



Safer Policy and Performance Board

**Tuesday, 17 March 2015 at 6.30 p.m.
Karalius Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes**

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGE OF VENUE

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 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 Margaret Ratcliffe	Liberal Democrat
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 to be confirmed

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

Part I

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1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT	
2. MINUTES	
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
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.	
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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: 17 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy 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: 17 March 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, which are subject to approval at the next meeting of the Safer Halton Partnership, 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 24th November 2014 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building, Widnes.

Present:

D Parr	Chief Executive
S Bell	Public Health
E Anwar	Public Health
M Andrews	Community Safety
S Boycott	Cheshire Police
Cllr D Cargill	Community Safety Portfolio Holder
J Duff	Faith Representative
D Gordon	Community Safety – Cheshire Police
D Downer	Policy & Performance – Communities
S Henshaw	Cheshire Fire & Rescue
C Patino	Community & Environment
Cllr D Thompson	PPB Chair Police Crime Panel Representative
J Williams	Commissioning – Communities
R Langdale-Smith	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
D Perchard	HBC Trading Standards

Apologies:

L Crane	Integrated Youth Support
G Jones	Youth Offending Team

	ACTION
<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>E Anwar gave information regarding the issue of the cumulative health impact linked to licencing hours and the links between sex crime and alcohol. Details on a joint campaign appear in the attached report.</p> <p>An update was provided on the issues regarding mini-motos. Assistance has been offered on finding an alternative venue following the unsuccessful expression of interest.</p> <p>C Patino provided an update regarding King George’s Field with information on estimated costs of £100k for fencing (provided by Paul Wright).</p> <p>The Youth Justice Strategy report was attached as a link.</p>	
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	ACTION
<p>3. SUBSTANCE MISUSE: LEGAL HIGHS</p> <p>Briefing: John Williams, Commissioning Manager and Elspeth Anwar, Specialty Registrar in Public Health</p> <p>This report provides the board with an overview of novel psychoactive substances, an estimate of the scale of the problem nationally and locally, their potential and recorded harms, and makes recommendations for local actions to reduce harms due to NPS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall drug use has reduced in the UK. However, a significant recent development has been the increasing 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. • 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. • Currently there is very little national or local data on prevalence of use. Surveys suggest that NPS use among the general population tend to be low compared to use of other illicit drugs. However, use among younger age groups and some sub-sections of the population, e.g. regular clubbers, may be higher. • Evidence of potential harms is limited, but indications are that the health implications of NPS can be just as serious as illicit drugs including a range of physical and psychological symptoms. • Responses to NPS include legislation, control measures, prevention, and harm reduction initiatives. <p>Recommendations for local responses to NPS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to gather intelligence on the prevalence of use and harms related to NPS use within Halton. 2. Work in partnership to identify and ensure local sellers of legal highs are complying with the current legal framework (as per Home Office guidelines for local authorities in tackling 	

	ACTION
<p>NPS).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ensure local prevention work with both young people and adults, including education around NPS and the potential risks of their usage. 4. Ensure local treatment services follow emerging best practice guidelines on the identification and treatment of those who misuse NPS. 5. Lobby Government for changes in national legislation to stop "legal highs" being sold in shops. <p>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 generally there has been an 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.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the page 11 of the report which provided definitions for further reference (Drugs Wheel).</p> <p>Cllr D Cargill asked what the local position was regarding NPS. He commented that until we know what is being used locally, it would be difficult to make progress.</p> <p>Discussion held around other LA's work with NPS and what Halton could do to raise awareness in schools and local businesses. Information was provided on the work being done by Trading Standards with test purchases planned.</p> <p>Cllr D Thompson commented on the statistics regarding deaths having doubled in two years being a serious issue. Suggested that anyone searched entering the Stadium found with NPS should not be admitted and that computers at libraries in Halton blocked to prevent searches for NPS. Cllr Thompson asked if a more detailed breakdown (by area) could be provided regarding the 60 deaths nationally. J Williams to provide.</p> <p>D Gordon has recently chaired a school meeting and NPS has been added to the standing agenda in recognition of how serious the issues are.</p> <p>J Williams and S Bell to investigate how the Commissioning Toolkit for Active Substance (attached below) issued by Public Health England will work.</p> <p>S Henshaw asked how deaths from NSP compare to deaths from ecstasy use. E Anwar suggested the figures were probably lower but would investigate further and advise.</p> <p>D Parr recommended that the report should be presented to the Safer PPB to further re-enforce.</p> <p>http://www.nta.nhs.uk/uploads/nps-a-toolkit-for-substance-misuse-commissioners.pdf</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW & SB</p> <p>EA</p> <p>JW & EA</p>
<p>4. TASK GROUP UPDATES</p> <p>The partnership received the following Task Group Updates:</p> <p>a) ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION GROUP</p>	

	ACTION
<p>Group informed of a change in ASB legislation which came into force on 20th October which proved useful regarding mischief night and bonfire night. Section 27 notices would be reported differently in future reports as a result of the recent reforms.</p> <p>Report (Q2) summarised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 Direction to Leave notices issued (7 in Runcorn and 7 in Widnes) • The Quayside was voluntarily closed by the DPS following several licencing breaches. • Following a serious incident at the Lounge, Widnes, the Premises Licence Holder and DPS have agreed a three-month plan. • Two premises investigated and observed following allegations licencing breaches. • The Doctors in Widnes is under new management and the new DPS would appear to be knowledgeable and committed to supporting Pub Watch. <p>ACPO partnership week took place on Monday 15th September 2014 with a National Week of Alcohol Action (Operation Dingwall) with the Police, HBC Licencing Enforcement Officers and Cheshire Fire Safety Officers working in partnership.</p> <p>A planned Passive Drugs operation was cancelled due to other operational commitments arising.</p> <p>CCTV has been replaced at the Quayside following events witnessed during the ACPO Enforcement Week. There are plans to upgrade the storage of images at the Quayside and the New Devonshire. New CCTV has also been installed at Tandoori Nights.</p> <p>ArcAngel was launched at a further two venues in Widnes which was very well supported by The Mayor and reported locally in the press.</p> <p>Activity underway to promote the Pub Watch scheme to try and increase numbers of attendees.</p> <p>Information was provided on the Designated Driver Promotion and with Licencing Team actively promoting this initiative which has received a positive response.</p> <p>b) QUARTERLY ALCOHOL UPDATE</p> <p>It was stated that Partnership work has improved as a result of the Safer Halton Partnership meetings. Details were given on the Halton Alcohol strategy 2014-2019 which sets out our local 5-year plan aimed at rebalancing the relationship Halton has with alcohol.</p> <p>The strategy builds upon the effective work of partners locally and encompasses three key areas - harm to health, harm to crime and community safety.</p> <p>Summary of key achievements in Q2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A LAAA shared learning event was held in September and was a good opportunity to meet with other participating areas and build upon best practice. • A plan was outlined to ask 20 people from Halton to share their relationship with alcohol to run for nine weeks from January 2015. There will be an advertising campaign via CRI to ask for local people to take part. • An update was given on Statement of Licencing Policy. Public Health will be briefing the Licencing Committee around their role in the licencing process and the alcohol 	

	ACTION
<p>reduction agenda. Attention was drawn to the Late Night Levy and how Public Health's vision aligns with alcohol policy.</p> <p>D Parr commented on a Regional Sub Executive Meeting for Cheshire and Warrington where licencing policies were discussed. A collaborative approach was needed to ensure that one area changing their policy did not result in people simply going to a neighbouring area without a Late Night Levy in place.</p> <p>As new provision has been introduced regarding the Minimum Unit Price enabling Local Authorities to include additional information in local policies, this was an opportunity to support Licencing Policy. All four authorities supported this approach and it was suggested that Merseyside should also be included.</p> <p>Guy Kilminster is taking this forward and D Parr consulted the group for support. Cheshire forum reluctant to apply as lack of government support and felt there were other options. Rob Polhill driving this forward as a consistent approach is important.</p> <p>S Boycott gave details of a Cheshire-wide meeting to include local licensees providing information on the benefits of Late Night Levees. E Anwar to provide details of a meeting in January which could accommodate this.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding acceptable behaviour in pubs with a suggestion that regulation rather than the unit price of alcohol was the key. D Parr commented on the possibility of licensees signing up to appropriate standards.</p> <p>E Anwar drew attention to a booklet which was handed out to the group. The booklet described research relating to the effects of drinking on Children and a quiz undertaken by PH showed that children recognised logos advertising alcohol from adverts. Large retailers (Tesco) are keen to support local schemes as part of their corporate responsibility targets.</p> <p>S Bell commented on the statistics on page 29 of the Alcohol Update paper and that alcohol admissions had decreased bringing Halton in line with NW average but still too high. D Parr stated that the statistics are impressive but asked whether we would be creating other problems by making alcohol more expensive.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the report detailing statistics on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of alcohol to young people via older siblings/friends. • Cannabis usage, and the strength/availability, which demonstrated no significant increase despite recent spike (which resulted from an awareness campaign). • Alcohol admissions have increased nationally and locally amongst older women with liver conditions. • A Drinkwise campaign to increase awareness of the harm of pre-conception drinking and during pregnancy. • Dry January is being launched and there will be an App available to help people manage their progress. Consideration will be given to how many reminder emails are sent to people who sign up for the campaign. • A&E admissions being targeted with a fast-track detox – a take-home drug to help people stop drinking which is similar to stop smoking aids and decreases the desire to drink. • CRI and Windsor Clinic demonstrating good results with 78 new referrals conducted by CRI. There is a commitment to longer-term alcohol liaison nurses at Whiston and Warrington who are currently on rolling one-year contracts to try and increase to 	<p>EA</p>

