

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Wednesday 29 September 2021

at 10.00 am

in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

A limited number of members of the public will be able to attend the meeting with spaces being available on a first come, first served basis. Those wishing to attend the meeting should phone (01429) 523568 or (01429) 523193 by midday on Tuesday 28 September and name and address details will be taken for NHS Test and Trace purposes.

MEMBERS: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Councillors Ashton, Cook, Feeney, B Loynes, D Loynes, Richardson and Riddle.

Standards Co-opted Independent Members: - Ms Gillian Holbrook, Mr Martin Slimings and Ms Tracy Squires.

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 9 September and 23 September 2021 *(to follow)*

4. AUDIT ITEMS

No items.

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. STANDARDS ITEMS

No items.

6. STATUTORY SCRUTINY ITEMS

Health Scrutiny

6.1 Covid Update Presentation – *Director of Public Health*

6.2 Rowan Suite, University Hospital of Hartlepool (Maternity Hub) – Update on Service Provision – *North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (to follow)*

Crime and Disorder Scrutiny

6.3 Community Safety Plan 2021/24 – Consultation – *Assistant Director, Regulatory Services*

6.4 Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2021-2023 – *Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services*

6.5 Safer Hartlepool Partnership Performance – *Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services*

7. OTHER ITEMS FOR DECISION

6.6 Business Continuity – *Assistant Director, Regulatory Services*

6.7 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Quarterly Update – *Chief Solicitor*

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. MINUTES FROM RECENT MEETING OF TEES VALLEY HEALTH SCRUTINY JOINT COMMITTEE

No items

11. MINUTES FROM RECENT MEETING OF SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

No items.

12. REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

No items.

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

No items.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

For information: -

Date and time of forthcoming meetings

Thursday 14 October 2021 at 2.00 pm

Thursday 11 November, 2021 at 10.00 am

Thursday 16 December, 2021 at 10.00 am

Thursday 13 January, 2022 at 10.00 am

Thursday 10 February, 2022 at 10.00 am

Thursday 17 March, 2022 at 2.00 pm

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present:

Councillor: Rob Cook (In the Chair).

Councillors: Tom Feeney, Brenda Loynes, Dennis Loynes and Carl Richardson

Co-opted Members:

Gillian Holbrook – Independent Member
Martin Slimings – Independent Member
Tracey Squires – Independent Member

Also Present:

Brent Kilmurray, Chief Executive, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
Dominic Gardner, Director of Operations, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust
Philip Kerr, Independent Complaints Advocacy
Angela Corner and Matthew Trueman, Thirteen Group
Christopher Akers-Belcher, Chief Executive, Healthwatch

Officers:

Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning
Penny Thompson, Head of Housing, Hardship and Welfare Services
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services
Neil Wilson, Assistant Chief Solicitor
Noel Adamson, Head of Audit and Governance
James Magog, Assistant Director, Finance
Joan Stevens, Statutory Scrutiny Manager
Angela Armstrong, Scrutiny and Legal Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

38. Apologies for Absence

None

39. Declarations of Interest

None

40. **Minutes of the meeting held on 27 August 2021**

Deferred to the next meeting.

41. **Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection Outcome – Presentation** *(Director of Operations for Teesside, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust)*

Representatives from Tees Esk and Wear Valley NJHS Foundation Trust, who were in attendance at the meeting, provided an update on CQC Inspections in relation to acute wards for adults of working age and psychiatric intensive care units. The presentation included details of actions since the January inspection, assurance and oversight arrangements, re-inspection outcomes, CQC findings, feedback from service users, next steps as well as proposals for change.

In the lengthy discussion that followed Members commented on issues arising from the presentation. In response to queries raised representatives provided clarification regarding inspection findings, actions taken to address areas of concern, the impact of the pandemic and the measures in place to ensure patients felt safe.

Recommended

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

42. **Big Conversation – Presentation** *(Chief Executive, Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust)*

Representatives from Tees Esk and Wear Valley NJHS Foundation Trust, who were in attendance at the meeting, provided the Committee with a detailed and comprehensive presentation in relation to the Tees Esk and Wear Valley's new Strategic Framework "Our Journey to Change". The presentation included an overview of how the Journey was developed, the vision to co-create safe and personalised care, framework values, strategic goals, implementation arrangements, actions, proposals to ensure an empowering infrastructure as well as details of priorities to ensure change happened.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, representatives responded to issues raised arising from the presentation. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of addressing the stigmas associated with mental health and the importance of early intervention as well as the need to provide better support for carers.

With regard to feedback from staff, service users, carers and partners where consultees were asked to identify areas for improvement, further information was requested in relation to analysis data, particularly around digital exclusion and the number of workshops relating to community transformation. Clarification was provided in terms of the performance management arrangements, measures in place to mitigate digital exclusion, staff health and wellbeing support and the proposals to address the stigmas around mental health.

In concluding the debate the Chair took the opportunity to thank the Trust representatives for the updates and requested that annual update reports be provided to future meetings of this Committee.

Recommended

- (i) That the contents of the presentation and comments of Members be noted and that annual updates be provided to future meetings of this Committee.
- (ii) That further information in relation to analysis data and workshops be provided to this Committee under separate cover following the meeting.

43. Independent Complaints Advocacy Service Update (Statutory Scrutiny Manager/North Tees NHS Independent Complaints Advocacy Services)

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 Service as set out in an appendix attached to the report. In presenting the report, the Contracts Manager highlighted salient positive and negative data and responded to queries in relation to complaint figures by type. Details of the complaints process was outlined and the potential reasons for lengthy delays in resolving complaints was also clarified.

Recommended

That the report be noted.

44. Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation – Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations/Action Plan Update – Covering Report – Community Safety Update *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager/Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager referred Members to an action plan, attached at Appendix A, which provided an update against the implementation of each of the actions following the completion of the Committee's investigation into Anti-Social Behaviour in Hartlepool.

In support of the report, the Assistant Director, Regulatory Services updated the Committee on progress made against each of the actions assigned to the Community Safety Team and responded to issues raised arising from the report. In response to clarification sought, the Assistant Director, Regulatory Services agreed to provide, under separate cover following the meeting, details of the number of dedicated youth workers employed by the Council and clarification as to whether any elements of youth work was outsourced.

Recommended

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted and the comments of Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (ii) That details of the number of dedicated youth workers employed by the Council together with any outsourcing arrangements be provided following the meeting.

45. Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation – Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations/Action Plan Update – Covering Report – 13 Group Presentation *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager/Thirteen Group)*

Representatives from Thirteen Group, who were in attendance at the meeting provided a detailed and comprehensive presentation to the Committee on the action assigned to Thirteen Group in relation to the outcome of the Thirteen's pilot scheme to increase the reporting of ASB, the evaluation of the on-line app and examination of roll out to non-Thirteen customers. The presentation also focussed on the new approach to building resilience, the impact of Anti-Social Behaviour as well as the outcome of Anti-Social Behaviour complaints.

In the discussion that followed, representatives responded to issues raised arising from the presentation. Clarification was provided in terms of the

publicising arrangements of the on-line app, current users, other methods of communication to ensure no-one was digitally excluded. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of face to face contact particularly for elderly residents, regular visits to areas and the benefits of holding regular surgeries to understand residents' needs was also highlighted.

Recommended

That the contents of the report be noted and the comments of Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.

The Chair announced a 10 minute comfort break to allow presenting officers to leave the meeting and additional presenters to join.

46. Child Poverty Investigation – Setting the Scene - Covering Report/Presentation *(Statutory Scrutiny Manager/Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services)*

The Statutory Scrutiny Manager reported that this report would form the initial scene setting for the investigation into child poverty. The Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning and Head of Housing, Hardship and Welfare Services had been invited to attend the meeting to assist in the definition of child poverty and increase the Committee's awareness and understanding of child poverty.

The Head of Housing, Hardship and Welfare Services presented the report which provided information around the definitions of poverty, the context regarding Hartlepool's child poverty levels, Hartlepool's position in terms of levels of poverty in the region and nationally, drivers of poverty and who was most at risk, the challenges/concerns of officers together with recommendations to learn from the Brent approach, to adopt a whole system approach, to harness the knowledge skills and experience of a number of organisations as detailed in the report and talk to residents about their 'lived experience'.

In support of the report, a detailed and comprehensive presentation was also provided which included information in relation to the impact of persistent poverty, measures the Council had in place, what would happen if nothing was done, possible solutions and recommendations.

In the lengthy discussion that followed officers responded to issues raised arising from the presentation. Concerns were raised regarding the impact of the withdrawal of the £20 universal credit support, that 75% of children that lived in relative poverty were in a household where at least one adult worked, the number of children that hovered 'above' the relative poverty line and were ineligible for a free school meal. Clarification was provided regarding the universal credit process including timescales as well as the potential impact of the pending withdrawal of the additional £20 universal credit support.

In response to clarification sought, the Head of Housing, Hardship and Welfare Services agreed to explore the level of unclaimed benefits and potential reasons as well as the numbers of individuals in destitution. The contributing factors to poverty including behavioural change were discussed at length and emphasis was placed upon the importance of taking proactive measures in terms of budgeting and finance advice and including money management advice in schools. The need to seek views from the Town's MP was also suggested. A Member referred to the range of support available to residents referred to in paragraph 7.2 of the report and requested that further information/access to these links be provided to Members following the meeting.

Recommended

- (i) That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.
- (ii) That the comments of Members be noted and actioned as appropriate.
- (iii) That the support available to residents be provided to Members following the meeting.

47. Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 Update *(Head of Audit and Governance)*

The Head of Audit and Governance reported on progress made to date completing the Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22. Members were referred to details of audits completed together with recommendations, risks identified and action plans agreed as a result. The Head of Audit and Governance made reference to the Borough Hall and Town Hall Theatre Audits as they were assessed as limited assurance. The Chair requested that the Assistant Director (Preventative and Community Based Services) be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to provide an update to Members on progress made in addressing the risks identified in the audit reports. Information was also provided in relation to the current work of the team including ongoing audits.

Recommended

That the contents of the report be noted.

48. Appointing an External Auditor *(Assistant Director, Finance)*

The Assistant Director of Finance updated Members on issues in relation to appointing an external auditor in respect of the application of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person)

Regulations 2015. Members were referred to the background to Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (PSAA), as the appointed person for principal local government audits, the issues surrounding provision, procurement arrangements as well as the risks and financial considerations as set out in the report.

Recommended

- (i) The Committee supported the continued membership of PSAA for the provision of external audit services.
- (ii) That a report from the Audit and Governance Committee be presented to full Council requesting authority for the Council's continued membership of PSAA in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015.

49. Review of Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations *(Monitoring Officer)*

The Assistant Chief Solicitor reported on the proposed changes to the 'Arrangements for Dealing with Standards Allegations', the background of which was outlined. The revisions, as detailed in Appendix A, were proposed to strengthen the arrangements. Members were referred to a summary of the proposals as set out in the report together with the additions to the Assessment Criteria as set out in Appendix A.

Recommended

That the contents of the report and proposed changes be noted.

50. Date and Time of Future Meetings

The Chair reported that an additional meeting would be held on Thursday 21 September 2021 at 1.00 pm followed by a further meeting on Wednesday 29 September at 10.00 am.

The meeting concluded at 1.25 pm

CHAIR

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29th September 2021



Report of: Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

Subject: COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2021-2024

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Budget and Policy Framework - To consider and comment on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-24 (see **Appendix 1**).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Introduced by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) have a statutory responsibility to develop and implement a Community Safety Strategy setting out how it intends to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, and re-offending issues.
- 2.2 CSP's are made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities' as specified in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These include the Local Authority, Police, Fire Brigade, The Probation Service and Clinical Commissioning Group. CSP's have a number of statutory duties which include:
- Producing a **Community Safety Strategy** that details how the CSP will tackle the crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending priorities in its local area;
 - Producing an annual partnership **strategic assessment** to help identify and better understand local community safety priorities;
 - **Consulting** with local residents and organisations on community safety priorities.

3. DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2021-2024

- 3.1 The Community Safety Plan 2021-24 provides an overview of some of the recent activities undertaken to improve community safety in Hartlepool, and key findings from the Partnership's 2020 Strategic Assessment and public consultation. The Partnership's proposed strategic objective, priorities and some of the key activities it will take forward over the next year are also outlined.
- 3.2 The proposed strategic objective and priorities from the 2020-21 plan are retained in the 2021-24 plan as detailed below.
- 3.3 The proposed strategic objective for 2021-24 is:

“To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to
live, work and visit”

- 3.4 The key priorities for the Safer Hartlepool Partnership in the first year of the Plan (2021-22) are:
- Anti-social Behaviour
 - Domestic Violence
 - Drugs and Alcohol

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 As approved by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on 19th July 2021, the draft Community Safety Plan will be subject to an eight week consultation period with the consultation exercise comprising of the following:
- An online consultation survey – with links published on the Hartlepool Borough Council website, Hartlepool Borough Council Facebook page and Hartlepool Borough Council Twitter page. The use of local media mechanisms including but not limited to Hartlepool Mail.
 - Targeted emails will be sent to a wide range of public, private, community and voluntary sector representatives and groups containing a link to the online consultation survey.
 - A virtual Face the Public event
 - Presentation of the draft Plan to the Council's Audit & Governance and Finance and Policy Committees and the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 4.2 It is anticipated that the final Plan will be presented to the Partnership in December 2021, and subject to the approval by the Partnership will be considered by the Council's Finance and Policy Committee prior to being referred for adoption by full Council in December 2021.

5. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

- 5.1 The delivery of the Community Safety Plan will be monitored by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, through the provision of quarterly performance reports to demonstrate progress against the agreed priorities.
- 5.2 The Community Safety Plan incorporates a proposed delivery structure and performance indicators.

6. SECTION 17 CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Failure to develop a Community Safety Plan would undermine the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's ability to fulfil its statutory responsibilities to set out a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder, combating substance misuse and reduction in re-offending in Hartlepool.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended) the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is required to produce a Community Safety Plan to set out how it intends to address crime and disorder, substance misuse, and re-offending issues.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The annual strategic assessment and consultation process will ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are considered when formulating and implementing the Community Safety Plan 2021-2024.

9. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

9.1

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Financial Considerations	No relevant issues
Child/Family Poverty Considerations	No relevant issues
Staff Considerations	No relevant issues
Asset Management Considerations	No relevant issues

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 As part of the Safer Hartlepool consultation process, it is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee consider and comment on the draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 in accordance with its statutory crime and disorder scrutiny function.

11. CONTACT OFFICER

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Safer Hartlepool Partnership



Community Safety Plan

2021 - 2024

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1. FOREWORD

As Chair, I am pleased to present the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan for 2021 – 2024 on behalf of The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP).

The Partnership Plan brings together our aims, ambitions and priorities for the next three years. We will work in Partnership to tackle the issues which impact on, and matter to local people.

The Community Safety Plan retains the strategic objective and priorities of the 2021/24 plan, reflecting the outcomes of the 2020 SHP Strategic Assessment and ongoing analysis of emerging issues across the Town. Utilising this data and information enables the SHP to deliver a holistic approach to address the priorities, with a greater emphasis on prevention and reducing harm.

The SHP has faced many new challenges in recent years, not least the difficult circumstances presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic. There has been a significant change in issues that are presented to partners to address, whilst also tackling substantial resource pressures. Important matters such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, domestic violence and responding to those members of our communities with specific vulnerabilities understandably take priority.

The SHP will continue to look at new and innovative ways of working collaboratively to reduce crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending, and most importantly, improving the quality of life for the people who live and work in and visit Hartlepool.

