



# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP AGENDA



**Tuesday 8 March 2022**

**at 10.00 am**

**in the Council Chamber,  
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) 523019 by midday on Monday 7 March and name and address details will be taken for NHS Test and Trace purposes.**

**You should not attend the meeting if you are required to self-isolate or are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms such as (a high temperature, new and persistent cough, or a loss of/change in sense of taste or smell), even if these symptoms are mild. If you, or anyone you live with, have one or more of these symptoms you should follow the NHS guidance on testing.**

**MEMBERS: SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP**

**Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor Moore, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Councillor Stokell, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Superintendent Emily Harrison, Community Safety, Cleveland Police  
Jo Heaney, Chair of Youth Offending Board  
Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group  
Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit  
David Preston, Cleveland Fire Authority

**Other Members:**

Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Steve Turner, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland  
Joanne Hodgkinson, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Representative, Chief Executive, Safer Communities  
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

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



1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2021**
4. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
  - 4.1 Domestic Abuse Strategy – *Director of Children’s and Joint Commissioning Services*
  - 4.2 Serious Violence – *Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*
  - 4.3 Protect Duty – *Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*
  - 4.4 Strategic Assessment October 2020 – September 2021 – *Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services*
5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**



# **SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP**

## **MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD**

6 DECEMBER 2021

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

**Present:**

**Responsible Authority Members:**

Councillor Moore, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council (Chair)  
Councillor Stokell, Elected Member, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director, Regulatory Services, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Superintendent Emily Harrison, Community Safety, Cleveland Police  
David Preston, Cleveland Fire Authority

**Other Members:**

Craig Blundred, Director of Public Health, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Simon Smart, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland  
Angela Corner, Head of Community Resilience, Thirteen Group  
Sally Robinson, Director of Children's and Joint Commissioning Services, Hartlepool Borough Council

**Also Present:**

Councillor C Richardson, Non-Voting Observer, Representative of Audit and Governance Committee, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Chief Inspector Mark Haworth, Cleveland Police  
Susan White and Rachel Bell, Cleveland Police  
John Lovatt, Assistant Director, Adult Social Care (as substitute for Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council)

**Officers:**

Catherine Grimwood, Performance and Partnerships Manager  
Phil Hepburn, Enforcement and Car Parking Services Manager  
Rachel Parker, Community Safety Team Leader  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

## **27. Apologies for Absence**

Denise McGuckin, Managing Director, Hartlepool Borough Council  
Karen Hawkins, Director of Commissioning, Strategy and Delivery, NHS  
Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group  
Ann Powell, Head of Stockton and Hartlepool Probation Delivery Unit

Joanne Hodgkinson, Hartlepool Voluntary and Community Sector Representative  
 Chief Executive, Safer Communities  
 Jill Harrison, Director of Adult and Community Based Services, Hartlepool Borough Council.

## **28. Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **29. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021**

Confirmed.

## **30. Draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2022-26 (Cleveland Fire Authority)**

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

The Cleveland Fire Authority (CFA) representative gave a presentation to the Partnership setting out the priorities in the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2022 to 2026. These were: -

- To Develop our Approach to Risk Management to Reflect Good Practice and Improve the Safety, Health, Wellbeing and Economic Prosperity of our Communities.
- To Build on our Successful Approach to Helping People Stay Safe in their Homes
- To Tackle Arson and Deliberate Fires
- To Ensure our Prevention Activities Remain Efficient, Effective and Deliver Value for Money
- To Enhance our Risk-Based approach to Support Businesses to Keep their Buildings Safe in line with the Fire Safety Order 2005
- To Be Better Prepared to Deal with Incidents Involving Buildings where the Height can have a Serious Impact on Firefighting and Evacuation
- To Ensure That our Firefighters Plan and Prepare to Respond Effectively to Operational Incidents Including Those Across Our Borders
- To Develop Options for Improving the Efficient Deployment of our Emergency Response Resources to Flexibly Meet Current and Future Risks and Demands
- To Be 'Better Together -Working in Partnership

The consultation period on the draft plan continued to 21 January 2022 and the CFA representative encouraged all partners to visit the CFA website and feed into the consultation process on the plan. In response to a question from the Chair, the CFA representative indicated that the majority of the consultation as being carried out online, though there had been a stand in the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre recently and there would

be other such public events. Officers were also handing out copies of the consultation document when undertaking safer homes visits.

An Elected Member questioned how many safer homes visits had been and were propose to be carried out. The CFA representative indicated that even despite the Covid-19 pandemic, just short of 20,000 visits had been undertaken, with the aim of 20,000 visits each year targeting the most vulnerable.

#### **Decision**

That the presentation and comments be noted.

### **31. Community Safety Plan 2021-2024** *(Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services)*

#### **Purpose of report**

To present and seek approval from the Safer Hartlepool Partnership for the final draft of the Community Safety Plan 2020-21.

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

The Assistant Director, Regulatory Services presented the finalised version of the draft Community Safety Plan following the consultation period. Members noted the plan and commented that some of the statistics seemed slightly out of date. The Assistant Director stated that they were the most up-to-date published statics at this time, though they would be updated as newer information was published. The draft plan was to be presented to full Council on 16 December for adoption.

#### **Decision**

That the Community Safety Plan 2021/24 be approved.

### **32. Safer Hartlepool Partnership Performance** *(Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services)*

#### **Purpose of report**

To provide an overview of Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance.

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

The Community Safety Team Leader presented an overview of Safer Hartlepool Partnership performance for Quarter 2, July - September 2021 (inclusive), against key indicators linked to the priorities outlined in the draft Community Safety Plan 2021/24. Given the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had had, figures for some of the indicators had been included from 2019/20 to provide a more representative comparison. The statistics had also now been updated to include the new Council wards.

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

**33. Evaluation of the Integrated Community Safety Team 2021** *(Neighbourhood Safety Group)***Purpose of report**

To share the recent evaluation of the Integrated Community Safety Team and to ask the Safer Hartlepool Partnership to accept the recommendations and agree the proposed arrangements for their implementation.

**Issue(s) for consideration**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services presented the review of the Integrated Community Safety Team undertaken by the Neighbourhood Safety Group. The review had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Director thanked the Performance and Partnerships Manager for her work in undertaking the review and preparing the Evaluation report.

The evaluation report identified a series of findings from across the breadth of the service and set out 16 recommendations for the Neighbourhood Safety Group, Safer Hartlepool Partnership and individual partner organisations. The Neighbourhood Safety Group would be developing an action plan that would be reported to the Partnership with actions monitored on a 6-monthly basis.

The Chair welcomed the report and commented that while it did provide some uncomfortable reading it was important that such a review highlight where things needed to be improved so action could be taken. In terms of the collocation of the various partners in the team, the Chair questioned if this had been as valuable over the past 18 months due to the high levels of working at home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Officers commented that while there had been some hybrid working arrangements, there had also always been officers present in the team with admin support during the pandemic. The Police representatives stated that there was still quick decision making being taken with managers meeting rapidly to respond to issues raised by victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Chair noted that there was now a full complement of Civil Enforcement Officers following some recently newly appointed staff but was concerned that the relevant checks did take some time and asked if there was a means of speeding this process up. The Assistant Director stated that legally, staff to these posts couldn't be appointed until the checks had come back but officers were working to make the process as swift as possible.

A member of the public commended the team on its response to drug issues in the community, particularly around known drug houses. The

action taken was encouraging the public to make more reports as they could see positive action being taken. The Police representatives thanked the public for that feedback as it was positive to know they were making a difference on the ground.

The 101 phone line number was highlighted as an area still causing some concern and the Police representatives reported that this was acknowledged and action was being taken at the Police Control Centre to improve the service.

### **Decision**

1. That the recommendations set out within the evaluation of the Integrated Community Safety Team (appendix 1 to the report) be approved and that the evaluation report be shared within individual partner organisations;
2. That the Neighbourhood Safety Group prepare an action plan to deliver on the recommendations of the evaluation and bring this to the next Safer Hartlepool Partnership meeting for approval;
3. That the Partnership receive monitoring reports from the Neighbourhood Safety Group twice a year on the implementation of the action plan.

## **34. Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006**

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

Minute 35 – Serious Violence in Cleveland – This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para. 7) Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

## **35. Serious Violence in Cleveland** *(Cleveland Police)*

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 namely (para. 7)

Cleveland Police Representatives gave a presentation updating the Partnership on the force's actions and statistics around serious violent crime. Due to the cases reported, the presentation contained information considered exempt under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act

1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

**Decision**

That the presentation be noted.

**36. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent**

None.

The Chair highlighted that the next meeting of the Partnership would be held on Monday 7 March 2022 commencing at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre.

The meeting concluded at 11.15 am

CHAIR





# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022



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

**Subject:** DOMESTIC ABUSE STRATEGY

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consult with members of the partnership on the draft domestic abuse strategy and for any views to be presented to Finance and Policy Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act received royal assent in parliament in April 2021 with draft statutory guidance being published in July 2021. There is a requirement for local authorities with their partners to review their Domestic Abuse Strategies to ensure that they are meeting the new statutory duties.
- 2.2 A report was presented to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership in September to highlight the changes in statutory duties. It also set out the development of a needs assessment and a timeline for the development of a strategy.
- 2.3 Under the new legislation the strategy needs approving by Finance and Policy Committee and will be presented to committee on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

## 3. DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY

- 3.1 The draft strategy (which is attached as appendix A) has been developed using the needs assessment and the findings from consultation
- 3.2 Consultation took place during September and December 2021. This included:
- Hartlepool Borough Council's online consultation – professionals and public responses
  - In depth discussion with a survivor of domestic abuse.
  - Harbour service user feedback

- Harbour children and young people feedback
- HSSCP (Hartlepool and Stockton Safeguarding Children Partnership) Engine Room Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Audit Report

3.3 The findings of the consultation can be found within the strategy document however it is quite clear that as a system we need to be listening to people's lived experiences. The draft strategy focuses on understanding lived experiences of victims/ survivors and developing our system response to meet these needs.