	ACTION
<p>information is reported without distortion so that the correct allocations are made across Cheshire.</p> <p>D Parr requested that ACC attend next meeting to present regional statistics and provide a geographical understanding on where Halton is positioned. There is a need to prepare for future and ensure our statistics show an accurate picture across the Cheshire force area. The existing Partnership around the Community Safety agenda means that the PCC can make informed decisions on what is actually happening in Halton as opposed to what appears to be happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent advocates are a well-used resource and feedback is positive from people who have used the service. 'Clare's Law' is being used and four protective orders are in place. The RASAC continues to provide a positive service. • Consultation is currently underway regarding Domestic Abuse considering new powers to include mental and coercive abuse as a criminal offence. • There are a number of events leading up to Christmas including White Ribbon week. <p>J Duff made comments regarding the Refuge and the positive feedback received about the improvements.</p> <p>Information was provided about a project following on from the PPB scrutiny review launched to commission two shops in Runcorn and Widnes advertising the Domestic Abuse service on the back of every receipt. Argos in Runcorn and the 99p shop in Widnes have been selected. This is a new and innovative scheme and the funding of £5/6k for 3 months is from existing resources.</p> <p>Cllr Cargill commented on the graph appearing on page 47 which appears to show a spike of MARAC cases for Cheshire East. M Andrews explained this was due to a change in the way information was recorded.</p> <p>e) SUBSTANCE MISUSE</p> <p>Performance continues to rise with Halton rated 5th in the NW for engagement for all drug users 18+. CRI has worked hard resulting in a move from red and to leading the Regional performance targets (top 10%). Hep B & C, incentives programmes have been introduced to ensure service users receive the appropriate vaccine and reduce the risk of contracting Hep B & C. S Bell explained that work was underway to encourage people to complete the course and prevent infection.</p> <p>This year's (5th) Recovery walk in Manchester had the largest attendance to date and was well supported with CRI taking 20 service users. Service users from CRI also attended the Homeless Games in Liverpool with three of Halton peer mentors and service users winning medals.</p> <p>A Graduate programme was launched at St Pauls and 12 CRI Halton service users attending the Peer Mentoring accredited programme.</p> <p>Performance-related and cosmetic enhancing substances continue to emerge as an ongoing issue.</p> <p>D Parr commented on the good work and progress.</p> <p>f) PARTNERSHIP TASKING & CO-ORDINATION</p>	

	ACTION
<p>D Gordon presented the crime statistics for Quarter 2 with an increase compared to Q1, however there had been an overall decrease year-on-year.</p> <p>Dundalk Road was identified as an area in need of assistance relating to anti-social behaviour. A multi-agency action plan had been drawn up and a great deal of work was carried out during the summer resulting in improvements despite the shooting incident in October.</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the attached report detailing Motorcycles & Mini-Motos, Paramount Foods, Respect Week, Operation Staysafe and the Hough Green Football Project.</p> <p>The Safer Schools Officer recently appointed had been very well received and ongoing activity was proving successful.</p> <p>It was highlighted that burglaries year-to-date were 27% down, showing significant improvement. Despite the period including Mischief Night/Bonfire Night, ASB was 12% down.</p> <p>D Parr raised the reported suggestion that crime figures could be down because of under reporting.</p> <p>S Boycott outlined the strong stance taken by HMIC and reports and audits are carried out to ensure officers are fully aware. Halton is one of the lowest areas of home watch co-ordination; operation grammar resulted in an increase in reporting of anti-social behaviour. Leaflets were produced informing the public of what to look out for regarding organised crime. More leaflets have just been printed and are available to other agencies.</p> <p>g) HATE CRIMES & COMMUNITY TENSIONS</p> <p>Hate Crimes</p> <p>There were 35 hate incidents reported in Runcorn and Widnes in Quarter 2 and 29 hate crimes.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson asked what 'other' category represented and R Langdale-Smith explained this referred to 'goths' etc.</p> <p>Gypsy/Traveller Matters</p> <p>There were 13 unauthorised Traveller encampments in Halton in Q2. The majority of these encampments were related to the same group of Travellers who had previously been evicted from the Runcorn Transit site.</p>	
<p>5. POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER</p> <p>R Langdale-Smith reported on a mediation service which was supporting 48 cases and included a restorative justice service to link in with other forces.</p>	
<p>6. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</p> <p>Cllr Thompson reported on formal/informal meetings hosted by Warrington Borough Council where some dissatisfaction expressed on the view that WBC doesn't offer value for money.</p>	

	ACTION
<p>A work programme had taken place focussing on domestic violence with a stakeholder event in October and fact finding to pick up tips with other areas.</p> <p>Statistics regarding performance continued to be good, but Public satisfaction could be higher. The Data integrity report gave details of Cheshire Police criticism and a 10 point action plan had been put in place to work on improvements.</p> <p>The Widnes police station move had been well received and comments had been made regarding the need for a refurbishment at Runcorn police station. S Boycott provided information regarding the planned work at Runcorn station to convert to more open plan environment. It was agreed that the building is in the right place.</p>	
<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>D Parr commented on the new format for the agenda and papers, with embedded links and PDF documents to support different technology. The Ashley House proposal/options report was attached as a link and D Parr stated that this will remain a multi-faceted service.</p> <p>The Alcohol Strategy was attached and demonstrated sustainable communities converting talk to positive action.</p> <p>D Parr commented on the high profile of child exploitation in the media and wanted to give Halton's perspective. When Rochdale came to light, Halton put measures in place to challenge our processes 18 months ahead of the Rotherham report. We have not been complacent and Gerald Meehan was asked to review our arrangements based on Rotherham and we have done that using the local safeguarding board. The resulting work is being finalised and will report to elected members on 10th December via a private meeting with information being released into public domain as appropriate in due course.</p> <p>A multi-disciplinary approach has been adopted, working in parallel with Social Workers, health professionals and police officers. There has been good support from Police and CCG as with all of our partners. The general picture is that, according to information to date, there isn't a Rotherham type issue in Halton. CSE does exist in Halton but not the same magnitude as within other authorities. Three agencies will be coming together in early December to share findings and there is a possibility of a CSE unit or virtual teams working together for the whole of Cheshire force area. Intelligence work is focussed on three areas; Asian taxi drivers, Travellers and take-aways as these are target areas under the J report. Nigel Bennan, Children's Safeguarding for the Chief Constable will be leading on this.</p> <p>There will be more updates in the New Year following the meeting in December.</p>	
<p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Items for Information</p> <p>a.) Widnes Blue Lamp Report</p> <p>b.) Runcorn Blue Lamp Report</p> <p>c.) Ashley House – Proposals/Options – SMT Draft Report</p> <p>d.) Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington Youth Offending Services: Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2014-17</p> <p>e.) Halton Alcohol Strategy: Reducing alcohol-related harm across the life course 2014-19</p> <p>f.) Alcohol Strategy Action Plan 2014-15</p>	

	ACTION
g.) Sustainable Communities Strategy – Year End Report 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014	

Meeting ended at 4.10 pm

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	17 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Presentation: Channel - The Prevent Strategy
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The Board to receive a presentation from Emma Hart, the Prevent Engagement Officer on Channel – The Prevent Strategy.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) **Members receive the presentation: and**
- (2) **Members ask any questions about Channel as it operates in Halton**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Prevent strategy seeks to support people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. Re-launched in July 2011, the new strategy is about providing early intervention and support, not criminalising. It is a shift away from general cohesion/integration works, and the introduction of an 'all-risks' approach. The core element of this new strategy is for local risks to be identified, assessed, and a proportionate response and support provided through Channel.

The strategy is aimed at 3 main objectives which are:

- Ideology: respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it;
- Individuals: prevent people from being drawn into
- terrorism/radicalisation and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support; and
- Institutions: work with a wide range of sectors (in particular education, faith, health, the internet and criminal justice) where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address.

Channel provides a mechanism for assessing and supporting individuals who may be targeted by violent extremists or drawn in to violent extremism. Channel is modelled on other successful multi-agency risk management processes.

Channel uses existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners (such as the education sector, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services) and the local community to:

- identify individuals at risk of being drawn in to violent extremism;
- assess the nature and extent of that risk; and
- develop the most appropriate support for the individuals concerned

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 No policy implications.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 No financial implications.

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

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

None identified.

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

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY & 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**

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	17 th March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Reports, Quarter 3, 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 3 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 3 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 health 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 3 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 3 – 1st October 2014 – 31st December 2014

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service area objectives and milestones and performance targets during the third 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 third quarter which include:

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

Making Safeguarding Personal

Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) has prompted a whole system review in the context of safeguarding adults. Significant development work has been undertaken to embed the MSP principles into future day to day practice. This development work focuses on developing effective communication with adults at risk to fully understand what they wish to achieve when the safeguarding process is invoked. It also considers the best approach to recording whether these desired outcomes have been realised, the experience or journey for those people and also considers alternative, previously untried personalised approaches to supporting people to a resolution of their circumstances.

Achievements:

- Reports to Halton Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) re involvement in the Project and challenges highlighted – full support and commitment from the Board
- MSP Steering group and Practitioners group (champions) developed to take approach forward, to consider how to embed within day to day practice and evaluation process
- Inter-Agency Policy reviewed and re-designed, including specific reference to MSP; Annual report includes approach via MSP. Procedures have been re-designed, including guidance to support staff in new approach.

- Electronic recording system reviewed and re-designed by MSP Practitioner group to support the change to person-centred practice, capturing outcomes during the adults at risk journey through the safeguarding process and also including a series of questions to record the person's experience to identify what difference has been made.
- Evidence of personalised tools being used within the safeguarding process to support the adult at risk to be involved in resolving their own circumstances ie. 'What's working, what's not working' tool. Re-design of electronic recording system will signpost/link staff to these tools.
- Care Concerns model implemented to ensure that referrals meet the safeguarding adults thresholds-ongoing

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Community Safety

During October, November and December, Halton saw a 2.7% reduction in Anti-social behaviour (ASB) when compared to the same period in 2013.

Operation Treacle (October Mischief Planning) and RESPECT weeks of action were delivered during the busy period of Mischief Night and Halloween in October. During this period we saw:

- 53% decrease in bonfire clearances.
- Over 90 ASB dispersals were issued over the period, primarily in the Palacefields and Murdishaw area to combat the problem of youth ASB.
- 55% decrease in deliberate fires for 2014.
- 49% increase in ASB during Mischief Night (30th October) and Halloween (31st October). Criminal Damage has also increased by 4%.

Mischief Night falls on a Friday in 2015.