Councillor Shane Moore

Chair, Safer Hartlepool Partnership

2. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) brings together a number of agencies and organisations concerned with tackling crime and disorder in Hartlepool. As defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Partnership comprises members from each of the “responsible authorities”; Hartlepool Borough Council, Cleveland Police, Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service, The Probation Service and Hartlepool and Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, a range of other stakeholders from the public and voluntary sectors are also represented and include Thirteen Group, Safe In Tees Valley and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland.

Our key role is to understand the kind of community safety issues Hartlepool is experiencing; decide which of these are the most important to deal with; and then decide what actions we can take collectively, adding value to the day-to-day work undertaken by our individual agencies and organisations.

We detail these actions in our Community Safety Plan. To help us do that we undertake a Strategic Assessment which analyses a range of detailed information that exists about crime, disorder, substance misuse, re-offending and other community matters that are affecting Hartlepool.

The outcomes of the assessment form recommendations about how to keep the Community Safety Plan priorities relevant.

In producing our plan we are also mindful of the pledges of the Police and Crime Commissioner in the Police and Crime Plan and the requirement to ‘have regard’ to the priorities established by this plan.

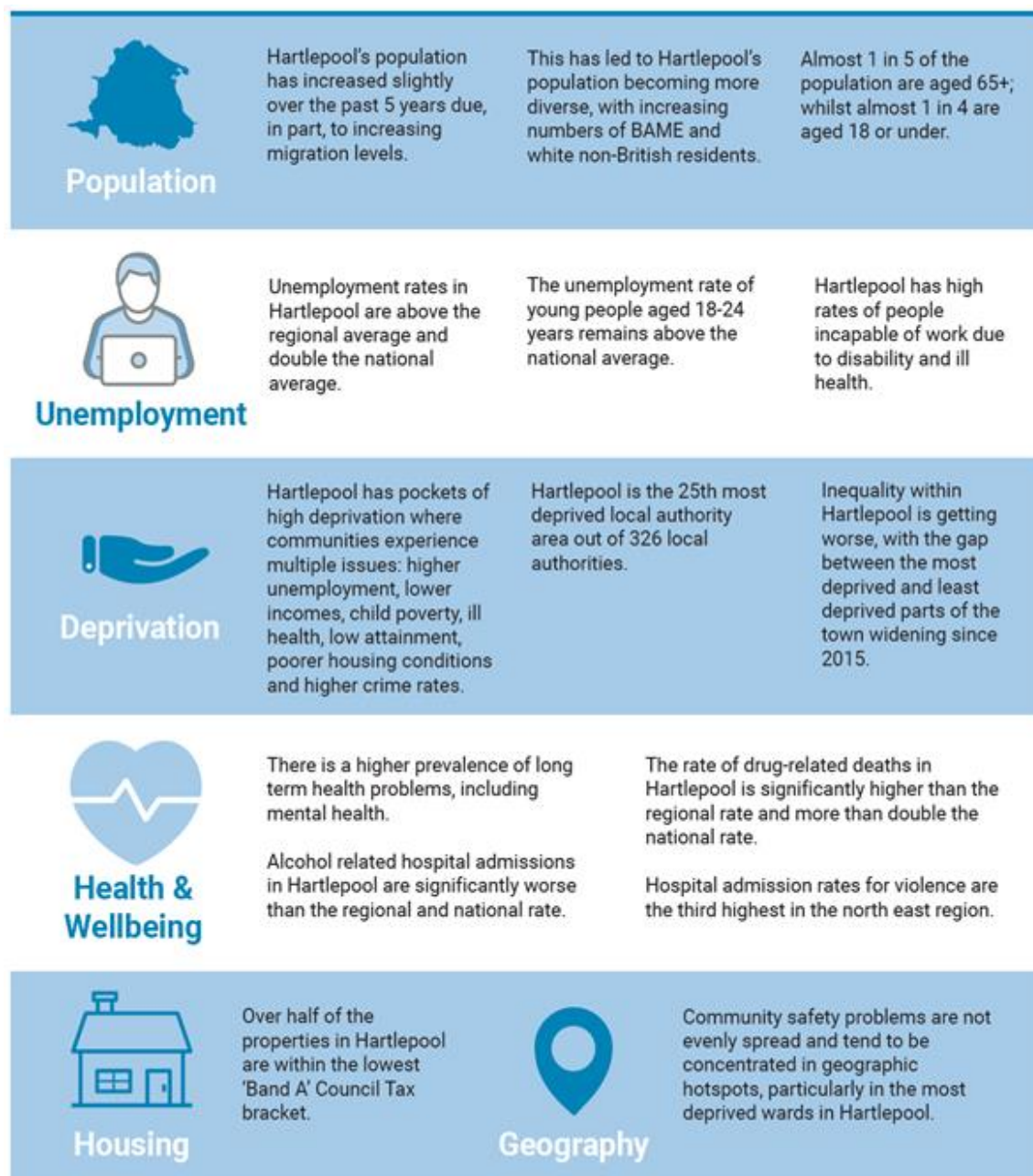
The community safety landscape continues to evolve and partners continue to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. Since the introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, legislative changes have amended our focus, and also the statutory partners we work with, but the principles of working together remain at the heart of tackling crime and disorder.

The strategic objective of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership remains unchanged and is still as important as it ever has been:

“To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit”

3. LOCAL CONTEXT

Hartlepool is the smallest unitary authority in the North East region and the third smallest in the country comprising of some of the most disadvantaged areas in England. Issues around community safety can be understood by a number of contextual factors:



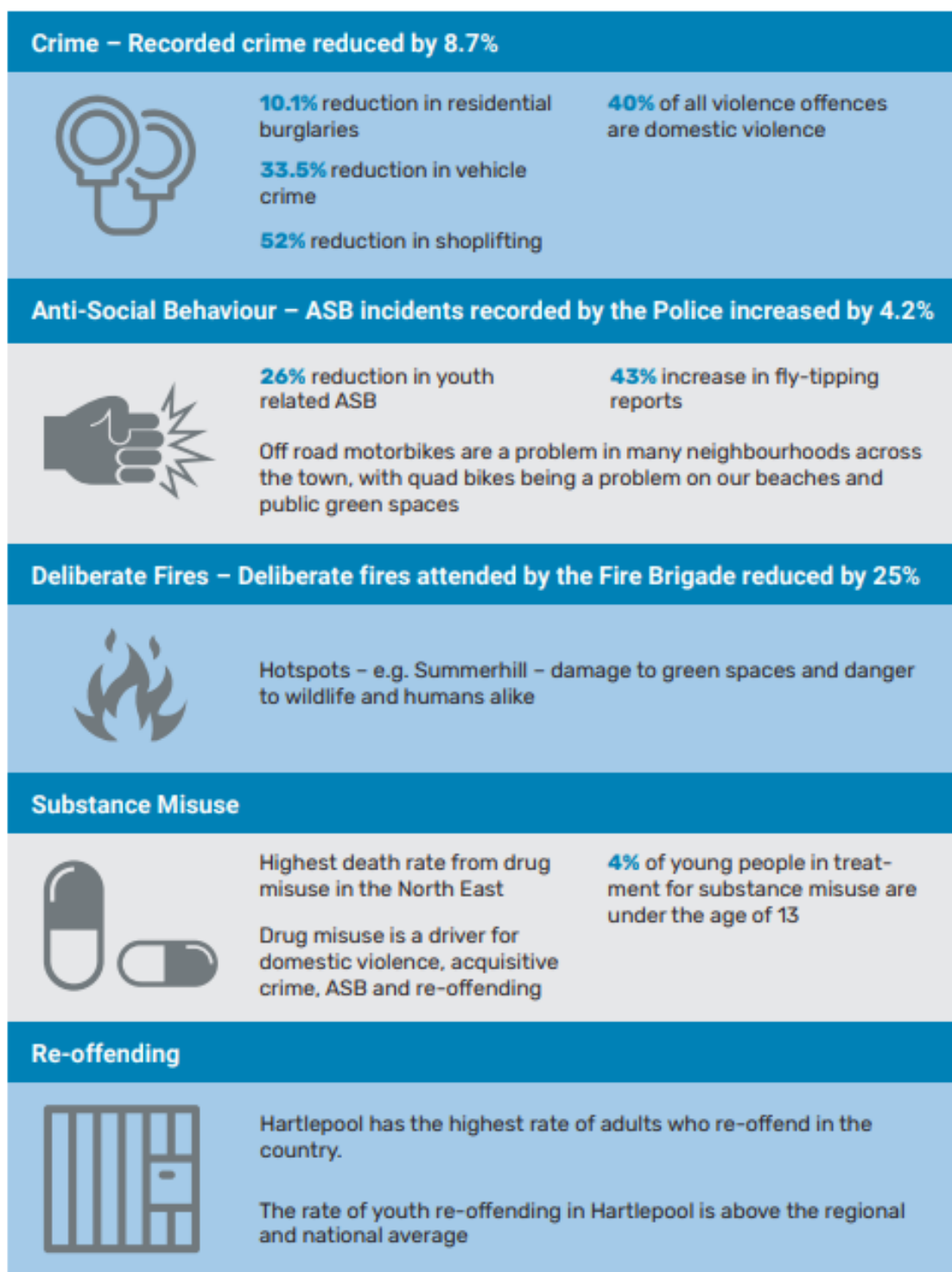
4. SUMMARY OF THE 2020/21 PLAN

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic the SHP continued to focus on the priorities in the Community Safety Plan 2020-21 and some of the work undertaken to make Hartlepool a safe place for residents, workers and visitors included:-

Priority	Activity
Anti-Social Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of early intervention, diversionary, educational and positive activities through the deployment of the Targeted Youth Outreach Team • Provision of home and personal crime prevention advice, target hardening and emotional support to victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. • Co-ordination multi-agency “Days of Action” to target anti-social behaviour and environmental issues in hotspot locations • Development and delivery of multi-agency action plans to address unacceptable behaviour by adults and young people occurring in the Town’s parks and green spaces • Formation of working groups to specifically focus on fly-tipping, deliberate fires and nuisance vehicles.
Drugs and Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of an integrated drug and alcohol treatment service, START – Supporting Treatment and Recovery Together • Successfully obtained 6 premise closure orders for residential properties concerned in the supply of illegal drugs
Domestic Violence and Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board to assess the need for Domestic Abuse Support Services in Hartlepool and publish a strategy to meet assessed need. • Development of a “Grab Bag” project which enables our specialist domestic abuse support service, Harbour, to provide individuals fleeing abuse with basic essentials when they arrive at the refuge or other safe accommodation.

5. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

The Partnership conducts an annual assessment of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool to identify and address the community safety issues that impact upon and really matter to the local community. Key findings from the 2020 assessment are outlined below:



6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a statutory obligation to engage and consult with the communities of Hartlepool about community safety priorities.

The annual Community Safety Survey is designed to assist the Partnership to:

- Gain a wider understanding of public perception of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- Understand what makes people feel safe and unsafe; and
- Understand which issues cause most concern

Analysis of the results of the survey conducted in 2020 highlighted that, although many residents perceive crime and anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area, more than half of respondents said they had not been a victim of crime in the previous 12 months.

When asked about feelings of safety, most respondents said they feel safe being outside during the day and after dark. Those who said they felt unsafe stated this was due to poor street lighting, lack of police, suspicious people hanging around and people dealing drugs.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, work is underway to establish the most appropriate and effective way for the SHP to hold the Face the Public event this year.

7. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2021-2024

Based on the findings of the 2020 Strategic Assessment and consultation with the local community and other stakeholders, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's Strategic Objective 2021-2024 is: -

**To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable
place to live, work and visit**

8. PRIORITIES 2021 - 2022

As with any town, Hartlepool faces many challenges and must work within an environment of conflicting demands and limited resources.

The Partnership recognises that there are many issues that impact on the lives of some, or all, of Hartlepool's residents and continued efforts will be made by all Partnership members to address these in a focussed and effective manner.

Issues such as violence (particularly serious violence) and exploitation are significant in both the local and national context and the Partnership recognises the need to work both individually and collectively to address them.

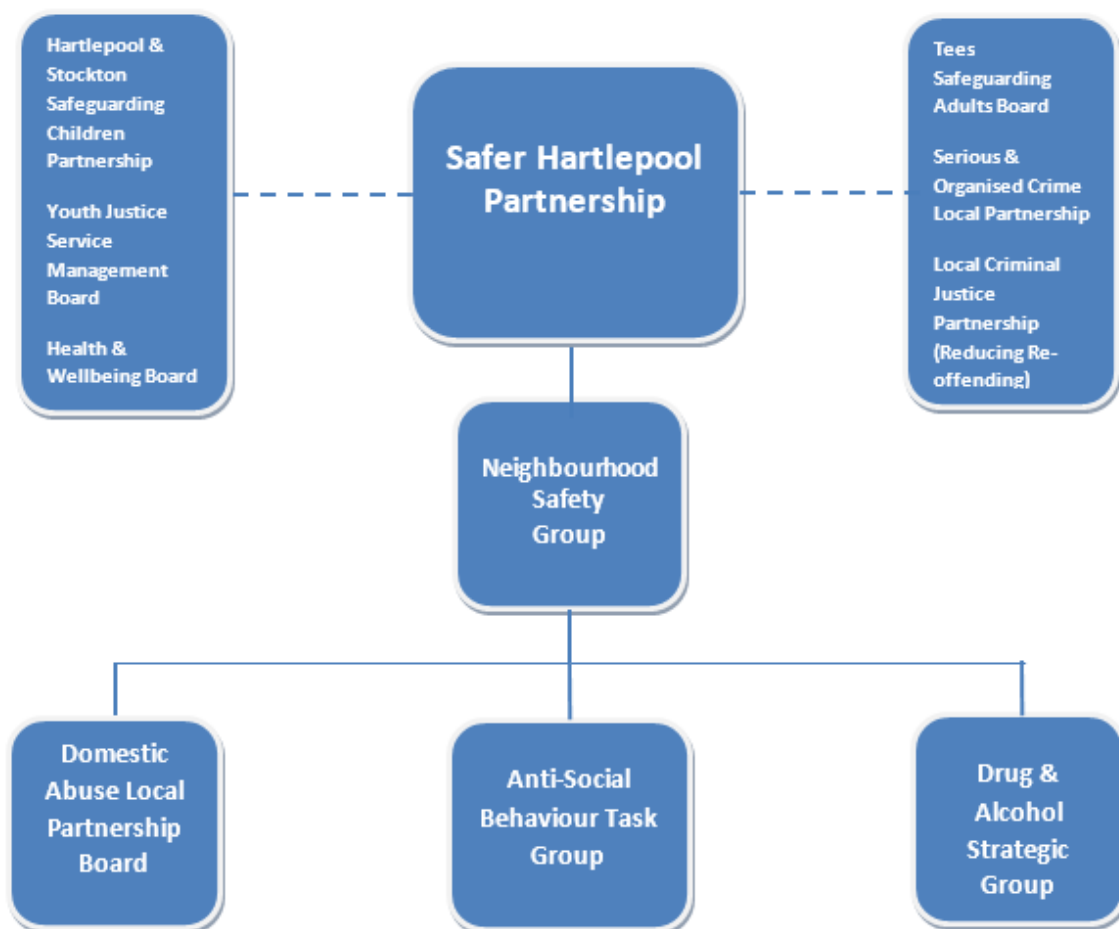
However, the Partnership also recognises the benefits of identifying those issues that have the greatest impact on the town and the need to target resources and efforts to deal with them effectively and efficiently.

