

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 11th June 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Crucial Crew Project Update

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Board on the positive work that the Council is doing in partnership with the Police and other local organisations to make Halton safer, in particular the “Crucial Crew” Project.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **The Board consider the information contained in the presentation and support the proposed update to the project and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Crucial Crew is a 2 week long activity held at Halton Stadium. Traditionally each year in February and March all year 5 pupils attend from Halton schools, (on average 1600 students) at this location to learn safety messages delivered by various department’s from Halton Borough Council, Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue.

The “hands on” safety scenes teach young people about important issues that are often overlooked by the curriculum, including teaching the recovery position, online safety, arson and stop drop and roll, road safety, hidden sugars in foods and mindfulness, amongst other important issues.

The children are involved in seven scenarios provided by partners from Halton Borough Council’s Road Safety Team, experts in travel / personal safety, Health Improvement Team, Fire Service, Police, School Health Nursing Team and Safeguarding Children’s Board.

Funding initially came from Halton Safeguarding Board, Safer Halton Partnership, Halton Unison and Crimebeat, which enabled the event to take place and was organised by Halton Borough Council's Road Safety Team.

As a result of reducing resources it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep this valuable work going. However, the Council and its partners believe that it is important to provide these vital safety measures to local children. In all the time running Crucial Crew the project has funded the cost of transport to the Stadium for all the schools who wish to take part.

3.2 Helpfully, a new facility is now available in Lymm called Safety Central, which members may have heard of or visited. Safety Central is a state-of-the-art safety and life skills education centre at the junction of the M6 and M56 near Lymm. Safety Central represents a £4m investment in keeping the people of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington safe from accidents and avoidable harm. It is the first centre of its kind in the country, blending an operational fire station and training facility with a unique visitor experience.

3.3 Safety Quest is a one-day experience where all Halton pupils would learn so many different safety messages.

Cheshire Fire Authority, the elected body which is accountable, is funding the running costs of Safety Central, enabling Cheshire East, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton and Warrington schools to visit for FREE. All schools need to do is arrange transport to and from the centre, which is easily accessible to most of the county in under an hour.

3.4 The Crucial Crew Team see the benefits from using this specifically designed learning facility to change the location of Crucial Crew and use this facility above. The partnership is currently working hard to identify funding for the transport cost so that all year 5 children can attend over a 5 week period during the year.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

The Community Safety 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

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

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

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