During October the Government introduced new ASB legislation, which includes community trigger, Criminal Behaviour Orders, Public Space Protection Orders, Closure Notice/Orders and Dispersals). During this period total crime went down by 5%.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no key developments to report for Public Health.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

There are no key developments for Policy, Planning and Transportation.

3.0 Emerging Issues

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no emerging issues to report for Public Health.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

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

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

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

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

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

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

There are no emerging issues to report for Policy, Planning & Transportation.

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	Q3 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 3	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%	87.2%		

Supporting Commentary

PA 3 Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days

We are on track to meet this target.

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 3	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
<u>CE LI 13</u>	Residual household waste per household	624 Kgs	650 kgs	395 Kgs		
<u>CE LI 14</u>	Household waste recycled and composted	38.53%	40%	49%		
<u>CE LI 16</u>	Municipal waste land filled	57.17%	60%	11%		
<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 a cumulative figure however, performance in Q3 is lower than the corresponding period from last year (463 kgs) and indications are that this target will be met.

CE LI 14 Household waste recycled and composted: This is an estimated figure but performance in Q3 is higher than the corresponding period from last year (39% kgs) and indications are that this target will be met.

CE LI 16 Municipal waste land filled: This is a cumulative figure and will change however, as a result of the introduction of new contractual arrangements for the treatment and subsequent diversion of waste from landfill, as reported in Q1, this target will be significantly exceeded.

CE LI 18 Improved Local Biodiversity – Active Management of Local Sites: More sites have been actively managed in recent times and the score of 56% was published in Q3.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Key objectives and milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q3 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

Good progress has been made in implementing the alcohol HWB action plan. As part of the alcohol strategy development work a refreshed action plan for 2014-15 has been developed and signed up to by all partners.

Work on preventative activities continues within Halton.

- An education campaign around alcohol and pregnancy is currently being developed.
- Halton midwives, health visitors & early years staff have been trained in alcohol Information and Brief Advice (alcohol IBA).
- Halton schools & college have been provided with alcohol awareness education sessions.
- The VRMZ mobile outreach bus and street based teams engage young people in hotspot areas 6 days a week and provide information, advice and guidance on alcohol to children and young people.

Staff working with Children and Young People (CYP) trained in alcohol Information and Brief Advice (alcohol IBA).

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2013/14	Target 2014/15	Quarter 3	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	Data unavailable	?	N/A

PH LI 04 Alcohol admissions:

Data for 2014/15 is not available until later this year.

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

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2014

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	7,434	5,356	5,278	78
Premises	304	206	202	4
Supplies & Services	1,922	1,494	1,499	(5)
Carers Breaks	423	353	353	0
Transport	200	153	153	0
Contracts & SLAs	160	100	91	9
Payments To Providers	3,816	2,216	2,216	0
Emergency Duty Team	103	26	18	8
Other Agency Costs	795	484	488	(4)
Total Expenditure	15,157	10,388	10,298	90
Income				
Sales & Rents Income	-284	-242	-277	35
Fees & Charges	-173	-148	-112	(36)
CCG Contribution To Service	-840	-553	-526	(27)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-662	-497	-487	(10)
Transfer From Reserves	-948	-948	-948	0
Total Income	-2,907	-2,388	-2,350	(38)
Net Operational Expenditure	12,250	8,000	7,948	52
Recharges				
Premises Support	192	151	151	0
Transport	436	274	274	0
Central Support Services	1,685	1,245	1,245	0
Asset Charges	76	0	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-1,685	-1,597	-1,597	0
Net Total Recharges	704	73	73	0
Net Departmental Total	12,954	8,073	8,021	52

Comments on the above figures:

Net operational expenditure is £52,000 below budget profile at the end of the third quarter of the financial year.

Employee costs are currently £78,000 below budget profile. This results from savings made on vacant posts, specifically in relation to Mental Health and Day Services. The majority of these posts have now either been filled, or are in the process of being recruited to. It is therefore not anticipated

that the current spend below budget profile will continue at this level for the remainder of the financial year, and will not impact significantly on the 2015/16 budget year.

Income is below target to date. There is an anticipated shortfall on Fees & Charges income due to the temporary closure and refurbishment of a homeless facility. Additionally, income received from the Clinical Commissioning Group is projected to be below target. This income relates to Continuing Health Care funded packages within Day Services and the Supported Housing Network. The income received is dependent on the nature of service user's care packages, and is out of the direct control of the service. This shortfall is partly offset by an over-achievement of trading income from Day Services ventures, which is reflected in income above target to date of £35,000 for Sales and Rents. This trend is anticipated to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

At this stage in the financial year, it is anticipated that a balanced budget overall will be achieved for the year. Whilst income is projected below target, this will be offset by in-year savings in other areas, principally savings on staff turnover above the set target.

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2014

	2014-15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
ALD Bungalows	100	0	0	100
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	100	0	0	100
Halton Carer's Centre Refurbishment	50	16	16	34
Section 256 Grant	55	0	0	55
Community Capacity Grant	166	0	0	166
Total	471	16	16	455

PREVENTION & ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2014**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (underspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	6,510	4,735	4,644	91
Other Premises	63	31	27	4
Supplies & Services	935	245	247	(2)
Aids & Adaptations	113	90	109	(19)
Transport	8	6	9	(3)
Food Provision	28	20	22	(2)
Other Agency	23	16	15	1
	962	77	77	0
Transfer to Reserves				
Contribution to Complex Care Pool	17,971	9,330	9,326	4
Total Expenditure	26,613	14,550	14,476	74
Income				
Other Fees & Charges	-232	-155	-174	19
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-898	-112	-122	10
Transfer from Reserves	-2,485	-2,485	-2,485	0
Capital Salaries	-39	0	0	0
Government Grant Income	-155	-137	-137	0
CCG Contribution to Service	-597	-504	-507	3
	-4,406	-3,393	-3,425	32
Total Income				
Net Operational Expenditure	22,207	11,157	11,051	106
Recharges				
Premises Support	221	166	166	0
Asset Charges	210	0	0	0
Central Support Services	1,980	1,412	1,412	0
Internal Recharge Income	-419	-307	-307	0
Transport Recharges	50	34	38	(4)
Net Total Recharges	2,042	1,305	1,309	(4)
	24,249	12,462	12,360	102
Net Departmental Total				

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms, the Net Operational Expenditure for the third quarter of the financial year is £98,000 under budget profile excluding the Complex Care Pool.

Employee costs are currently showing £91,000 under budget profile. This is due to savings being made on vacancies within the department, in particular Care Management. Some of these vacancies have been advertised and have been or are expected to be filled in the coming months. However if not appointed to, the current underspend will continue to increase beyond this level.

Expenditure on Aids and Adaptations is £19,000 over budget profile in the third quarter. Aids and Adaptations continue to be a pressure area as more people are supported within their own homes.

Overall income has for the third quarter, over achieved by £32,000. Lifeline income is £17,000 higher than anticipated at budget setting time; however this is offset by an increase in transport recharges of £4,000 for diesel, vehicle repairs, tyres and casual hire. This trend is expected to continue for rest of the financial year.

A detailed analysis of the Complex Care Pool is shown below:

COMPLEX CARE POOL

Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2014

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Intermediate Care Services	3,691	2,245	2,234	11
End of Life	192	171	171	0
CHC Assessment Team	255	255	255	0
Sub Acute	1,788	1,311	1,302	9
Joint Equipment Store	532	312	320	(8)
Intermediate Care Beds	596	403	400	3
Adult Care:				
Residential & Nursing Care	20,198	13,022	12,972	50
Domiciliary & Supported Living	9,910	7,726	7,686	40
Direct Payments	3,293	2,745	2,950	(205)
Day Care	457	309	297	12
Total Expenditure	40,912	28,499	28,587	(88)
Income				
Residential & Nursing Income	-4,920	-3,939	-4,017	78
Community Care Income	-1,552	-999	-1,021	22
Direct Payments Income	-189	-150	-142	(8)
Other Income	-485	-485	-485	0
CCG Contribution to Pool	-12,784	-12,841	-12,841	0
Reablement & Section 256 Income	-3,011	-755	-755	0
Total Income	-22,941	-19,169	-19,261	92
Net Divisional Expenditure	17,971	9,330	9,326	4

Comments on the above figures:

The overall net expenditure budget is £4,000 under budget profile at the end of the third quarter.

The number of clients in receipt of residential & nursing social care from April this year has increased by 1%. The number of clients in receipt of domiciliary social care (including supported living) from April this year has decreased by 1%, this is due in part, to 38 clients moving to Direct Payments. This was a one off transfer and all of the clients have now transferred.

The number of clients in receipt of a Direct Payment has substantially increased this year and this is due in part to the renegotiation of the Domiciliary Care contracts. Clients who were receiving a commissioned domiciliary care package have now opted to take a Direct Payment and new clients who have never received a package of care, but now have the choice are now also opting to take a Direct Payment than receive the traditional package of care commissioned by the council.

Due to expenditure by nature, being volatile and fluctuating throughout the year depending on the number and value of new packages being approved and existing packages ceasing, trends of expenditure and income will be scrutinised in detail throughout the next quarter of the year to ensure a balanced budget is achieved at year-end and in order to identify pressures that may affect the budget in the short to medium term.

The budgets across health and social care have been realigned to reflect the demand for services this financial year.