#### **4. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The added duties within the Domestic Abuse Act place a pressure on the local authority and its partners. There is a risk that the current resources cannot meet the additional duties therefore resources will need to be prioritised. It will therefore be critical for all partners to work together to make the best of use of current resources.

#### **5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 There are no specific financial considerations however the above point about no additional resources needs to be noted.

#### **6. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 There are no specific legal considerations.

#### **7. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)**

7.1 There are no specific child and family poverty considerations. The strategy sets out the support to be offered to all victims of domestic abuse.

#### **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)**

8.1 The needs assessment highlighted groups of hidden victims of domestic abuse e.g. men/ LGBTQ+/ older people. These are all considered within the strategy.

#### **9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS**

9.1 There are no staff considerations.

**10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations.

**11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no environment, sustainability and climate change considerations.

**12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 For members of the partnership to consider the draft strategy and feedback comments to be included in the Finance and Policy Committee

**13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 To ensure that statutory duties within the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are met.

**14. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**15. CONTACT OFFICERS**

Danielle Swainston, Assistant Director, Joint Commissioning, Civic Centre,  
01429 523732 [danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:danielle.swainston@hartlepool.gov.uk)

Penny Thompson, Head of Service (Housing, Hardship and Welfare  
Services), Civic Centre, 01429 284878 [penny.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:penny.thompson@hartlepool.gov.uk)

**HARTLEPOOL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2021 -2025: BUILDING A SYSTEM  
ON PEOPLE'S LIVED EXPERIENCES**

**1.INTRODUCTION**

### 2. DEFINING DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 creates a statutory definition of domestic abuse based on the existing cross-government definition which states that:

*Domestic abuse, or domestic violence, is defined across Government as any incident of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality.*

‘Abusive behaviour’ is defined in the act as any of the following:

- physical or sexual abuse
- violent or threatening behaviour
- controlling or coercive behaviour
- economic abuse
- psychological, emotional or other abuse

For the definition to apply, both parties must be aged 16 or over and ‘personally connected’. ‘Personally connected’ is defined in the act as parties who:

- are married to each other
- are civil partners of each other
- have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- are or have been in an intimate personal relationship with each other

## 4.1 Appendix A

- have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- are relatives

Men, women and children can all be victims of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse occurs amongst people of all ethnicities, sexualities, ages, disabilities, immigration status, religions or beliefs, and socio-economic backgrounds. It is recognised that domestic abuse differs in severity between incidents, and more often than not, will increase in frequency and seriousness, having a cumulative impact on the victim/complainant.

- The definition includes so-called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group

For the first time the Act recognises Economic Abuse:

Economic abuse involves behaviours that interfere with an individual's ability to acquire, use and maintain economic resources such as money, transportation and utilities. It can be controlling or coercive. It can make the individual economically dependent on the abuser, thereby limiting their ability to escape and access safety.

Examples of economic abuse include:

- having sole control of the family income;
- preventing a victim from claiming welfare benefits;
- interfering with a victim's education, training, or employment;
- not allowing or controlling a victim's access to mobile phone/transport/utilities/food;
- damage to a victim's property

### 3. NATIONAL POLICY AND CONTEXT

3.1 The **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** was given Royal Assent in April 2021. The Act brings in a new set of measures and strengthens certain existing provisions to tackle domestic abuse. Most specifically, the Act enshrines the definition of domestic abuse for the first time, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse.

The Act creates a new offence of non-fatal strangulation and extends the coercive and controlling behaviour offence to include post-separation abuse. It also extends the “revenge porn” offence to include the *threat* to disclose intimate images with the intention of causing distress and has banned the “rough sex gone wrong” defence that allowed perpetrators to claim that the victim consented to violence. It also creates a statutory presumption for the Courts that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special protective measures in the criminal, civil and family courts, for example through giving evidence by video link; and prohibit perpetrators from cross-examining their victims in person in the family and civil courts.

The Act lays down a series of statutory duties on local authorities in England to:

- Carry out a needs assessment of the need for accommodation-based support in its area; and use this needs assessment to inform a domestic abuse strategy
- Appoint a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Partnership Board to advise the local authority on the exercise of its functions. The board must include at least one representative for domestic abuse victims and one for children of domestic abuse victims.
- Present an annual report about its provision of domestic abuse support to the Secretary of State
- Provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation
- Provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance
- Ensure that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy

## 4.1 Appendix A

3.2 A National Domestic Abuse Strategy is expected to be published later this year (2021) along with a refreshed National Statement of Expectations which is aimed to support commissioners to ensure that services support victims and survivors. The government have said that men and boys are also affected by these crimes and published the first men and boys position paper in 2019. The government propose to publish a new position paper later in 2021.

3.3 **National Strategy - Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls** has recently been published (July 2021) which can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy/tackling-violence-against-women-and-girls-strategy#forewords>

There are elements of this strategy that overlap with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 therefore it is important to be aware of the content of this strategy and how it interacts with the priorities contained within Hartlepool's Domestic Abuse strategy.



## 4. WHAT DO WE KNOW?

### The Hartlepool Context

Hartlepool's has a population of approximately 93,663 people with 51% being female and 49% male. There are approximately 40,434 households with 28% renting their home; 11% have dependent children. The average age in Hartlepool is 40 with years with 7% of the population aged 55-69. By far the largest ethnic group is White British (98%). Low educational attainment, high unemployment and poor physical health place Hartlepool in a deprived status and amongst the top 10% in England.

We know that domestic abuse is under reported however according to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) ending March 2020 an estimated 5.5% (2.3 million) adults experienced domestic abuse in the last year equating to a rate of 5 in every 100 adults. The position was similar in 2019.

Using data from the Hartlepool Community Safety Team, CSEW and ONS the following comparative data has been compiled:

Metric	National data	Hartlepool data
Proportion of adults aged 16-74 who experienced domestic abuse in the past 12 months	5.5% (2.3m)	2.1% (1,392)
Proportion of females aged 16-74 who experienced domestic abuse in the past 12 months as a percentage of female population aged 16-74	4.7% (1.6m)	3.1% (1,050)
Proportion of males aged 16-74 who experienced domestic abuse in the past 12 months as a percentage of male population aged 16-74	2.3% (757,000)	1.0% (342)
<b>Violence against the person (VAP) offences</b>		
Proportion of VAP offences flagged as domestic abuse-related	35%	32%
Proportion of VAP offences with a female victim which were flagged as domestic abuse-related	53%	48%
Proportion of VAP offences with a male victim which were flagged as domestic abuse-related	23%	21%
<b>Sexual offences</b>		
Proportion of sexual offences flagged as domestic abuse-related	16%	16%
<b>Domestic abuse crimes</b>		
Total number of domestic abuse incidents and crimes	1,288,018	3,370

## 4.1 Appendix A

Proportion of domestic abuse incidents <b>not</b> subsequently recorded as a crime	41%	38%
Proportion of domestic abuse incidents recorded as a crime	59%	62%
Proportion of domestic abuse incidents recorded as a crime – percentage change from 2018/19 to 2019/20	+9%	-1%

The table above shows that for most of these metrics the Hartlepool data aligns closely to the national data. However, the proportion of the population who have experienced domestic abuse is slightly lower for the local data. This can be attributed to the fact that the national data is taken from the CSEW which includes crimes which are not reported to the police; whereas the local data is purely based on police reports.

Rates of domestic abuse per head of population are difficult to calculate due to factors such as under-reporting and frequent changes in how this data is recorded and classified over time. However, Public Health England has produced a crude rate based on the number of recorded domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population as indicated in the table below.

Quintiles: Low    High Not applicable

Indicator	Period	England	North East region	County Durham	Darlington	Gateshead	Hartlepool	Middlesbrough	Newcastle upon Tyne	North Tyneside	Northumberland	Redcar and Cleveland	South Tyneside	Stockton-on-Tees	Sunderland
Domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes	2019/20	28.0	42.3	61.3*	61.3*	34.9*	40.0*	40.0*	34.9*	34.9*	34.9*	40.0*	34.9*	40.0*	34.9*

This gives Hartlepool a rate of 40 domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population in 2019/20. This is considerably higher than the rate of 28 per 1,000 population for England as a whole, but lower than the average for the North East region (42 per 1,000).

### High Risk Domestic Abuse Cases (MARAC)

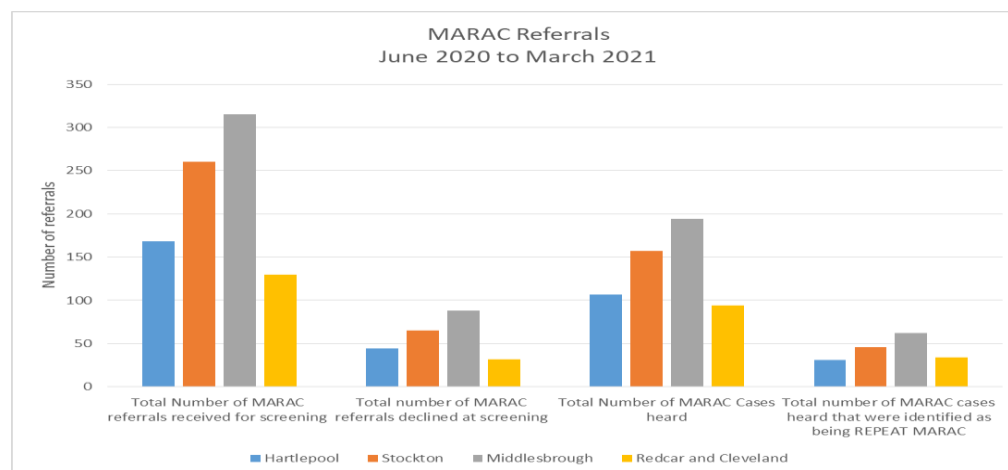
The highest risk domestic abuse cases are referred to a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC). The latest available data from Cleveland MARAC covers the 10 month period June 2020 to March 2021. During this time period, there were 168 Hartlepool cases referred to Cleveland MARAC. This is the second lowest number in the Cleveland force area after Redcar and Cleveland.