To do this, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership will continue to focus activity on three key priority areas – each of which contributes towards a wide range of community concerns. The three key priority areas for 2021-22 are: -

Anti-Social Behaviour	By adopting an intelligence led problem solving approach, the Partnership will work to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) across the town by deploying resources and undertaking targeted activity to address the issues that cause concern for our residents and communities and negatively impact on their quality of life.
Drugs and Alcohol	Through targeted partnership working, focussed efforts will be made to reduce both the demand for, and the supply of, illegal drugs in Hartlepool. The Partnership will also work together to reduce the negative social, personal and health consequences caused by the misuse of alcohol in the town.
Domestic Violence and Abuse	The Partnership will work together to safeguard individuals and their families from domestic violence and abuse.

9. DELIVERING THE PLAN

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has the responsibility to deliver the priorities that are set out within this plan. The governance structure is outlined below. Performance monitoring will be undertaken on a quarterly basis to assess progress against key priorities drawn from the strategic assessment and identify any emerging issues.



10. MONITORING PERFORMANCE

Performance of the Community Safety Plan will be monitored by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership against a range of key performance indicators for each of the priorities which include:

Priority	Indicator
Anti-Social Behaviour	ASB incidents reported to the Police
	Rate of ASB per 1,000 population
	Number of noise complaints received
	Number of fly-tipping reports received by the Council
	Number of Deliberate Secondary (F3) fires
	Number of Deliberate Vehicle Fires
Drugs and Alcohol	Drug Offences - Possession
	Drug Offences - Supply
	% of opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment
	% of non-opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment
	% of alcohol users that have successfully completed alcohol treatment
	% of young people that have successfully completed treatment
	Number of young people known to substance misuse services
	% of people dependent on alcohol and not in the treatment system
	% of people dependent on opiates or crack and not in the treatment system
Domestic Violence	Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police
	Rate of Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population
	Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse
	Rate of repeat Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population



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For further information contact:

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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29 September 2021



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

Subject: YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2023

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The outline of this report is to consult with members of Audit and Governance Committee on the Youth Justice Plan for 2019-2021 attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 Full Council will be asked to adopt the plan on 4 November 2021. Recommendations made by Audit and Governance Committee, Children's Services Committee, Finance and Policy Committee, and Safer Hartlepool Partnership will be considered in the final plan presented to Council.
- 1.3 The final version of the Strategic Plan will also be sent to National Youth Justice Board.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The national Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 do not engage in offending or re-offending behaviour and to ensure that where a young person is arrested and charged with a criminal offence, they are dealt with differently to adult offenders to reflect their particular welfare needs as children.
- 2.2 Local Youth Offending Services were established under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to develop, deliver, commission and coordinate the provision of youth justice services within each Local Authority.
- 2.3 Hartlepool Youth Justice Service was established in April 2000 and is responsible for youth justice services locally. It is a multi-agency service and is made up of representatives from the Council's Children's Services, Police, Probation, Health and Education.

- 2.4 The primary objectives of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people and reduce the use of custody.
- 2.5 There is a statutory requirement for all Youth Justice Services to annually prepare, a local Youth Justice Plan for submission to the national Youth Justice Board.
- 2.6 The annual Youth Justice Plan provides an overview of how the Youth Justice Service, the Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board and wider partnership will ensure that the service has sufficient resources and infrastructure to deliver youth justice services in its area in line with the requirements of the *National Standards for Youth Justice Services* to:
- promote performance improvement;
 - shape youth justice system improvement;
 - improve outcomes for young people, victims and the broader community.
- 2.7 The Youth Justice Service were inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) in October 2020. This inspection is part of a four-year programme of youth offending service (YOS) inspections. HMIP inspected and rated Hartlepool Youth Justice Service (YJS) across three broad areas of its work, referred to as ‘domains’: the arrangements for organisational delivery of the service, the quality of work done with children sentenced by the courts, and the quality of out-of-court disposal work. HMIP inspect against 12 ‘standards’, shared between the domains. Overall, Hartlepool YJS was rated as ‘Good’ which is a very positive outcome and provides the authority with a level of assurance, the recommendations for improvement identified in this report have been address in YJS plan 2021/23.

3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Youth Offending Service and broader youth justice Partnership focus on the following key strategic objectives during 2021/23;
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** - sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that there remain strategies and services in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
 - **Re-offending** - Reducing further offending by young people who have committed crime with a particular emphasis on the development of activities to address the offending behaviour of young women
 - **Remand and Custody** – Demonstrate that there are robust alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands to custody whilst awaiting trial/sentencing

- **Voice of the Young Person** – ensure that all young people are actively involved in developing their own plans and interventions and have the opportunity to develop and inform current and future service delivery
- **Effective Governance** – ensure that the Youth Offending Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Offending Service performance
- **Risk and Safety & Wellbeing (Asset Plus)** – ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk of harm, safety and wellbeing concerns and desistance factors, to inform effective intervention and risk management
- **‘Child First’** – ensure that the Child First principles are embedded within the Youth Justice Service and that every child has the opportunity to live a safe and crime free life, and makes a positive contribution to society.
- **Education, Training, Employment** – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Schools, Virtual School, One Stop Shop etc to ensure all Young People open to the YJS are actively engaging in some form of suitable ETE, thus reducing NEET numbers and increasing attendance.
- **Substance Misuse** – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Horizons/START to improve and sustain the engagement of young people open to the YJS within substance misuse services.

4. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The strategic plan identifies key risk to future delivery as detailed in Section 8. of the plan these are:
- The unpredictability associate with secure remand episodes and secure remand length has the potential to place significant financial pressure on the Youth Justice Service and the broader Local Authority
 - Managing the potential for reduction in YJB grant and partnership financial and ‘in-kind’ contributions for post-2021/23
 - Performance on reoffending outcomes and impact to children
 - Emerging concerns around Serious Youth Violence, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 A local authority must submit a youth justice plan annually to the Youth Justice Board setting out (a) how youth justice services are to be provided and funded in their area and (b) how the YOTs established by them are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate and what functions they are to carry out. The plan must be published in such manner and by such date as the Secretary of State may direct.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 This plan has had the approval of the Youth Justice Management Board and consultation will be sought through the committee approval process before providing the Youth Justice Board with a final version.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 9.1 Not applicable

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staffing consideration within this report

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management consideration within this report

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Audit and Governance Committee is requested to note the progress made against the local Youth Justice Plan (2019/2021) and ratify the 2021/2023 plan.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 The development of the Youth Justice plan for 2021/2023 will provide the Youth Justice Service with a clear steer to bring about further reductions in youth offending and contribute to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families alongside the broader community.
- 13.2 The local Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2021/2023 will establish responsibility across the Youth Justice Service and the Youth Justice Strategic Board for taking each improvement activity forward within agreed timescales.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
 - Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Sign Off:-

Chief Executive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Director of Policy and Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chief Solicitor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



HARTLEPOOL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2023

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1. FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2021 - 2023 Hartlepool Youth Justice Strategic Plan. This plan sets out our ambitions and priorities for Hartlepool Youth Justice Service and the broader local Youth Justice Partnership for the next 2 years.

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership, Community Safety Plan 2020-21 establishes a vision for the town:

“To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit”

The Youth Justice Service and broader partnership has a key role in contributing to this vision, by continuing to deliver a high quality, effective and safe youth justice service that prevents crime and the fear of crime, whilst ensuring that young people who do offend are identified, managed and supported appropriately, without delay.

In recent years Hartlepool has witnessed a significant reduction in youth crime. The local youth justice partnership has been particularly effective in reducing the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system for the first time, but there still remains a need to drive down incidents of re-offending by young people who have previously offended. This will be achieved through a combination of robust interventions designed to manage and reduce risk of harm, support safety & wellbeing, restore interpersonal relationships, promote whole family engagement and achieve positive outcomes. Encouragingly, Hartlepool Youth Justice Service has implemented a strong health offer for all young people and continues to develop its restorative offer whilst ensuring that victims of youth crime also have a voice.

The recent HMIP inspection was a positive experience resulting in a strong GOOD result overall for the service. It highlighted many positives to be maintained and built upon and also areas requiring improvement, the YJS and partners continue to work hard to improve in all in areas. The HMIP inspection framework, ‘Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019’ and the ‘Child First’ ethos will be integral to the way the service builds upon progress to date. However, it must be acknowledged that the ongoing difficulties with the COVID 19 pandemic, current economic climate, and the continuing introduction of new reforms relating to how we respond to children, young people, families and communities, will inevitably present new challenges in the coming year and beyond.

Despite these challenges I am very confident that Hartlepool Youth Justice Service and the broader Youth Justice Partnership will continue to help make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.

In 2021-23 we will strive to continuously improve by:

- Maintaining and building upon the current Health offer and Enhanced Case Management model, with trauma informed practice at its core.
- Continuing to work with partners to develop a clear and consistent approach to all forms of child exploitation.
- Building on the improving YJS offer of a 'whole family approach'
- Ensuring the Service maintains a 'child first' ethos.
- Continuing to develop and embed a creative Early Intervention & Prevention offer

None of the above will be possible without the continued support and close working relationships of our partners and Children's Social Care. In addition, these relationships allow us to mitigate the impact of ever reducing partnership budgets whilst maintaining the quality and effectiveness of the Service.

2020-21 has been a difficult and frustrating year for everyone, especially in light of the COVID 19 pandemic, an initial radical overhaul of service delivery and ever changing Business Continuity and Recovery Plans added to the ongoing pressures. It needs to be highlighted that all staff have coped admirably and very professionally throughout this period ensuring the service continued to reach out and deliver interventions to all young people in very difficult circumstances.

In light of the above, as always, the local authority and Strategic Management Board is extremely grateful for the skill and dedication of our employees in continuing to support young people who offend, or are at risk of becoming involved in offending.

On behalf of Hartlepool Borough Council Children's Services and Youth Justice Service Strategic Management Board I am pleased to pledge my support to and endorse the Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2021-23



Sally Robinson, Director, Children and Joint Commissioning Services

2. INTRODUCTION

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service (YJS) covers the local authority area of Hartlepool which is impacted upon by a range of social, economic and environmental factors. Using the 2019 average score of the Index of Multiple Deprivation Hartlepool is the 10th most deprived Local Authority in the country with high levels of unemployment, the initial impact of Universal Credit, crime and anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and substance misuse. All of these factors provide significant challenges to the young people we work with impacting on their behaviours and influencing outcomes.

Hartlepool is served by 5 Secondary Schools, 1 Pupil Referral Unit and Catcote Academy which caters for secondary and post-16 students with special educational needs. There are 4 Sixth Form providers two of which are located within Secondary Schools.

The current population of Hartlepool is in the region of 93,000 with approx.10,000 being between the ages of 10-17.

Hartlepool also has a low BAME population currently at 2.1%

The National Youth Justice System primarily exists to ensure that children and young people between the age of 10 and 17 (who are arrested and charged with a criminal offence) are dealt with differently to adult offenders, to reflect their particular welfare needs.

In summary, young people who offend are:

- Dealt with by youth courts;
- Given different sentences in comparison to adults and
- When necessary, detained in special secure centres for young people.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority and statutory partners to secure and coordinate local youth justice services for young people in our area who come into contact with the Youth Justice System as a result of their offending behaviour. This is achieved through the established Youth Justice Service.

The primary functions of Youth Justice Services are to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people, reduce the use of custody and ensure all of the above are delivered with a “Child First” ethos embedded across the service.

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service was established in April 2000 and is a multi-agency service made up of representatives from Children’s Services, Police, Probation, Public Health, Education and Community Safety. Hartlepool Youth Justice Service seeks to ensure that:

- All young people entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk and protective factors associated with their offending behaviour in order to inform effective interventions.
- Courts and Referral Order panels are provided with high quality reports that enable them to make informed decisions.
- Orders of the Court are managed in such a way that they support the primary aim of the youth justice system, alongside managing risk of harm and ensuring there is due regard to the welfare of the young person.
- Services provided to courts are of a high quality and ensure that magistrates and the judiciary have confidence in the supervision of young people.
- Comprehensive bail and remand management services are in place locally for young people remanded or committed to custody, or on bail while awaiting trial or sentence.
- The needs and risks of young people sentenced to custodial sentences (including long-term custodial sentences) are assessed to ensure effective resettlement and management of risk.
- Those receiving youth justice services are treated fairly regardless of race, language, gender, religion, sexual orientation, disability or any other factor, and actions are put in place to address discrimination if identified

In addition to the above, the remit of the service has widened significantly in recent years due to both national and local developments relating to prevention, diversion and restorative justice and there is a now requirement to ensure that:

- Creative strategies and services are in place locally to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour;
- Out-of-court disposals deliver targeted and bespoke interventions for those at risk of entering the Youth Justice System
- Assistance is provided to the Police when determining whether Youth Cautions should be issued and
- Restorative approaches are used, where appropriate, with victims of crime and ensures that restorative justice is central to work undertaken with young people who offend.

The Hartlepool Youth Justice Plan for 2021-2023 sets out how youth justice services will be delivered, funded and governed in response to both local need and national policy changes and in line with the Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019, the recent HMIP inspection findings and the ongoing Business Continuity and Recovery plan. It also highlights how Hartlepool Youth Justice Service will work in partnership to prevent offending and re-offending by young people and reduce the use of custody.

3. STRATEGIC VISION AND PRIORITIES

Hartlepool's Children's Strategic Partnership has set out its vision for children and young people within the town as follows:

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 chances and be supported to be safe in their homes and communities.

Obsessions:

- Children and young people have opportunities to make the most of their life chances and are safe
- Improving family relationships, strengths, skills and ability to cope
- Reducing the impact of domestic violence, mental health, drugs and alcohol misuse on children and families
- Helping parents, carers and young people to gain skills and get jobs

The Youth Justice Service, as part of the wider services for children, seeks to deliver on the vision and obsessions through a number of identified Youth Justice Service Strategic Priorities for 2021 - 2023.

In addition, these priorities align and overlap with the strategic priorities set by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for 2020-21:

- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
- Reduce the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse

- Reduce Domestic Violence

To enable Hartlepool Youth Justice Service to contribute to the vision above, it will focus on the following strategic objectives and priorities:

Strategic Objectives and Priorities – 2021-2023

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service (and the broader Youth Justice Partnership) will be utilising the YJB grant to help achieve the following key strategic objectives during 2021-23:

Youth Justice Strategic Priorities

Re-offending - reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime with a particular emphasis continuing on the development of Service interventions that are structured, responsive and tailored to meet identified individual need and evaluated. (Both within Youth Justice Services and provided by external agencies).

Key Actions

- Undertake quality assessments of young people at risk of re-offending, ensuring risks, desistance factors and needs are identified which inform effective intervention planning
- Improve interventions delivered, through innovation and collaboration where appropriate
- Improve intelligence and timely information sharing relating to those young people who are at risk of offending, to inform service-wide improvement activity or targeted work
- Continue to improve the 'whole family' approach and Health offer within the service and with partners
- Continue to undertake scoping activities in relation to retaining both the Speech & Language Therapist, Trauma Informed Care Pathway and Emotional Wellbeing therapists presence within the YJS beyond March 2020

Early Intervention and Prevention – sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that creative strategies and services remain in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

Key Actions

- Embedding of the YJS Early Intervention and Prevention offer across Children's Services and the partnership
- Operate a targeted approach to supporting individuals and groups of young people at risk of offending - based on intelligence and collaborative working with key partners (Police, ASB, Early Help, Voluntary Community Sector, Schools, etc)
- Work with Partners to reduce and respond to the Child exploitation
- Ongoing trend analysis of past and current FTE's to identify key themes and responses
- Ongoing briefings to key partners (such as Police and Social Care) to emphasise and promote the Prevention and Diversion agenda
- Ensure point of arrest diversion is evident as a distinct and substantially different response to formal out of court disposals

Remand and Custody – demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.

