

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 16 June 2015 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a faint rectangular stamp.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Councillor Dave Thompson (Chairman) | Labour |
| Councillor Darren Lea (Vice- Chairman) | Labour |
| Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw | Conservative |
| Councillor Susan Edge | Labour |
| Councillor John Gerrard | Labour |
| Councillor Robert Gilligan | Labour |
| Councillor Valerie Hill | Labour |
| Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones | Labour |
| Councillor Paul Nolan | Labour |
| Councillor Pauline Sinnott | Labour |
| Councillor Geoff Zygadlo | Labour |

Please contact Lynn Derbyshire on 0151 511 7975 or e-mail lynn.derbyshire@halton.gov.uk for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 15 September 2015

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

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| 1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT | |
| <p>The Chairman will give Member of the Board a verbal update on matters that have arisen since the last meeting.</p> | |
| 2. MINUTES | |
| 3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS) | |
| <p>Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.</p> | |
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Corporate and Resources

SUBJECT: Public Question Time

WARD(s): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider any questions submitted by the Public in accordance with Standing Order 34(9).

1.2 Details of any questions received will be circulated at the meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That any questions received be dealt with.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Standing Order 34(9) states that Public Questions shall be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) A total of 30 minutes will be allocated for dealing with questions from members of the public who are residents of the Borough, to ask questions at meetings of the Policy and Performance Boards.
- (ii) Members of the public can ask questions on any matter relating to the agenda.
- (iii) Members of the public can ask questions. Written notice of questions must be given by 4.00 pm on the working day prior to the date of the meeting to the Committee Services Manager. At any one meeting no person/organisation may submit more than one question.
- (iv) One supplementary question (relating to the original question) may be asked by the questioner, which may or may not be answered at the meeting.
- (v) The Chair or proper officer may reject a question if it:-
 - Is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the Borough;
 - Is defamatory, frivolous, offensive, abusive or racist;
 - Is substantially the same as a question which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; or
 - Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

- (vi) In the interests of natural justice, public questions cannot relate to a planning or licensing application or to any matter which is not dealt with in the public part of a meeting.
- (vii) The Chairperson will ask for people to indicate that they wish to ask a question.
- (viii) **PLEASE NOTE** that the maximum amount of time each questioner will be allowed is 3 minutes.
- (ix) If you do not receive a response at the meeting, a Council Officer will ask for your name and address and make sure that you receive a written response.

Please bear in mind that public question time lasts for a maximum of 30 minutes. To help in making the most of this opportunity to speak:-

- Please keep your questions as concise as possible.
- Please do not repeat or make statements on earlier questions as this reduces the time available for other issues to be raised.
- Please note public question time is not intended for debate – issues raised will be responded to either at the meeting or in writing at a later date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton** - none.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton** - none.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton** – none.

6.4 **A Safer Halton** – none.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal** – none.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

**8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 16 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
SUBJECT: Specialist Strategic Partnership minutes
WARD(s): Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Minutes from the last Safer Halton Partnership meeting, are attached for consideration.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes be noted.

3.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 None.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 None.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

Safer Halton Partnership

At a meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership, Monday 16th February 2015 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building, Widnes from 10am.

Present:

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| C Patino | Community & Environment |
| Cllr D Thompson | PPB Chair Police Crime Panel Representative |
| D Parr | Chief Executive |
| D Perchard | HBC Trading Standards |
| D Yates | Cheshire and Greater Merseyside CRC |
| E Anwar | Public Health |
| G Jones | Youth Offending Service |
| J Bucknall | Integrated Youth Service |
| J Horsfall | Halton Housing Trust |
| J Williams | Commissioning – Communities |
| M Andrews | Community Safety |
| M McDonough | Home Office – Immigration Enforcement |
| N Hallmark | Policy & Performance – Communities |
| P Hughes | Community Safety – Cheshire Police |
| R Langdale-Smith | Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire |
| S Bell | Public Health |
| S Boycott | Cheshire Police |
| S Henshaw | Cheshire Fire & Rescue |

Apologies:

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| J Duff | Faith Sector |
| L Crane | Integrated Youth Support |
| N Sharpe | Halton Housing Trust |

| AGENDA ITEM | ACTION |
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| <p>1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>David Parr welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> | |
| <p>2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>Minutes of last meeting agreed as a true record.</p> <p>Legal Highs/Novel Psychoactive Substances The report brought to the last meeting also went to Safer Policy and Performance Board. As a result a working party has been set up to</p> | |

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| <p>examine the subject and assess whether there are any practical steps that can be taken in Halton to alleviate the situation. Jon Bucknall requested to feed-in to the process from a young person’s perspective.</p> <p>Late Night Levy The proposed work involving Police and Public Health not taken place as yet. It was reported however that there is some sub-regional work taking place through Drinkwise and also Community Safety have some in-roads through other groups. Suggestion made to utilise existing groups and give them added influence. It was proposed that a clear evidence base is needed in order to support a Late Night Levy. This would offer the opportunity for Members to make an informed decision.</p> <p>Statement of Licencing Tying-in with above item it was confirmed that a Statement of Licencing Policy was under review and that this needs to include clear links to wider wellbeing issues on alcohol harm. Suggestion was made around the notion of a ‘terminal hour’ to meet the needs of different customer bases. It was stated that a new Statement of Licencing would consider the future vision for Halton in terms of the culture being established and residents’ relationship to alcohol.</p> <p>Anti-Social Behaviour It was suggested that new tools and powers could be used in relation to travellers’ sites but would not be employed as a first port of call.</p> | <p>NH to send invite to JB</p> <p>MA - Progress report to come back to next meeting</p> <p>EA - Progress report to come back to next meeting</p> |
| <p>3. TASK GROUP UPDATES</p> <p>a.) Alcohol Harm Reduction</p> <p>Feedback was given on key actions over the period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 474 visits to licenced premises reported for the period • Pandis – fined £10,000 for breach of immigration law • Red Admiral – DPS issues now resolved • Traveller wedding – was well managed and passed without incident • Wine Bar – progress made on Night Watch system • Pub Watch, Runcorn – now well established • Christmas period – no issues of note – successful awareness raising activity • Early December – two ‘pocket book’ warnings issued • No passive drugs dog operations for period – this is to be re-visited for future reports • Monthly contact established with door staff • Meetings set up with licencing team <p>Overall it was reported that the quarter was well managed with little incident.</p> | |

b.) Quarterly Alcohol Update

It was noted that good progress is being made against objectives:

- Work has been undertaken with young people to raise awareness of alcohol harm
- Public Health/Home Officer continue to support the LAAA project and goals set are being achieved
- Town Centre Manager – a meeting has taken place to look at whether there is scope to achieve impact within a short timescale
- Seminars have been run with licenced premises to look at the reduction of alcohol violence
- Alcohol Enquiry – this has started to take place with a view to looking at perceptions of alcohol and influencing a healthy relationship with it. Initial finding is that pricing is a key issue
- Colleagues were thanked with regard to the practical examples given in support of decision making for licensing purposes
- Improvements being made to Under-18s admissions and it was felt that the activity across the community is influencing positively on that
- It was reported that adult admissions have plateaued but still remain an issue
- A social marketing campaign has been developed around alcohol and pregnancy and is to be rolled out imminently
- Brief Intervention and Advice (BIA) courses have been run across various services
- Acute admission alcohol nurse now in situ

Further to a query it was confirmed that the current Street Pastors have received the BIA training. A request was made for intervention detail to be incorporated into the Street Pastor reporting.