Of these 168 cases, 44 (26%) were declined at the screening phase. Reasons for a case to be declined include:

- All safeguarding and information had already been shared
- The case was already being managed in a different forum (TATI, MATAAC, MAPPA)
- The victim had moved out of the Cleveland area.

Chart 1 shows the total numbers of MARAC referrals for the period June 2020 to March 2021 for Hartlepool and the other three Cleveland force areas. For all the metrics shown, Hartlepool had the second lowest number of cases referred to MARAC after Redcar and Cleveland and around half the number of Middlesbrough cases referred.

**Chart 1**



## 4.1 Appendix A

Chart 2 shows that despite an increase in the number of cases being referred to MARAC from November 2020 to March 2021, the overall trend for MARAC referrals in Hartlepool is reducing over the reporting period June 2020 to March 2021. However, the number of cases being declined has also reduced over the same period. This means that the number of Hartlepool cases progressing to being heard at MARAC has actually increased (Chart 3).

**Chart 2**

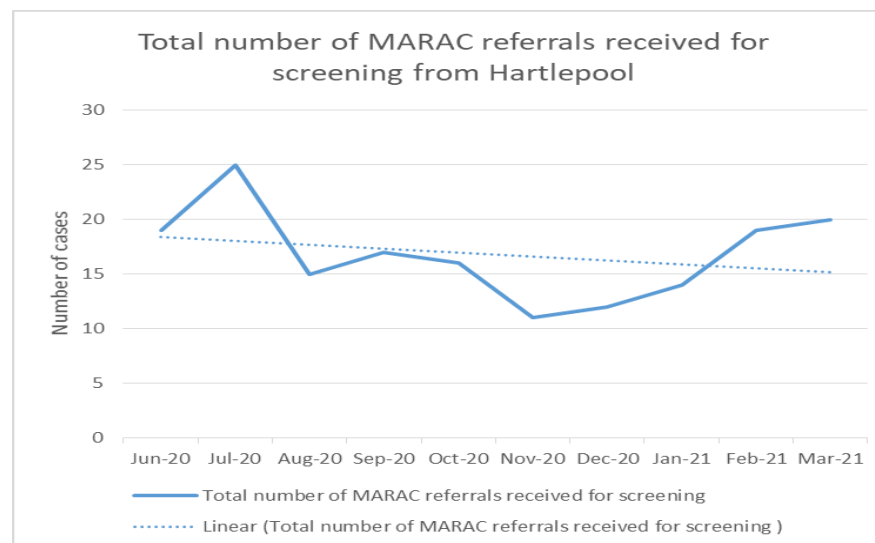


Chart 3

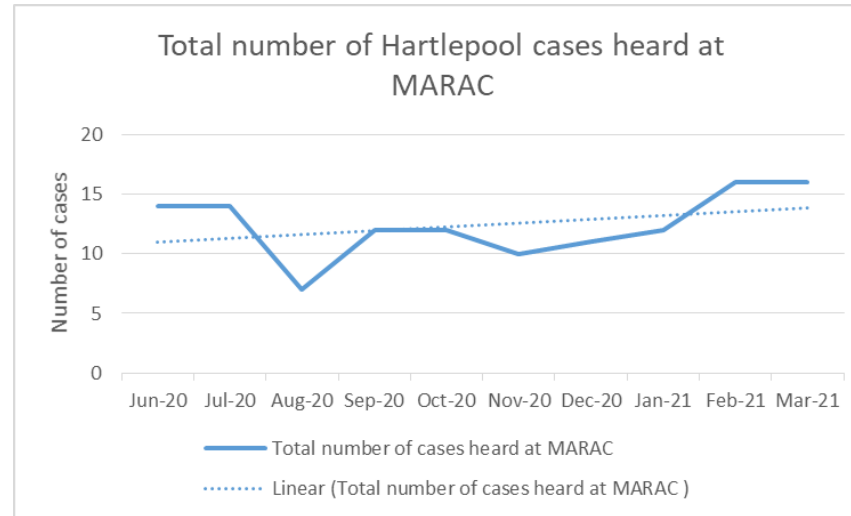
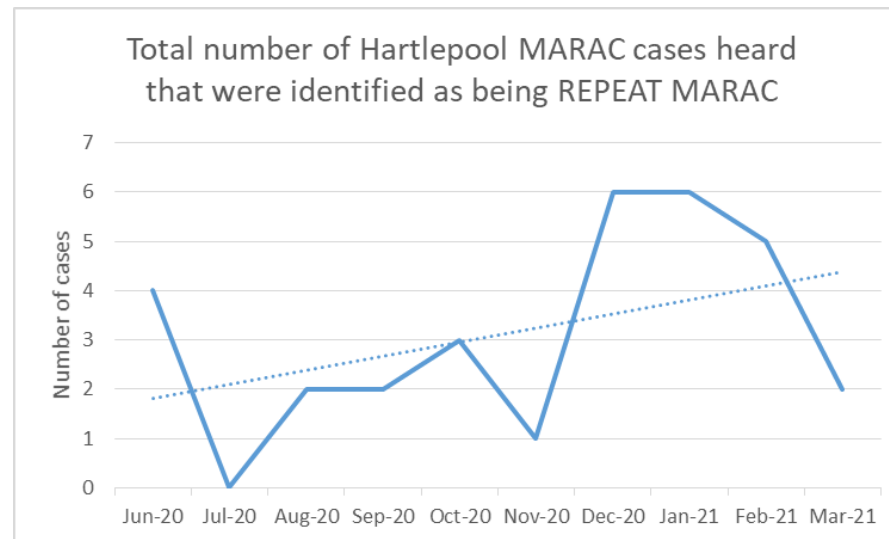


Chart 4 shows that despite a degree of fluctuation, the trend for cases from Hartlepool to be heard at MARAC more than once has also increased over the reporting period – although care should be exercised in drawing conclusions from this as the numbers are very low.

Chart 4



### **Safe Lives Insights: Harbour Client Data**

Data from the Safe Lives Insight Report for Harbour Support Services shows that during the six month period October 2020 to March 2021 there was an intake of 165 clients.

Of these:

- 92% were female and 86% were White British
- 39% were aged 21-30 and 31% were aged 31-40
- 63% had children and 6 were individual clients were pregnant.

Clients reported complicating factors including 59% being unemployed, 5% having significant financial problems and 11% having at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) recorded. 59% of clients advised they needed support with their mental health, 42% required help with their children and parenting and 40% needed help with their housing.

28% of the clients in this period were deemed high risk by their caseworkers. Of the intake, 64% reported jealous and controlling behaviour, 56% physical abuse, 52% harassment and stalking and 19% sexual abuse. 75% of the perpetrators were ex-partners and the average length of time abuse had occurred before they accessed help was 3 years.

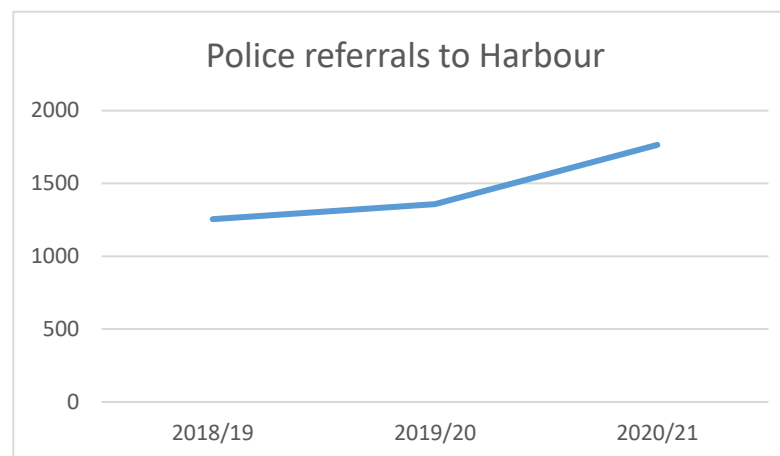
92% of the perpetrators were male and of these 39% had mental health needs, 31% had alcohol misuse issues and 41% had substance misuse issues. 21% had abused multiple victims.

Looking at trends from 2018/19 and over the past three years we know that there has been a 14% increase in referrals for Harbour services, a 36% increase in victims aged over 55 years accessing their services and a 55% increase in referrals for Refuge support.