Key Actions

- Monitor and maintain the use of Compliance Panels to ensure continued effectiveness
- Ensure the Service provides intensive packages of supervision and support to high intensity orders and bail arrangements
- Ensure that the needs of young people in custody and the factors relating to their offending behaviour are addressed in the secure estate to prevent further offending upon release
- Ensure that robust and timely Resettlement Planning is in place for young people upon release to reduce the risk of further reoffending (HMIP Youth Justice inspection framework, standard 4.1 Resettlement, May 2021)
- Review capacity to deliver ISS, and resource appropriately, through a multi-agency approach

Risk and Safety & Wellbeing (Asset Plus) – ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk of harm, safety and wellbeing concerns and desistance factors, to inform effective intervention and risk management.

Key Actions

- Continued Asset Plus refresher training, ensuring robust assessment of a young person's needs
- Work in partnership with other agencies to ensure there is a co-ordinated assessment and plan relating to a young person's risk and safety & wellbeing
- Implement an audit cycle/performance clinic to ensure assessment and plans are meeting the appropriate quality standards through robust and transparent quality assurance and feedback.
- Ensure that desistance factors are identified and analysed in all assessments of every young person subject to YJS supervision through quality assurance and staff supervision.
- Attendance and contribution to YJB Regional Effective Practice groups and peer collaboration with Tees Valley and North East YOT colleagues
- Ongoing internal staff training and workshops to benchmark quality standards in the management of risk and safety & wellbeing
- Continue to work alongside the partnership to identify suitable interventions and pathways for children and young people criminally exploited and potentially being drawn into County Lines activity
- Undertake 'Practice Week', this consists of a team of independent auditors to carry out case work audits, undertake practice observations and gain feedback from young people and their families. The evaluation of practice week will inform the service development plan.

Restorative Justice – ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is incorporated in to the work undertaken with young people who offend.

Key Actions

- Ensure that victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches leading to improved outcomes for victims
- Continue to use restorative practice across all aspects of the Youth Justice Service
- Regularly re-visit, review and develop practice and process around Referral Order panels to ensure increased involvement from victims, panel members, young people and their families
- Continue to develop the in-house RJ 'offer' to consolidate and embed current and better integrated working practices – including the victim's evaluation

Effective Governance – ensure that the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Justice Service performance.

Key Actions

- The Youth Justice Management Board will provide oversight and scrutiny of the service action plan and performance
- Ensure Management Board members attend regular development and shadowing opportunities as provided by the YJS Team Manager.
- Continue to review the Terms of Reference for the YJS board to ensure it is fit for purpose and includes appropriate representation and contribution of all statutory partners.
- Attendance and representation at YJB Regional executive meetings with colleague YOT Managers from the North East – to share learning and Governance issues to improve wider regional service delivery

Voice of the Young People – ensure that all young people are actively involved in developing their own plans having the opportunity to develop and inform current and future service delivery

Key Actions

- Ensure young people's involvement in relation to their assessment and plans is clearly evidenced within the records.
- Young people to be actively involved in developing their own plans and their comments are captured at implementation, review and closure of all plans
- The service will ensure young people are provided with opportunities to influence and shape service delivery – through access to, and completion of, Survey Monkey feedback
- YJS leadership team to hold regular evaluation/feedback meetings to ensure all comments are seen and actioned where required

'Child First' – ensure that the Child First principles are embedded within the Youth Justice Service and that every child has the opportunity to live a safe and crime free life, and make a positive contribution to society.

Key Actions

- Prioritise the best interests of children, recognising their needs, capacities, rights and potential.
- Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion.
- Ensure that all work carried out by the service is a meaningful collaboration with children and their parents/carers.
- The YJS will promote a childhood that is removed from the Justice System, using prevention, diversion and minimal intervention and that all work minimises stigma.

Education, Training, Employment – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Schools, Virtual School, One Stop Shop etc to ensure all Young People open to the YJS are actively engaging in some form of suitable ETE, thus reducing NEET numbers and increasing attendance.

Key Actions

- Ensure Education is suitably represented on the Strategic Management Board
- Education reports submitted by partners for each Strategic Management Board meeting
- Encourage children's active engagement with their respective education provider
- The YJS leadership team to hold monthly Education meetings with all education partners
- Working in collaboration regarding children with EHCP/SEN

Substance Misuse – Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Horizons/START to improve and sustain the engagement of young people open to the YJS within substance misuse services.

Key Actions

- Ensure Substance Misuse providers are suitably represented on the Strategic Management Board
- Regular reports/updates submitted to the Strategic Management Board by Substance Misuse providers
- Ensure the co-location and continued working arrangements/pathways are embedded between the YJS and Substance Misuse partners
- All children and young people identified as needing support are actively encouraged to engage with appropriate Substance Misuse services

4. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Service Structure:

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service employs a staff team of 27 people, which includes three seconded staff, and 5 sessional workers (**see Appendix 1**). The service also benefits from a team of 6 active volunteers who are Referral Order Panel members. All staff and volunteers are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks which are renewed every three years.

The YJS delivery model has been reconfigured and restructured during the last year to ensure the service remains sufficiently flexible to address future challenges. This will continue to be achieved through a generic case management and intervention delivery model, across pre and post court functions. This will ensure maximum resilience, capacity and flexibility to meet the needs of children and young people and the service as a whole.

The current YJS structure aims to consolidate areas of strong performance and effective practice, whilst also providing a dynamic framework to respond to emerging priorities, recognised both by the Local Authority and key partners.

This model (alongside the YJS strategic plan) allows the organisation and the wider YJS partnership to action the priorities for service delivery and to achieve best outcomes for children and young people across the range of statutory and preventative services.

Governance:

The Youth Justice Service is located within the Children & Joint Commissioning Services Department. The Management Board is chaired by the local Neighbourhood Policing Chief Inspector and is made up of representatives from Children's Social Care, Police, Probation, Public Health, Courts, Education, Youth Support Services and Community Safety.

Effective integrated strategic partnership working and clear oversight by the Management Board are critical to the success and effective delivery of youth justice services in Hartlepool. The board is directly responsible for:

- Determining how appropriate youth justice services are to be provided and funded;
- Overseeing the formulation each year of the youth justice plan;
- Agreeing measurable objectives linked to key performance indicators as part of the youth justice plan;
- Ensuring delivery of the statutory aim to prevent offending by children and young people;
- Giving strategic direction to Youth Justice Service Manager and Youth Justice Service Team;
- Providing performance management of the prevention of youth crime and periodically report this to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership;
- Ensuring that Standards for children in the youth justice system 2019 are embedded across the whole service and audits are completed within required timescales;
- Promoting the key role played by the Youth Justice Service within local integrated offender management arrangements;

- Advocate on behalf of the YJS within their own service areas and beyond, specifically supporting the YJS to overcome barriers to effective multi agency working;
- Oversight of all data submissions to the YJB ensuring timeliness, especially conditions set out in the YJB grant;
- Ensuring the recommendations outlined in the HMIP inspection report are addressed and monitored at board meetings

The Management Board is clear about the priority areas for improvement, and monitors the delivery of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, performance and prevention work. It is well attended and receives comprehensive reports relating to performance, finance and specific areas of service delivery.

Members of the Board are knowledgeable, participate well in discussions and are members of other related boards, such as the Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, which contribute to effective partnership working at a strategic level. Board meetings are well structured and members are held accountable. The current membership of the Board is as follows:

Mark Haworth (Chair)	Chief Inspector – Neighbourhood Policing (Cleveland Police)
Jane Young (Deputy Chair)	Assistant Director – Children and Families' (HBC)
Roni Checksfield	Hartlepool YJS Manager (HBC)
Emma Rutherford	Virtual School Headteacher (HBC)
Ann Powell	Head of Cleveland NPS – National Probation Service (NE)
Rachel Parker	Community Safety Team Leader (HBC)

Zoe McKenna	One Stop Shop Manager (HBC)
Deborah Clark	Public Health Improvement Practitioner (HBC)
Jo Heaney	Clinical Commissioning Group (Tees Valley) (CCG)
Kate Stockdale	Head of Service, Substance Misuse (HBC)
Heather Moreton	Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS)
David Ward	Head of Finance (Children's & adults) (HBC)
Lisa Oldroyd	Office for Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
Helen Marriott	Health & Justice Services (TEWV)
Linda Bush	Head of Innovation and Engagement (North East & Cumbria) Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

5. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service is a statutory partnership which includes, but also extends beyond, the direct delivery of youth justice services. In order to deliver youth justice outcomes it must be able to function effectively in both of the two key sectors within which it operates, namely:

- Criminal justice services.
- Services for children, young people and their families.

The Youth Justice Service contributes both to improving community safety and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and in particular protecting them from significant harm.

Many of the young people involved with the Youth Justice Service are amongst the most vulnerable children in the borough and are at greatest risk of social exclusion. The Youth Justice Service's multi-agency approach ensures that it plays a significant role in meeting the safeguarding needs of these young people. This is achieved through the effective assessment and management of safety & wellbeing and risk, through working in partnership with other services, for example Children's Services, Health, Education, Secure Estate and Police to ensure young people's wellbeing is promoted and they are protected from harm. Regular ongoing communication, meetings, joint training opportunities and speedy information/intelligence sharing ensure ongoing strong links and relationships.

All high risk cases can be escalated to either one or both of the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked group (VEMT) or the Strategic Risk Management Group, the Youth Justice Service has representation on both groups which meet monthly. Discussions around serious youth violence, criminal exploitation and county lines are conducted within these forums ensuring tight plans are implemented and strategic management oversight is afforded

6. RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Youth Justice Service budget is mainly funded by a combination of Local Authority funding and Youth Justice Board grant, although historically there have been financial contributions from the Police and Health (CCG and Public Health). The Local Authority's contribution to the service has remained protected; however over time there have been reductions in the other areas of funding.

In April 2021 the YJB announced their grant allocations which is an 8.8% increase for Hartlepool (£411k compared to £378k in 20/21) equating to an additional £33,000. It is unclear whether this increased grant will apply in future years as the grant award letter does state:- *“This one-off uplift is by exception and is not guaranteed for future years. The YJB has sought for this additional funding to support local authorities to address some of the pressures in the system as you move into recovery following the impact of COVID-19 and to support the delivery of our strategic plan.”*

The National Probation Service continue to provide funding (£5k) as well as their staffing contribution which is 0.5 FTE, and the CCG contribution is a non-cash contribution via the commissioning of the Trauma Informed Care Pathway.

Cleveland Police ceased their cash contribution in 2013/14, however still provide the seconded Police Officer. Funding secured from the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2015 towards the delivery of Triage continues, there has however been a slight reduction in the amount of this funding which is secured for the next 12 months.

2021/2022 Youth Justice Service Budget

Agency	Staffing Costs	Payments in kind	Other delegated funds	Total
Police		45,000		45,000
Police and Crime Commissioner			32,000	32,000
Probation		18,500	5,000	23,500
Health				0
Local Authority	150,000	120,000	105,000	375,000
Welsh Government				0
YJB	256,000		130,000	411,000
Other				0
Total	406,000	183,500	272,000	886,500

Planned/Proposed Expenditure 2021/22

Direct Costs	2021/22 Budget
	£'000
Employees	585
Premises	40
Transport	15
Other Non-Pay Costs	141
Indirect Costs – HBC #	42
Indirect Costs - Police	45
Indirect Costs - Probation	19
Total	887

- Inc recharges for premises, management, payroll, HR, finance, legal etc

The minimum staffing requirements set out in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 requires that the service has a nominated person from each of the following statutory partners; Police Service, Children's Social Services, National Probation Service, Education and Health. Hartlepool YJS does not have an education rep sitting within the team, however there is a designated Education Officer who deals solely with YJS children as well as a designated One Stop Shop (OSS) worker who leads on all YJS post 16 education. Monthly Education meetings, attended by Education representatives, OSS worker and YJS staff are held where each child in the current cohort is discussed in depth, barriers to education, current circumstances and plans moving forward are also agreed. All staff have direct access to the Education Officer, wider Virtual School staff who provide support, advice and guidance and OSS worker to discuss ongoing daily education issues as and when they arise and gather any information/data as required.

7. PERFORMANCE & PRIORITIES

A review of progress made against last year's plan highlights that the service has made progress across the majority of the strategic priorities; but there remains key areas for improvement that will need to be driven forward in the coming year:

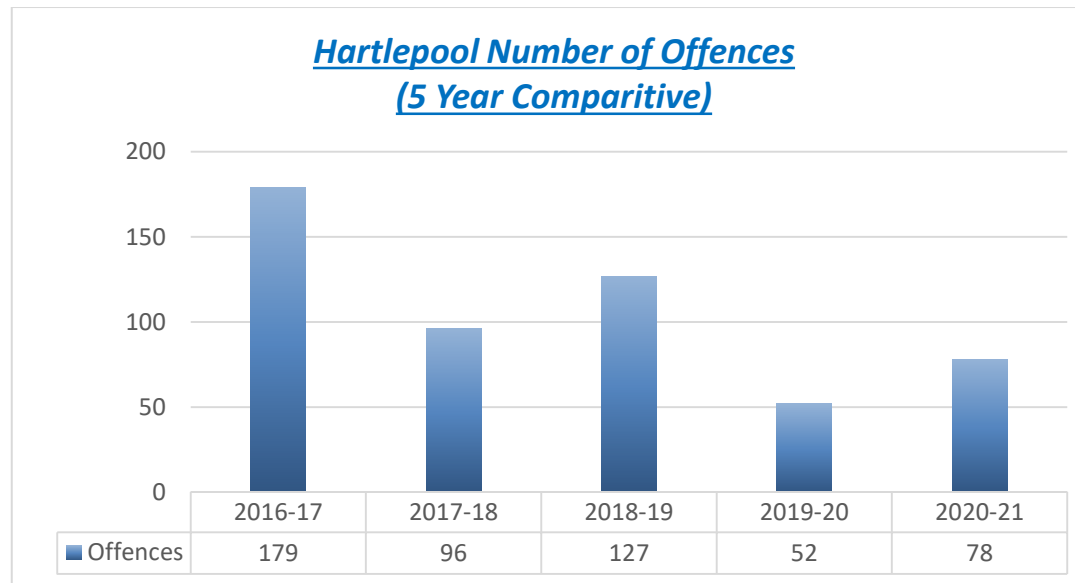
1. HARTLEPOOL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	COMMENTS/UPDATES
Re-offending - <i>reduce further offending by young people who have committed crime with a particular emphasis in the development of Service interventions that are structured, responsive and tailored to meet identified individual need and evaluated. (Both within Youth Justice Service and provided by external agencies).</i>	Hartlepool YJS are in the process of embedding a clearer more robust process of identification and intervening much earlier with YP regarding reoffending. This needs to be a multi-agency approach across the LA with regular communication and buy in from all service areas. Recently received updated data from the YDS indicates a reduction in reoffending over the last year, however this remains a key priority as we are all too aware of how these figures can fluctuate very quickly. The YJS and partners continue to work hard in this area, to ensure the reduction is built upon and improved over the next 2 years.
Risk and Safety & Wellbeing (Asset Plus) – <i>ensure all children and young people entering or at risk of entering the youth justice system benefit from a structured needs assessment to identify risk of harm, safety and wellbeing concerns and desistance factors, to inform effective intervention and risk management.</i>	All pre and post court cases within Hartlepool YJS benefit from an AssetPlus assessment. Quality Assurance frameworks have been implemented and aligned with HMIP Best Practice guidance, with all AssetPlus assessments countersigned by YJS managers. Risk management meetings are held for all High and V High and referrals to VEMT/Strategic Risk Management are made as required. The YJS Internal training programme 2021/22 (Attached at Appendix 2) covers the above as well as desistance etc.
Remand and Custody – <i>demonstrate that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody.</i>	Hartlepool YJS have a clear process for alternatives to custody through the offer of ISS bail packages and utilisation of pre-breach meetings for those at risk of custody via non-compliance. There has been a significant reduction in remands, 1 in 2019/20, 0 in 2020/21 and also 0 to date in 2021/22.