PH

c.) Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Partnership Tasking

Within feedback it was highlighted that Quarter Three reporting includes the Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night period, traditionally a peak time for anti-social behaviour (ASB). While this period saw a spike, overall the quarter saw a reduction in ASB on the previous year. The figures were credited to the co-ordinated approach to activities, in particular the involvement of Environmental Services over the peak bonfire period.

Over the bonfire night period Runcorn saw a small increase in deliberate fire setting but overall there has been a reduction on

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| <p>last year's figures due to the managed approach taken.</p> <p>ASB over the Mischief Night/Halloween period was at the high end of the scale and included attacks on emergency vehicles. This has been reviewed and findings will influence the 2015 approach.</p> <p>Interventions over Quarter Three have proved successful and have included further activity under Operation Emblem and the Respect programmes. Some issues highlighted in relation to engaging partners for Respect programmes.</p> <p>Safer Schools – Truancy sweeps resulting in a number of young people being taken to a place of safety.</p> <p>Work with schools is making a link between public transport and ASB issues.</p> <p>Arriva – incident has highlighted the need for ongoing communication and staff members now have access to community notice boards with reports being posted from Community Safety. This will allow staff to remain informed of problem areas and promote engagement with Community Safety to tackle the issues.</p> <p>Public Space Protection Order – work is being undertaken to identify and take forward and the partnership will be updated on progress.</p> <p>Operation Stay Safe – it was queried whether young people were asked how they got access to alcohol and suggested that any intelligence gleaned would be invaluable to Trading Standards. It was indicated that, at present, this is not asked however other consultation with young people, through Public Health, seems to suggest that 40% of alcohol comes from the young peoples' parents. Work is to be undertaken to look at this issue with parents.</p> <p>Gypsy/traveller encampment – one during Quarter Three.</p> <p>A victim communication mechanism, 'Track My Crime', was discussed. Confirmation was given that this has been trialled in some Police Authority areas and is to be rolled out. The system is free to use for forces but they would need to look at their own system compatibility. Cheshire Constabulary is investing in mobile technology and so would have the capacity to provide the information needed for the 'Track My Crime' system. A need was highlighted to be able to balance the information so that pre-judicial information is not shared and victims are not put at risk. General feeling was that communication is key to reassuring the public.</p> | <p>SB to feedback on timescales</p> |
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| <p>The issue of increased global terrorist activity was raised and questions were asked as to the potential threat levels within the Borough. It was confirmed that risks are non-specific and there are no identified targets. A level of general vigilance was advised and a suggestion was made to continue to share intelligence on suspicious activity, individuals or groups.</p> <p>It was highlighted that hate crime did not feature in the report. The reason for this was cited as a result of altered data capture within the region. It was suggested that once more robust capture of local figures could be sought it would feature on future reports.</p> <p>It was stated that Hate Crime figures across the region have reduced and continued attention is being paid to the issue.</p> <p>d.) Domestic Abuse</p> <p>A reduction in cases to MARAC was reported. This has resulted from a review of the volume of cases being discussed and the introduction of a triage system. MARAC now discusses the most high levels cases and others are monitored through other mechanisms.</p> <p>The refuge has seen an increase in take-up for respite. This is seen as positive as suggests more victims are being open to help.</p> <p>Domestic Violence Protection Order/Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPO/DVPN) – A co-ordinator is now in post for Cheshire Constabulary to take these forward.</p> <p>Seventeen were issued across Halton and Warrington within Quarter Three. A request was made for figures to be included in ongoing reports.</p> <p>The awareness raising campaigns over the Christmas period (traditionally a peak period) have included the till receipts messages, local press publicity and marketing on the bin lorries. Thanks were given to Jimmy Unsworth for supporting this campaign within his service area.</p> <p>Query was raised around IDBA and confirmation was given that the gap had been closed in Halton in respect of contact time. A request was made for this to be reported on.</p> <p>e.) Substance Misuse</p> <p>Quarter Three figures showed that engagement is improving.</p> <p>The Hep B vaccination scheme has been well-received and uptake was good as a result of the use of an incentive of vouchers.</p> | <p>PH</p> <p>MA</p> |
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| <p>The White Ribbon event was successful and has supported victims in coming forward.</p> <p>During November and December an Aspirations Training programme was held with service-users. This involved mentors working with learners on employability skills. This is seen as a pivotal piece of work in ensuring service-users retain their benefits in the light of Government dialogue around worklessness, engagement with work programmes and whether benefits could be cut for those not engaging. It was stressed that Halton Members did not support benefits penalties and while the Authority would follow legislative guidelines they would also act in the interest of residents' needs and those most financially vulnerable within the Community.</p> <p>A Peer Mentor Group was hosted at St Paul's Church, with positive results. The service is currently looking at other faith venues to replicate the success of the initiative.</p> <p>The 'dry café' project is underway and Department of Health funding has been applied for. It is intended that in addition to offer a community venue the 'dry café' would operate as a central point of access for drug and alcohol services (Council and partners).</p> <p>Legal highs were discussed and it was reported that use of these substances resulted in 13 deaths Nationally during 2013. National figures to be circulated to Partnership members.</p> <p>No local data is available at present and the current picture indicates that legal highs are being used in conjunction with other illegal drugs, and that this complicates representation of the issue.</p> <p>It was reported that a large amount of spent canisters of nitrous oxide were found following an 18th birthday party at the Stadium at the weekend. On investigation it was found that these are readily available online at 35p per 8mg canister and have a legitimate use in the dispensing of whipped cream. Initial research has indicated that just an 8mg dose of the gas could be lethal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety confirmed that this was new intelligence and that work would be undertaken to investigate the issue. • It was resolved that Council venues, including the Community Centres, would be informed of the issue and vigilance would be requested. • Trading Standards agreed to look at working with retail outlets to agree an informal age restriction on the sale of the gas. | <p>JW</p> <p>MA/PH</p> <p>CP</p> <p>DPerchard</p> |
| <p>4. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC)</p> <p>It was announced that the Commissioner has announced a continued commitment to Community Safety at the same level as</p> | |