### **Local trends: Harbour data**

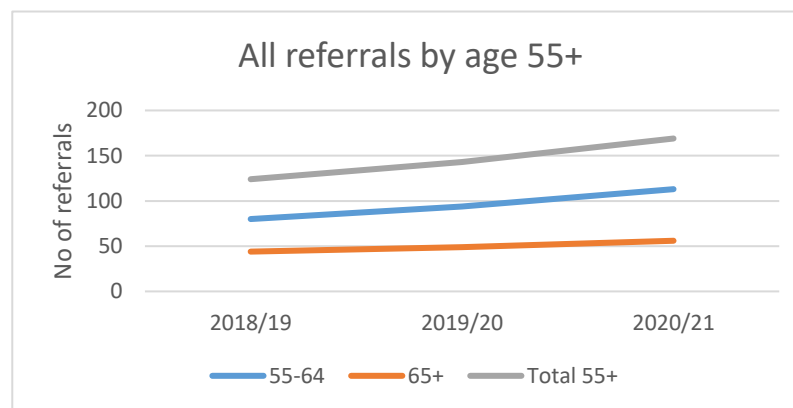
Using data from Harbour it is clear that the reporting of domestic abuse incidents is on the increase. Police referrals to Harbour have increased by 41% since 2018/19 as indicated in Chart 5 below –

Chart 5



Whilst national data tells us that the prevalence of domestic abuse is experienced by those aged 21 – 40 local data from Harbour shows a concerning increase in the number of older people reporting abuse and requesting support. Harbour report a 36% increase in referrals from those aged over 55 years since 2018/19 as indicated in Chart 6 below.

Chart 6



Harbour's refuge accommodation has experienced a significant rise in requests for safe accommodation with an increase of 55% in referrals to the refuge since 2018/19; a concerning 6% were unable to be considered for refuge as their needs were assessed as too complex.

### 5. WHAT DO VICTIMS/ SURVIVORS TELL US?

Consultation took place during September and December 2021. This included:

1. Hartlepool Borough Council's online consultation – professionals and public responses
2. In depth discussion with a survivor of domestic abuse.
3. Harbour service user feedback
4. Harbour children and young people feedback
5. HSSCP Engine Room Domestic Abuse Multi Agency Audit Report

The results of this can be found below.

#### **A survivor's story**

In 2021, Jane (not her real name) spent time talking through her experience of domestic abuse with us. Jane wanted to ensure that her experience made a difference in some way to the way domestic abuse is addressed in Hartlepool. This is Jane's story.

Jane's marriage had come to end in 2016 and she and her two children lived alone at their home; the children visited dad often. Jane felt lonely and her daughter suggested she find a new boyfriend and that she deserved some happiness. Jane had never used social media before however she met Allan quite quickly and before she knew it, she had rented out her family home and moved in with him. The children came with her although continued to spend time with their dad whenever they wanted to.

Jane and Allan both worked during the day and soon began to spend a lot of time together drinking on an evening. This led to arguments and quite quickly Allan started using violence against Jane. Jane had never experienced this before and was shocked. Within the first couple of months of being together Allan had head butted Jane breaking her nose and lip. Her son saw this happen, the police were called and social services advised Jane that her son couldn't stay with her while Allan was around. As Jane now rented a house with Allan and her own home was rented out, she felt she had no choice but to arrange for her son to permanently live with his dad. Her daughter left home as she was old enough to find her own place. This left Jane isolated and she missed seeing the children regularly.



## 4.1 Appendix A

After the first incident, the police told Jane about 'Claire's Law' and so she asked for a disclosure. They told Jane about occasions when they had been called out to incidents in which Allan had been violent to his previous partner but that he had not been cautioned or charged with any offences. She didn't tell Allan about this.

Over the coming months Jane experienced what she now knows was controlling behaviour. Allan would grab her mobile phone and question who she had been talking to. He smashed up several phones. He would get angry and say that she was cheating on him. Within a month of the first violent assault they got into another argument resulting in Jane being kicked in the abdomen, punched in the face, scratched with keys, bitten and threatened with a knife. Jane called 999 and Allan had fled by the time an ambulance arrived. Jane's physical and mental health were compromised and she lost her job. Her mum and dad were around but she kept this all from them.

Over the following two years Jane and Allan's relationship was on and off. He was bailed for assault however he was constantly drawn back to Jane and she felt sorry for him. He regularly threatened to kill himself. Five further serious assaults took place involving strangulation, punches to the head and being stamped on. As well as this Allan would come into the house (despite a restraining order being in place) and her car was found smashed up more than once. Jane lived in fear that he was watching her and had to change her mobile phone many times as he kept finding her number and messaging her, especially late in the night. Despite being in court for battery the case was dismissed.

Jane was trapped; she still owned her own home but had fallen back badly on mortgage payments and there was a tenant living in it. She had not paid the rent on the home she had been sharing with Alan and the landlord was seeking possession. She was certain Allan was sometimes hiding in the garden or in the garage during the night and was frightened. She had a short period at a refuge but didn't feel that they understood her. Jane went to CAB to try to get her housing problems sorted and to get advice on rising levels of debt. They helped her arrange a Debt Relief Order. She moved out of the home she had shared with Allan and into one of her own. Jane's financial hardship meant that she asked for help on many occasions with paying her rent, with food and other household essentials. Sometimes Jane was helped and sometimes she was told that she wasn't eligible. Jane found this very hard not least because she felt everyone should understand how badly she was suffering.

The last violent incident was in September 2017 when Jane was assaulted by Allan whilst out walking her dog. She has not seen him since and has cut off all communication with him. Throughout her experience Jane has kept a diary and she is using this to help with her recovery. Jane wants to make sure her story is shared so that others do not go through what she has experienced. Jane feels strongly that lots of professionals knew that she was in and out of a violent abusive relationship but didn't maintain their

intervention. Jane feels that the professionals that were around her felt that she had 'made her own choices'. Looking back Jane doesn't feel she had any choice and desperately wanted someone to take her out of the situation she found herself in.

### Resident feedback through online consultation

"I am a resident of Hartlepool in my forties and I experienced domestic abuse in my childhood (between my parents and towards myself at times) from around the age of four until I left home at age 18. I am telling this story as children living in these situations need more help and even if the help is there, they need to be able to access it. I lost count of the number of times I called Childline and it was engaged, I never did get through. Phoning the police was too scary ....I was a very withdrawn child ....My parents are still together and seem happy to continue with their way of life. For me, I never wanted to be in that situation and living through this has continued to impact me to this day. I struggle with relationships, lack confidence and haven't got as far in my career as I feel I would have if I hadn't had this trauma. I manage through anxiety and depression and I feel more needs to be done to help historical victims of abuse. I have been in and out of counselling as an adult and will be on anti-depressants indefinitely. Whilst what has happened is in the past, it will always be there in my memories no matter how hard I try to forget and sometimes it would be good to talk to people about it with others with similar experiences."

*"I was let down by everyone and now police still let us down....[I] feel like [I am] not believed." Anonymous, Dec 2021.*

### Key themes:

**Timely action** of referrals – when referrals are made by agencies such as Police into social services they need to be actioned as quickly as possible so that interventions can take place.

**Thresholds** – when referrals are received by social care close attention to thresholds needs to happen so that interventions take place. A robust understanding and knowledge of previous incidents and cumulative issues must be considered.

**Language barriers and cultural 'norms'** – need to be confident that suitably trained interpreters are used via an appropriate professional agency (do not rely on family, friends, neighbours or children) to talk to victims and perpetrators. Need to be firm but sensitive around how to manage 'cultural norms' – this must not be used as a defence nor to undermine laws around tackling domestic abuse.

## 4.1 Appendix A

The need for **multi agency information sharing** – victims report additional trauma suffered when telling their story to multiple professionals; robust and appropriate information sharing needs to ensure that not only the right action takes place but that those that have suffered abuse do not have to repeat their story again and again.

**Disguised compliance** – need to be mindful that this can occur in order to allay concerns and stop professional involvement. Disguised compliance can be particularly harmful in that it delays intervention and in the case of children leads to trauma, neglect and serious risk of harm.

**The child's voice** – need to be clear that decisions in the best interests of a child or young person are done so because the child has been listened to. An absence of the child's voice can be detrimental to their welfare.

What to do about **non engagement** – in the case of adults with children, persistent non-engagement is a form of abuse and must be challenged. It may be due to ambivalence, avoidance, non-compliance or disguised compliance and fundamentally may be rooted in mistrust of professionals.

**Professional handovers** – this relates also to information sharing and not having to re-tell the story repeatedly. Where a case passes from one professional to another robust arrangements need to be in place to ensure important information is shared.

**Complex cases** where domestic abuse is one factor amongst many – there is a risk that cases that have multiple areas of concern (eg substance misuse, housing/ homelessness, financial issues and destitution, crime) risk losing focus. A robust multi agency plan is needed.

**Prevention rather than intervention** – the need for children and young people to recognise domestic abuse is important together with who to talk to for help. Education amongst children and young people around appropriate relationships and behaviours together with sensitively challenging acceptable 'norms' is needed.

**Safe and suitable accommodation** – a range of options are needed, not just refuge space. It needs to be led by circumstances so that the most suitable accommodation is secured both for the victim and their family and the perpetrator. This might be to remain in their own home, to use refuge space or to move to an alternative location.

What can we do with **perpetrators** – help and support is needed to ensure perpetrators recognise the seriousness and impact of their behaviours so they can change their behaviour and go on to have positive future relationships.

### 6. WHAT DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US?

During October 2021 Harbour Support Services, on behalf of the Local Authority, undertook an engagement exercise with children and young people with lived experience of domestic abuse. The purpose of the event was to gain a deeper understanding of the impact domestic abuse has on children and young people and what their experience was of local services.

The children and young people who were invited to the sessions had previously accessed support through Harbour Support Services. The children and young people were asked how they felt before they had received support and they told us:

*I was sad when my dad used to live with us because he was always nasty to my mam and it would make me cry – Girl age 8*

*I use to get really angry and I don't know why – Boy age 9*

*I couldn't have any friends but now I can – Girl age 11*

*My daddy scared me – Girl age 5*

When the children and young people were asked how they felt after they had received support they told us:

*I feel so much happier now, I enjoyed coming to the group with other kids and talking about things – Boy age 10*

*I feel happy now I live in a new house – Girl age 8*

*I have never been able to talk to anyone before and feel better for talking about things – Girl age 16*

*I can see my cousin's now – Boy age 8*

*I feel safe – Girl age 11*

## 4.1 Appendix A

The following art work is a collage produced by the children and young people illustrating the children's journey and capturing the voice of the child.