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2014

	2014-15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Disabled Facilities Grant	500	375	247	253
Energy Promotion	12	6	6	6
Stair lifts (Adaptations Initiative)	250	188	180	70
RSL Adaptations (Joint Funding)	200	150	133	67
Total	962	719	566	396

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 31 December 2014**

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,496	9,178	9,202	(24)
Other Premises	1,418	925	861	64
Supplies & Services	1,665	1,154	1,104	50
Book Fund	192	158	156	2
Promotional	9	13	9	4
Other Hired Services	1,259	887	877	10
Food Provisions	681	493	482	11
School Meals Food	1,914	1,225	1,195	30
Transport	55	41	18	23
Other Agency Costs	652	43	33	10
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,012	2,782	2,817	(35)
Leisure Management Contract	1,467	991	1,059	(68)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	333	265	260	5
Grant To Norton Priory	222	222	224	(2)
Rolling Projects	154	0	0	0
Capital Financing	13	0	0	0
Total Spending	27,542	18,377	18,297	80
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,197	-1,552	-1,444	(108)
School Meals Sales	-2,049	-1,234	-1,274	40
Fees & Charges Income	-2,743	-1,948	-1,845	(103)
Rents Income	-187	-195	-203	8
Government Grant Income	-35	-16	-16	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-516	-346	-359	13
Schools SLA Income	-82	-81	-85	4
Internal Fees Income	-121	-72	-79	7
School Meals Other Income	-2,935	-397	-460	63
Meals On Wheels	-192	-138	-129	(9)
Catering Fees	-225	-125	-69	(56)
Capital Salaries	-53	-29	-27	(2)
Transfers From Reserves	-285	-285	-285	0
Total Income	-11,620	-6,418	-6,275	(143)
Net Controllable Expenditure	15,922	11,959	12,022	(63)
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	2,048	1,547	1,548	(1)
Transport Recharges	2,393	1,349	1,379	(30)
Departmental Support Services	9	0	0	0
Central Support Services	3,149	2,381	2,382	(1)
Asset Charges	3,197	0	0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-357	-357	-357	0
Net Total Recharges	10,439	4,920	4,952	(32)
Net Departmental Total	26,361	16,879	16,974	(95)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is £95,000 over budget profile at the end of the third quarter of 2014/15.

At the third quarter of the year employee's expenditure is over budget profile by £ 24,000. Spending on agency staffing in open spaces and waste management continues however the rate has fallen during quarter three as vacancies begin to be filled and efficiency measures such as the apprenticeship scheme take hold. The other main driver for the overspend is the savings targets including premium pay of £42,300.

Other premises and supplies & services expenditures are collectively currently £ 114,000 under budget at the end of quarter three. The main reasons for this are underspending on some equipment and utilities budgets and Open Space landscaping. Where possible, some of these budgets will be investigated for adjustment to offset underachieving income targets mentioned below.

Waste Disposal Contracts are expected to overspend by year-end. In recent years Halton has successfully increased the amount of waste recycled however this now results in a recycling bonus payment at the end of the financial year. It is assumed that this payment will be approximately £100,000 which is similar to 2013/14 as recycling levels are also similar. The department will strive to ensure the additional costs are met within its overall budget if possible, if not, underspends within the Directorate will have to be used to ensure an overall balanced budget is achieved.

Sales, fees & charges and catering fees across the Department continue to struggle against budget. The social club in the stadium has now closed and due to the opening of Pure Gym, membership to the Stadium fitness gym has declined, adding to previous year's decreases. The main areas struggling are catering sales, stadium bars, open spaces non contracted works, bulky waste charges, playing fields and some lettings for community centres. As mentioned above, in order to alleviate underachieving income, any underspending budgets on expenditure could be adjusted to offset income targets.

Capital Projects as at 31st December 2014

	2014-15 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Stadium Minor Works	80	75	77	3
Widnes Recreation Site	2,792	1,258	1,125	1,667
Children's Playground Equipment	79	15	4	75
Upton Improvements	63	47	49	14
Norton Priory	339	12	12	327
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	311	233	233	78
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	396	297	264	132
Open Spaces Schemes	189	142	138	51
Playground Third Party Funding	340	17	17	323
Litter Bins	20	0	0	20
Total	4,631	2,096	1,919	2,712

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2014**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (underspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	2,331	1,559	1,494	65
Supplies & Services	223	107	98	9
Other Agency	20	20	17	3
	5,003	3,239	3,237	2
Contracts & SLA's				
	5	1	0	1
Transport				
Transfer to Reserves	707	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	8,289	4,926	4,846	80
Income				
Other Fees & Charges	-59	-45	-39	(6)
Sales Income	-26	-25	-18	(7)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-3	0	0	0
Government Grant	-8,749	-4,374	-4,374	0
Transfer from Reserves	-200	0	0	0
Total Income	-9,037	-4,444	-4,431	(13)
Net Operational Expenditure	-748	482	415	67
Recharges				
Premises Support	50	37	38	(1)
Central Support Services	2,135	2,018	2,020	(2)
Transport Recharges	25	18	15	3
Net Total Recharges	2,210	2,073	2,073	0
Net Departmental Total	1,462	2,555	2,488	67

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms, the Net Operational Expenditure for the third quarter of the financial year is £67,000 under budget profile.

Employee costs are currently £65,000 under budget profile. This is due to savings being made on vacancies within the department. Some of the vacant posts, specifically in relation to trading standards have now been filled. If vacancies remain unfilled, the current underspend will increase beyond this level by the end of the financial year.

In October 2014, The Health Improvement Team transferred from Bridgewater Community Healthcare to Halton Borough Council. This part of the Bridgewater Community Healthcare contract amounted to £1,568,000 per annum. Therefore the Contracts & SLA's budget has reduced and

the Employee, Supplies & Services, Transport budgets have increased accordingly for the remainder of the financial year.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION**Revenue Budget as at 31st December 2014**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	4,810	3,636	3,661	(25)
Other Premises	200	67	65	2
Hired & Contracted Services	433	289	283	6
Supplies & Services	314	203	206	(3)
Street Lighting	1,914	1,091	1,081	10
Highways Maintenance	2,383	2,049	2,038	11
Bridges	96	48	38	10
Fleet Transport	1,385	891	889	2
Lease Car Contracts	516	467	467	0
Bus Support – Halton Hopper Tickets	177	177	177	0
Bus Support	541	367	367	0
Out of Borough Transport	51	24	24	0
Contribution to Reserves	163	163	163	0
Finance Charges	406	238	238	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	68	68	0
NRA Levy	58	44	44	0
Total Expenditure	13,515	9,822	9,809	13
Income				
Sales	-253	-235	-267	32
Planning Fees	-506	-421	-435	14
Building Control Fees	-186	-155	-153	(2)
Other Fees & Charges	-1,008	-340	-349	9
Rents	-8	0	0	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-523	-373	-373	0
Efficiency Savings	-60	0	0	0
School SLAs	-39	-39	-43	4
Recharge to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Total Income	-2,895	-1,563	-1,620	57
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,620	8,259	8,189	70
Recharges				
Premises Support	534	424	424	0
Transport Recharges	596	500	500	0
Asset Charges	7,946	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	2,385	1,786	1,786	0
Departmental Support	-432	-324	-324	0
Recharges Income	-2,884	-2,321	-2,321	0
Support Recharges Income – Transport				

Support Recharges Income – Non Transport	-2,385	-1,685	-1,685	0
Net Total Recharges	5,760	-1,620	-1,620	0
Net Departmental Total	16,380	6,639	6,569	70

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of quarter 3 is below budget profile. This is due to a number of expenditure and income budget areas.

Employees is over budget to date due to most areas being fully staffed and not being able to achieve the staff turnover savings target.

Other Premises is below budget to date mainly due to lower than expected utility bills and lower than expected NNDR for Lower House Lane Depot within the Logistics division.

Planning fees and are currently above budget due to a number of one off applications including the Redrow housing development in Widnes and the new David Wilson homes development.

The increase in sales income is mainly due to above average fuel sales at Lower House Lane depot.

At this stage of the year it is anticipated that overall spend will be within the Departmental budget at the financial year-end.

APPENDIX 2 – Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
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: 17 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy & Resources

SUBJECT: Business Planning 2015-2018

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To provide an update on Business Planning for the period 2015 - 18 and to consider the Directorate priorities, objectives and targets for service areas that fall within the remit of this Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: that the Board receive the advanced draft of the Business Plan prior to its consideration by Executive Board.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Each Directorate of the Council develops a medium-term business plan, in parallel with the budget that is subject to annual review and refresh. The input of the Policy and Performance Boards into the business planning process and the setting of priorities for the Directorate is an important part of this process.
- 3.2 Key priorities for development or improvement for the various functional areas reporting to this Policy & Performance Board were presented to and considered by the Board in autumn 2014.
- 3.3 In light of the meeting Draft Directorate Business Plans have now been developed.
- 3.4 Each of the Plans will contain appendices identifying specific Departmental activities and performance measures and targets that would provide a focus for the on-going monitoring of performance throughout the year. Directorate Business Plans will be subject to annual review and refresh in order that they remain fit for purpose taking account of any future change in circumstances, including any future funding announcements that may emerge.
- 3.5 Given the remit of this Board relevant extracts from the Communities Directorate and the Policy & Resources Directorate Business Plans are now available for consideration by the Board.
- 3.6 It should be noted that plans can only be finalised once budget decisions have been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2015.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Business Plans form a key part of the Council's policy framework. Plans also need to reflect known and anticipated legislative changes.
- 4.2 Elected member engagement would be consistent with Best Value guidance to consult with the representatives of a wide range of local persons.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Directorate Plans will identify resource implications.
- 5.2 Directorate Plans will form the basis of the Priority Based Performance Reports which will continue to be presented to the Board during 2015 - 16.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The business planning process provides a means by which the Corporate Priorities of the Council are integrated into the delivery of services at an operational level.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The development of a Directorate Plan will allow the authority to both align its activities to the delivery of organisational and partnership priorities and to provide information to stakeholders as to the work of the Directorate over the coming year.
- 7.2 Risk Assessment will continue to form an integral element of Directorate Plan development and the annual review and refresh of Directorate Risk Registers.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 Equality and diversity considerations, and the Council's responsibilities under equalities legislation, remain integral to the business planning process. An annual report will be made available to Members as an element of the Council's performance management arrangements.

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

- 9.1 There are no relevant background documents to this report.