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| <p>the previous year.</p> <p>RASASC have retained the contract for the rape and sexual assault aftercare programme for the constabulary region but have extended access to become an ageless service.</p> <p>Concerns raised by The Safeguarding Board have seen the inclusion of financial crime and adult sexual exploitation into the Commissioner plans.</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation was briefly discussed, and current public focus on the issue following the Rotherham situation. It was agreed that Halton’s response to review their practices would be shared at the next meeting through a report from the Children and Enterprise Directorate. The successful Ofsted report was cited as a positive indicator of Halton’s performance.</p> <p>The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment was referred to and it was agreed that this is to be brought to the next meeting.</p> | <p>Catherine Appleton to be tasked with reporting at the next meeting.</p> <p>MA</p> |
| <p>5. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL (PCP)</p> <p>The statutory function of the PCP was explained in relation to their role in reviewing the PCCs plans. The PCP have issued comments on the plans and a further meeting has been set to look at alterations.</p> <p>The PCP noted that PCC plan have proposed additional officers and this was viewed as positive.</p> <p>It was reported that the PCP had found a lack of localism in the PCC plans. It was stressed that Cheshire has diverse needs across its communities and suggested that the plans are not representative of these. Through consultation the PCC has set the top priority as road policing. It was felt that this did not reflect the main need of Halton as a community.</p> <p>It was proposed that all should remain mindful of the forthcoming general election and the potential impact on the current consultation and representation structure, embodied into the PCC and the PCP.</p> <p>Emphasis was placed on increased austerity and the fact that by 2016 there is a predicted National loss on policing equivalent to nine forces.</p> | |
| <p>6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Youth Offending Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The closure of Hindley Youth Offender Institution was reported, along with its potential impact on Halton families. The nearest custodial centre is now Weatherby. | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reported entitled 'A Matter of Trust' was cited as paying credence to good practice across Cheshire. It was agreed that the report should be circulated. | GJ |
| <p>7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Items for information were highlighted for partners to absorb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a.) Widnes Blue Lamp Reportb.) Runcorn Blue Lamp Reportc.) Street Pastors – Octoberd.) Street Pastors – Novembere.) Street Pastors – December | |

Meeting ended at 11.35am

DRAFT

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| REPORT TO: | Safer Policy and Performance Board |
| DATE: | 16 June 2015 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | Strategic Director, Communities |
| PORTFOLIO: | Health and Wellbeing |
| SUBJECT: | Presentation – Overview of Trading Standards |
| WARDS: | Borough-wide |

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a presentation which will give an overview of the role of Trading Standards in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members receive the presentation; and
- (2) Members ask any questions about the service as it operates in Halton.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Safer PPB has a overview and scrutiny role for services as they operate in Halton.
- 3.2 The Service will update on their performance in Halton in relation to Trading Standard Services.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The service, on the health, safety and well-being of all Halton residents, and in particular children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Fundamental to the overall long-term safety of people.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

7.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

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| REPORT TO: | Safer Policy and Performance Board |
| DATE: | 16 June 2015 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | Strategic Director, Communities |
| PORTFOLIO: | Health and Wellbeing |
| SUBJECT: | Presentation – Cheshire Police – Dangerous Dogs |
| WARDS: | Borough-wide |

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive a presentation on the work of Cheshire Police in dealing with dangerous dogs in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members receive the presentation; and
- (2) Members ask any questions about the service as it operates in Halton.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Safer PPB has a overview and scrutiny role for Police services as they operate in Halton.
- 3.2 The Service will update on their performance in Halton in relation to dealing with dangerous dogs.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The service, particularly relating to legislation controlling dangerous dogs, impacts on the health, safety and well-being of all Halton residents, and in particular children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Fundamental to ensuring those in need get appropriate and quick treatment.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Fundamental to the overall long-term safety of people.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

7.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| REPORT TO: | Safer Policy and Performance Board |
| DATE: | 16 June 2015 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | Strategic Director, Communities |
| PORTFOLIO: | Health and Wellbeing |
| SUBJECT: | Presentation – North West Ambulance Service |
| WARDS: | Borough-wide |

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive a presentation on the work of the North West Ambulance Service in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) Members receive the presentation; and
- (2) Members ask any questions about the Ambulance service as it operates in Halton.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Safer PPB has a overview and scrutiny role for the emergency services as they operate in Halton.

3.2 The Service will update on their performance in Halton.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Ambulance Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Fundamental to ensuring those in need get appropriate and quick treatment.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Fundamental to the overall long-term safety of people.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

7.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

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| REPORT TO: | Safer Policy & Performance Board |
| DATE: | 16 th June 2015 |
| REPORTING OFFICER: | Strategic Director, Communities |
| PORTFOLIO: | Community Safety |
| SUBJECT: | Performance Management Reports, Quarter 4, 2014-15 |
| WARD(S) | Borough-wide |

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 This report describes the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Safer Halton in Quarter 4 of 2014-15. This includes a description of factors which are affecting the service.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Policy and Performance Board:**

- i) **Receive the Quarter 4 Priority Based report**
- ii) **Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification**
- iii) **Highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring and scrutinising the performance of the Council in delivering outcomes against its key community safety priorities. In line with the Council's performance framework, therefore, the Board has been provided with a thematic report which identifies the key issues in performance arising in Quarter 4 2014-15.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There are no implications for Children and Young People arising from this report.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

There are no implications for Employment, Learning and Skills arising from this report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are no specific implications for health arising from this report.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The indicators presented in the thematic report relate specifically to the delivery of the priorities for a Safer Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no implications for Urban Renewal arising from this report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Not applicable.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues relating to this report.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

Safer Policy & Performance Board Priority Based Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 4 – 1st January to 31st March 2015

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service area objectives and milestones and performance targets during the fourth quarter of 2014/15; for service areas within the remit of the Safer Policy and Performance Board.

The report has been structured by the following key priorities for Safer PPB, as identified in the Directorate and Corporate Plans:

- Community Safety
- Safeguarding and Dignity (including Consumer Protection and Substance Misuse)
- Domestic Violence
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Environmental Health
- Risk & Emergency Planning

The way in which the Red, Amber and Green, (RAG), symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the fourth quarter which include:

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Community Safety

A report on Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) was presented to Executive Board. The power to issue PSPOs was created through the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and gives councils and the police special provisions (e.g. place restrictions/prohibitions on specific behaviours) to tackle and prevent incidents of ASB. Unlike previous orders, PSPOs can contain more than one restriction, meaning that a single PSPO can deal with a wider range of unacceptable behaviour. Breaching a PSPO could result in a written warning, a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 or prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000. Council and Police officers have been collaborating to develop the process for issuing PSPOs and will use them to enhance their ability to address ASB in identified 'hot spot' areas.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning/Health & Safety

Traffic Management: During the past year Halton BC has now become a full member of the Cheshire Road Safety Group (CRSG) that looks after the Safety Cameras within the

Borough. Four cameras within the Borough have been converted to digital operation. Due to the construction of the Mersey Gateway the cameras on the expressway system have not been converted as the traffic patterns and speeds will change so their need will need to be re-assessed.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS): A project is underway to link all the Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) within the LCR Combined Authority area. Initially, there will be no change but ultimately this will allow the sharing of resources, such as Variable Message Signs (VMS), by all authorities. This will also be important for the Mersey Gateway and the Mersey Tunnels to assist in dealing with incidents.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

There are no key developments to report for Commissioning and Complex Care.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

There are no key developments to report for Prevention and Assessment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no key developments to report for Public Health.

3.0 Emerging Issues

PUBLIC HEALTH

Alcohol Awareness: Good progress has been made related to reducing Under 18 alcohol admission rates locally. Alcohol health education sessions are being delivered in all local schools. Uptake remains good for HPV vaccination latest data for 2013/14 shows uptake of all 3 doses at 90.9%, above target and slightly higher than the England average. Tier 2 mental health services for children and young people have been commissioned and the service has just started.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning/Health & Safety

Street Lighting: It has been agreed to convert a number of street lights within residential areas to LED operation over the next three years. A joint bid was made to the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund with St Helens and Sefton Councils to convert the lights on high speed roads to LED operation but this was unsuccessful.

