessed by Social Worker as having parents with substance misuse issues as a factor	Data Team (ICS)
Breast feeding rate	Health

*Does not need to be receiving specialist treatment

Appendix 1: Think Family Progress to Work Proforma

Clients name:	DOB:	TF no
Address:		Benefit claimed
P/code		
Please date and tick when a step/action has been completed.		Tick and Date
Any three of the following:		
Use the internet to search and apply for jobs		
Have a good plan in place with the personal work coach or Troubled Families advisor		
Attend Training		
Attend Volunteering		
Attend work experience		
Complete activities agreed with the work coach		
Have an up to date CV		
Registered on universal job match		
Registered on Websites		
Registered with an employment agencies		
Registered on Entitled-to		
Be contactable/valid telephone number		
Any further actions/steps		
Or:		
Have been referred to and are engaging with local providers		
Or:		
Have been assessed by a Troubled Families Employment advisor		
Or		
Is carrying out activities at home which are building skills for work. For example, Caring.		
Or		
Has secured employment		
If you need any support with employment please contact Sandra Charlton 07827827090		
Date completed:	Practitioner:	

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11 February 2021



Report of: Statutory Scrutiny Manager

Subject: HARBOUR SUPPORT SERVICES – SERVICE PROVISION UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Committee that representatives from Harbour Support Services will be joining the meeting to present an update on the service provision and pressures currently faced by Harbour Support Services.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 23 November 2020, the Committee received an update on the Safer Hartlepool Performance which included an outline of the work undertaken by Harbour Support Services.
- 2.2 During discussions, the Committee was expressed a wish to explore ways of supporting Harbour in raising the profile of the support provided by this organisation.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Committee on 23rd November, Members discussed the provision of support for people affected by domestic abuse and how this had been affected during the pandemic. Representatives from Harbour Support Services will be in attendance at today's meeting to provide Members with an outline of the support available to those who are being affected by domestic abuse.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Audit and Governance Committee note the update and seek clarification on any issues, where required.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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TEES VALLEY JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20 November 2020

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Councillors Sandra Smith (Chair) and B Clarke.

Darlington Borough Council: Councillors B Donoghue and W Newall.

Hartlepool Borough Council: Councillor B Harrison.

Middlesbrough Borough Council: Councillors A Hellaoui, E Polano and J Rathmell.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: Councillors E Cunningham, C Gamble and L Hall.

Also Present: Angela Armstrong, Hartlepool Borough Council
Caroline Breheny, Middlesbrough Borough Council
Hannah Fay, Darlington Borough Council
Gary Woods, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Mark Adams, Director of Public Health
Dominic Gardner, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Officers: D Boville, RCBC Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted for Councillors I Bell (Darlington Borough Council), G Hall and B Loynes (Hartlepool Borough Council) and D Rees (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council).

10. Declarations of Interest

None.

11. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2020

The minutes were approved.

12. Local Covid Response

The Director of Public Health (South Tees) gave a presentation on the Tees Valley response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Major public health support

packages were being focused on the following areas:

- Localised, regionally coordinated Test, Trace and Isolate programme. This would allow a local voice to engage with a potential covid contact at first instance to establish a more helpful dialogue.
- Behavioural Insights programme to support compliance. Residents were mainly suffering from frustration, boredom and irritation due to the restrictions and so work needed to be undertaken within communities to frame appropriate messages.
- Roll-out of targeted frequent, rapid, 'Lateral Flow' testing for:
 - Designated visitors for care home residents.
 - Peripatetic domiciliary care staff.
 - Daily testing of care home staff.
- Protection of vulnerable individuals in the community.
- Preparation for rapid implementation of a vaccine programme. It was expected that the vaccination would be rolled out to care home staff and residents at the beginning of December 2020.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- The setting up of a testing station at Belmont House, Guisborough was being considered.
- A staggered approach to children returning to school may help to lessen any potential resulting increases in the infection rate, but this would be a Government decision.
- The vaccine would be rolled out through the NHS, local authorities would need to work with their communities to encourage take up.
- Lateral flow tests were very accurate at determining if a person did not have the covid virus in their system. These should be available for care homes before Christmas.
- It was important that residents who did not have access to digital services also received accurate public health information:-**NOTED**

13. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Updates

The Director of Operations – Teesside for the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) presented an update on a number of issues that had been raised previously by the Committee.

