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**COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2015-2020**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Bill Dixon, Leader**

**Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of Commissioning**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To propose the Community Safety Plan 2015-2020 (**Appendix 1**) for Darlington as part of the Council's policy framework and to recommend that Cabinet agrees the Plan and recommends it to Council for adoption (with or without modification).

**Summary**

2. The Community Safety Plan is built around five priorities:
  - (a) Reducing the harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco;
  - (b) Tackling anti-social behaviour;
  - (c) Reducing offending and re-offending;
  - (d) Working with families with multiple problems;
  - (e) Supporting vulnerable people, (focus is upon domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime).
  - (f) The Plan explains the achievements, context, issues and actions in relation to each priority to demonstrate an evidence-based approach. Underpinning the Community Safety Plan is a focus on building strong communities.
3. Development of the Plan has occurred in a partnership environment and includes strong input from all key stakeholders. This has been complemented by public engagement work. In the context of huge pressure on public finances, the plan is a summary of partners' aspirations but recognise that constraints during the next five years may impact upon capacity to deliver all of the plan.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (a) Agrees the new Community Safety Plan 2015-2020 for Darlington;
- (b) Recommends the Plan to Council for adoption (with or without modification).

**Reasons**

5. The recommendations are supported by the following reasons:
- (a) The Community Safety Plan requires Cabinet’s support as it is part of the Council’s policy framework.
  - (b) The Plan is based on robust evidence and places Darlington in a stronger position to progress actions around community safety in the current changing climate.

**Murray Rose**  
**Director of Commissioning**

No background papers have been used in the preparation of this report.  
 Judith Morton: Extension 6749

S17 Crime and Disorder	The Community Safety Plan plays a significant part in drawing together activity across the Council and other agencies in order to address both immediate and longer-term issues and solutions. The Plan sets out the Council’s commitment to tackling crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour to make Darlington safer.
Health and Well Being	The Community Safety Plan contributes strongly to the health and well-being agenda in areas including drug and alcohol harm reduction and tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence. The Plan has been strongly influenced by health partners, including Public Health.
Carbon Impact	There is no direct impact arising from this report.
Diversity	The Plan will be progressed through a wide range of programmes, action plans and other activities implemented by the various partner agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership. The plan provides the co-ordinating framework directing this wide-ranging activity towards shared outcomes and targets. It is essential that the strategy is implemented in ways such that any outcomes are fair and help advance equality. The Council carries out equalities impact assessments to identify the potential impact of strategies and proposals on these groups, and to fulfil

	its equality duty. Where appropriate, it will carry out impact assessment on the programmes and actions in this strategy, and it will encourage partners to carry out equalities impact assessments on their own proposals. All partners are subject to either the public sector equality duty or similar duties under the Equality Act 2010.
Wards Affected	The Plan affects all wards, with a particular emphasis on high impact locations.
Groups Affected	Vulnerable people and families with multiple problems will particularly benefit from planned activity.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report will make changes to the Council's current policy framework and therefore requires approval by full Council.
Key Decision	As the report represents a change to the policy framework it is not an Executive function although Cabinet approval is required for all changes to the Policy Framework and as such it has been included in the Forward Plan as a matter of good practice.
Urgent Decision	No.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Plan is a key contributor to the Sustainable Community Strategy, setting a direction for the "safer" strand of work.
Efficiency	A more effective use of volunteers is a recurring theme that this plan will facilitate. It is anticipated that this will lead to improved efficiency in a number of areas through the provision of community-based restorative justice work and the continued increase of Neighbourhood Watch, co-ordinated through the Community Safety Partnership.

## MAIN REPORT

### Context

6. Crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic and sexual violence and the impact of substance misuse destroy people lives, blight communities and reduce public confidence. The refreshed Community Safety Plan sets out how stakeholders in Darlington will work together to deliver on five priorities during 2015-20.
  - (a) Reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol and tobacco;
  - (b) Tackling anti-social behaviour;
  - (c) Reducing offending and re-offending;
  - (d) Working with families with multiple problems;
  - (e) Supporting vulnerable people, (focus is upon domestic abuse, sexual violence and hate crime).
7. The evidence-based priorities reflect current trends and issues. Specifically, the Community Safety Plan is based upon information included in the Single Needs Assessment and the Police Risk Document, which informs the annual Policing Plan and aims to inform residents and agencies of the key objectives set by the Darlington Community Safety Partnership. The Plan is written at a time of shrinking resources affecting the public sector generally and, at the time of writing, the final detail of future resource levels is not fully known. Therefore, while the Community Safety Partnership is committed to implementing the actions contained within the plan, it is recognised that these are aspirational and may be restricted by reduced levels of funding. Changes brought about through the recent transformation of the Probation Service have implications for the way forward in working with offenders. This said, robust partnership arrangements mean that Darlington is well-placed to deal with the effects of changes as they occur and effective mechanisms are in place to target available resources to ensure that they are being used to deliver the Partnership priorities.

### Delivery arrangements

8. The Community Safety Partnership Board, endorsed the progress of the draft Community Safety Plan at its last formal meeting in May 2015. The Community Safety Partnership under the leadership of Chief Superintendent Hall and Director of Public Health, Miriam Davidson will be responsible for delivery arrangements. These currently comprise theme groups working on each of the five overarching community safety priorities reporting back into the Community Safety Partnership Board. Each theme group has its own detailed delivery plan. Details of how to access these plans are provided in the relevant section of the Community Safety Plan.
9. A meeting of the Community Safety Partnership Board takes place every eight weeks to progress work around the community safety priorities and consider any budgetary issues or emerging trends.

### Consultation

10. Engaging with the public about the development of the Community Safety Plan has been carried out online and via attendance at public meetings. Priorities have been

set taking account of the results of this engagement.

11. Ongoing engagement takes place during the year via Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and public confidence surveys carried out by the Police. This information is used to inform the Single Needs Assessment and in particular the Police Risk document. Increased use of facebook and twitter is being made to inform residents and encourage communication and engagement. New campaigns and consultations are included on the Council website. The Community Safety Plan encourages feedback from residents and provides those who want to become actively involved with contact details so they can get help to improve community safety in their neighbourhoods through volunteering and Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

## **Equalities**

12. The Plan will be progressed through a wide range of programmes, action plans and other activities implemented by the various partner agencies involved in the Community Safety Partnership. The Plan provides the co-ordinating framework directing this wide-ranging activity towards shared outcomes and targets. It is essential that the strategy is implemented in such ways that any outcomes are fair and help advance equality. The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council and other public agencies to “have due regard” in their decisions, services and programmes to eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation; to advancing equality of opportunity; and to fostering good relations between people of different backgrounds. The duty applies specifically to age, disability, religion/faith, race, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, and marriage and civil partnership.

## **Conclusion**

13. This Plan is written in a climate of continuing reduction in resources available for addressing community safety and the constant need to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership can effectively meet the needs of residents in Darlington. Commitments within the plan are aspirational and may be restricted by funding levels between now and 2020. This means that it is important that the Community Safety Partnership’s key priorities and messages are clearly stated in order to ensure that the Community Safety Partnership is well placed to promote those priorities to the PCC, local residents and stakeholders.