The conversion to LED operation reduces our overall costs (energy and operating costs) as the lamps do not need changing as frequently. This will be important if as it will allow us to continue to provide more street lighting across the Borough.

Emergency Planning: Due to changes in legislation, it is likely that the number of sites requiring off site emergency plans under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), there are currently five sites within Halton requiring these plans.

Network Management: Construction of the Mersey Gateway is underway and beginning to impact on the road network. This will increase particularly on the Widnes side as Ditton roundabout is re-modelled to a signalised junction and Watkinson Way is removed between Ashley Way and the Silver Jubilee Bridge. This is impacting on service delivery and staff resources that are required to co-ordinate the works to minimise the impact on the Borough.

Intelligent transport Systems (ITS): Initial discussions are taking place between the six authorities within the LCR Combined Authority to have a joint ITS maintenance contract, with a target start date of 1 April 2017. This goes some way to meeting of the initial aims of the Combined Authority, which is to seek efficiencies through joint procurement exercises.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

There are no emerging issues to report for Community and Environment.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

There are no emerging issues to report for Commissioning and Complex Care.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

There are no emerging issues to report for Prevention and Assessment.

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2014/15 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures was reported in Quarter 2 and Risk Registers are currently being reviewed for 2015/16 in tandem with the development of next year's Directorate Business Plans.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to

demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.


There have been no high priority equality actions identified in the quarter.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key priorities that have been identified for Safer PPB, as stated in the Directorate and Corporate Plans.

COMMISSIONING AND COMPLEX CARE

Key objectives and milestones

| Ref | Milestones | Q4 Progress |
|------|--|--|
| CCC1 | Conduct a review of Domestic Violence Services to ensure services continue to meet the needs of Halton residents |  |

Supporting Commentary

CCC1 Domestic Violence

This has now been completed with the commencement of the new Halton Domestic Abuse service on 1st July 2014.

Key Performance Indicators



None applicable to Safer Halton priorities

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

Key objectives and milestones

None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

| Ref | Description | Actual 2013/14 | Target 2014/15 | Quarter 4 | Current Progress | Direction of Travel |
|-------------|---|----------------|----------------|-----------|---|---|
| <u>PA 3</u> | Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days (Previously PCS15) (Previously PA5 [12/13], PA8 [11/12]) | 87.69% | 85% | 86.8% |  |  |

Supporting Commentary









PA 3 Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days: Target has been achieved.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Key objectives and milestones

None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

| Ref | Description | Actual 2013/14 | Target 2014/15 | Quarter 4 | Current Progress | Direction of Travel |
|------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|-----------|--|--|
| <u>CE LI 13</u> | Residual household waste per household | 624 Kgs | 650 kgs | 534 kgs |  |  |
| <u>CE LI 14</u> | Household waste recycled and composted | 38.53% | 40% | 48.0% |  |  |
| <u>CE LI 16</u> | Municipal waste land filled | 57.17% | 60% | 14.9% |  |  |
| <u>CE LI 18</u> | Improved Local Biodiversity – Active Management of Local Sites | 50.94% | 54% | 56% |  |  |

Supporting Commentary


CE LI 13 Residual household waste per household: This is an estimated figure but indications are that this target has been met.

CE LI 14 Household waste recycled and composted: This is an estimated figure but indications are that this target has been significantly exceeded.

CE LI 16 Municipal waste land filled: This is an estimated figure but indications are that this target has been significantly exceeded.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Key objectives and milestones



| Ref | Milestones | Q4 Progress |
|-------------|---|---|
| PH04 | Implement the alcohol harm reduction plan working with a range of providers including schools, focusing on preventive interventions and behaviour change to target the following vulnerable groups – pregnant women, women with babies and young people under 16 years. March 2015 |  |

Supporting Commentary

PH 04 Alcohol Harm Reduction: An alcohol harm reduction strategy for Halton has been developed. The strategy was developed in partnership with colleagues from health, social care, education, voluntary sector, police and the community safety team. The strategy sets out actions across the life course to reduce alcohol related harm and reduce hospital admissions. Good progress has been made related to reducing Under 18 admission rates locally. Key activity includes:

- Alcohol health education sessions are being delivered in all local schools.
- Community outreach work continues to educate young people about alcohol, offer advice and support and promote alcohol free local activities for young people.
- Running a local awareness campaign around the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.
- Training key staff (midwives, health visitors, early year's staff, staff working with children and young people) in the early identification and support of those who misuse alcohol.

Key Performance Indicators

| Ref | Description | Actual 2013/14 | Target 2014/15 | Quarter 4 | Current Progress | Direction of Travel |
|-------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---|---|
| PH LI 004 (SCS HH 1) | Admissions which are wholly attributable to alcohol AAF=1, rate per 100,000 population | 947.5 (2013/14) | 1,038 | 916.2 (Q3 2014/15) |  |  |

Supporting Commentary

PH LI 04 Alcohol admissions: The number of admissions which are wholly attributable to alcohol saw a reduction in Q3 2014/15 and is now lower than the 2013/14 rate.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Key objectives and milestones

None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.




APPENDIX 1 – Financial Statements

Statement from the Financial Management Team

The Council's 2014/15 year-end accounts are currently being finalised. The year-end position for each Department will therefore be made available via the Intranet by 30th June 2015.




APPENDIX 2 – Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

| Progress | Objective | Performance Indicator |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Green |  Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe. | <i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i> |
| Amber |  Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. | <i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i> |
| Red |  Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe. | <i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken.</i> |

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Green |  Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year. |
| Amber |  Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year. |
| Red |  Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year. |
| N/A | Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year. |

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Substance Misuse Services Annual Report

WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Safer Policy and Performance Board with an overview of key developments for the Substance Misuse Service (Adults) during 2014/15.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Halton Borough Council commission's substance misuses services (drug and/or alcohol) the service supports local people who have substance misuse problems. The contract is delivered across the Halton area by Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI).

3.2 A key part of that programme is to focus on public health information and prevention agenda to reduce the number of individuals taking drugs and misusing alcohol ensuring robust and accessible information is provided to residents of Halton. The aim of the drug and alcohol service is to improve health and social care outcomes and reduce the impact caused by addiction or dependency to drugs and/or alcohol, with a clear drive on improving health inequalities for local people.

3.3 During early 2015 the Halton Substance Misuse Service has relocated to Ashton Dane in Widnes and 75 High Street in Runcorn. The relocation of the service was implemented following feedback from informal carers and service users. The two services have provided increased choice, flexibility and accessibility for Halton residents. The service will continue to develop links and relationships with local businesses and partners.

3.4 The Halton Brew (a coffee shop within the Halton area developed by the carers group) is ready to launch/start up as a working and sustainable enterprise supporting people in recovery and people affected by substance abuse.

The Council have supported the Halton Brew initiative applies for capital funding from Public Health England. The award was successful and the scheme has awarded £15.935 capital funding from PHE to help with the

start-up capital costs required to secure and furnish the venue that will house the Halton Brew.

3.5 Commissioning Managers and CRI have worked with Probation colleagues to apply for £50k grant funding for a temporary post to co-ordinate and deliver advice, guidance and training interventions that meet the needs of unemployed people who have a drug & alcohol issues or are in Halton treatment services; promote, coordinate and operate referral and liaison procedures with other agencies as required.