Harbour Support Services ©

### 7. WHAT ARE OUR KEY PRINCIPLES?

- We are not experts - everything that we develop is based on an understanding of lived experiences
- Victims have a right to choice in their relationships - support will always be provided
- Our services are accessible and Every Contact Counts
- We are respectful of every individuals' situation – we are person/ child centred
- We will provide evidenced based interventions
- We will have a skilled workforce
- We will support at the earliest possible time
- All workers will understand the impact of Domestic Abuse on children and will respond effectively
- We will work in collaborative with all services to provide a person centred approach
- We will respond to the specific needs of the those within the full range of protected characteristics
- We will have a clear focus on perpetrators in order to keep the victim (and any other victims) safe.
- We will raise awareness throughout our communities working collaboratively to design and deliver local solutions.

### 8. WHAT ARE OUR GAPS?

Consultation and the development of our needs assessment have highlighted the following gaps:

- We don't know enough – we are relying on people coming forward to tell us their experiences but we know that many people (from all communities) do not feel able to reach out
- People find it difficult to access support
- Professional attitudes towards victims is sometimes wrong and unhelpful -
- There is a lack of choice for accommodation
- There is a lack of a consistent multi agency response based on an individual's needs
- There is not a consistent understanding of the impact of DA on children and young people
- Perpetrators are not regularly being held accountable
- We need to offer support to all victims and to reach out to those that may go unnoticed.

Based on our findings we want to initially focus on the following as priorities and will use these to develop an annual action plan:

1. Working with victims/ survivors (adults and children) for them to be true partners in our review and development of services
2. Focus on supporting as early as possible – develop a prevention/ early intervention offer
3. Recommission support services based on lived experiences
4. Equip the workforce to ask the right questions and to support victims of Domestic Abuse
5. Develop more choice and options for safe accommodation
6. Consider the needs of victims/survivors with multiple complex using multi agency support in order to begin to address needs.

### 9. HOW WILL WE KNOW WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

- Victims/ survivors will be partners in the delivery of this strategy
- Increased number of people accessing support
- Increased number of perpetrators held to account
- Victims report that their lives have been improved because of the support they have had
- Reduction in repeat victims
- Increase in prevention interventions
- Staff report that in their skills and knowledge regarding domestic abuse has improved
- Increased offer of safe accommodation





# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

**Subject:** SERIOUS VIOLENCE

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Non key decision. To update the Safer Hartlepool Partnership on the planned introduction of duties in relation to serious violence.
- 1.2 To seek approval for the commencement of work on a serious violence strategy.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As outlined to the partnership in the reports from Cleveland Police at the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December, the Government announced that it would bring forward legislation introducing a new serious violence duty on public bodies, which will ensure relevant services work together to share data and knowledge and allow them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence altogether.
- 2.2 The Government also announced that it would amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure that serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships by making sure they have a strategy in place to tackle violent crime.
- 2.3 The Duty is a key part of the Government's programme of work to prevent and reduce serious violence by taking a multi-agency approach to understand the causes and consequences of serious violence, focused on prevention and early intervention, and informed by evidence.
- 2.4 It requires specified authorities to work together to prevent and reduce serious violence, including identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur, the causes of that violence (so far as it is possible to do so), and to prepare and implement a strategy for preventing and reducing serious violence in the area. The Duty will also require the specified authorities to consult educational, prison and youth custody authorities in the preparation of their strategy.

- 2.6 Cleveland Police has produced a draft strategy and are working with partners on identifying gaps, developing an action plan, etc. This will ultimately include the strategies and action plans from each of the four local authorities.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In line with agreed national approaches around serious violence, it is recommend that:

- 3.2 We follow the key strands to the Governments Strategy and that of the Cleveland OPCC serious violence strategy which are:

- Early Intervention and Prevention;
- Supporting Communities and Local Partnerships;
- Tackling County Lines and Misuse of Drugs, incorporating ‘Organised Crime Group (OGG)’ pathways; and
- Effective Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Response.

- 3.3 We take a “public health” approach to tackling serious violence as a partnership. Furthermore we will recommend that the Safer Hartlepool Partnership support the World Health Organization’s (WHO) definition of taking a public health approach to reducing violent crime that:

*“Seeks to improve the health and safety of all individuals by addressing underlying risk factors that increase the likelihood that an individual will become a victim or a perpetrator of violence. By definition, public health aims to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. Programmes for primary prevention of violence based on the public health approach are designed to expose a broad segment of a population to prevention measures and to reduce and prevent violence at a population-level.”*

- 3.4 We use the locally agreed definition of serious violence considers the following offence types/Home Office crime classifications:

- Homicide, attempted murder and manslaughter;
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm;
- Malicious wounding- wounding or inflicting GBH;
- Arson with intent to endanger life;
- Aggravated burglary;
- Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving;
- Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking;
- Kidnap; and
- Knife crime and/or firearms enabled/threatened offences based on the following categories (in addition to those already listed above):
  - Robbery (business and personal);

- Threats to kill;
- Assault with injury;
- Assault with injury on a Constable; and
- Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury.

#### **4. STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 The partnership will work together to establish the local ‘strategic needs assessment’ identifying the kinds of serious violence that occur in our areas, and so far as it is possible to do so, the causes of that serious violence, and the cohorts of people most affected or at risk.
- 4.2 The strategic needs assessment should be formulated following an evidence-based analysis of information relating to the violent crime types, the drivers of crime within the partnership area and the cohorts most vulnerable. This will require the gathering and analysis of data from all partners, so far as is possible, including (but not restricted to) crime data, hospital data on serious violence injuries, education data (e.g. truancy and exclusion), prison data and local data alongside the input of organisational intelligence and experience.

#### **5. PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A STRATEGY:**

- 5.1 In order to prepare and implement a strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area, the partnership will collectively develop a strategy which will outline the multi-agency response that the partnership will take to address the drivers identified in the strategic needs assessment and work to prevent and reduce serious violence in the local area.
- 5.2 The strategy should contain bespoke solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in the area, and will set out how the proposed actions will enhance and complement existing local arrangements responding to serious violence. This must be kept under review, which should be done on an annual basis and updated when necessary.

#### **6. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Without the delivery of a coordinated approach to serious violence activity in the local area, the risk could be increased.

#### **7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 Legislation will place a duty on the Partnership to include serious violence as one of its priorities and to produce a serious violence strategy.

**8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Equality and Diversity Considerations	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
Environment, Sustainability & Climate Change Considerations	No relevant issues

**9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That the Safer Hartlepool Partnership agrees to the principals laid out in the report for inclusion in the strategy.
- 9.2 That a sub group is established to develop the strategy and work plan based on the strategic need assessment and that a further report is brought to the partnership for approval of the strategy.

**10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will have a responsibility to produce a serious violence strategy when legislation is introduced.

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 There are no background papers to accompany this report.

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# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

**Subject:** PROTECT DUTY

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Partnership with an overview of the Protect Duty and Publicly Accessible Places (PAL) project.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Protect Duty, previously known as 'Martyn's Law', is a new piece of anti-terrorism legislation which the Government intend to introduce, and is designed to ensure the public is better protected from a "multifaceted, diverse and continually evolving" terror threat.
- 2.2 It follows a campaign by Figen Murray, the mother of Martyn Hett, who sadly lost his life in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in May 2017, who has highlighted the need to improve security standards in crowded public spaces and venues.
- 2.3 A public consultation for the Protect Duty has been carried out by the Government seeking views from stakeholders on how the incoming legislation can make the public safer at publically accessible locations.
- 2.4 The Government has said it is "committed to improving the safety and security of public venues" and campaigns for increased safety measures at public venues, and we expect the legislation to be introduced next year.

## 3. PROTECT DUTY PROPOSAL

- 3.1 The proposal is that the Duty would apply to any place to which the public or any section of the public has access, on payment or otherwise, as of right or by virtue of express, or implied permission. Publicly Accessible Locations include a wide variety of everyday locations that may be publicly or privately owned and can also include temporary events.

- 3.2 Therefore this is a legislative approach to improve protective security and organisational preparedness at publicly accessible locations, mandating the consideration of the threat from terrorism, and the implementation of reasonably practicable measures to mitigate the threat.

#### 4. PUBLICALLY ACCESSIBLE LOCATIONS (PAL) PROJECT

- 4.1 The Publically Accessible Locations (PAL) is a Pilot Project which will operate in the North East Region involving 33 Local Authorities with different models of engagement and 7 Police Forces.
- 4.2 The Pilot provides dedicated support to local authorities and will build on Council's capability to consider security and implement mitigation, with 8 Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSA's) providing support to Local Authorities. New guidance, enhanced threat information and supporting tools will be provided, while a Develop Maturity model to assess impact has also been established.
- 4.3 The pilot will commence 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 in the North East and will:
- Inform the specific requirements of Local Authorities for products, training, guidance and tools;
  - Support development of best practice guidance;
  - Establish the required skills and training for CTSA's, and advise on the resourcing required for UK-wide implementation; and
  - Provide accessible threat information.
- 4.4 The benefits of the project are that it addresses the Counter Terrorism Protect and Prepare strategy. It also gives local authorities a 'Head Start' on the Protect Duty, sharing the workload through a joined-up approach and building capacity. It provides greater coordination of security planning, greater awareness and training in counter terrorism, and enhances a more joined up approach for local businesses and Local Authorities.

#### 5. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Legal Considerations	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	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
Environment, Sustainability & Climate Change Considerations	No relevant issues

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 That Partners note the report.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership will have a responsibility in relation to Protect when legislation is introduced.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 There are no background papers to accompany this report.