	Custody figures – 1 in 2019/20, 2 in 2020/21 and 0 to date in 2021/22. The YJS and partners continue to work hard in reducing these figures.
Early Intervention and Prevention – <i>sustain the reduction of first time entrants to the youth justice system by ensuring that strategies and services remain in place locally to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.</i>	Hartlepool YJS have a robust embedded diversionary offer and OoCD disposal process. To enhance this offer and widen Early Intervention/Prevention the YJS will be working directly 1:1 with referrals received from the wider Children's Services for those YP at risk of offending. A bigger onus is now being placed on Prevention/early Intervention and the service is working very hard on bespoke creative individual packages of support for all children/YP being identified and referred.
Child First – <i>ensure that the Child First principles are embedded within the Youth Justice Service and that every child has the opportunity to live a safe and crime free life, and makes a positive contribution to society.</i>	We continue to embed the "Child First, Offender second" principles across the service, our aim is to deliver a non-stigmatising approach to interventions where all children/YP have a voice and are active in planning their own pathways and plans. Alongside this there are ongoing discussions/meetings being held with Cleveland Police and partners regarding Criminal exploitation and LAC (the criminalisation of these young people) and the various forums these issues are discussed.
Restorative Justice – <i>ensure all victims of youth crime have the opportunity to participate in restorative justice approaches and restorative justice is incorporated in to the work undertaken with young people who offend.</i>	RJ and victim work continues to be delivered in house. We are now reviewing our own processes/monthly audit etc to improve our practice and the offer/outcomes to victims? This is being carried out at Leadership meetings, we have introduced an RJ database where this info is stored and monitored. We are seeing an increased improvement across the service with all areas of RJ.
Voice of the Young People – <i>ensure that all young people are actively involved in developing their own plans and interventions and have the opportunity to develop and inform current and future service delivery</i>	Hartlepool YJS continue to have an established in-house evaluation tool via 'survey monkey' – which is based on questions asked by HMIPs 'Viewpoint' survey before it was decommissioned in March 2017. We have now implemented Survey Monkey evaluations for young people, Parents/carers and Victims. AssetPlus self-assessments are completed at all initial, review and closure stages (across pre and post court cases). Children, YP and Parents/Carers are actively engaged in the creation of their plans and reviews with comments requested at all stages, as well as in depth Closure Summaries. This information is shared with the Management Board at board meetings for further discussion and to help shape future delivery and services.
Effective Governance – <i>ensure that the Youth Justice Strategic Management Board is a well constituted, committed and knowledgeable Board which scrutinises Youth Justice Service performance.</i>	As a result of various national and local drivers, it is important to emphasise that the YOT partnership should reflect the most appropriate local arrangement for maximum effectiveness. The Board's membership and activity was reviewed in May 2021 and will be reviewed again in 2022, this will be undertaken with all board members. There is a need to ensure development days and shadowing days are prioritised. Board members attended the bite size sessions delivered by the YJB in early 2021 and activity from board members is and continues to improve.

<p>Education, Training, Employment – <i>Working in collaboration with partners i.e. Virtual School, OSS etc ensure all Young People open to the YJS are actively engaging in some form of suitable ETE, thus reducing NEET numbers and increasing attendance.</i></p>	<p>Identified during the recent HMIP as an area needing improvement. There is a need for the YJS to work closely with all relevant partners and work towards reducing NEET figures and improving engagement/attendance for all YP and their education provision. Up to date education reports are now presented at each board meeting by the relevant representatives, monthly education meetings are held and a database of all YP updated. Support with EHCP, SEN, alternate provision, PEX, PRU and Post 16 education is available via the Education reps. All YJS staff have direct access to the Education reps on a day to day basis.</p>
<p>Substance Misuse – <i>Working with partners i.e. Horizons/START to improve and sustain the engagement of young people open to the YJS with substance misuse services.</i></p>	<p>Identified during the recent HMIP as an area needing improvement. There is a need for the YJS to work closely with all relevant partners to understand the low engagement and work towards sustaining the engagement of all YJS YP with Substance Misuse services. HOS Substance misuse now sits on the board and will be producing up to data/reports for future board meetings. Co-location of staff, joint working, joint training and daily communication is ongoing.</p>

Young People Who Offend

In spite of the challenges that young people, families and communities contend with in Hartlepool, the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in terms of preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.



The number of offences committed by the YJS cohort has reduced from 179 (2016/17) to 78 in 2020/21, there have been slight fluctuations during this period, however this represents a significant reduction of 57% across the last 5 years and a 38% reduction in the last 3 years.

Prevention and Diversion

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service, and the broader youth justice partnership, continue to place a significant emphasis on the prevention of young people's involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. This continues to positively impact on the reduction of young people entering the Youth Justice System.

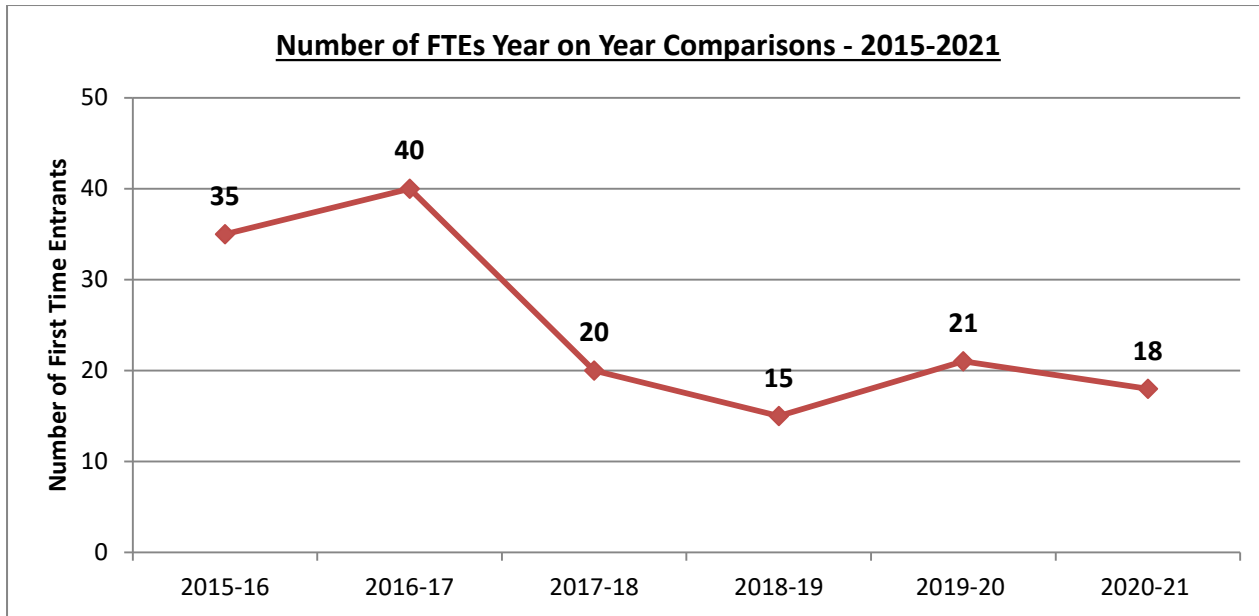
Youth crime prevention and diversion is based on the premise that it is possible to change the direction of young people by reducing risk factors that may lead to offending behaviour and enhancing protective factors that might help prevent offending.

It marks a concerted shift away from reactive spending, towards early action and intervention, through a range of programmes for young people who are at risk of offending, which can result in better outcomes and greater value for money.

For young people whose behaviour has become more problematic, robust out of court interventions have proven to be highly successful in diverting young people away from further involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. The use of out of court interventions are able to impress upon the young people the seriousness, and potentially damaging effect, of their actions however they do not criminalise the young people in the way that statutory court orders inevitably do.

Hartlepool YJS partnership arrangements with Cleveland Police are established and effective in relation to the diversion of young people from the Youth Justice System. This remains primarily through the delivery of Out Of Court Disposals (OOCd), with longer term data trend evidencing significant success in this area. Indeed, Hartlepool YJS will continue to monitor the number of FTEs and for those young people subject to an OOCd, ensuring interventions are robust and sufficient to address the offence committed, alongside other areas of need identified in the assessment, in order to help prevent any further offending.

Cleveland PCC continues to fund the diversionary Triage programme which has made a considerable contribution to the continuing reduction of FTEs. There was a recorded 40 FTEs in 2016/17 compared to 18 in 2020/21 a reduction of 55%, although figures have fluctuated over the last 3 years we are confident as a partnership that we can continue to reduce these figures.



Discussions are currently ongoing between the 3 Cleveland YOTs, Cleveland Police, CPS and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss implementation of a “Divert from Charge” process, if and when implemented this will add another strand to the Prevention/Early Intervention/Diversion offer

Our Prevention and Early Intervention Offer has been overhauled and redesigned continuing the focus of a Child First Youth Justice Service. This will be delivered by ensuring that we:

- Prioritise the interests and needs of all children/YP
- Promote their individual strengths and capacities
- Build trusting supportive relationships
- Empower Children/YP to make positive contributions
- Encourage participation
- Ensure a non-stigmatised contact with the service

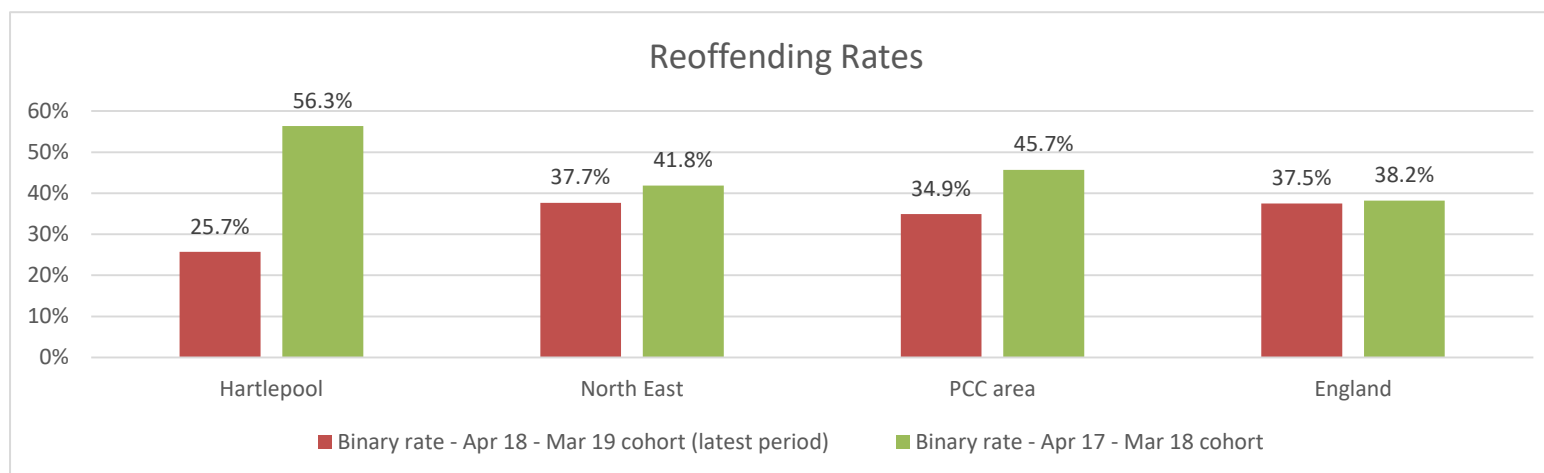
Referrals and numbers via this route will continue to increase into the service, this will be recorded and highlighted within all Management Board reports to indicate the ongoing importance of this work and the effect this is hoped to have on the reduction of children/YP entering the service via statutory means.

Continued multi agency partnership work is ongoing to implement suitable interventions and processes to work intensively with those young people identified as potentially being criminally exploited. Hartlepool YJS will be providing a leading role in this process alongside the Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing and Trafficked (VEMT) local board. Discussions and plans are in the advanced stages within Children's Services with the implementation of a Contextualised Safeguarding Hub which will bring the other forums together under one roof.

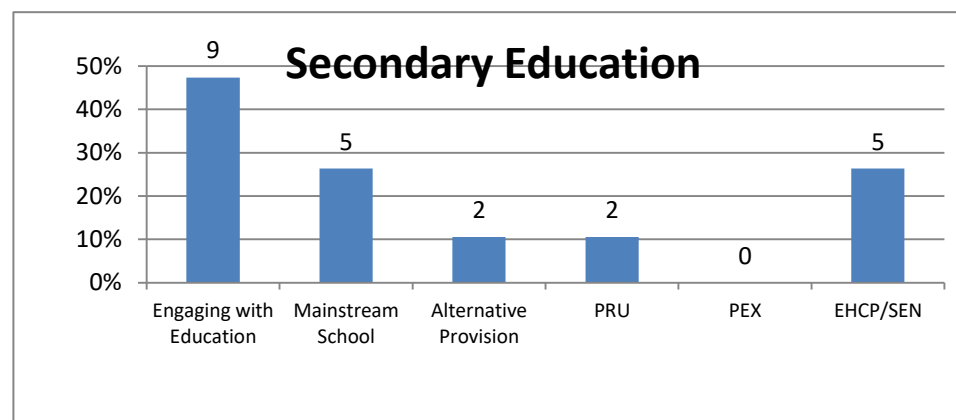
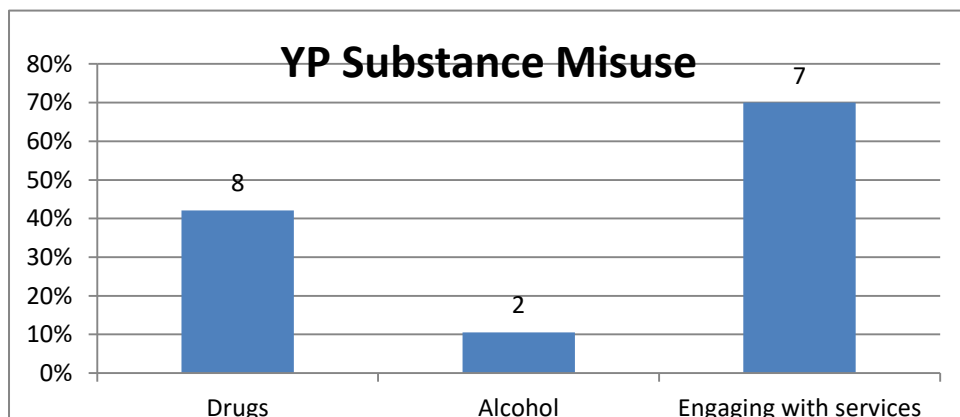
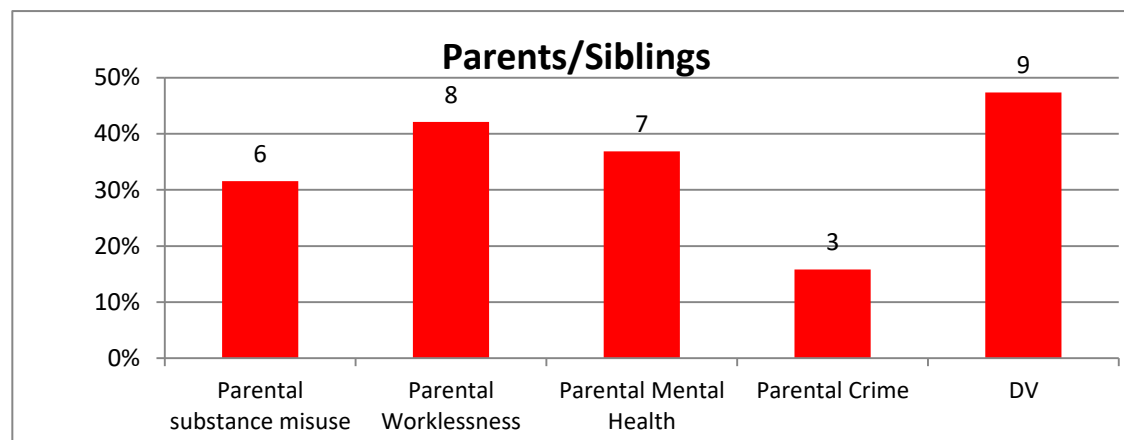
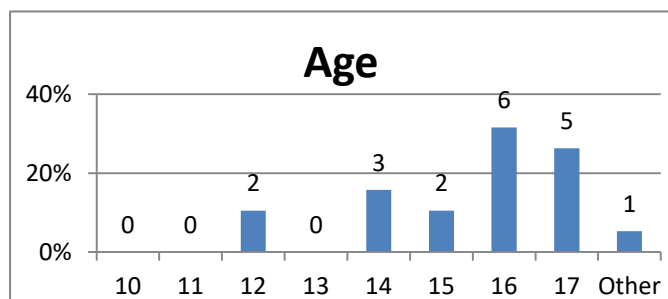
Reoffending