3.6 Due to the emerging trends around Legal Highs, CRI conducted workshop on the dangers of Legal Highs lead by CRI's national Novel Psychoactive Substances lead. A number of external stake holder services including local hostels and young person's substance misuse services were invited to attend sessions coordinated at Ashley House. The workshop was attended by CRI Staff, YMCA, Cheshire Police and Young Addaction and was successful in educating and refreshing knowledge on this subject matter.

The Safer Policy and Performance Board Scrutiny Review continue to consider the implications of legal highs for Halton residents.

3.7 The substance misuse contract with Crime Reduction Initiates (CRI) is due to expire on the 31st March 2016. During 2015 the substance misuse contract will be tendered with a new contract start date of the 1st April 2016. During a period of procurement the service will continue to provide a responsive and invaluable service to the residents of Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton:**

The service will continue to work closely with the council's Children and Enterprise Directorate. The service continues to develop a local offer and promote early intervention, advice and support and will in particular support work to reduce the risk for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton:**

To promote employment and educational opportunities for those individuals using substance misuse services.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol is a key Health and Wellbeing Board priority. The service will continue to promote the Healthy Halton agenda and will also increase the footfall of people accessing support which will have a positive impact of reducing local dependency on substances.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Substance misuse can have a direct correlation to anti-social behaviour and crime. The venues will continue to be used by partner organisations to reduce the impact of substance misuse on the communities of Halton.

6.5 **Environment and Regeneration**

None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to implement a total ban of any substance termed Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) also known as ‘Legal Highs’ across all Halton Borough Council services and venues.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) **Note the contents of the report.**
- (ii) **To present a report to the Executive Board recommending that the use of any substance known as Novel Psychoactive Substances be banned across all Halton Borough Council services and venues.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

3.2 Overall drug use has reduced in the UK. However, a significant recent development has been an increase in the range of new and easily available novel psychoactive substances (NPS), also known as “legal highs”. These chemical substances are newly created, and hence, are not automatically controlled under legislation.

3.3 These drugs have been designed to evade drug laws, are widely available and have the potential to pose serious risks to public health and safety and can even be fatal. The emergence of NPS and the pace at which they have developed is a concern to policymakers, law enforcement personnel and healthcare professionals locally, nationally and across Europe and beyond.

3.4 In the UK NPS can be purchased on the internet, via dealers on the streets and in clubs and pubs, and in shops. Test purchasing has found that NPS can contain legal substances, illegal substances, or a mixture of both.

3.5 Evidence of potential harms is emerging, with indications that the health implications of NPS can be just as serious as illicit drugs and can cause a range of physical and psychological symptoms.

- 3.6 The number of NPS available is constantly changing and growing. A record number of 81 substances were identified for the first time in Europe in 2013 - an increase on previous years. This means the number of identified NPS now exceeds the total number of psychoactive substances currently controlled by the international drug conventions. Whilst there has been a general increase in the number of novel NPS detected, it is important to note that the vast majority are permutations of groups of similar substances and many have not yet been identified in the UK.

4.0 AVAILABILITY OF NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE

- 4.1 The marketing and sale of NPS is often designed specifically to avoid legislation under the Medicines Act 1968. They are often sold in brightly coloured packaging under a variety of brand names with “not for human consumption” clearly stated. They may variously be described as “plant food”, “fish food”, “room odouriser” or other terms with labelling commonly stating that they are “research chemicals”. Generally safety data is not provided.
- 4.2 In the UK, our most robust estimates of use in the general population come from our national crime surveys. This survey suggests that NPS use among the general population tends to be low compared to the use of other illicit drugs. Cannabis is still the most commonly used illicit drug in England and Wales, taken by 6.6% of adults in the last year. However, surveys suggest use among younger age groups and some sub-sections of the population e.g. regular clubbers may be higher (53%).
- 4.3 There is a common, but mistaken perception that because such drugs are not legally controlled or banned they are safe. However, there is a growing body of evidence to demonstrate the potential harms (both physical and social) associated with NPS.
- 4.4 Most legally available NPS are sold with no data regarding their chemistry, pharmacology or toxicology, no safety assessments and no administration instructions. The paucity of information on the pharmacology and toxicology of most NPS makes it hard to understand their possible dangers, or even to know what substances are contained in products branded.

5.0 DEATHS

- 5.1 Nationally the number of deaths involving NPS is low compared with the number of deaths from heroin/morphine, methadone and cocaine poisoning. However, over the past few years there has been an increasing trend in the number of deaths linked to NPS use. Such deaths across the UK increased from 29 in 2011 to 52 in 2012, to 60 in 2013.

6.0 NATIONAL RESPONSE

- 6.1 The UK Government recognised the emerging threat and challenges of Novel Psychoactive Substances. National programmes have included early warning systems, banning of over 500 new drugs, and advice to local authorities with a

clear prevention agenda to improve health outcomes.

6.2 The Government continues to clamp down on the trade in legal highs, with the development of a general ban on supply across the UK, this policy would provide an opportunity to remove Novel Psychoactive Substances from high street stores and other trading establishments or venues and increase the powers for law enforcement agencies to tackle the trading of Novel Psychoactive Substances.

6.3 In February 2015 Lincolnshire City Council used the Public Space Protection Order to ban individuals taking (using) intoxicating substances (alcohol and NPS) within the city centre region. Other Local Authorities have used existing powers to enforce closure of head shops or the use of legal highs.

7.0 **LOCAL RESPONSE**

7.1 Legal highs are an emerging issue for Halton. There has been an increase in the use of small canisters of national Novel Psychoactive Substances within the Halton Stadium, local parks and other public areas.

7.2 Council and Police Officers have provided basic information to raise awareness about the harm and risks associated with Legal Highs within the Borough with focus on local businesses (shops, pubs and clubs).

7.3 The Halton Substance Misuse Provider CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives) CRI conducted workshop on the dangers of Legal Highs lead by CRI's national Novel Psychoactive Substances lead. The workshop was attended by CRI Staff, YMCA, Cheshire Police and Young Addaction and was successful in educating and refreshing knowledge on this subject matter A number of external stake holder services including local hostels and young person's substance misuse services were invited to attend sessions.

8.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL RESPONSE TO NPS**

8.1 The Executive Board recommend with immediate effect the use of Novel Psychoactive Substances is banned across all Halton Borough Council services and venues.

9.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified

10.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None identified

11.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

11.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) impacts on children, young people and their families and partners are working to provide education and advice to schools and other services.

11.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

11.3 A Healthy Halton

The prevalence and impact of NPS on the health of Halton residents will continue to be monitored. Reducing the harm caused by substance misuse will continue to be a priority for all partners and will form a component of children and young people and adult services, as well as wider education and awareness activities.

11.4 A Safer Halton

Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) may have an impact on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Halton. As well as providing appropriate legal enforcement, partners are working to provide education and advice to reduce the impact of harm and anti-social behaviour.

11.5 Environment and Regeneration

None identified

12.0 RISK ANALYSIS

12.1 Novel Psychoactive Substances presents a risk to a person's health and wellbeing, the national death rate due to NPS continues to increase year on year. The long term impact continues to be investigated by national agencies.