West Lane Hospital – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- NHS England had decided to restore CAMHS inpatient services to the West Lane Hospital site, with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust Foundation Trust (CNTW) being appointed as the interim provider.
- TEWV would continue to provide outpatient and community CAMHS services from West Lane Hospital.
- TEWV would work closely with CNTW to ensure a joined-up approach between the CAMHS inpatient and community services.
- TEWV was supporting the cost of travel and accommodation for young people receiving treatment outside of the Tees Valley if they would have been admitted to West Lane Hospital.
- The CAMHS inpatient service would be staffed by CNTW but based at West Lane Hospital.
- Young people from Darlington were currently accessing the service at Prudhoe.

Roseberry Park Hospital Remedial Works

- Delays to the completion dates of the remedial works had occurred as a result of unplanned work required within the blocks and this had been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Mental Health Services for Older People demonstrated an average patient satisfaction rate (excellent or good) of 94% for the period January -October 2020 compared to 100% for the same period in 2019. The change can be attributed to the behaviour of a particular patient and some of the changes that had to be made to visiting and leave arrangements as a result of covid. No negative comments had been received regarding the location of the service.
- Mental Health Services for Older People demonstrated an average carer experience rate of 86% for the period January -October 2020 compared to 93% for the same period in 2019. A review of carer comments had identified the location of the unit as a difficulty along with negative comments associated with communication with carers potentially impacted by covid and restricted visiting.
- There had been a drop in occupancy levels as the public perception at the start of the pandemic was that the NHS was not to be used. Following a big publicity push, occupancy was now back at pre-covid levels.

- It was expected that Mental Health Services for Older People would move back into Roseberry Park by mid-summer.
- Almost all of the staff had moved with their patients which was a real positive for service users but had resulted in longer days for the staff. Sandwell was a nice unit which felt quite homely.
- The associated court case was expected to continue for some time but TEWV felt it had a strong case. TEWV was still committed to investing in Teesside.

Teesside Rehabilitation Services Development

- Kirkdale Ward at Roseberry Park Hospital had closed at the end of January 2020. The 2 remaining inpatients had been transferred to Lustrum Vale, Stockton and had since been discharged.
- The community rehabilitation service had been expanded and its hours of operation extended to 08:00-22:00hrs over 7 days.
- There was now increased capacity for referrals and more intensive support for recovery programmes.
- Staffing at Lustrum Vale had been changed to better reflect service user need.
- From April-September 2020 there was a 0% re-referral rate to rehabilitation services.
- TEWV was working to complete the evaluation of the impact new working model.
- TEWV was currently working on ways to combat the mental health issues arising out of the covid pandemic and initial plans had been drawn up for crisis intervention. Call centres had been set up across the Tees Valley and similar services had been established for Durham and Darlington.
- A whole system approach had been taken to ensure the most effective service was being provided. Staffing had been reallocated based on where they would be most effective but there had been no redundancies.

14. Work Programme and Future Meetings

The Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer presented the work programme for the coming municipal year and advised that this would be updated following comments from today's meeting:-**NOTED**

15. Any other business

The Chair advised that each authority's Health Scrutiny Committee would have been provided an update from NHS England on procurement arrangements for specialist orthodontist services. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Councillors had been invited to comment directly if they so wished:-**NOTED**

SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

13 November 2020

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Responsible Authority Members:

Councillor: Councillor Shane Moore (In the Chair)
Councillor John Tennant
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Michael Houghton, NHS Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees and
Darlington CCG
Pete Graham, Chair of Youth Offending Board
Nick Jones, Cleveland Fire Authority
Darren Redgwell, Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation
Company

Other Members:

Craig Blundred, Deputy Director of Public Health
Joanne Hodgkinson, Safe in Tees Valley
Angela Corner, Thirteen Group

Also Present:

Councillors Bob Buchan and Tony Richardson, Hartlepool Borough
Council

John Lovatt was in attendance as substitute for Jill Harrison and Sarah
Wilson was in attendance as substitute for Lisa Oldroyd, Police and
Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Mark Doherty, Cleveland Police

Officers: Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

12. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jill Harrison, Director of
Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council,
Superintendent Sharon Cooney, Cleveland Police and Lisa Oldroyd, Office
of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland

13. Declarations of Interest

None.

14. Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2020

Confirmed.

15. Force Control Room Update *(Representative from Cleveland Police)***Issue(s) for consideration**

A representative from Cleveland Police, who was in attendance at the meeting, provided the Partnership with a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to a recent review of the Force Control Room Service. The presentation included an overview of the new structure, risk assessment and allocation information, demand based shift patterns, key demands, impact of Covid 19, details of new processes to enhance service delivery and streamline investigative processes, plans to introduce a LiveChat system, the role and functions of the vulnerability desk as well as measures introduced to reduce the number of abandoned calls.

In the discussion that followed, the Partnership commented on issues arising from the presentation. Clarification was provided in response to queries raised around the timescales for introducing joint operating procedures. The Chair welcomed the assurances provided around crime reporting follow up arrangements and support mechanisms in place to support victims of crime which should address the loss of confidence from the public in this regard. Statistical information was also provided in relation to typical calls received by the control room by number and by type.

Decision

That the contents of the presentation and comments of Partnership Members be noted.

16. Community Safety Plan 2020-21 *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)***Purpose of report**

To present and seek approval from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership of the final draft of the Community Safety Plan 2020-21 (see **Appendix 1**).

To seek the Partnership's approval for an amendment to future Strategic Assessment periods.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided the background to the development of the Community Safety Plan 2020-21 which included an overview of some of the recent activities to improve community safety in Hartlepool together with the key findings from the Strategic Assessment and public consultation.

The report set out the Partnership's strategic objective for 2020-21, key priorities, feedback from the consultation process as well as details of the performance monitoring regime. Subject to the Partnership's approval and, in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework, the Community Safety Plan would be considered by Full Council in December 2020.

Reference was made to the proposed future Strategic Assessment process and, in order to allow for new plans to be in place by April, it was proposed that future Strategic Assessments be brought forward and cover the period 1 October to 30 September, the background of which was set out in the report.

The following recommendations were agreed with no dissent.

Decision

- (i) That the Community Safety Plan 2020/21 be approved.
- (ii) That the change to the period to be assessed for future Strategic Assessments to 1 October until 30 September each year be approved.

17. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Performance *(Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services)*

Purpose of report

To provide an overview of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance for Quarters 1 and 2 - April to September 2020 (inclusive) against key indicators linked to the priorities outlined in the Community Safety Plan 2020/21.

Issue(s) for consideration

The report provided an overview of the Partnership's performance during Quarters 1 and 2, as set out in an appendix to the report. Information as a comparator with performance in the previous year was also provided. In presenting the report, the Community Safety Team Leader highlighted

salient positive and negative data and responded to queries in relation to crime figures by type.

In response to clarification sought in relation to the increase in fly tipping reports to the Council's Contact Centre and the number of incidents which were in relation to side waste, the Community Safety Team Leader agreed to provide a breakdown to Partnership Members direct following the meeting.

It was noted that Quarter 2 data was awaited in relation to drug and alcohol and domestic abuse related incidents. Whilst it was noted that incidents of domestic violence had decreased in Quarter 2, concerns were raised in relation to the potential increase in such figures as a result of the current lockdown measures. Emphasis was placed upon the need for Partnership Members to proactively signpost victims and potential victims to the appropriate support services.

Decision

- (i) That Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 performance figures and comments of Partnership Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (ii) That a breakdown of figures be provided following the meeting in relation to fly tipping reported to the Council's Contact Centre to include the number of incidents in relation to side waste.

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting concluded at 11.00 am.

CHAIR