## **9. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

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# SAFER HARTLEPOOL PARTNERSHIP

8<sup>th</sup> March 2022



**Report of:** Director of Neighbourhoods and Regulatory Services

**Subject:** STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT OCTOBER 2020 –  
SEPTEMBER 2021

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Non Key Decision. To receive the Strategic Assessment October 2020 – September 2021 see **Confidential Appendix 1. This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006) namely, (para 3), information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding.**
- 1.2 See **Appendix 2** for Summary of Strategic Assessment October 2020 – September 2021.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership (SHP) has a statutory requirement to undertake an annual strategic assessment to identify and address the community safety issues that impact upon and matter to the local community. To address these issues, it is important to understand not only what is happening where, but what may be causing the problems and the best way to tackle them. The findings from the Strategic Assessment will inform if any changes are required to the Community Safety Plan 2021/2024.
- 2.2 As agreed by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and detailed in the Community Safety Plan 2021/24, the Partnership's current strategic objective and priorities are:

Strategic Objective	Priorities
To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.	Anti-social Behaviour Drugs and Alcohol Domestic Violence and Abuse



- 2.3 In November 2020, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership agreed that the time frame for analysis contained in the Strategic Assessment will now cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> September thereby allowing sufficient time for future Community Safety Plans to be implemented in March/April.

### **3. STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2020/21**

- 3.1 The Strategic Assessment 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix 1**. The document draws on a wide range of multi-agency data, analysis of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool.
- 3.2 The key findings of the assessment identify that the current Community Safety Plan priorities of Anti-social Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol and Domestic Violence remain relevant and should be retained as priorities.

### **4. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

- 4.1 Due to continuing concerns relating to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Partnership's annual Face the Public event was moved online. The event ran for a period of two weeks from 11<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October on the Council's digital engagement platform, "Your say, our future" and enabled participants to complete the annual community safety survey.
- 4.2 Disappointingly, only a very small number of surveys were completed and engagement in the Face the Public event was low which could be attributed to this method being very new and not yet embedded across the town. However those that did respond mainly strongly agreed or agreed with the priorities in the current community safety plan

### **5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Community Safety Partnerships have a statutory duty to undertake an annual strategic assessment.

### **6. SECTION 17 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 Local Authorities and other public bodies have a duty to consider how their activities may impact on crime and disorder. The annual Strategic Assessment enables the SHP to consider and identify any changing/new priorities for inclusion in the Community Safety Plan.

**7. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Risk Implications	No relevant issues
Equality and Diversity Considerations	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

**8. RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 Members of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership are asked to discuss the contents and key findings of the strategic assessment, consider if any changes are required to the Community Safety Plan 2021/2024 and consider any new and emerging priorities.
- 8.2 Partners are asked to consider any additional data and or information that their respective organisation's hold that could be used to inform future assessments.

**9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a statutory requirement to undertake an annual strategic assessment to identify key community safety issues impacting on the local community.

**10. CONTACT OFFICER**

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## Safer Hartlepool Partnership Strategic Assessment 2021 Executive Summary

### Introduction

The Safer Hartlepool Partnership has a statutory requirement to undertake an annual strategic assessment to identify and address the community safety issues that impact upon and really matter to the local community. It is important to understand not only what is happening where, but what may be causing the problems and the best way to tackle them. All the work of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is intelligence led provided by analysis contained within the strategic assessment and other detailed analytical reports when requested.

Analysis of crime & disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending in Hartlepool has been undertaken for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (unless otherwise stated).

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had an impact on crime and disorder in the town, however it is too early to fully understand what the long term effects will be and makes drawing comparisons with the previous strategic period a somewhat unreliable indication of increasing or decreasing trends at the current time.

In addition, electoral ward boundaries in Hartlepool changed in May 2021. For the purposes of this assessment, where possible, data has been aligned to those new ward boundaries.

### Current Strategic Objective & Priorities

As agreed by the Safer Hartlepool Partnership and detailed in the Community Safety Plan 2021-2024, the Partnership's current strategic objective and priorities are:

Strategic Objective 2021 - 2024	Priorities 2021 - 2022
<b>To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.</b>	<b>Anti-social Behaviour</b>  <b>Drugs and Alcohol</b>  <b>Domestic Violence and Abuse</b>

## Performance Overview

### Crime in Hartlepool

Recorded crime during the period October 2020 to September 2021 remained static in Hartlepool when compared to the previous assessment period.

Total Recorded Crime in Hartlepool	Oct18 – Sep19	Oct19 – Sep20	Oct20 – Sep21	Change from 19/20	% Change from 19/20
	12,579	11,480	11,486	-75	-0.7

The total number of victim-based offences has reduced slightly by 2.1% (-198) in comparison to the previous assessment period.

Non victim-based offences have increased by 6.3% compared to the previous assessment period.

### Comparison to Most Similar Groups<sup>1</sup>

Community Safety Partnerships are arranged in “Most Similar Groups” with 14 other CSPs, determined by various measures including population figures and deprivation levels. Positions in these groups are ranked with 1 being the lowest (fewest offences) and 15 the highest (most offences).

The crime rate in Hartlepool continues to be above the national average of 81 per 1,000 population<sup>2</sup> at 121 and is also above the Most Similar Group (MSG) average of 103 per 1,000 population. (September 2021).

Crime Type	Hartlepool	MSG Average	Hartlepool Position	MSG Comparison
All Crime	121	103	14	Above
Violence against the Person				
Homicide	0.000	0.012	3	Below
Violence with Injury	10.0	10.6	6	Below
Violence without Injury	17.1	16.0	11	Above
Sexual Offences				
Rape	1.44	1.18	13	Above
Other Sexual Offences	2.55	2.16	13	Above
Acquisitive Crime				
Burglary Residential	12.84	8.87	14	Above
Burglary Bus & Com	1.70	1.27	12	Above
Bicycle Theft	1.11	0.87	12	Above
Theft from the Person	0.34	0.43	4	Below

<sup>1</sup> Most Similar Group (MSG) Community Safety Partnerships – I-Quanta: Walsall, Sunderland, South Tyneside, Halton, Barrow-in-Furness, Rochdale, St Helens, Newport, Knowsley, Stoke-on-Trent, Burnley, North East Lincolnshire, Bradford, Thanet, Hartlepool.

<sup>2</sup> Crime in England & Wales June 2021

Robbery - Personal	0.81	0.68	11	<b>Above</b>
Robbery - Business	0.10	0.12	7	<b>Below</b>
Vehicle Crime	4.22	4.77	7	<b>Below</b>
Shoplifting	9.84	5.12	15	<b>Above</b>
Other Acquisitive	9.10	6.46	15	<b>Above</b>
<b>Criminal Damage</b>				
All Criminal Damage	14.66	11.71	13	<b>Above</b>

### Comparison to Local Peers in the Cleveland Police Force Area (per 1,000 population)

In comparison to our local peers Hartlepool has the second highest victim-based crime rate per 1,000 population and is above the Cleveland rate.

Crime Category / Type	Hartlepool	Redcar and Cleveland	Middlesbrough	Stockton	Cleveland
<b>Violence against the person</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>62.6</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>46.6</b>
Homicide	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Death or injury due to driving	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Violence with Injury	10.3	8.1	14.3	8.7	10.2
Violence without Injury	17.3	13.3	24.1	14.8	17.1
Stalking and Harassment	19.6	17.0	24.2	17.0	19.2
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Rape	1.4	1.1	2.3	1.3	1.5
Other Sexual Offences	2.6	2.1	3.1	2.4	2.6
<b>Robbery</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Robbery - Personal	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Robbery - Business	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Acquisitive Crime</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>30.7</b>
Burglary - Residential	5.7	5.0	8.4	3.5	5.4
Burglary – Business and Community	1.7	1.9	2.3	1.3	1.7
Bicycle Theft	1.1	0.6	1.7	0.7	1.0
Theft from the Person	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4	0.5
Vehicle Crime	4.2	3.8	9.2	3.2	5.0
Shoplifting	10.1	9.1	9.7	7.2	8.8
Other Acquisitive	9.3	6.8	11.3	6.4	8.2
<b>Criminal Damage and Arson</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>137.3</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>98.7</b>

### Anti-Social Behaviour in Hartlepool

Anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the Police have reduced in all categories, with the total number of incidents reducing by 11% compared to the previous assessment period.

Police Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	Oct 18 – Sep 19	Oct 19 – Sep 20	Oct 20 – Sep 21	Change from 19/20	% change from 19/20
Personal	1146	665	395	<b>-270</b>	<b>-41</b>
Nuisance	3492	3851	3618	<b>-233</b>	<b>-6</b>
Environmental	97	416	354	<b>-62</b>	<b>-15</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4735</b>	<b>4932</b>	<b>4367</b>	<b>-565</b>	<b>-11</b>

### Comparison to Local Peers in the Cleveland Police Force Area (per 1,000 population)

The anti-social behaviour rate in Hartlepool is above the national rate of 34 incidents per 1,000 population<sup>3</sup>. In comparison to our local peers, Hartlepool continues to have the second highest anti-social behaviour rate and is slightly above the Cleveland rate.

Police Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents	Hartlepool	Redcar & Cleveland	Middlesbrough	Stockton	Cleveland
	46.8	43.4	58.8	37.9	45.8

### Deliberate Fire Setting in Hartlepool

During the assessment period total deliberate fires recorded by Cleveland Fire Brigade increased by more than one quarter with a 21% increase in deliberate primary fires<sup>4</sup> and 29% in deliberate secondary fires<sup>5</sup> in Hartlepool.