13.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

13.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report

13.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

13.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Topic Group Update - Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)- Legal Highs

WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Board will receive a verbal update on the progress of the NPC (Legal Highs) Topic Group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the verbal report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the last meeting, the Safer PPB established a Topic Group to address the issue of NPC (Legal Highs) in the Borough. A verbal update will be given on progress that has been made to date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) impacts on children, young people and their families and partners are working to provide education and advice to schools and other services.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The prevalence and impact of NPS on the health of Halton residents will continue to be monitored. Reducing the harm caused by substance misuse will continue to be a priority for all partners and will form a component of children and young people and adult services, as well as wider education and awareness

activities.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) may have an impact on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Halton. As well as providing appropriate legal enforcement, partners are working to provide education and advice to reduce the impact of harm and anti-social behaviour.

6.5 **Environment and Regeneration**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Novel Psychoactive Substances presents a risk to a person's health and wellbeing, the national death rate due to NPS continues to increase year on year. The long term impact continues to be investigated by national agencies.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the Meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 16 June 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Elspeth Anwar, Specialty Registrar in Public Health and Simon Bell, Public Health Commissioning Manager

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Alcohol Update

WARDS: All wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on activity to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the contents of the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OVER LAST QUARTER (Q4)

- Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) update

We have continued to receive support from the Home Office and Public Health England through being a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA). Good progress is being made against all LAAA objectives. A final report summarising the successes of the project is due for submission in May.

- Halton Alcohol Inquiry: Talking drink taking action

Local residents have been taking part in the Halton Alcohol Inquiry. The Inquiry entitled "Talking Drink: Taking Action" will run until June 2015. As part of The Halton Alcohol Inquiry residents have been answering the question 'What would make it easier for people to have a healthier relationship with alcohol?' The group have been meeting weekly to hear from local experts who work on this agenda locally in order to create local recommendations for action on the issues that matter to them. The recommendations will then be used to inform and advise what is done to reduce alcohol-related harm in Halton. The recommendations will be fed back at a multi-agency launch event on June 4th 2015.

- Ensuring the local licensing policy supports alcohol harm reduction agenda



Work is underway to work in partnership to ensure Halton's local licensing policy supports the local alcohol harm reduction agenda.

Public health (supported by Community Safety colleagues, Public Health England and Drink Wise) held a briefing for the Licensing Regulatory Committee in February around alcohol-related harm in Halton and the role licensing can play in promoting public health. Responsible authorities have also commenced on working in partnership to update Halton's Statement of licensing policy (SOLP) in line with national best practice.

- Reducing drinking during pregnancy campaign

Public Health and the Halton Health Improvement Team have developed a social marketing campaign to educate women of the harm that drinking alcohol in pregnancy can cause, in order to reduce alcohol related harm to the unborn baby.

3.2 PROGRESS AGAINST RELATED OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (QUARTER 3)

| Ref | Objective | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| PH 04 | Reduction in the harm from alcohol: Working with key partners, frontline professionals, and local community to address the health and social impact of alcohol misuse: | | | | | |
| Milestone | | Progress Q3 | | Supporting Commentary | | |
| Implement the alcohol harm reduction plan working with a range of providers including schools, focusing on preventive interventions and behaviour change to target the following vulnerable groups – pregnant women, women with babies and young people under 16 years. March 2015 | |  | | <p>An alcohol harm reduction strategy for Halton has been developed. The strategy was developed in partnership with colleagues from health, social care, education, voluntary sector, police and the community safety team. The strategy sets out actions across the life course to reduce alcohol related harm and reduce hospital admissions. Good progress has been made related to reducing Under 18 admission rates locally. Key activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcohol health education sessions are being delivered in all local schools. - Community outreach work continues to educate young people about alcohol, offer advice and support and promote alcohol free local activities for young people. - Running a local awareness campaign around the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. <p>Training key staff (midwives, health visitors, early year's staff, staff working with children and young people) in the early identification and support of those who misuse alcohol.</p> | | |
| Ref | Description | Actual 2013 / 14 | Target 2014 / 15 | Quarter | Direction of Travel | Supporting Commentary |
| PH LI | Admissions which are | 947.5 | 1,038 | 916.2 |  | The number of admissions which are |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|-----------------|--|--|
| 07 (SC S HH 1) | wholly attributable to alcohol AAF=1, rate per 100,000 population. | (2013/14) | | (Q3 2014/15) | | wholly attributable to alcohol saw a reduction in Q3 2014/15 and is now lower than the 2013/14 rate. |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|--|-----------------|--|--|

3.3 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACTIVITY (Quarter 4 activity)

3.3.1 Prevention activity

School and college based alcohol education programmes

Healthitude programmes: All schools in Halton have been offered the *Healthitude* programme. During this quarter the *Healthitude* programme has been delivered in 7 primary schools and 4 secondary schools in Halton.

Young Addaction: delivered 4 alcohol awareness sessions within Riverside and Cronton College to 273 students. In addition they ran Christmas stalls in 7 of the local secondary schools delivering alcohol awareness messages as well as providing outreach timetables for activities for over the Christmas period and resources with help/advice support services contact details to assist young people over the festive period.

During February Young Addaction ran alcohol/sexual health stalls in 4 of the local High Schools delivering alcohol/sexual health awareness and healthy relationships with a focus of how alcohol can affect consent and informed decision making. For the Valentines period Young Addaction ran a competition across Halton asking for young people to design a poster promoting a healthy relationship message for young people.

Amy Winehouse Resilience Programme: During quarter 4 as part of our Amy Winehouse Resilience Programme Young Addaction have delivered a life story share from a person in recovery during assemblies in two Halton secondary schools followed by 3 workshops around promoting resilience in alcohol misuse focusing on self-esteem, risky behaviour and peer pressure. Total number of students seen was 260.

RU Different Social norms campaign: All Halton secondary schools have completed the baseline questionnaires and are now in the process of receiving interventions based upon the results. The results show how marked differences between pupils perceptions of risk taking behaviour amongst their peers e.g. how often their peers drink alcohol and actual self-reported behaviours. For Halton, the Year 9 **Key Findings** (2014/2015) were:

- 62% never drink alcohol and 31% drink once a month (therefore a combined 93% rarely or never drink alcohol). The perception is that only 47% of others in their year group do not drink at all.
- Of those that do drink, 39% said their parents buy it on their behalf.

- 95% students never smoke cigarettes however others in the year are perceived to smoke more frequently (perception is that only 57% don't smoke at all).
- 95% have never tried cannabis against a perception that 56% of others in the year HAVE tried the drug.
- 97% have never tried an illegal drug versus a perception that 50% of others HAVE tried an illegal drug
- 9% said they have had sexual intercourse. 24% of these said they used a condom every time, 22% said sometimes and 54% said they never used them.
- The most common forms of bullying experienced by those surveyed were verbal (49%) followed by emotional/psychological (23%)
- 89% said they exercise for 20 minutes at least once a week or more. 37% of students have on average 0-1 sweet drinks a day - however the perception is that only 10% of other students in the year drink the same conservative amount
- 78% have never met someone in person after an initial online conversation but perceive that 60% have at least met someone once.

The Alcohol Education Trust are also supporting this project and will be delivering a partner social norms campaign with parents in order to influence and reduce alcohol purchasing by parents for young people in Halton.

3.3.2 Community based alcohol activity

During Q4 Young Addaction have deployed the VRMZ bus was deployed 27 times (at evenings and weekends), alongside this the street based teams were deployed 42 times. In total 2,513 young people have been seen (1,280 males and 1,233 females).