Relevant Business Plan Extracts
For Safer PPB

April 2015 to March 2018

CONTENTS**Page****Introduction****Key Messages****Priorities in Focus****Factors Affecting Priority Focus****Organisational Initiatives**

- Equality, Diversity & Community Cohesion
- Environmental Sustainability
- Risk Management
- Arrangement for Managing Data Quality

Business Planning**Appendices**

1. Departmental Service Objectives/Milestones and Performance Indicators
2. National Policy Guidance/Drivers

This document represents an amalgamation of excerpts from Business Plans across the three Directorates. It highlights those areas pertinent to the Health Policy and Performance Board.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Business planning and performance management are key tools by which public sector organisations are expected to ensure their services, and those they commission, are meeting the needs of the population they serve efficiently and effectively. In our Directorate, they underpin the ideology of the Department of Health, Audit Commission and the Care Quality Commission in their inspections, reports and guidance to Local Authorities on the most appropriate way to manage business.

Business planning is the process of developing the blueprint for the ongoing performance management of the Directorate and, without good business planning, the preparation needed to manage performance is missing. Without ongoing performance management, strategies and plans developed through business planning will not be implemented and will have no impact upon actual activities of the Directorate, or on outcomes for service users and carers.

This document is a key business planning document and should be used alongside performance information when developing service and team plans. Its overall aims are to:-

- identify the key objectives for the Directorate over the next 12 months;
- improve the quality of the services provided; and
- deliver better outcomes for service users and carers.

The plan is underpinned by the principles and strategic objectives Halton Borough Council (HBC) has adopted in its Corporate Plan 2011 - 2016. It aims to be a key reference document for elected members, staff in the Directorate and our partner agencies. It provides the rationale and framework for the major areas of the Directorate's activity. It does this by taking account of the national, inter-agency and Council planning and budget priorities and interweaves these with what we know - or what our service users and carers tell us - about how services should be developed in order to meet needs and expectations more effectively.

The plan needs to be understood in the context of a wide range of other documents. The main strategic documents are:-

- Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton: 2011 – 2026;
- The Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2011 - 2016;

These plans/strategies commit the Borough Council and its partners to achieving explicit and realistic priorities over the coming year. This Business Plan highlights the Community Directorate's elements of those commitments within the context of the Government's overall agenda for local Government. The achievement of these elements continues to depend on partnerships with many other agencies, and members are committed to testing these achievements.

The plan does not attempt to describe all the day-to-day activities that make up most of the Directorate's work, but only to set out the overall framework within which that work takes place. It needs to be remembered, however, that it is the everyday assessment of needs and arrangement of services to meet those needs that is the fundamental task of the Directorate. Undertaking this effectively requires the continuing dedication and enthusiasm of staff, together with the Directorate's commitment to recruit, retain and train staff who are able to meet the challenges of the future. None of this is straightforward. However, this does not diminish the Directorate's determination to deliver improved outcomes for our service users and carers. It makes it even more of a challenge, but one which we will seek to tackle as effectively as possible through partnership with other agencies and corporate working across the Borough Council.

2.0 KEY MESSAGES

Overall Directorate Strategic Direction

The Council and its partners have reaffirmed the direction within the Council's Corporate Plan and the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton, and the general strategic direction and priorities are clearly articulated. In this context, the Directorate's strategic direction becomes clearer and, at a macro level, includes the following:

- Community Leadership;
- Commissioning;
- Empowering and brokering of services;
- Providing direct services;
- Regulatory functions; and
- Promotion and prevention.

Strategic Priorities and Challenges

Based upon the national, regional and local picture, there are a number of key strategic priorities and challenges which the Council must consider.

The Directorate Plans reflect operational requirements while also taking into account the position and priorities of related Policy and Performance Boards. These two elements bond closely together to form the strategic outlook. For the Safer Policy and Performance Board these priorities have been established as:

- Alcohol abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour – new tools and power
- Consumer Protection

Scrutiny Reviews

The Policy and Performance Boards continue to review and scrutinise areas of note. A number of scrutiny reviews have been undertaken during 2014 including (for the Safer PPB) Domestic Abuse. Areas for scrutiny for 2015-16 will be chosen early into the year.

Financial Pressures

The Council continues to operate within a challenging financial climate. Despite these constraints we are obligated to meet our statutory responsibilities across all areas of operation. This is achieved through effective financial management and the integration of national policy initiatives with efficient arrangements for service delivery.

3.0 PRIORITIES IN FOCUS

The priorities for the Plans have been set against a backdrop of legislative change and increased financial pressures. They reflect the service requirements for the Borough, the focal areas identified by the Council's Policy and Performance Boards, and consider areas for development in relation to forthcoming issues faced by the Authority.

The following section contains extracts of particular priorities which relate to Safer.

3.1 Safety, Community and Environment

3.1.1 Safety

The Halton Community Safety Team – is a multi-agency team of specialists committed to promoting community safety and harm reduction so that Halton is a safe place to live, work, and visit. Its purpose is to support partners and communities to identify and analyse local problems and to develop short and long term strategies and interventions that address community safety issues. The team is based in co-located buildings across Halton which enable all of the respective organisations involved to share information and intelligence in a quick, secure, and effective manner. In turn this enables smart and effective joined-up initiatives, operations, and orders to be delivered in a timely manner.

Safer Halton Partnership is the strategic arm of community safety and is made up of Halton Borough Council, NHS Merseyside/Halton/St Helens, Runcorn and Widnes Neighbourhood Policing Units (Cheshire Constabulary), Cheshire Fire and Rescue, Cheshire Probation Service, Halton Youth Offending Team, Registered Social Landlords (six main providers of housing) and community groups.

The partnership approach focusses on **seven key agendas**:

1. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
2. Alcohol Harm and Licensing
3. Safeguarding Young people – Safer Schools Partnership / Education
4. Integrated Offender Management
5. Crime Reduction – Prevention and Education.
6. Supporting BME groups (Gypsy Traveller, Hate Crime)
7. Domestic Abuse

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Reform of anti-social behaviour powers:

The commencement date for the new Anti-social behaviour (ASB) tools and powers was announced on 20th October 2014. This act will introduce new powers that may be useful in dealing with problem premises and ASB in our community.

Part 1-6 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (“the Act”) has created new tools and powers (replacing a number of other existing ones) that organisations are able to use to deal with ASB.

One of the purposes of the Act is to ensure that any response to anti-social behaviour is victim focussed. Therefore, it is important to ensure that a co-ordinated approach to dealing with ASB is undertaken so that local areas can meet the needs of victims of ASB.

ASB Victim and Witness Support Service Information

The service aims to provide an accessible supportive service to vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups and individuals in Halton who have suffered first-hand the effects of anti-social behaviour including:

- Building confidence to report issues and support to complete appropriate documentation such as diary sheets.
- Mediation / early intervention, for example, noise nuisance / neighbour disputes
- Referrals to other specialist agencies
- Development of self-reliant skills to enable individuals to feel safe and be safe in their own homes and the community.

The service also links with:

- Partnership Tasking and co-ordination - to drive environment improvements.
- ASB Enforcement Officer to ensure the triangle of victim / perpetrator and environment are considered and acted upon.
- Multi Agency Meetings - to ensure victims and witnesses are considered and identified
- Police Victim support service and court groups
- Integrated Offender Management - to support the victims of key ASB perpetrators
- Professional agencies - to encourage referrals into the service from all
- Victims and witnesses Issue appropriate literature to

The Service offers three levels of support:

Level 1: In conjunction with the Crime Reduction advisor, the service provides practical support to help victims and witnesses feel safer in their own homes: Free home security and safety checks, advice on crime prevention measures, panic alarms and advice on fitting additional door / window locks.

Level 2: If individuals have been affected by crime or anti-social behaviour the service helps to deal with the incident and its consequences through mediation, health services, counselling, youth inclusion support panel / service and adult social care services.

Level 3: The ASB Victim and Witness Support Officer will offer advice, help and take care of the case by direct one-to-one visits, telephone contact, and evidence gathering, and helping with diary sheets, attendance at court and after court support.

Service Delivery Standard:

- Contact within 7 working days and assessment in 1-3 weeks dependent on risk and vulnerability
- Providing victims and witnesses with up to date information
- Enabling victims and witnesses to express the effect of the crime on them
- Practical and emotional support that is tailored to their needs

Service Demand:

The service has supported 518 individuals since it began in June 2008. 40 individuals are currently receiving support and 371 cases have been closed at the end of October 2014.

Referrals for the service have been received from numerous sources. The Police account for the largest number of referrals with 45% of the total followed by 28% from Housing Associations.

Future developments:

The Victim and Witness Service aims to sustain and develop the service in a difficult environment of austerity measures by using service user feedback to improve the service provision; developing a community based forum to identify community intelligence and

introducing diversionary / reparation activities for perpetrators of ASB such as youth groups to strengthen the links with the Youth Offending Team (YOT), and identifying those referrals that may have undiagnosed mental health and alcohol related issues, to name just a few strategies.

Police and Crime Commissioners - The first elections of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) took place on 15th November 2012 and John Dwyer was elected for Cheshire. PCCs will be elected for four years. Police and Crime Commissioners determine local policing priorities inclusive of scrutinising the performance of the Constabulary and are required to publish a five-year Police and Crime plan. This public document sets out the police and crime priorities and objectives for policing and crime reduction across the force area. The Plan may be refreshed each year and may be fully reopened at the PCCs discretion.

PCCs in consultation with Chief Constable set the annual force budget which is based on grants and funding streams accessed. These services are set out in the plan where their objectives and funding will be publicly disclosed. The plan is published and remains a public document including any updates or amendments made during the five-year period.

PCCs have a general duty to regularly consult and involve the public and have regard to the local authority and national policing priorities. PCCs also exercise regional power and influence over the development and work of local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) via the following powers and duties:

- the reciprocal duty for PCCs and CSP responsible authorities to cooperate with each other for the purposes of reducing crime and disorder
- the power to bring a representative of any or all CSPs in the PCCs area together to discuss priority issues
- the power to require reports from CSPs about issues of concern
- the power to approve mergers of CSPs (on application of the CSPs concerned)
- the power to commission community safety work from a range of local partners including (such commissioning of crime and disorder reduction work is not limited to CSPs but can include community, voluntary sector or commercial providers)

PCCs are scrutinised by Police and Crime Panels, which are formed of a minimum of 10 representatives from the local authorities in the force area. The duties of the panel include requiring the PCC to respond to any concerns they have and making recommendations on the crime plan and annual reports. The Panel is not a replacement for the Police Authority so the panel will only scrutinise the actions and decisions of the Commissioner.