Deliberate Fires	Oct 18 – Sep 19	Oct 19 – Sep 20	Oct 20 – Sep 21	Change from 19/20	% Change from 19/20
Primary Fires (F1)	71	75	91	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>
Secondary Fires (F3)	649	464	598	<b>134</b>	<b>29</b>
Total Deliberate Fires	720	539	689	<b>150</b>	<b>28</b>

In comparison to our local peers, Hartlepool has the second highest rate per thousand population for deliberate primary and secondary fires and is above both the Cleveland and England rate in both categories.

Deliberate Fires per 1000 population	H'pool	M'boro	R&C	S'ton	C'land	England <sup>6</sup>
Primary Fires (F1)	1.0	1.1	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.2
Secondary Fires (F3)	6.4	9.5	6.0	3.0	5.9	0.70

<sup>3</sup> Data Source: Office of National Statistics – Crime in England and Wales March 2021

<sup>4</sup> Deliberate Primary Fires (F1) are non-accidental fires that involve casualties and/or rescues or property or where at least five appliances attend.

<sup>5</sup> Deliberate Secondary Fires (F3) are any non-accidental fires that do not involve property or casualties/rescues or where four or fewer appliances attend. Derelict properties are classed as secondary fires.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/fire-statistics-data-tables> Year Ending June 2020

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## Crime

During the reporting period, total recorded crime in Hartlepool reduced by 0.7% in comparison to the previous strategic period. Acquisitive crime has been the most prevalent crime type in Hartlepool for many years, however during this assessment period, and in line with the previous year, violence offences accounted for the largest proportion, 47% of offences, of recorded victim based crime.

### Acquisitive Crime

#### Residential Burglary

Although Residential Burglary<sup>7</sup> reduced by 19.5% (-129 offences) when compared to the previous year, there were still more than 500 offences recorded. Residential burglaries displayed an increasing trend during the reporting period, with peaks in offences identified in March and August 2021.

Offender analysis has identified that 38 individuals have been charged with 51 Residential Burglary offences during the reporting period. Almost all were males (35), with almost half (49%) aged between 18 and 25 years old. Repeat offending is evident in this offence type, with 9 males charged with 2 or more offences.

#### Shoplifting

Although offences increased by 11%, levels of shoplifting in Hartlepool continue to be 51% below the pre-pandemic figures. Repeat locations for offences continue to be apparent with 17% of all shoplifting offences were recorded in one retail outlet.

During the reporting period 62 individuals (44 male and 18 female) were charged with 181 shoplifting offences. Predominantly aged between 33 and 52 years, three quarters of these individuals were males. Repeat offending in this crime category continues to be higher than in any other with offenders regularly returning to the same locations to commit further offences. Analysis identifies that 31 individuals were charged with two or more offences with 10 of those charged with 6 or more, equating to 51% of detected offences.

#### Vehicle Crime

Analysis identifies that vehicle crime offences reduced during the reporting period by 22.3% compared with the previous year, with offences falling from 502 to 390 (-112 offences).

During the reporting period, 28 individuals were charged with 65 offences. Repeat offending is apparent, with 7 males aged between 16 and 38 years old, charged with 2 or more offences and a total of 44 offences between them.

#### Violent Crime

Violence offences in Hartlepool have increased by 6.6% when compared to the previous reporting period and equate to 47% of total recorded victim based crime in Hartlepool.

Comparable to previous years, young males aged between 18 and 34 years continue to be at the greatest risk of being a victim of non-domestic violence and accounted for 36% of male victims of violence during the reporting period.

Repeat victimisation is evident with 587 individuals experiencing two or more offences during

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<sup>7</sup> Includes attempt, distraction and aggravated offences

the reporting period, 4 of whom experienced 10 or more offences<sup>8</sup>.

Where violence offences have resulted in an individual being charged with an offence, 54% were aged between 18 and 34 years, reflecting the victim age profile. Repeat offending is evident with 54 individuals charged with 2 or more offences in the reporting period.

### Serious Violence

In line with the locally agreed definition of serious violence, this assessment considers the following offence types/Home Office crime classifications:

- Homicide, attempted murder and manslaughter (Codes 1, 2, 3A, 4/1)
- Assault with intent to cause serious harm (Code 5D)
- Malicious wounding- wounding or inflicting GBH (Code 8/1)
- Arson with intent to endanger life (Code 56A)
- Aggravated burglary (Code 29A)
- Death or serious injury caused by unlawful driving (Codes 4/4, 4/6, 4/8)
- Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking (Code 37/1)
- Kidnap (Code 36)
- Knife crime and/or firearms enabled/threatened offences based on the following categories (in addition to those already listed above)
  - Robbery (business and personal) (Codes 34A and 34B);
  - Threats to kill (Code 3B);
  - Assault with injury (Code 8N)
  - Assault with injury on a Constable (Code 8S)
  - Racially or religiously aggravated assault with injury (Code 8P).

Serious violence offences in Hartlepool increased by 4% (+7 offences) when compared to the previous year. The main types of offences occurring in Hartlepool during the reporting period were assault with intent to cause serious harm (69) and assault with injury (37). Assault with intent offences increased by more than one third when compared to the previous year whilst assault with injury offences reduced

More than one quarter of serious violence offences (28%; 53 offences) were domestic violence with the main offence type identified as Assault with intent to cause serious harm (19) followed by Assault with injury offences equating to 28% and 43% of total offences respectively.

Almost half of serious violence offences (48%; 92 offences) occurred in a dwelling with a further 29% (55 offences) occurring in a public place, the majority being in the street. Of those listed as occurring inside a dwelling, more than one third (39%) were domestic abuse related.

There were more than 150 victims of serious violence during the reporting period<sup>9</sup>, predominantly male, of which more than one third were aged between 25 and 39 years. There were 7 male victims under the age of 18. Four individuals (3 male and 1 female) were the victim of between two and four separate serious violence offences in the 12 month period. A small number of victims are also identified as perpetrators of serious violence offences.

<sup>8</sup> Multiple offences can be recorded in relation to a single incident

<sup>2</sup> This figure excludes 'Regina', where crimes have been recorded against the state



For almost one third of victims (49), the offences were domestic related. Of these victims 47% (23) were female and 53% (26) male.

During the reporting period, 55 individuals were charged with serious violence<sup>10</sup> of which 50 were male. Many of these perpetrators have also been charged with other offences<sup>11</sup> including acquisitive crime and drug offences. Serious Violence perpetrators were predominantly aged between 25 and 40 years. There were only 2 individuals under the age of 18 charged with serious violence offences in this period.

### **Domestic Violence and Abuse**

In the reporting period, police recorded incidents of domestic violence (DV) reduced by 3% when compared with the previous year. Incidents involving a repeat victim also reduced by 3%, however the repeat incident rate remains high at 42.8%

Domestic violence crimes equated to 21% of all recorded victim based crime in Hartlepool, compared to 23.8% in the previous year.

The number of domestic related violent crimes in Hartlepool increased by 6% (+91 offences) compared to the previous year and equated to 48% of all violent crime.

The number of high risk domestic violence cases discussed at the Hartlepool Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in the assessment period stood at 136, a 5% increase when compared with the previous assessment period with the repeat case rate of 28% being similar to the previous year (27%) and below the national rate of 33%<sup>12</sup>. The Police and Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) continue to be the primary referral agencies to the MARAC accounting, for 90% of referrals.

The number of children in families discussed at MARAC stood at 83, representing a 5% decrease when compared to the previous assessment period<sup>13</sup>.

Women and girls in Hartlepool continue to be at the greatest risk of domestic violence and abuse with almost two thirds (73%) of all victims being female of which 40% were aged between 22 and 34 years. Repeat victimisation is evident, with 671 identified in the reporting period, 90% of whom were female.

More than 120 individuals were charged with domestic abuse offences during the reporting period, of which 88% were males predominantly aged between 23 and 39 years. Repeat offending is evident with 30 males charged with 2 or more offences during the reporting period and equating to 50% of all offences detected to males in the 12 month period.

### **Organised Crime**

A Cleveland Serious and Organised Crime Local Profile is commissioned by the Local Serious and Organised Crime Partnership Board. The latest profile was published in early 2020 with the findings regularly reviewed at the Board meetings. The aim of the profile is to assess the threat from serious and organised crime and the impact on local communities in Cleveland.

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<sup>10</sup> Limitations in the custody data do not allow to identify if offence types were knife or firearm enabled/threatened

<sup>11</sup> In their lifetime in Cleveland

<sup>12</sup> Data Source: safelives.org.uk – based on data for Oct20 – Sep21 submitted by 297 MARACs

<sup>13</sup> 87 children in the previous year

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This profile identifies that organised crime activity linked to the supply and distribution of drugs is evident in Hartlepool and that 13% of all Organised Crime Group (OCG) members in Cleveland reside in the town and are mainly British born white European males.

The profile also referenced that the highest percentage of cannabis farms across Cleveland were located in the Hartlepool Area.

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

In Hartlepool, anti-social behaviour incidents recorded by the Police reduced by 11% when compared to the previous 12 months and were 8% lower than the levels recorded in the 2019/20 assessment period (pre-COVID).

During this reporting period of October 2020 to September 2020 an average of 362 incidents were recorded by the Police each month, compared to 410 in the previous reporting period. Incident levels were above average in October and November 2020 and March, April and June 2021. More than one third of incidents in October 2020 and almost half in November 2020 were in relation to COVID breaches as restrictions regarding mixing in households were still in place. The above average levels in March, April and June 2021 are attributed to continuing COVID restrictions and incidents involving off road motorcycles / quad bikes.

Although the overall number of ASB incidents reduced, ASB warnings (AS13) issued by the Police increased by more than one third, from 58 in the previous year to 80.