Early identification

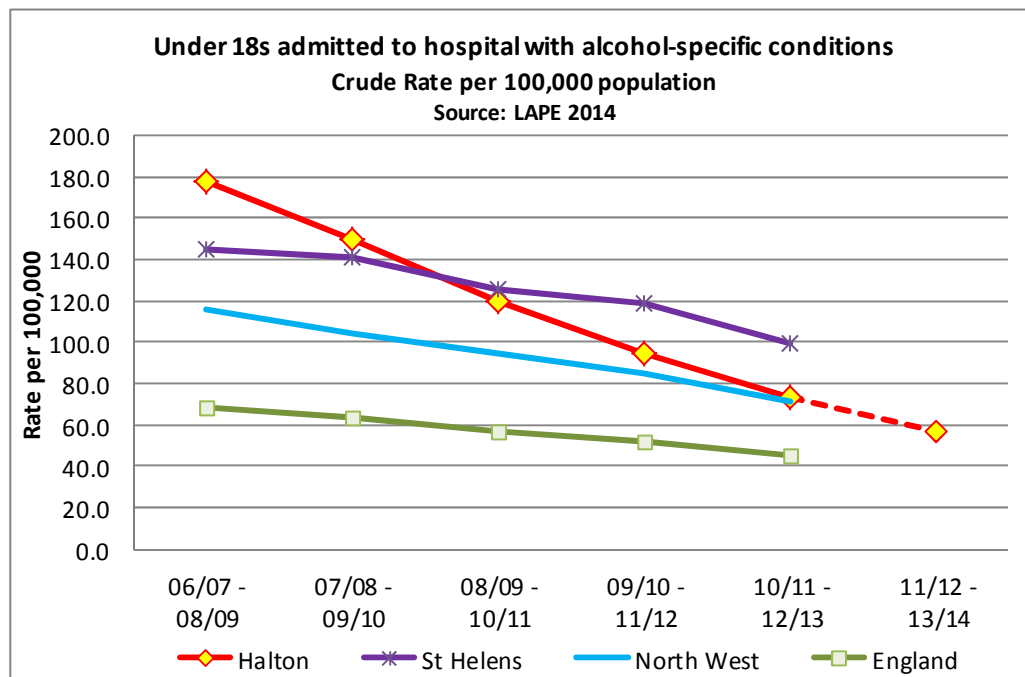
During Quarter 4 the Halton Health Improvement Team delivered Alcohol identification and brief advice (Alcohol IBA) training to:

- School Nurses 6 staff trained
- Children's Centre staff 45 staff trained
(Included in the training were Early Help Family Workers, Children Centre Managers, Community Support Workers, CAF support workers, Senior help officers, Play workers)

3.3.3 Treatment data

Under 18 admissions: Halton has seen a significant reduction (59%) in under 18 admissions due to alcohol-specific conditions than England (34%), North West (38%), Knowsley (56%) and St Helens (31%), since 2006/07 to

2008/09. Even though the Halton rate remains statistically significantly higher than the England average, the gap has narrowed considerably over recent years.



Community Specialist Treatment: At the end of quarter 4 Halton young person's substance misuse service delivered by Young Addaction had **55** young people in treatment. There has been a decreasing trend in the number of young people in treatment who cite alcohol as a problematic substance. For structured treatment during quarter 4 there were 30 completions of treatment.

3.3.4 Support for children and young people affected by parental/sibling alcohol misuse

Hidden harm programme: During Quarter 4, the numbers of young people accessing the Young Addaction Hidden Harm service was 28 (14 of these had parents were in treatment due to alcohol).

Alongside the Hidden Harm element of provision Young Addaction also run a FAME group that runs bi-weekly throughout Q4 we have had average attendance at each session 15 young people.

3.3.5 Reducing underage drinking and associated anti-social behaviour

Advice visits to off and on licences undertaken (1 on licence 7 off licences) to explain their legal obligations regarding alcohol and what they can do to prevent sales to under 18s. This included provision of challenge 25 materials and a refusals log for the employees to record any refusals made.

In response to intelligence and complaints received (including information received as a result of the Halton Alcohol Inquiry), test purchases of alcohol have been attempted at 4 off licences and all passed. However, in 1 of the

premises while there was no sale, issues were identified with their Challenge 25 policy (lack of staff training and not using the refusals book). In this instance the member of staff concerned took the volunteer's money and gave her the change and the alcohol before he asked the volunteer her age. The member of staff concerned had received no training. The licensee is being advised.

3.4 ADULT ACTIVITY

3.4.1 Prevention and Early Identification activity

Social marketing campaign to increase awareness of the harms of drinking alcohol during pregnancy

Public Health and the Halton Health Improvement Team have developed a social marketing campaign to educate women of the harm that drinking alcohol in pregnancy can cause, in order to reduce alcohol related harm to the unborn baby. The campaign launched on the 20th February and will run until July 2015. Campaign materials have been distributed across the borough including GP surgeries, children centres, and community centres. A comprehensive outdoor media campaign has also been developed including billboards, posters in supermarkets and on buses.



Alcohol IBA Training

During Quarter 4 the Halton Health Improvement Team delivered Alcohol identification and brief advice (Alcohol IBA) training to

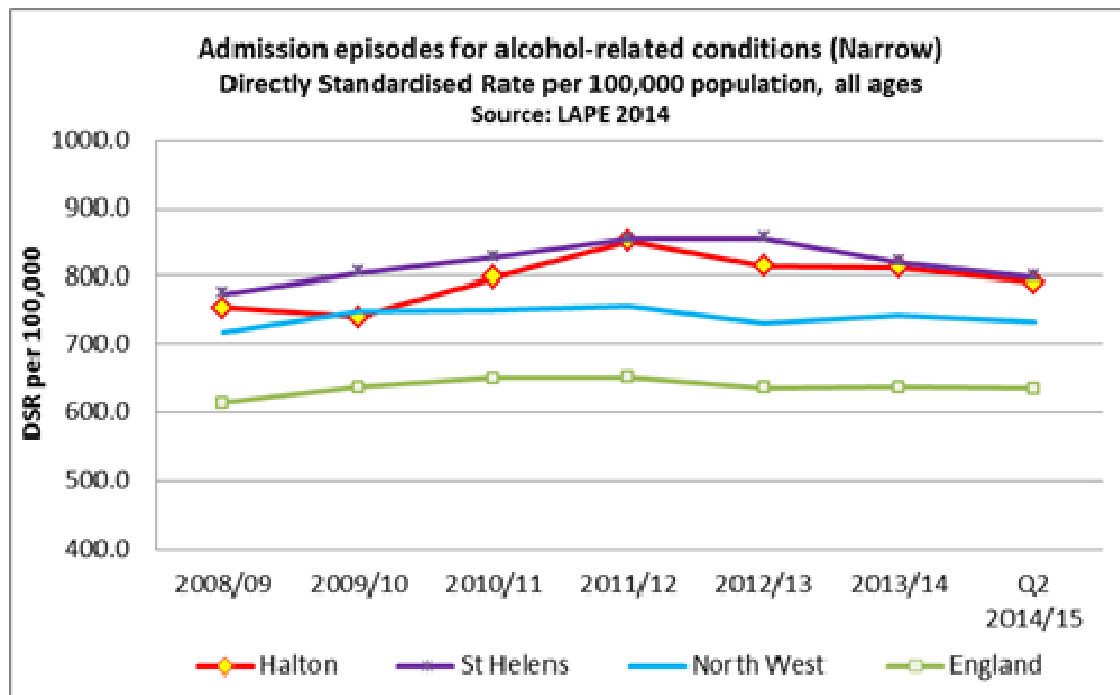
- The Halton Street Pastors

- Halton Health Improvement Team

3.4.2 Treatment and recovery

Hospital admission data

Admissions due to alcohol have decreased from a peak in 2011/12, however, the Halton rate is still significantly higher than North West and England averages.