The rate of youth reoffending within Hartlepool has reduced significantly over the last year, it is currently below the national and regional average, however, it will continue to be a key priority in the coming year. Numbers can and will no doubt fluctuate in the future, we need to continue to work together as a service and partnership to aim to drive these figures down.

Each of the cohorts are tracked for a period of 12 months, plus a further waiting period of 6 months to allow for any offences which may not have yet been dealt with by the Criminal Justice System – therefore the most recent reoffending data always has an 18 month time lag.



The service is dealing with smaller caseloads consisting of complex individuals with multiple risks and vulnerabilities. Hartlepool YJS carry out a quarterly Needs Analysis of all YP open to the service and place a big onus on this. The Needs Analysis enables the service and partnership via Management Board meetings to have a good snap shot of the current cohort's complexities and potential gaps within delivery, services and areas of concern. Recent analysis reveals a cohort which display broader lifestyle choices relating to substance misuse and the need to generate income to maintain this. This also reflects the national and regional picture in terms of caseload composition.



**These graphs highlight a small snap shot of the Needs Analysis

**There are numerous graphs created depicting a multitude of up to date data

Furthermore, this cohort of young people who continue to offend are predominantly young males aged between 15 and 17, many of whom reside within Hartlepool's most deprived neighbourhoods. Although not mutually exclusive, the common criminogenic need and welfare issues prevalent amongst this cohort as identified within quarterly Needs Analysis as:

- higher than average mental health/emotional wellbeing needs
- higher levels of drug and alcohol use than for the general population and in particular 'heavy cannabis use'
- low educational attachment, attendance and attainment
- having family members or friends who offend
- higher than average levels of loss, bereavement, abuse and violence experienced within the family
- a history of family disruption
- chaotic and unstructured lifestyles

Alongside this cohort of young males, there is another cohort of young females aged 14 -17 whom, although perhaps not as prolific in terms of reoffending, are of significant concern due to multiple complex issues which are predominately welfare-orientated. These include:

- Substance misuse
- Chaotic lifestyles
- Sexual exploitation
- Missing from home
- Family breakdown

Again, as with the male cohort, young females who are offending are noted to have a higher prevalence of poor emotional well-being. Analysis shows that this arises from loss, bereavement and domestic or sexual abuse.

Working in partnership is key to supporting a greater understanding of these underlying issues, alongside addressing them in a holistic and co-ordinated way to provide "pathways out of offending", with the intention of trying to reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations. This collaborative work is achieved through the following partnerships:



It is also important to adopt an 'intelligence-led' targeted approach, particularly in relation to prevention, and build on service-wide staff training to respond to Speech, Language, & Communication, alongside the emotional health and wellbeing needs of the young people. An important element to the reduction of reoffending and the number of those entering the youth justice system is the development of the YJS interventions. Interventions are bespoke, based on high quality, integrated assessments and plans, delivered by YJS staff and partner agencies. Progress has been made in this area, however further work is needed in the forthcoming year. Innovative interventions have been developed and a more evident 'Whole Family' approach is being further developed with the recent inclusion of Psychological Therapists and the re commission of the Speech and Language Therapist alongside the Trauma Informed Care Pathway within the service. This will continue to be monitored through established quality assurance and performance measures, such as the monthly YJS performance clinics and the Hartlepool Community Safety Partnership meetings between Police, Social Care, ASBU, YJS, Fire and Rescue Services and Adult Services.

Hartlepool YJS Health Offer is attached at Appendix 3

Victims of Youth Crime

Whilst crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. The YJS and broader Youth Justice Partnership are working hard to reduce the numbers of victims of crime, by incorporating the use of restorative justice practices. Restorative Justice (RJ) provides opportunities for those directly affected by an offence (victim, offender and members of the community) to communicate and ensure victims of youth crime have a voice.

In addition victims of youth crime are helped to access appropriate support pathways that enable them to move on from the impact of crime. A personalised approach is taken to ensure that victims of crime in Hartlepool are placed at the centre. This includes ensuring that individual needs and wishes are fully taken into account. As a result we aim to visit all victims of crime so they are able to access pathways to support, including the option to participate in restorative justice. Across 2019/20 and 2020/21 there were **79** contacts with direct victims of crime and where consented a Victim Impact Statement carried out.

RJ is an important underlying principle of all disposals for young people on YJS caseload, from Triage to Detention & Training Orders. Whilst restorative processes typically result in practical reparation, for example participating in a task that benefits the community, the communication between victim and offender, as part of this process, can also produce powerful emotional responses leading to mutual satisfaction and socially inclusive outcomes.

The decision was made to in-source the RJ and Victim provision as of 1/4/17. These statutory duties have been re-aligned within the existing staffing of Hartlepool YJS – all of whom have undertaken service-wide RJ training, many to level 3.

This decision has enabled Hartlepool YJS to have direct control and influence in shaping the direction and quality of RJ work, including the establishment of updated working policies, practices and procedures. In turn, this has already begun to result in better outcomes for both victims and young people and is much more responsive to local need.

There is considerable evidence that RJ practice is much more integrated across all areas of the service. In particular, there is a closer link between those workers with additional RJ responsibility and case managers in relation to the needs and wishes of victims.

During the last year direct and indirect reparative projects were difficult to deliver, as part of the ongoing recovery plan we are now introducing suitably risk assessed 1:1 reparation projects, these are individual bespoke projects and are planned to take place involving furniture restoration, bird boxes for distribution to local groups and Christmas hampers for those in need. This will build over the year and hopefully allow us to get back into the position we were in prior to the COVID 19 pandemic.



Quality of Services

Throughout 2019/20 & 2020/21 the YJS continued preparation for the much anticipated HMIP inspection, considerable time was put in by all staff. All Policies & Procedures were re written and regular case audits were carried out to ensure assessment, planning, intervention and delivery were off a good standard.

The service was inspected in Oct 2020 virtually over a 4 day period, and was rated as GOOD, 4 areas were Outstanding, 6 Good and 2 Requiring Improvement. The service, board and wider partnership were very pleased with the outcome and agreed with the findings of the report. Work hasn't stood still and everyone continues to drive forward to ensure the recommendations are addressed and actioned.

Performance management and data analysis has continued to be a priority with significant work undertaken in conjunction with the Local Authority's Data information and IT teams. This has enabled various processes and documents (including the YJS Board Report) to be aligned with cleansed data, which not only makes performance management data more accessible and understandable, but also allows such data to inform service improvement activity, comparative analysis and the directing of resource to areas of organisational need.

Hartlepool YJS continue to commission South Tees YOS, to provide duty cover of Youth Court work in Teesside. Whilst allowing the service to maintain excellent working relationships within the Court arena, this continues to create some necessary and critical capacity within the team to manage the volume of post-court work and utilise staffing time more effectively. Given the success of this arrangement (strategically, operationally and financially) this was re commissioned in March 2021 for a further 12 month period.

A continued key strength of Hartlepool YJS and identified within the HMIP inspection is the ability of all staff to engage complex and challenging young people, through outstanding assessments and response to individual need. This builds positive relationships and leads to better outcomes – both for the young person as an individual and their families and the community as a whole. There continues to be a considerable service-wide training programme (attached at Appendix 2), which complements staff members' professional development on an individual level and alongside the training from the Local Authority and other statutory and voluntary partners. Alongside internal training around Risk of Harm, Safety & Wellbeing, and Asset Plus refreshers. Hartlepool YJS has received Talking Mats training which is a specialist Speech Language and Communication Need (SLCN) intervention and some staff attended Kids for Law training. Our extensive health offer (attached at Appendix 3) is now embedded within the service which has allowed the implementation of an Enhanced Case Management model, The HMIP Lead Inspector did comment "There is excellent health provision that meets the physical, emotional and mental health needs of Hartlepool children".

Staff development continues throughout and remains a key focus in working towards a quality service. This will be supported by regular supervision and appraisal, alongside reflective supervision sessions which encourage staff to analyse their practice within a supportive learning environment.

Service User Feedback

The voice of the young person continues to be a key strategic objective and completion of Asset Plus self-assessments remains critical in capturing the voice and perceived needs of those young people with whom the YJS work. Hartlepool YJS completed some internal work to develop an evaluative Survey Monkey (based on the original Viewpoint questions) to measure Young People's perceptions of: Quality of Service, Likelihood of Offending, and Fairness of treatment by YJS staff and Quality of interventions.

59 surveys were completed by young people across the last 2 years:

- Just under 90% of YP indicated they know what kind of things make them more likely to offend;
- Just under 90% of YP indicated work with the YJS made them realise change is possible;
- 90% of YP indicated they are a lot less likely to offend;
- Over 90% of YP felt they were treated fairly;
- Over 80% of YP felt the service they were given was 'very good';
- 100% of YP felt listened to by the people who worked with them
- Just under 80% of YP indicated the sessions helped change their behaviour

Alongside this Children/YP and Parents/Carers comments are captured within the assessment SAQ, individual personalised plans and reviews as well as Closure Summaries. All of this information is produced in report format for quarterly management board meetings and used to improve service delivery and identify gaps within the service as well as areas of good practice which can be shared and maintained.

8. RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC AND RECOVERY FROM COVID 19

Hartlepool Borough Council responded to the COVID 19 pandemic by ensuring all staff were WFH from 23rd March 2020 – below is a snap shot of the last year and ongoing recovery.

Response and Challenges:

- The first few weeks as with most services were of confusion and frustration, the not knowing. After coming to terms with the situation and starting to receive guidance from the local authority the YJS quickly settled into a process of virtual contact with all YP. All cases were RAG rated in terms of risk levels which identified the volume of calls needed for each YP. This process continued for a considerable period of time, it allowed staff to become creative with methods of virtual contact and delivering interventions.
- It was decided in June 20 after guidance and following the national protocol that the service would start face to face contact again, initially this was via doorstep visits and walks and once again this was prioritised by our RAG rated risk process. The Courts also opened again in June and began to start moving YP through the process. Virtual Court processes were set up and suitable training given, however Cleveland didn't carry out virtual hearings for any YP.
- Prior to any planned face to face visits staff would phone the YP/Parent/Carer to ascertain the situation in the home, i.e. did anyone have the symptoms. This proved problematic at times as we were not in a position initially to confirm responses.
- Following restrictions easing, the service were in a position to quickly implement direct 1:1 interventions from our offices which were suitably cleaned, risk assessed and allowed suitable social distancing. At the same time our Referral Order Panels were reintroduced from a virtual to face to face process and continues as such to date.
- All staff have remained WFH with suitable IT, they were and are in a position to utilise the team offices, off site provision and other suitable local authority buildings for 1:1 face to face interventions. These sessions were centrally booked allowing the monitoring of the footfall into these buildings. PPE was available at all times in all buildings.
- Anxiety has been a challenge throughout the pandemic, the not knowing and at times not understanding, the multitude of differing guidance received from various sources added to the confusion and at times the anxiety.
- Initially there was the considerable challenge of preparing for and delivering the service virtually, positive lines of communication were opened across the local authority and regular updates and discussions via regional YJB HOS meetings eased the pressure and ensured the service and staff had the relevant support and guidance available to move forward. IT was also initially frustrating and a challenge, however with perseverance and regular support the service is now fully functional with all staff having suitable access and support as required.

Recovery:

Recovery was an ongoing process from the outset, below are the salient points and recovery/learning to date.

- In March 2020 the YJB requested Business Continuity Plans from each YOT for analysis and fortnightly YJB virtual meetings were established.
- All open cases were RAG rated in line with order/risk levels and engagement identified.
- Procuring suitable IT to allow staff to WFH
- Ensuring all YJS meetings and business could be delivered virtually and face to face where feasible
- Courts opening in June 2020
- Face to face interventions starting in June 2020
- Local Authority organises lap tops for all vulnerable pupils without one, including YJS cohort.
- Organisation of Referral Order panels and Risk Management Meetings into a hybrid model with face to face and a virtual option
- In July 2020 the YJB published the guidance for COVID recovery plans for all YOTs
- YP back in the majority of schools in Sept 2020
- YJS cohort identified as Vulnerable Pupils and encouraged to attend their education provision
- YP access to suitable IT now implemented within assessment process (Identified in the HMIP COVID 19 Thematic Inspection)

Learning Points:

- The YJS is flexible and dynamic in its response and able to react quickly to situations
- A lot of virtual meetings do work better, attendance has improved at these meetings and they need to continue (Identified in the HMIP COVID 19 Thematic Inspection)
- The service can be delivered virtually as and when required
- Walk and talk interventions have been positive and will remain
- Ensuring all YP have access to suitable IT to ensure engagement is positive with the YJS and Schools, this is now captured and identified as part of the initial AssetPlus assessment (Identified in the HMIP COVID 19 Thematic Inspection)
- The constant discussions locally, regionally and nationally ref the YOT cohort being classed as a “vulnerable pupil” took too long before the right decisions were made (Identified in the HMIP COVID 19 Thematic Inspection)
- Staff, children, young people and families emotional wellbeing needs to be monitored very closely and taken into account with all engagement at all times.

Hartlepool Borough Council will be implementing a Hybrid Model of working, this is due to be revisited and potentially implemented from 19th July 2021 and following Government guidance. Staff will split their working week WFH and being office based. This has been tested over the last 15 months and the YJS are in a strong position to implement and maintain this model without any impact on service delivery.