The number of anti-social behaviour complaints received by the Hartlepool Community Safety Team (278) reduced by 25% when compared to the previous assessment period (370) with numbers still below pre-COVID levels (300).

More than 40% of complaints received by the Community Safety Team related to nuisance and rowdy behaviour, with a further 18% linked to drug dealing.

**Youth Related Anti-Social Behaviour**

Analysis continues to identify that the majority of recorded anti-social behaviour incidents are perpetrated by adults. During this assessment period, youth related anti-social behaviour equated to one quarter (25%) of all incidents recorded and comparable to the previous year when the level was 23%. Youth related ASB reduced by 4% when compared to the previous year with figures falling from 1,141 to 1,096 (-45 incidents).

**Environmental Anti-Social Behaviour****Fly-tipping**

Fly-tipping is a significant blight on the local environment, creates potential danger to public health, and is a source of pollution and a hazard to wildlife. It also undermines legitimate waste carrier businesses who are undercut by unscrupulous competitors operating outside the law.

Data available from Hartlepool Borough Council's Contact Centre indicates that reports of fly-tipping remain high however when compared to the previous assessment period, they have reduced by 11%.

## Noise Complaints

Noise complaints received by Hartlepool Borough Council's Public Protection Team reduced by 15% in comparison to the previous reporting period, falling from 524 to 443.

Comparable to the previous assessment period, complaints predominantly related to loud music and barking dogs which equated to 59% of all complaints received.

## Deliberate Fires

Deliberate fire setting is the human behaviour employed in committing the crime of arson. Arson endangers life, damages property and causes destruction to the local environment. It also blights neighbourhoods, having a detrimental effect on people, communities and local authorities.

Data provided by Cleveland Fire Brigade identified an increase in total deliberate fires of 28% during the assessment period with both primary (F1<sup>14</sup>) and secondary (F3<sup>15</sup>) deliberate fires increasing by 21% (+16) and 29% (+134) respectively.

The main type of property targeted in deliberate primary (F1) fires were vehicles (27%), houses (21%) and private garages (18%).

Although they remain low in number compared to F3 fires, the effects of deliberate primary fires are high personal impact and community loss, risk to life and high financial loss.

Police data identified that 72 offences of Arson were recorded in the assessment period, with 18% (13) categorised as Arson Endangering Life.

Deliberate secondary fires (F3) were predominantly grassland and refuse fires with repeat locations targeted across the town.

## Hate Crime

Hate crime is defined as "any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice towards someone based on a personal characteristic"<sup>16</sup>. There are five centrally monitored strands of hate crime:

- race or ethnicity;
- religion or beliefs;
- sexual orientation;
- disability; and
- transgender identity

The level of hate crimes in Hartlepool recorded during the assessment period was 10% higher than in the previous year and is due to an increase in sexual orientation and disability hate crime offences.

<sup>14</sup> Deliberate Primary Fires (F1) are non-accidental fires that involve casualties and/or rescues or property or where at least five appliances attend.

<sup>15</sup> Deliberate Secondary Fires (F3) are any non-accidental fires that do not involve property or casualties/rescues or where four or fewer appliances attend. Derelict properties are classed as secondary fires.

<sup>16</sup> Common definition agreed in 2007 by the police, Crown Prosecution Service, prison Service (now the national Offender Management Service) and other agencies that make up the criminal justice system.

As in previous years, and in line with the national picture, the majority of hate crimes continue to be racially motivated and accounted for 56% (74% nationally) of all hate offences.

Repeat victimisation is evident in the data with 11 individuals subject to 2 or more offences during the reporting period.

### **Preventing Violent Extremism**

The co-ordination of activity to prevent violent extremism at a strategic level continues to be undertaken by the Cleveland Prevent Silver Group. Guided by Cleveland's Counter-Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), the Prevent Silver Group's aim is to maintain multi-agency arrangements throughout Cleveland; contribute as a partnership to prevent individuals within the community, groups or organisations from becoming or supporting terrorists or violent extremists.

Locally, the Safer Hartlepool Partnership is the responsible coordinating body for the delivery of Prevent activity in the town via the multi-agency Prevent Operational Group.

Recently published Home Office figures regarding individuals referred to the Prevent Programme in 2020/21 revealed a 22% decrease; 4,915 compared to 6,287 in the previous year. This decrease is likely to have been driven by the effects of public health restrictions that were in place throughout the year to control the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The number of referrals discussed at a Channel Panel (1,333) and adopted as a Channel case (688) saw smaller reductions, decreasing by 7% and 06% respectively.

Of the 688 Channel cases, the most common were cases referred due to concerns regarding Extreme Right-Wing radicalisation (317; 46%), followed by those with mixed, unstable or unclear ideology (205; 30%) and concerns regarding Islamist radicalisation (154; 22%)

During the assessment period, less than 5 Prevent referrals have resulted in a Channel Panel being convened and, in line with national cases, most commonly were regarding Extreme Right-Wing or mixed, unstable or unclear ideology.

### **Substance Misuse**

Drug and alcohol misuse in Hartlepool is a cross cutting issue that impacts on the work of the Safer Hartlepool Partnership as it is often a factor in crime, anti-social behaviour and reoffending.

Data recorded by Cleveland Police identified a 10% and 31% reduction in possession of drugs offences and drugs supply/trafficking offences respectively when compared to the previous assessment period.

The launch of an integrated drug and alcohol treatment service, START – Supporting Treatment and Recovery Together has already made some considerable improvements to the treatment offer for those in need, however information obtained from the Council's Public Health team identifies that the rate of successful treatment completions for opiate, non-opiate and alcohol clients remain well below the England rate.

In addition, 19 drug related deaths were recorded in Hartlepool in 2020 which is the highest number of drug deaths reported for a single year since data has been available (since 2008).

Individuals who died as a result of drug misuse in Hartlepool are predominantly aged between 35 and 44 years.

Like drugs, alcohol misuse cuts across all aspects of partnership service delivery and data from Public Health England through the Local Alcohol Profiles for England (LAPE) identifies that:

- Alcohol-specific hospital admissions in Hartlepool stands at 2,125 admissions per 100,000 population. This is significantly worse than the regional and England rates of 1,979 and 1,500 respectively.
- For alcohol related hospital admissions as a whole in 2020/21 those aged between 40 and 64 years are the driving force behind Hartlepool's high rates, with a rate of 1,239 per 100,000 people, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest in England. For males, Hartlepool ranks one place higher at 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in England with a rate of 1,604 per 100,000 people.
- The rate of alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under-18s in Hartlepool stands at 24.9 per 100,000 population. This is below the England and Regional rate of 29.3 and 52.0 respectively.

## Re-offending

Reducing re-offending is fundamental to both reducing crime and protecting the community. Proven re-offending rates published by the Ministry of Justice identify that re-offending rates for adult offenders in Cleveland remain stubbornly high with three of the four local authority areas featuring within the “Top 20” areas with the highest re-offending rates in the country. Hartlepool is currently the 5<sup>th</sup> highest.

Recorded crime data identified a total of 738 individuals were detected to and charged with more than 1,600 offences in Hartlepool during the assessment period; 381 charged with 2 or more offences of whom 13 were charged with 10 or more offences. These 13 individuals were detected to more than 170 offences which accounted for 10.4% of all detected crime and an average of 13 offences per individual.

The majority of repeat offenders were adults (97%) of which 84% were males predominantly aged between 18 and 34 years (57%).

Information provided by the Hartlepool Youth Justice Service identified that 18 young people entered the Criminal Justice system for the first time in the financial year 2020/21, compared to 21 in the previous year.

As identified in the Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2021 – 2023, the rate of youth re-offending in Hartlepool reduced significantly over the last year compared with the previous year and is currently below the national and regional average<sup>17</sup>.

The number of young people aged between 11 and 17 years charged with offences increased during this assessment period by 50% rising from 14 to 21. These 21 individuals were charged with a total of 82 offences, with 12 individuals charged with 2 or more offences.

Offences committed by these 21 individuals were predominantly vehicle crime (theft from, theft of and vehicle interference) offences (27%) and other non-notifiable offences<sup>18</sup> such as motoring

<sup>17</sup> As with adult re-offending rates, proven re-offending rates for young people are 18 – 24 months behind on publication

<sup>18</sup> Non-notifiable offences are those offences for which the police are not required to report figures to the home office

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offences (e.g. no insurance) (26%). Other offence types included violence, fraud, possession of weapons and acquisitive crime offences.

## Horizon Scanning

### Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Bill

This bill is expected to receive royal Assent in February 2022. Once the legislation comes in to force, it will introduce a Serious Violence Duty which will require Community Safety Partnerships to formulate and implement a strategy to prevent people from becoming involved in serious violence, both as victims and perpetrators, and reduce instances of serious violence in the area.

### Assertive Youth Outreach

From April 2022, The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland will directly commission Youth Outreach services across the Cleveland Police Force area. The service specification will see the delivery of youth outreach provision change from a targeted intelligence led approach to a detached location based service which will be tasked by the local Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This will allow the service to focus on a specific area to deliver long term focussed interventions. Rapid deployment of the service to respond to emerging issues and the timely targeting of hotspot locations is no longer included in the service specification.

### Local Elections

Local Elections will be held in Hartlepool on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022, with one third of town's 36 Councillors up for re-election.

## Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Findings in the Strategic Assessment demonstrate that the existing priorities in the Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 remain relevant and that they should be retained as priorities for 2022-2023.

Strategic Objective 2021-2024	Priorities 2022 - 2023
<b>To make Hartlepool a safe, prosperous and enjoyable place to live, work and visit.</b>	<b>Anti-social Behaviour</b>  <b>Drugs and Alcohol</b>  <b>Domestic Violence and Abuse</b>