Alcohol Liaison Nurse – Over the full year, the Warrington Hospital service saw 45 individuals with a Halton postcode. (This is approximately 6% of the services total service users seen). Individuals will be provided with support in the A&E department, on the Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) and also on the wards. Over the Christmas period there was some reduction in service availability due to staff illness, although this has now been rectified.

As part of developments in partnership with St Helens and Knowsley, the service based at Whiston Hospital will continue to operate out of both A&E and the wards, and will also see young people aged 17 and over. Halton residents make up approximately 20% of those seen by the service, and work is now underway to improve the relationship with community services and to enhance the performance data available.

3.4.3 Community Services

The data for Q4 is currently being validated and will be produced for the next meeting, along with an annual report.

New Treatment Journeys - For Q3 CRI exceeded its New Treatment Journeys (NTJ) alcohol target were close to achieving both targets for opiates

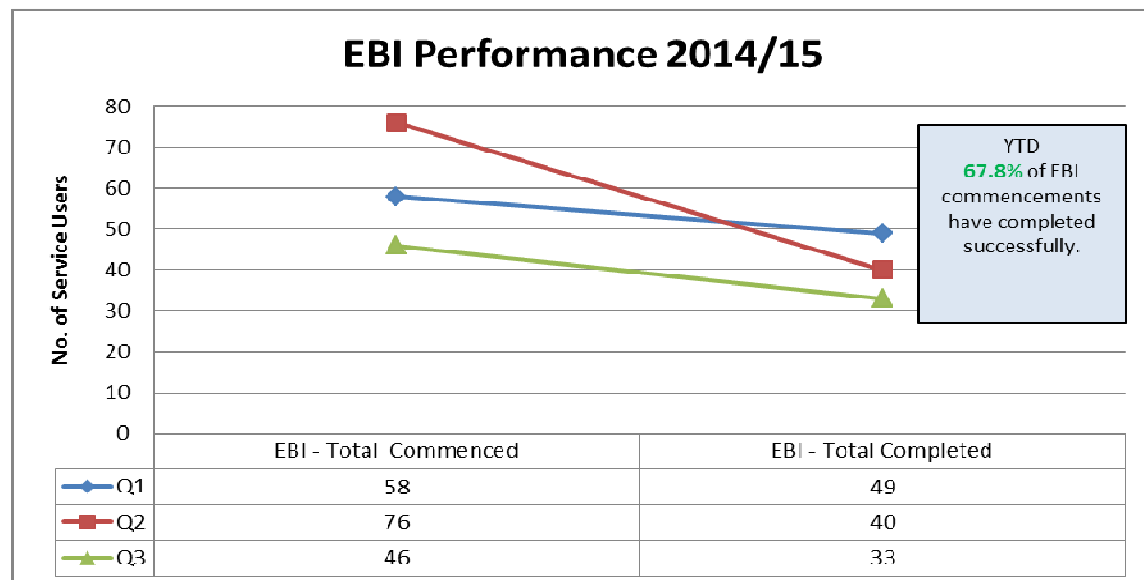
and non-opiates, year to date (falling short of x2 opiates and x 23 non opiates, although there has been an increase in brief interventions which demonstrates that staff are utilising appropriate treatment journeys). Representation rates for alcohol and non-opiates remain low and the service is working to reduce opiate representation rate for the opiate cohort, which although sits within the national baseline has increased locally. In response the service is auditing and reviewing all exits through a structured process and making best use of Recovery support to ensure all recovery capital and exit plans remain in place or are supported via assertive linkage into internal and external provision in line with a service user's journey.

Community Detox - Referrals are looked at on a weekly basis and spoke about within an alcohol meeting once a week between CRI doctors and the health and wellbeing nurse. Through this meeting it will establish who would be eligible to have an alcohol community detox. If health implications are to complex a community detox may not be considered and it may be an inpatient or a structured reduction on the alcohol would be considered and put in place.

Currently the target for the alcohol detoxes has not been made; an action plan has now been put together and will be worked to, and monitored on a weekly basis to see whether the service can improve the numbers for the next quarter. More liaison work within the G.P medical services, pharmacies to promote and make everyone aware of the services provided.

In addition, a hospital to home joint pathway has been developed by Whiston hospital and is currently being looked at within the clinical team to see whether it meets clinical guidelines in terms of clients who have been prescribed a community alcohol detox in hospital and can be discharged in the community to complete the detox.

Extended Brief Interventions (EBI) - For the year to date, 67.8% of individuals who have commenced extended brief interventions have completed successfully.



Halton Brew - A successful bid was submitted for start-up funds towards a local community “Dry” café in Halton. The ‘Halton Brew’ project is a grassroots initiative that has developed over the past 12 months driven by local volunteers, which aims to develop a community based facility that uses a traditional café / coffee shop as a focal point for the creation of community led and organised volunteering / labour market opportunities for people in recovery and carers of people with substance misuse issues, the development of an information and signposting hub delivered in an informal, supportive, non-directive and welcoming environment and delivery of a range of small scale community initiatives driven by community need (e.g. self-help groups, adult learning, digital literacy, health literacy) and delivered in partnership with a wide range of local groups and agencies, including public health and adult social care.

3.5 EMERGING ISSUES

The final report for the LAAA project is due in May 2015. This will be shared at the next Safer Halton Partnership Board meeting.

Work is underway to consider the role of Nalmefene within local service provision. Nalmefene (also known as Selincro) is recommended as a possible treatment for people with alcohol dependence who:

- are still drinking more than 7.5 units per day (for men) and more than 5 units per day (for women) 2 weeks after an initial assessment and
- do not have physical withdrawal symptoms and•
- do not need to either stop drinking straight away or stop drinking completely.

Nalmefene should only be taken if the person is also having ongoing support to change their behaviour and to continue to take their treatment, to help them reduce their alcohol intake. Work has commenced to consider the role of this treatment, and the availability of behavioural change support services locally.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Alcohol is a key priority of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The activity reported supports the delivery of both the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy and the Halton Alcohol Strategy.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No significant impacts within the quarter from a financial perspective.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol is a priority for the Local Authority and its partners and forms part of the work of the Halton Children’s Trust.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Employment, Learning and Skills is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and is therefore a key consideration when developing strategies to address health inequalities and the harm caused by alcohol.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol on the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime all have an impact on health outcomes. There are also close links between alcohol and on areas such as mental health, and domestic violence.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

A reduction in the harm caused by alcohol on crime, antisocial behaviour and health, whilst at the same time supporting the stimulation of the night time economy can contribute to the wider urban renewal of Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are currently no perceived risks.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.