Halton Domestic Abuse Forum (HDAF) Strategic Group was established to provide overall direction, control management and guidance for the response to domestic abuse and sexual violence within Halton. It is a multi-agency partnership board comprised of lead officers and key representatives which take strategic decisions aimed at tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence in their widest forms and provide support to all victims within our area. The Forum is responsible for determining and implementing policy, coordinating activity between agencies, and facilitating training. HDAF promotes inter-agency cooperation, encourages and develops effective working relationships between different services and agencies. Implementation of the **HDAF Domestic Abuse Strategy: Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2014-17** – will continue to shape service delivery over the coming period.

Alcohol Licensing Enforcement – The Safer Halton Partnership Licensing team work closely with venues and local businesses to promote a healthy Night Time Economy. They

assure the health and wellbeing of the Halton residents with robust action where licence conditions are not complied with.

Achievements and objectives:

- Halton has 18 venues which have attained the Cheshire Constabulary Arc Angel standard offering a safe environment for families with children.
- The Halton Pub Watch continues to be expanded and supported by the team.
- Irresponsible alcohol advertising in Halton is to be monitored and tackled.
- Close partnership working with other agencies continues to be promoted - County Fire, Immigration Enforcement, The Gambling Commission, Trading Standards and Environmental Health - for a fair and transparent Halton business strategy.
- The Safer Partnership actively promotes the work currently carried out in Widnes by Street Pastors and are looking to expand the service to Runcorn.
- Engagement with Public Health and the organisation OURLIFE with regards to Licensing Policy, Fixed Unit Pricing and Responsible Retailing is maintained.
- The Licensing team also offer venues
 - Incident and scene preservation training, scene kit provision
 - Close Circuit TV commissioning tests
 - Responsible retailing advice
 - Talks on current and future Licence conditions

Hate Crime Strategy - The Halton Hate Crime and Harassment Reduction Strategy for 2011 – 2016 has been revised this year. The strategy identifies and coordinates all aspects of our work on tackling and reducing hate crime. The aim of this strategy is to identify and respond to locally established priorities for tackling hate crime and reinforce the benefits of taking a partnership approach to all hate incidents. It promotes effective and coordinated action against hate crime which involves providing various forms of practical assistance, building capacity for interaction and alliance for services being delivered in Halton, as well as developing confidence in the criminal justice system and mechanisms for reporting hate crime to bring perpetrators to justice.

3.1.2 **Community and Residents' Quality of Life**

Introduction of the Government's '**Universal Infant Free School Meals**' in state-funded schools from September 2014, has been implemented across Halton resulting in a significant increase in service delivery. The Directorate has conducted a recruitment drive to achieve delivery of the service and needs to monitor resourcing of the initiative. The longer term impact of this initiative is sustained health benefits as well as influencing educational attainments. Within Halton, as a result of high deprivation, the scheme is likely to have a significant impact on the community.

During 2014, the **Brindley** celebrated its 10th anniversary. A programme of celebratory events was widely publicised and it is hoped that these additional activities will revitalise interest in the coming year's programme.

An **Arts Strategy** has been developed involving consultation with key stakeholders and the public. The strategy forms the template for the development of arts in Halton over the next two years. It will involve close collaboration with the Arts Council England and includes Arts and Health, youth participation in all art forms, public art, and the development of creative industries.

Norton Priory Trust has received a £3.6M Heritage Lottery grant. Significant redevelopment is now to commence.

The **Halton Sports Strategy**, 2012 to 2015 details the Directorate's priorities up to 2016 and seeks to enhance work in increasing participation and widening access to sport; the further development and strengthening of sports club; coach education and volunteer development; sporting excellence; finance and funding for sport; and the enhancement of sports facilities and provision.

The Council has an extensive programme of **physical activity** initiatives designed to improve health and develop healthy life styles. The current physical activity initiatives in Public Health will need to be integrated further with this programme.

School Dinner Money – The collection of school dinner money is an extremely time-consuming task. The cash, once collected from the children, is collected by a security company and taken to the bank. Officers also have to spend time reconciling the money which has been received in the Council's account. During 2014 trial of a new system called "All Pay" took place in four schools. It is hoped that this new system will reduce time and cost. "All Pay" works through payments for school meals using the internet, a mobile phone or at a Paypoint. A full and thorough evaluation of the trial is to take place with a view to extending the scheme if it proves to be effective.

Following consultation, the **Halton Library Strategy**, 2013 to 2016, sets out the vision, priorities and development of the service until 2016. The strategy covers five key areas which will ensure the service develops and supports reading as a key life skill; help people gain ICT skills to access government services, jobs, and information; ensure we keep pace with new technological developments to keep and extend our customer base; ensure we engage with the community and continuously improve the service we deliver and ensure we provide a welcoming highly skilled workforce so that libraries are enriching experiences and provide access to resources and information that the community wants and requires.

Library Services are undergoing an extensive Efficiency Review; however it is hoped that the new structure will continue to support the delivery of the strategy. As budgets continue to shrink, the need to work in different and more efficient ways will continue to be explored. Shared services between authorities on both an individual and regional basis have been discussed and developed to some extent over the last few years. Regional purchasing of stock provides a good example of the economies that can be achieved through this approach. Further opportunities are to be explored within the new libraries structure.

Armed Forces Covenant (pan Cheshire) – a commitment to ensure those in service, about to leave service, veterans and their families are not disadvantaged in accessing services and support for housing, education, employment and benefits, health and wellbeing. Partnership support is necessary to ensure appropriate sign posting and referral arrangements exist between agencies so that we are better able to support our service men and woman with transitional arrangements.

Halton's network of **Community Centres** is to be promoted as Community Hubs. The range of services accessed through them is to be reviewed and increased, and will include activity aimed at community cohesion as well as initiatives to encourage the integration of health and social services.

Halton Registration Service - This statutory service has set an aim of maximising revenues (through increased marketing, promotion and customer choice) and reducing costs (through increased efficiency, process improvement and cost recovery). Underpinned by core values of innovation, professionalism and provision of high-quality value-for-money services, the small team has developed a vision to become "a vital service that touches everyone in Halton during their lives" and a mission "to provide an efficient personal and professional service". The Service has implemented a radical service improvement

programme particularly on its systems and processes which has, since 2010, provided year-on-year increases to its income.

3.1.3 **Supporting and Enhancing the Environment of Halton**

Given the financial pressures faced by the Council and the increasing costs associated with waste disposal, a key challenge will be to concentrate efforts to minimise **waste** production within the borough, increase recycling levels and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

Raising awareness on waste matters and changing people's behaviour will be vital in reducing the Council's costs of dealing with waste. A key priority will therefore be to increase community engagement and educational activities. This work will be supported by the development of Community Engagement and Awareness Raising strategies. These strategies will set out how we will engage with members of the local community, the methods of communication, and the messages that will be used to promote and encourage waste minimisation and increased recycling.

Halton residents have consistently identified clean and safe streets, and **parks and open spaces** as critical factors in making their neighbourhoods a good place to live. It is crucial that we continue to prevent and reduce issues such as littering, fly-tipping and dog fouling by tackling those responsible for committing environmental crime offences. This will require a combination of both effective educational and enforcement activities and collaboration with key local partners and external agencies such as Housing Associations and Cheshire Police. Activities will include the delivery of targeted campaigns to promote responsible behaviour, regular enforcement patrols, the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices and, where necessary, prosecuting those who commit environmental crime offences.

3.2 **Public Protection - Trading Standards and Environmental Health**

The Trading Standards function has been brought back within the **Public Health and Environmental Health Directorate**. There are a number of exciting developments to help protect the population of Halton from crime and harm, including an innovative approach to help prevent people becoming victims of scams and ongoing work to prevent fraud, counterfeit goods and underage sales.

Halton is an industrial town with a long **heritage of chemical industries and manufacturing**. As such, environmental health continues to be high on the agenda for the council and the local populations. **Air quality** monitoring and ensuring the safety and security of our population is a key ongoing activity within the Borough.

Environmental Protection was successful in obtaining further funding for Air Quality monitoring. We were part of Mersey travel's bid to the Department for Transport's **Clean Vehicle Technology Fund** and were successful in obtaining funding of £25,000 for a new fixed monitoring station for Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter as well as ammonia diffusion tubes. We have also been awarded £9,500 from **Defra's Air Quality Capital Grant Scheme**. This money will be used to undertake traffic modelling in Widnes, we believe that the number of vehicles accessing the town centre contributes to air pollution in this location. We are hoping that the modelling work will identify the improvements that are required in this area of Widnes to further improve air quality.

Halton Borough Council has appointed an independent consultant to carry out an **inventory of air quality data** in the Weston area of the Borough. The consultant will look at emissions from local industry, road sources and take account of domestic sources of pollution.

In July 2014 the final report of the **Elliot review** into the integrity and assurance of food supply networks was published. The purpose of the review was to consider issues which impact upon consumer confidence in the authenticity of food products. It included an examination of any systemic failures in networks and systems - including regulation - with implications for food safety and public health. The review followed the **2013 Horse Meat Crisis**.

The report recommends that a priority for food regulation must be the prevention and detection of food crime. Criminals are exploiting the high value of some food products to commit food fraud. In addition to meat products foods known to be subject to fraud include olive oil, honey, rice and alcohol including wine, spirits and champagne. In some cases the adulteration renders the food unfit for human consumption.

There will be a role for international, national and local regulators including Environmental Health and Trading Standards. A recommendation of the review is that the Food Standards Agency establishes a dedicated **Food Crime Unit** to direct local and national action. The Food Standards Agency has indicated that they will expect local authorities to have a greater focus on food authenticity and fraud.

The future challenge for the Environmental Health food team will be to balance the need to protect public health through the inspection of hygiene standards in food premises with the increased focus on food fraud and the labelling and composition of food stuffs.

To maximise the opportunities created by the return of trading standards and the transfer of health improvement team into the authority - the environmental health department will work directly with businesses and workplaces on initiatives that contribute to the boroughs key public health objectives e.g. alcohol, tobacco, underage sunbed use and pre-school nutrition.