9. RISKS TO FUTURE DELIVERY

The key risks that have the capacity to have an adverse impact on the Youth Justice Service in the coming twelve months and potentially beyond are detailed below:

Risks	Potential Impact	Control Measures
Secure Remand Costs	The continued unpredictability associated with remand episodes and remand length has the potential to place significant financial pressure on the YJS and broader Local Authority.	It remains essential that the service can demonstrate to magistrates that there are robust and comprehensive alternatives in place to support reductions in the use of remands and custody. Coordinated multi-agency responses to young people at risk of remand where safe and secure accommodation is the precipitating factor to be further developed. Remand budget is incorporated within Wider Children's Services placement costs.
Managing the potential for reduction in YJB grant and partnership financial and 'in-kind' contributions post-2021/22	Consequential negative impact on performance. Reduced capacity to meet strategic and operational obligations and statutory requirements. Reduced capacity to continue to focus on early intervention and identification	Targeted resources to address need. Continue to administer and embed the current structure and practice. Regional collaboration with neighbouring YOS' such as coverage of Teesside Youth Court. Robust financial management and oversight from strategic board.
Continued concerns around Serious Youth Violence, Criminal Exploitation and County Lines	The rise in FTE, reoffending rates and exploitation of vulnerable children. Ultimately leading to criminalisation and wider service	Continued regular communication, intelligence and information sharing across all services. Ensuring a multi-agency approach is adopted with senior strategic oversight.

	involvement having an adverse impact on Looked After Children (LAC) figures	Ongoing joint training and regular updates on the national and local picture enabling timely and relevant interventions. Ensure clear processes and pathways (known to all staff) are implemented to work with identified children.
COVID Risk The risk of further waves and further national/local lockdown imposed	Negative impact on staff/YP/families leading to a rise in anxieties/EWB, adding to engagement/contact difficulties. Disengagement from education and the added problems of reintroduction	Carefully monitoring of the local, regional and national picture regarding further waves and risks of national and local lockdowns. The YJS is in a position to revert to initial “lockdown” delivery of the service as required.
COVID Risk Staff emotional wellbeing/Safety	Negative impact on staff anxieties/EWB Risk of increased staff sickness levels Negative impact on workload and output	The YJS Leadership team continue to carry out face to face and virtual supervisions, Skype/TEAMS team meetings are in place and continued communication across all staff is very good. PPE is readily available to all staff and regular updated LA guidance is shared with everyone regarding HV, Transportation etc etc. **All staff have received 2 Vaccinations**

10. SERVICE BUSINESS & IMPROVEMENT PLAN

As a result of the recent HMIP inspection findings, five recommendations were made that HMIP believe, if implemented, will have a positive impact on the quality of youth offending services in Hartlepool and will improve the lives of the children in contact with youth offending services, and better protect the public.

Hartlepool Youth Justice Service has identified actions already taken and planned to ensure these recommendations are implemented and remain key priorities in the future. This Improvement Plan is added to future quarterly Management Board reports produced by the YJS Manager and discussed/monitored to ensure the relevant senior strategic oversight is in place and direction of travel remains positive.

Added to the Improvement Plan below is the YJS internal training programme (attached at Appendix 2) which targets operational improvements and refreshers throughout the year.

No	Recommendation	Action taken/Planned	Owner	Target Date
1	Ensure that the identified priorities for the service correspond to the needs of the children supervised by the Hartlepool YJS to ensure these needs are met.	Strategic Priorities have been amended following the findings of the inspection. These will continue to be amended and discussed at all future Management Board meetings to correspond with the needs of children supervised by the YJS and in line with the up to date Needs Analysis/Data presented at all board meetings. Individual meetings have also been undertaken with the Virtual School, OSS and Substance Misuse Services to strengthen this process – all are members of the YJS Management Board and will submit updates at board meetings.	YJS Management Team Management Board Chair/Members	Completed and monitored at all future Management Board meetings
2	Work with the relevant partner agencies (virtual school and one-stop shop) to maximise the education, training and employment opportunities for children	Work is underway with the Virtual School Headteacher and OSS Manager. Education Reports with relevant data will be produced at all future Management Board meetings allowing for discussion and more strategic oversight/challenge as required. The YJS Management team are in the process of identifying and forming closer links with the relevant staff at all Academies/Schools to build better communication on a direct level. YJS attendance at Vulnerable Pupils group and Team around the secondary school meetings to build positive links with schools across Hartlepool	YJS Management Team Virtual School Headteacher OSS Manger Management Board Chair/Members	Initial Reports presented at May Management Board meeting and then subsequent board meetings

3	Develop an effective escalation and challenge process with children's social care	Discussions are ongoing between the YJS Manager and the Safeguarding and Assessment/Through Care Teams to ensure any issues/requests are addressed ASAP and recorded appropriately on all systems. All challenges/differences of opinion will be discussed between the YJS Manager and relevant Social Care Head of Service/AD and will be recorded appropriately and discussed at future Management Board meetings. The YJS will follow the "Professional Challenge and Resolution of Professional Disagreement" process which can be found in the Tees Safeguarding Children Partnerships' Procedures at https://www.teescpp.org.uk/	YJS Management Team Management Board Chair/Members	Process in place and any unresolved issues/challenges to be shared and discussed at future Management Board meetings
4	Confirm a start date for the new Chair of the Board	A start date was confirmed and the Chair of the Board took over at the Board meeting 25 Nov 2020 and also chaired the meeting on the 16 Feb 2021. The Chair also signed up and attended the YJB "Bite Size" session for YOS Board Chairs on 23 Feb 2021.	Management Board Chair	Completed and to be continually monitored
5	Use the existing process to get feedback from children and their families to develop services.	The YJS Leadership team have slightly re worded the current Survey Monkey questions which will be implemented and used for YP, Parents/Carers and Victims. Data will be produced at all future board meetings where discussions will be held regarding the development of services. As an addition ongoing quarterly feedback will also be gathered direct from the Children/YP and families by the	YJS Management Team YJS Management Board Chair/Members	Process in place and all feedback/evaluation to be presented at Management Board meetings for discussion

		YJS Management Team and fed back into the system above.		
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11. STRATEGIC SUMMARY

In spite of the ongoing adversities that families and communities contend with in Hartlepool and the added difficulties everyone continues to face with the COVID 19 pandemic the local Youth Justice Partnership has had significant success in recent years in preventing and reducing youth offending behaviour.

A continued emphasis on a creative prevention, early intervention and diversion model needs to be maintained, however this presents significant challenge in light of the continued economic climate and potential impact on staffing and resources. In spite of the continued reductions in offences, FTE and the recent reductions in reoffending, these will all remain areas of priority, the Youth Justice Service will continue to work with partners to identify and support children and young people at risk of offending and ensure all children and families in Hartlepool have opportunities to make the most of their life chances and be supported to be safe in their homes and communities.

Evidence highlights that it is often the complex interplay of multiple deprivation factors and difficulties that makes problems in some households insurmountable and places these vulnerable children at significant risk of criminal exploitation, involvement in anti-social and offending behaviour and in some instances links to County Lines. As a result there is now a greater emphasis on “Contextualised Safeguarding” and the soon to be creation of a Contextualised Safeguarding Hub with all partners should help identify “pathways out of offending” and ultimately help reduce crime and break the cycle of offending behaviour across generations.

Whilst youth crime rates in Hartlepool have fallen, the likelihood of being a victim of crime still remains a reality, especially in our most disadvantaged communities and there remains a need to continue to invest in the delivery of restorative approaches to give victims of crime a voice, choice, control and satisfaction in the criminal justice system.

As identified in the recent HMIP inspection Hartlepool Youth Justice Service is a good service, staff are motivated and engaged, and there is an excellent health provision to meet the requirements of children. Assessments for all cases were outstanding. Staff analysed information well and were skilled at engaging with children and their families. Staff make good use of the outstanding health offer to ensure that the delivery of interventions meets the needs of all children and all staff worked well in sequencing and coordinating these interventions. There are areas to improve and the YJS are fully aware of these with a current improvement plan in place.

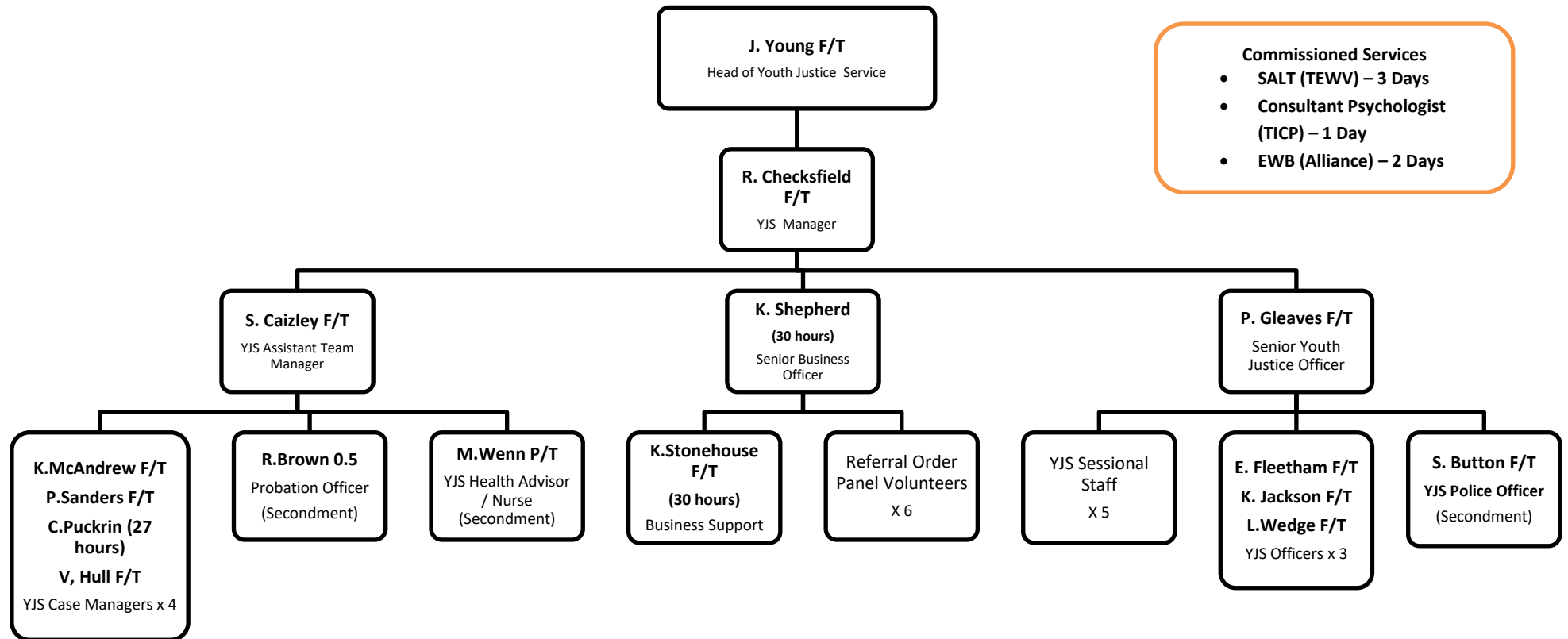
All of the above has the child and the child's voice prioritised and running throughout, as identified in the YJB Business Plan 2021-2022 we will continue to help, support and create a "Child First Youth Justice System" across Hartlepool.

Hartlepool Youth Justice Partnership



Appendix 1

Youth Justice Service Structure



Appendix 2

Youth Justice Service Internal Training Programme

Month	Date	Briefing/Training	Delivery	Comments
	16th & 22nd April 1000-1130 TEAMS dial in	Health Offer Briefings –	Health Team Update on respective areas of the Health Offer	All available staff to dial in to at least one of the sessions
	21st April 1100-1200 TEAMS dial in	Distinction between Mental wellbeing & Mental illness (Screening and Signposting)	Clinical Psychologist	All available staff to dial in
May				
	12th May 1000-1130 TEAMS dial in	Start of an Order – The front end process – getting it right	Leadership Team	All available staff to dial in
	19th May 1100 – 1200 TEAMS dial in	Neurodevelopmental Presentation (ASD & ADHD)	Clinical Psychologist	All available staff to dial in
June				
	9th June 1000-1130 TEAMS dial in	ROSH/Safety & Wellbeing	Leadership Team	All available staff to dial in
	16th June 1000 – 1100 TEAMS dial in	Suicide & Self Harm	Clinical Physiologist	All available staff to dial in
	23rd June 1000 – 1130 TEAMS dial in	SLT and communication needs awareness training (refresher)	SALT	All available staff to dial in
July				
	Date & Time TBC	Education – Role of the YJS and Case Manager/Officer	Virtual School Headteacher	All available staff to dial in
	21st July 1000 - 1130	Accessible Information training	SALT	All available staff to dial in
August				
	4th August 1400 - 1530	Team Choice Topic	Clinical Psychologist	All available staff to dial in

September				
	23rd September 1000-1130	Desistence Refresher	Leadership Team	All available staff to dial in
	15th September 1400-1530	Team Choice Topic	Clinical Psychologist	All available staff to dial in

Appendix 2

Youth Justice Service Health Offer

Alliance Psychological Services *Jemma Westwood-Horner*

Jemma can help with **mental health difficulties** such as anxiety, low mood and depression.

- Jemma can **work with you** and **your family**
- Jemma can help you with issues such as bereavement (coping after the death of a loved one), relationship difficulties and behaviour. You can find out more on this website: <https://www.alliancepsychology.com/young-people/>
- You can be seen face to face, at home, at school or online (Skype and Zoom). Whatever works for you!

Speech and Language Therapy *Katie Hughes*



Speech and Language Therapy can **look at** and **help** with your **communication skills**.

- Katie's job is to work with you to find out what you are **good at** and what can be **difficult for you**.
- Katie will look at what your **talking** and **understanding** are like in everyday situations, like school or college.
- Katie can help other people to understand your communication and tell them how they can help.



Youth Justice Nurse Specialist *Melanie Wenn*

The Nurse can help with your **health needs**. Mel sees every young person who comes into the Youth Justice Service.

- Mel can do a **full health assessment** – this looks at any medical problems, your behaviour, your sexual health, skin problems, issues with your eyes or hearing, dental health, relationships and anything else that might affect your health and wellbeing.
- Mel can do some **work with you** around your health and wellbeing. She can make sure you are working with the right people to meet any health or learning needs you might have
- Mel offers **one to one appointments**, usually face to face.

Trauma Informed Care Pathway / Adolescent Forensic Outpatients Service *Dr Kay Anne Rooney*

- **Trauma informed care pathway**→ aims to better understand your needs and behaviours. Kay does this by getting to know you and looking at your life and your experiences as a whole. You can be offered *Direct Work* (where you work with Dr Kay) or *Indirect Work* (where Dr Kay works with the professionals involved in your care).
- **Outpatients Service**→ Dr Kay or someone she works with from the Adolescent Forensic Outpatients Service can help and support you with any mental health difficulties.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29th September 2021



Report of: Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services

Subject: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP
PERFORMANCE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For information. To provide an overview of Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance for Quarter 1 – April to June 2021 (inclusive) against key indicators linked to the priorities outlined in the draft Community Safety Plan 2021/24. Given the impact that COVID had during Q1 of 2020/21, figures for some of the indicators have been included from Q1 of 2019/20 to provide a more representative comparison.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In July 2021, a draft Community Safety Plan for 2021/24 was presented to the Partnership with a strategic objective to “make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit”. Members agreed that the priority areas of focus to achieve this objective should be Anti-Social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol and Domestic Violence and approved the plan for consultation.

3. PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 3.1 The report attached (**Appendix A**) provides an overview of performance against key indicators linked to the agreed priorities during Quarter 1 of 2021, with comparisons made to the same time period in the previous year, where appropriate.