3.3 Risk and Emergency Planning

Section still to be submitted by Corporate Directorate

4.0 FACTORS AFFECTING PRIORITY FOCUS

There are numerous factors that have been identified as having a potential impact on the delivery of services during the life of this Plan. Some of the main factors are outlined below: -

POLITICAL	SOCIAL FACTORS
Increased joint working with neighbouring Authorities	Maintaining changing attitude towards waste and increased participation in recycling, through increased customer engagement
ECONOMIC CLIMATE	TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS
Continued budgetary pressures	Technology will be used to deliver 'in-cab' communications solutions for waste collection vehicles
Increased need to work with social enterprises and the voluntary sector to meet social care requirements due to budgetary constraints	Technology will be used to improve communication and community engagement on waste matters
Increasing levels of waste diverted from landfill will reduce the Council's spend on waste disposal	Connecting Cheshire broadband project will provide significant positive impact on the Digital Agenda
Cutting Crime Together	
Police and Crime Commissioner introduced 2012	
Economic Downturn- This has affected a number of services across Environmental and Public Health, for example, pest control where residents are choosing to deal with issues themselves rather than pay the Pest Control service to deal with it. Evidence shows that economic crisis can also have implications for public health for example in terms of diet and healthy eating, mental health and depression, suicide rates and smoking.	
LEGISLATIVE	ENVIRONMENTAL
Revised EU Waste Framework Directive	Commencement of work on the Mersey Gateway – contingencies to be monitored in relation to disruptions to service. For example, refuse collection.
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013	New Cemetery space required in Widnes by 2016. A site has been identified and it is anticipated that a new cemetery can be created before burial spaces run out at the existing Widnes site
Universal Infant Free School Meals	HLF Parks for People bid, to regenerate Runcorn Hill Park, was successful and work is underway to meet programme objectives
Legislation changes to local authority enforcement powers against householders who commit waste offences	HLF Heritage bid to see Sankey Canal from Spike Island to Fiddlers Ferry Marina restored to navigation
	Affordable Warmth Strategy

NB – text in blue and underlined indicates a hyperlink to further information.

5.0 ORGANISATIONAL INITIATIVES

There are a number of initiatives that have been developed at an organisational level to ensure consistency and synergy between individual business units of the Council. As such these initiatives are relevant to the work of all Directorates of the Council and have implications for, and are supported by, the work of the individual departments that sit beneath them. Such initiatives include:

5.1 Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion

Halton Council is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity within all aspects of its service design and delivery, policy development, and employment practices. This commitment is reflected in a range of policies, strategies, and other framework documents and practices that underpin the work of the Council through its day-to-day operational activities.

The Council reviewed and refreshed its [Single Equality Scheme](#) in 2009. As a result of the introduction of the Equalities Act (2010), the scheme has recently been further reviewed and refined slightly to ensure that it remains current and fit for purpose.

The scheme sets out the Council's approach to promoting and securing equality of opportunity, valuing diversity and encouraging fairness, and creating and promoting a social environment in which people can work, learn, and live free from discrimination and victimisation in all of its forms. The Council will combat discrimination throughout the organisation and will use its position of influence in the borough to help to identify and remove discriminatory barriers and practices where they are found to exist.

The Council has developed a systematic approach to examine and address the equality implications of its existing and future policies, procedures, and practices through the use of a Community Impact Review and Assessment process.

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the authority to publish equality information annually and the progression of equality-related issues will be monitored through this process.

Work continues within the Directorate to improve the access and the signposting of members of the Black and Minority Ethnic communities to support services that:

- Advise on housing options
- Establish the skills to maintain appropriate permanent housing
- Enable service users to remain in their own homes, and avoid eviction and homelessness
- Provide access other services including health, social care, education, training and leisure services.
- Help to ensure the more vulnerable amongst the minority and hard-to-reach communities can live independently
- Help prevent minority communities from feeling socially excluded and/or isolated, and provide community development support to build engagement mechanisms
- Support Gypsies and Travellers to access services including health, social care and education.

Directorate Equalities Group strives to develop and maintain a systematic approach to ensure that equality and diversity are embedded within our Directorate and members of the group will take on board the responsibility of being Equality and Diversity Champions.

5.2 Environmental Sustainability

The Council is committed to taking a lead and setting an example in tackling climate change. The Council has developed a Carbon Management Plan that will support the organisation in managing

its carbon emissions and developing actions for realising carbon and financial savings and embedding carbon management into the authority's day-to-day business.

The Plan was reviewed and updated during 2011/12, with a revised energy emissions reduction target and it is now set at a reduction of between 5% and 10% over 2010/11 figures for a 5 year period. The main measure included in the revised plan is the Green House Gas emissions indicator, which differs from the previous carbon emissions indicator.

The GHG emissions figure for 2011/12 was 23,917 tonnes CO₂ which was a 7.3% reduction on the 2010/11 figure. This total figure breaks down as follows:-

Corporate buildings	- 7505 tonnes CO ₂ (estimated)
Schools	- 8393 tonnes CO ₂ (estimated)
Street lighting	- 6211 tonnes CO ₂ (estimated)
Vehicle fleet	- 1359 tonnes CO ₂ (estimated)
Business Miles	- 449 tonnes CO ₂ (estimated)

To improve the focus on achieving its targets the Directorate, through the Carbon Group, will develop specific plans and, where appropriate, specific reduction targets around buildings and vehicle fleet and business miles

Linked to the development of the Affordable Warmth Strategy, which aims to raise awareness of fuel poverty and build on referral mechanisms, it is also intended to improve properties in terms of energy efficiency through appropriate insulation and improved heating systems, which will contribute to the Council's commitment to tackling Climate Change issues.

Eco-friendly solar panels at the Stadium are due to generate income of £12,000 a year for the Council as well as saving up to £3,000 a year in energy bills. The Council will benefit from income from the feed in tariff from the solar panels – 32.9 p for every kWh it generates income which will increase year-on-year in line with inflation. The total energy saving will be in the region of £75,000 over 25 years.

The Stadium also continues to drive forward its commitment to enhancing energy efficiency particularly around its electrical consumption. Through raising staff awareness of how they can reduce energy consumption and the resulting impact it could have on the environment along with a number of investments in energy initiatives such as the fitting of low energy devices, Voltage Optimization System and appliances to reduce water waste, since 2006/7 the Stadium has seen a reduction in over 27% of its electrical consumption, not just having an impact on the environment but also having the effect of generating cost savings.

Open Space Services continues to develop areas of woodland for the purposes of carbon capture and in order to take areas out of intensive management that requires the burning of carbon based fuels. Through the management of twelve local nature reserves and through environmental good practice, underpinned by a partnership with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and with Mersey Forest the Division works to ensure biodiversity throughout the Borough.

The Council is committed to improving a good quality of life for the people of Halton and one of the ways this can be achieved is through allotment gardening. Being part of the allotment gardening community brings an opportunity to meet and share experiences with people from all walks of life. There are also health and social benefits which can give plot-holders a sense of well-being. Our aim is to continue to build on the good practices and positive improvements, but the biggest obstacle is the shortage of growing space. .

Halton is working with local authorities and Registered Providers in Merseyside and third sector organisation Fusion 21 to develop a fully worked up bid for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) resources to provide energy efficiency measures to vulnerable households in the sub region, following a successful expression of interest. If successful, the bid should enable new

technologies such as combined heat and power systems to be installed in selected social rented blocks and provide solid wall insulation for hard to treat properties.

5.3 Risk Management

Risk Management, which forms a key element of the strategic and performance management processes of the Council, is a business discipline that is used to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the organisation in achieving its objectives.

Risk assessments are the process by which departments identify those issues that are, or may be, likely to impede the delivery of service objectives. Such risks are categorised and rated in terms of both their probability, i.e. the extent to which they are likely to happen, and their severity i.e. the potential extent of their impact should they occur.

Following such assessments a series of risk treatment measures are identified that will mitigate against such risks having an adverse impact upon the delivery of departmental / organisational activities.

Each Directorate will maintain a Risk Register which will be reviewed and refreshed in conjunction with the annual budget setting and business planning process. Additionally the implementation of risk treatment measures will be monitored by the appropriate Strategic Director and reported through quarter 2 mid-year performance reports.

5.4 Arrangements for managing Data Quality

Good quality data provides the foundation for managing and improving services, determining and acting upon shared priorities, and accounting for performance to inspecting bodies and the local community.

In recognising this, the Council has developed a Corporate Data Quality Strategy that will provide a mechanism by which the authority can be assured that the quality of its data remains robust and fit for purpose. This strategy, which will remain subject to periodic review, identifies five key corporate objectives and establishes the key dimensions of good quality data i.e. that data is

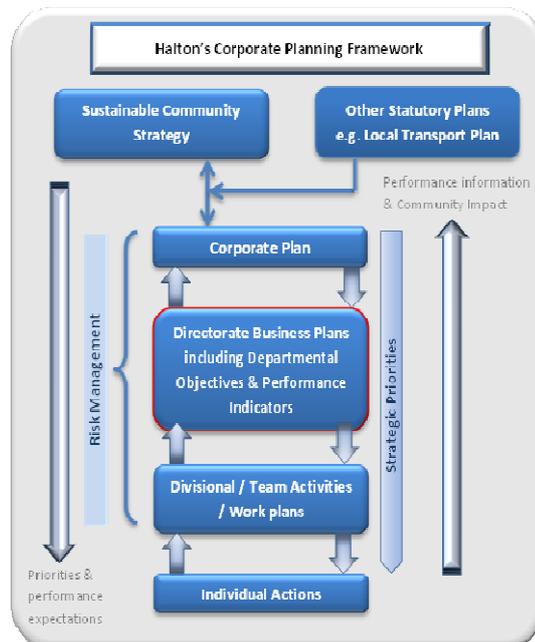
Accurate:	For its intended purpose;
Valid	By being consistently recorded and used in compliance with predetermined definitions and rules;
Reliable	By reflecting stable and consistent data collection processes;
Timely	By being made available as soon as possible after the activity or event and in line with organisational requirements;
Relevant	For the purpose intended;
Complete	In that the monitoring of incomplete, missing or invalid data is avoided as far as is possible.