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 note and comment on the information provided for Quarter 1.

6. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 The Audit and Governance Committee has within its responsibility to act as a the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and in doing so scrutinize the performance management of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
Safer Hartlepool Partnership – Draft Community Safety Plan 2021/24

8. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Safer Hartlepool Partnership Performance Indicators**Quarter 1 - April to June 2021****Community Safety Plan Priority – Anti-Social Behaviour**

The following indicators have been identified to assist in the monitoring of this priority area.

During this quarter, ASB incidents reported to the Police reduced in all four Local Policing Area across Cleveland yet despite a significant reduction, Hartlepool continues to have the second highest ASB rate per 1,000 population as detailed in the tables below:

Indicator - ASB Incidents reported to the Police	Year to Date April – June 21	April– June 19	April - June 20	April- June 21	Difference	% Difference
Hartlepool	1059	1131	1941	1059	-882	-45
Redcar & Cleveland	1464	1587	2377	1464	-913	-38
Middlesbrough	1979	2606	3539	1979	-1560	-44
Stockton	1772	2410	4128	1772	-2356	-57

Police Anti-Social Behaviour Incident rate per 1,000 population	Hartlepool	Redcar & Cleveland	Middlesbrough	Stockton
	11.4	10.7	14	9

Anti-social behaviour incidents reported to the Police in Hartlepool reduced by 45% when compared to the previous year. This reduction is attributable to a reduction in COVID related complaints as restrictions in place in the previous year are no longer applicable.

Police data has not yet been aggregated to the new ward boundaries that came in to effect in May 2021. It is envisaged that this information will be available by Q2, therefore the following breakdown of ASB incidents by ward is linked to the previous 11 wards in the town.

Recorded ASB Incidents by Ward	Number of Incidents	% Town Total
Burn Valley	96	9
De Bruce	71	7
Fens & Rossmere	68	6
Foggy Furze	118	11
Hart	41	4
Headland & Harbour	185	17
Jesmond	65	6
Manor House	140	13
Rural West	49	5
Seaton	101	10
Victoria	125	12
Grand Total	1059	100

More than 40% of ASB incidents occurred in 3 wards; Headland & Harbour, Manor House and Victoria and as identified in the table above, the highest number of recorded ASB incidents during Q1 occurred in the Headland and Harbour ward, equating to 17% of all incidents in Hartlepool. More than one third, 36% (66 incidents), of ASB in this ward was youth related and a further 18% (933 incidents) linked to off road vehicle nuisance.

More than one quarter (26%) of the youth related ASB was linked to the derelict Admiral Court Nursing Home on Cleveland Road. To address this problem a multi – agency response has been undertaken to fully secure this premise which has removed the opportunity for further incidents to occur.

Vehicle nuisance is linked to off road motorcycles and quad bikes being ridden on the Central Park recreation ground situated at the lower end of West View Road, with almost 40% (13) of incidents reported in this locality.

Number of ASB complaints received by the ASBU	Year to Date April – June 21	April - June 19	April- June 20	April- June 21	Difference	% Difference
	87	133	92	87	-5	-5

Anti-social behaviour complaints received by the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit also reduced slightly in this quarter compared to the same period in the previous year.

ASB complaints have been aligned to the new ward boundaries and whilst 9 of the 12 wards reported less than 10 complaints, analysis identifies that 46% of complaints were received from the Burn Valley, Manor House and Victoria wards as outlined in the following table.

ASB Complaints by Ward	Number of Complaints
Burn Valley	12
De Bruce	<10
Fens & Greatham	<10
Foggy Furze	<10
Hart	<10
Headland & Harbour	<10
Manor House	12
Rossmere	<10
Rural West	<10
Seaton	<10
Throston	<10
Victoria	16
Grand Total	87

More than half of all complaints received in this quarter cited nuisance behaviour (14 complaints), rowdy behaviour (14 complaints) and drug misuse (14 complaints) as the primary issue.

During this quarter, Hartlepool Community Safety Team were successful in obtaining a premise closure order for a property in the Burn Valley ward.

Number of ASB cases opened by Thirteen	Year to Date April – June 21	April- June 20	April - June 21	Difference	% Difference
	Not available yet				

Data not available yet

Indicator	Year to Date April- June 21	April – June 19	April- June 20	April – June 21	Difference	% Difference
Number of noise complaints received by the Council	127	107	175	127	-48	-27

Noise nuisance complaints received by the Council's Public Protection Team reduced by more than one quarter when compared to the previous year. Again this is likely to be attributable to people spending less time at home than they were last year when lockdown restrictions were in place.

Noise nuisance complaints have been aligned to the new ward boundaries and whilst 6 of the 12 wards reported less than 10 complaints, analysis identifies that 46% of complaints were received from the Headland & Harbour, Burn Valley and Victoria wards as outlined in the following table.

Noise Complaints by Ward	Number of Complaints
Burn Valley	16
De Bruce	<10
Fens & Greatham	<10
Foggy Furze	<10
Hart	<10
Headland & Harbour	24
Manor House	12
Rossmere	13
Rural West	<10
Seaton	<10
Throston	10
Victoria	18
Grand Total	127

More than half of all complaints received in this quarter cited music (45 complaints) and barking dogs (34 complaints) as the primary issue.

Indicator	Year to Date April – June 21	April – June 19	April – June 20	April – June 21	Difference	% Difference
Number of fly-tipping reports received by the Council	560	517	848	560	-288	-34

The Council's Contact Centre recorded a 34% reduction in fly-tipping reports during this quarter compared to last year. Despite the reduction, fly-tipping continues to be a significant blight on the local environment, creates potential danger to public health, and is a source of pollution and hazard to wild life.

Based on the ward boundaries prior to May 2021, analysis identifies that more than half (54%; 305 incidents) of all fly-tipping complaints were reported in the Victoria, Headland & Harbour and Manor House wards as outlined in the following table:

Fly-tipping Reports by Ward	Number of Incidents
Burn Valley	53
De Bruce	28
Fens & Rossmere	12
Foggy Furze	29
Hart	32
Headland & Harbour	91
Jesmond	29
Manor House	57
Rural West	36
Seaton	21
Victoria	157
No ward recorded	15
Grand Total	560

Indicator	Year to Date April – June 21	April – June 19	April – June 20	April – June 21	Difference	% Difference
Number of Deliberate Secondary (F3) fires	229	223	148	229	+81	+55
Number of Deliberate Vehicle Fires	11	13	15	11	-4	-27

Deliberate secondary fires (F3) are any non-accidental fires that do not involve property or casualties/rescues or where four or fewer appliances attend. Deliberate F3 fires in Hartlepool are predominantly refuse (rubbish) fires and grassland.

Deliberate F3 fires during Q1 have increased by 55%. More than two thirds (68%, 139 incidents) of deliberate fires in Hartlepool involve rubbish and grassland being set alight.

Fire Brigade data has not yet been aggregated to the new ward boundaries that came in to effect in May 2021.

Based on the ward boundaries prior to May 2021, analysis identifies that almost two thirds (61%; 139 incidents) of deliberate fires occurred in the De Bruce, Headland & Harbour and Manor House wards as outlined in the following table:

Deliberate Fires by Ward	Number of Incidents
Burn Valley	<10
De Bruce	36
Fens & Rossmere	<10
Foggy Furze	<10
Hart	14
Headland & Harbour	46
Jesmond	<10
Manor House	57
Rural West	12
Seaton	25
Victoria	<10
Grand Total	229

Problematic locations for repeat incidents in these wards are identified as Admiral Court Nursing Home (Headland & Harbour), Summerhill Adventure Park (Manor House) and Brus Tunnel (De Bruce).

Community Safety Plan Priority – Drugs and Alcohol

The following indicators have been identified to assist in the monitoring of this priority area.

Indicator	Year to Date April - June 21	April - June 20	April - June 21	Difference	% Difference
Drug Offences - Possession	64	92	64	-28	-30
Drug Offences - Supply	32	32	32	0	0

Responding to community intelligence a number of warrants were carried out during this period with positive results, particularly in respect of the identification and disruption of cannabis farms.

Complete Q1 data for the following indicators is not yet available, therefore the following figures relate to April – May 2021 only

Indicator	Baseline 2020/21	April – May 20	April – May 21	Difference	% Difference
% of opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment	3.6%	2.9%	4.2%	1.3	45%
% of non-opiate drug users that have successfully completed drug treatment	28.3%	24.1%	31.8%	7.7	32%
% of alcohol users that have successfully completed alcohol treatment	33.9%	24.6%	38.4%	13.8	56%
% of young people that have successfully completed treatment	46%	76%	46%	-30	-39%
Number of young people known to substance misuse services	61	81	61	-20	-25%
% of people dependent on alcohol and not in the treatment system	75%	75.6%	75%	-0.6	-1%
% of people dependent on opiates or crack and not in the treatment system	46.8%	50.3%	46.8%	-3.5	-7%

Community Safety Plan Priority – Domestic Violence

The following indicators have been identified to assist in the monitoring of this priority area.

Indicator	Year to Date April – Jun 21	April – June 20	April – June 21	Difference	% Difference
Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police	841	945	841	104	-11
Rate of Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population	-	10.1	9	-	-
Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse	353	437	353	-84	-19
Rate of repeat Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population	-	4.7	3.8	-	-

In Hartlepool, Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police during quarter 1 reduced by 11%, 104 less incidents than in the same period in the previous year and resulted in the rate of domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 population reducing from 10.1 to 9.

In comparison to the other local policing areas, Hartlepool experienced the greatest reduction in incidents, but has the second highest rate of incidents per 1,000 population as identified in the following tables.

Domestic Abuse incidents reported to the Police	Year to Date April – June 21	April - June 20	April – June 21	Difference	% Difference
Hartlepool	841	945	841	-104	-11
Redcar & Cleveland	1047	1048	1047	-1	0
Middlesbrough	1373	1414	1373	-41	-3
Stockton	1445	1351	1445	+94	+7

Rate of Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population April – June 2021	Hartlepool	Redcar & Cleveland	Middlesbrough	Stockton
	9	7.6	9.7	7.3

Repeat domestic abuse incidents reported to the Police during quarter 1 also reduced by 19%, 84 less incidents than in the same period in the previous year and resulted in the rate of repeat domestic abuse incidents per 1,000 population reducing from 4.7 to 3.8.

In comparison to the other local policing areas, Hartlepool experienced the greatest percentage reduction in repeat incidents, but has the second highest rate of repeat incidents per 1,000 population as identified in the following tables.

Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse	Year to Date April – June 21	April – June 20	April- Jun 21	Difference	% Difference
Hartlepool	353	437	353	-84	-19
Redcar & Cleveland	447	453	447	-6	-1
Middlesbrough	578	662	578	-84	-13
Stockton	585	569	585	+16	3

Rate of repeat Domestic Abuse incidents per 1,000 population	Hartlepool	Redcar & Cleveland	Middlesbrough	Stockton
	3.8	3.3	4.1	3.0

Harbour data for Q1 is unavailable

Number of Domestic Abuse cases opened by Thirteen	Year to Date April - Jun 21	April - June 20	April - June 21	Difference	% Difference

Data not available yet.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29th SEPTEMBER 2021



Report of: Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)

Subject: BUSINESS CONTINUITY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the Councils Business Continuity arrangements, following a report presented to the Committee in January 2021.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Civil Contingencies Act (2004) places a statutory duty on Hartlepool Borough Council as a 'Category 1 Responder':
- To maintain plans for the purpose of ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, that if an emergency occurs the person or body is able to continue to perform its functions
- 2.2 A review was undertaken by the Council's Internal Audit which identified a number of weaknesses within the existing arrangements whereby up to date information is not currently held, agreed or tested.
- 2.3 Consequently a significant amount of work needed to be undertaken to address the concerns highlighted by internal audit.
- 2.4 Reports were present to the December 2019 and January 2021 meetings of the Audit & Governance Committee setting out the work which had been undertaken in relation to Business Continuity.
- 2.5 This report stated that tests were to be undertaken to ensure that the Business Continuity plans in place are fit for purpose and any lessons learnt from these exercises would be incorporated into future plans.
- 2.6 A work plan has been produced which includes updating the Business Continuity Plan, review of Business Impact Assessments and Training exercises.

- 2.7 The Covid-19 pandemic, resulted in the Council having to respond rapidly to the circumstance and to ensure that it could continue to operate throughout. The work that had been carried out in business continuity did prove invaluable in responding to the unprecedented situation, allowing the Council to quickly adopt new ways of operating and providing the facilities for officers to continue to work from their own homes.
- 2.8 The Council's business continuity group has looked at the initial response and identified a number of areas which need to be updated in the business continuity plans, particular in relation to introducing hybrid working.
- 2.9 Work is currently ongoing to identify the areas we need to adapt within the plans and revise them accordingly, reflecting any learning points identified as a result of Covid-19 and other incidents.
- 2.10 We are also discussing with our partners in the Local Resilience Forum Business Continuity Group. Allowing us to share learning and the experience of dealing with the challenges faced as a result of Covid-19, to learn from them and adapt our plans as necessary.

3. PROPOSALS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Council will continue to review and refine its business continuity arrangements in line with current best practice, ensuring that we continue to meet our statutory responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act and undertake training exercises as appropriate.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that members note the work done to ensure that robust Business Continuity arrangements are in place.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To ensure that robust arrangements for business continuity within a structured framework and address the concerns raised by the recent audit.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Audit and Governance Committee agenda, 25th July 2018, Item 4.1 Internal Audit Plan 2018/19 Update.
- 6.2 Audit and Governance Committee agenda 5th December 2019, Item 4.1 Business Continuity.

- 6.3 Audit and Governance Committee agenda 7th January 2021, Item 4.4 Business Continuity.

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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

23 SEPTEMBER 2021



Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT
2000 (RIPA) - QUARTERLY UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with a quarterly update on activities relating to surveillance by the Council and policies under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2011.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Hartlepool Borough Council has powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) to conduct authorised covert surveillance.
- 2.2 This report is submitted to members as a result of the requirement to report to members under paragraph 4.47 of the Covert Surveillance and Property Interference Revised Code of Practice (August 2018) which states that:

Elected members of a local authority should review the authority's use of the 1997 Act and the 2000 Act and set the policy at least once a year. They should also consider internal reports on use of the 1997 Act and the 2000 Act on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used consistently with the local authority's policy and that the policy remains fit for purpose.

- 2.3 As from 1 November 2012 Local Authorities may only use their powers under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 to prevent or detect criminal offences punishable by a minimum term of 6 months in prison (or if related to underage sale of alcohol and tobacco – not relevant to this Council). The amendment to the 2000 Act came into force on 1 November 2012.
- 2.4 Examples of where authorisations could be sought are serious criminal damage, dangerous waste dumping and serious or serial benefit fraud. The surveillance must also be necessary and proportionate. The 2012 changes mean that authorisations cannot be granted for directed surveillance for e.g. littering, dog control, fly posting.

- 2.5 As from 1 November 2012 any RIPA surveillance which the Council wishes to authorise must be approved by an authorising officer at the council and also be approved by a Magistrate; where a Local Authority wishes to seek to carry out a directed surveillance or make use of a human intelligence source the Council must apply to a single Justice of the Peace.

3. RIPA AUTHORISATIONS

- 3.1 In the quarter to the date of this meeting:

Communications Data	Nil
CHIS	Nil
Directed Surveillance	Nil

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the quarterly report be noted.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 To enable the Council to monitor the RIPA system effectively and as required by law and guidance.

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

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