6.0 BUSINESS PLANNING

Directorate Plans form an integral part of the authority's corporate planning framework, as illustrated within the diagram opposite.

This framework ensures that the Council's operational activities are complementary to the delivery of its community aspirations and legal and statutory responsibilities.

Such plans, and the Quarterly Monitoring Reports that flow from them, are an essential tool in enabling the public, Elected Members, Senior Management, and staff how well Council departments are performing and what progress is being made in relation to improving the quality of life within the borough and service provision for local people, businesses and service users.



Performance Monitoring and Reporting

It is imperative that the Council and interested members of the public can keep track of how the Council and its Departments are progressing and that mechanisms are in place to enable councillors and managers to see whether the service is performing as planned.

As a result Departmental progress will be monitored through:

- **The day to day monitoring by Strategic Directors through their regular interaction with Operational Directors;**
- **Provision of Quarterly progress reports to Corporate and Directorate Management Teams;**
- **The inclusion of Quarterly progress reports as a standard item on the agenda of all the Council's Policy and Performance Boards.**
- **Publication of Quarterly monitoring reports on the Councils intranet site.**

In demonstrating its commitment to exploiting the potential of Information and Communications Technology to improve the accessibility of its services and related information an extensive range of documentation, including this plan and its associated quarterly monitoring reports, are available via the Council's website at

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/content/councilanddemocracy/council/plansandstrategies>

Additionally information and assistance can be accessed through any of the Council's Halton Direct Link facilities (HDL) or the Council's libraries.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Service Objectives / Milestones and Performance Indicators

Appendix 2: National Policy Guidance / Drivers

Commissioning & Complex Care Services

Service Objectives/Milestones/Performance Indicators:

2015 – 2018

Departmental Service Objectives

Corporate Priority:	A Safer Halton
Key Area Of Focus:	<p>AOF 11 Everyone is able to live in an environment free from abuse, and where abuse does occur support is given to individuals and their families and action is taken against perpetrators to prevent any re-occurrence.</p> <p>AOF 12 Supporting individuals and their families to address the problems caused by drug and alcohol misuse, enabling them to become active citizens who can play a full and meaningful part in the community.</p>

Service Objective:	Responsible Officer
Service Objective:	CCC 1 – Working in partnership with statutory and non-statutory organisations, evaluate, plan, commission and redesign services to ensure that they meet the needs and improve outcomes for people with Complex Care needs
Key Milestone(s) (15/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Ensure specialist support services provided by the Sexual Assault Referral Centre to victims of a serious sexual offence continue to be fit for purpose. Mar 2016. (AOF11)</i>
Key Milestone(s) (16/17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and review all CCC 1 milestones in line with three year planning cycle. Mar 2017.
Key Milestone(s) (17/18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and review all CCC 1 milestones in line with three year planning cycle. Mar 2018.
Linked Indicators	None applicable to Safer Halton priorities

Prevention & Assessment Services

Service Objectives/Milestones/Performance Indicators:

2015 – 2018

Departmental Service Objectives

Corporate Priority:	A Safer Halton
Key Area Of Focus:	AOF 10 To improve the outcomes of vulnerable adults and children, so they feel safe and protected and when abuse does occur there are local procedures and processes in place to ensure that the abuse is reported and appropriate action taken against perpetrators and to support victims.

Service Objective: PA 1	Working in partnership with statutory and non-statutory organisations, evaluate, plan, commission and redesign services to ensure that they meet the needs and improve outcomes for vulnerable people	Responsible Officer
Key Milestone(s) (15/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement the Care Act (AOF 2,4, 10, 21) NEW (KEY) 	Operational Director (Prevention & Assessment)
Key Milestone(s) (16/17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and review all PA 1 milestones in line with three year planning cycle. Mar 2017. 	Operational Director (Prevention & Assessment)
Key Milestone(s) (17/18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor and review all PA 1 milestones in line with three year planning cycle. Mar 2018. 	Operational Director (Prevention & Assessment)
Linked Indicators	PA 2, PA 3, PA 5	

Departmental Performance Indicators

Ref ¹	Description	Halton 13/14 Actual	Halton 14/15 Target	Halton Targets		
				15/16	16/17	17/18

Service Delivery

PA 2 (SCS SH5)	Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days	87.69%	85	85%	85%	85%
PA 3	PLACEHOLDER: Outcome focussed measure on Safeguarding <i>(New Indicator)</i>	n/a	tbc	tbc	tbc	Tbc
PA 5	Percentage of existing HBC Adult Social Care staff that have received Adult Safeguarding Training, including e-learning, in the last 3-years (Previously PA6 [13/14])	59%	50%	52%	54%	56%

Public Health / Environmental Health

Service Objectives/Milestones/Performance Indicators:

2015 – 2018

Policy, Planning and Transportation / Risk & Emergency Planning

Service Objectives/Milestones/Performance Indicators:

2015 – 2018

APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL POLICY GUIDANCE/DRIVERS

Local Government	
<i>Comprehensive Spending Review</i>	With the continued Coalition Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, the Council has on-going budgetary pressures and each Directorate will need to ensure that they effectively contribute to the Authority's response to dealing with the current economic climate.
<i>Sport England Strategy 2012</i>	The 2012-17 Youth and Community Strategy for Sport England was launched in January 2012. It describes how they will invest over £1billion of National Lottery and Exchequer funding over five years into four main areas of work: National Governing Body Funding; Facilities; Local Investment; and The School Games.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 17 March 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Substance Misuse Services

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 the work of the Substance Misuse Service (Adults) working with parents and other agencies to reduce the impact of substance misuse on children.

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 There is approximately 650 individual's accessing the substance misuse service, approximately 304 have parenting responsibility. The service users with children living at home, 108 were assessed with drugs as their primary substance and 46 service users as alcohol as their primary substance.

All new clients into treatment who are identified as having contact with children at home are screened via the CART team for current or previous health and social care involvement.

3.4 Of the 154 parents with responsibility for children there is a total of 176 children within their households. Of these 176 children, 80 fall within the age range of 0-5. Consent is requested for all children in this age bracket to share information with local childrens centres in order to increase the support for parents.

Out of 176 children, 61 fit the criteria for discussion/referral/home visit with Addaction Young Peoples service. As part of this process, parents are offered information, joint home visits and referrals for support with Young Addaction.

Some individuals may refuse to engage with agencies, this is revisited during Recovery Planning sessions and CRI continue to complete Home Environment assessments whilst actively promoting other services.

3.5 CRI Halton implemented a Hidden Harm recovery co-ordinator post for Halton. The change of the role has enabled the service to work more closely with both our service users and their families and with relevant partner agencies. The outcome over the past 3 months has been significant and positive as outlined in the below case studies. At present the role is working with opiate clients who are at risk of or already involved with children's social care. This gives the service an opportunity to work with these vulnerable families and look at the different support that can be offered with the aim of reducing the overall level of need and to ensure children and young people are free from significant harm. This role enables the service to look at the hidden harm within these families and to look at identifying any additional support which may be required by the service or partner agencies. The service has implemented a Think Family post this proving to be positive for both the service and partners agencies and the families they are working with.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified. Both the Runcorn and Widnes sites can be delivered within existing budgets.

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**

None under the meaning of the Act

	ANNUAL REPORT SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2015
 <p>Cllr. Dave Thompson Chairman</p>	<p>“The safety of Halton’s residents and the continuing efforts to provide environments in which they can thrive remains a key priority for the Council as a whole. The Safer Policy and Performance Board continues to recognise and meet the challenges of the diverse needs of our communities, not least in their geographic structure, in a proactive and forward-thinking way.</p> <p>As Chair of this Board for the past year I feel we have achieved a wide remit of activity and considered some new areas of community safety activity not previously recognised by the Board. This includes recognising the role played in a Safer Halton by organisations like the RSPCA and RNLI. My Board colleagues and contributing officers have brought up stimulating issues and topics for consideration and I would like to thank them for their contributions and scrutiny.</p> <p>My appreciation is offered to Chris Patino, Mike Andrews, Emma Sutton-Thompson, Nicola Hallmark, Natalie Chase-Caffyn, Janet Guy, Elspeth Anwar, Simon Bell, John Williams, Jimmy Unsworth, Paul Wright and Lynn Derbyshire for their responsive and thorough involvement in the coverage of issues discussed.”</p> <p>Councillor Dave Thompson Chairman, Safer Policy and Performance Board</p>
	MEMBERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES
	<p>During 2014/15 the Board comprised 11 elected members: Councillors Thompson, Edge, Gerard, Gilligan, Hill, M. Lloyd-Jones, Nolan, Ratcliffe, Sinnott and Zygadlo. My particular thanks go to Cllr Lea who is Vice Chair.</p> <p>The Board is responsible for scrutinising performance and formulating policy in relation to Community Safety, Domestic Abuse, Safeguarding Adults, Environmental Health and Safer Halton Partnership. The Board is also represented on the Cheshire Police & Crime Panel.</p> <p>Topic Groups for 14/15:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic Abuse • Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (Legal Highs)

	REVIEW OF THE YEAR
	<p>The full Board met 5 times during the year.</p> <p>The main initiatives of the Board's work for 2014/15 are as follows:</p>
	Overview and Scrutiny
	<p>A working group was formulated with the specific remit of scrutinising the extent of domestic abuse as an issue in Halton. The group examined the multi-agency approach to tackling domestic abuse and explored additional opportunities to raise awareness of the issue. The group endorsed the Halton Domestic Violence Forum (HDAF) Strategy and in addition they worked with Community Safety to adopt White Ribbon Status and roll out a series of profile-raising promotions.</p> <p>In order to reinvigorate focus for the Board the incumbent Chair met with Officers to take a pre-emptive look at agenda items. It was agreed that future meetings should involve input from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Police and Crime Commissioner (Annually); • The Ambulance Service (Annually); • Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (Annually); • The RSPCA; and • The RNLI. <p>Consultation with Officers fed into the Business Planning process and set the following themes as areas for concentration for 15/16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol abuse • Domestic abuse • Anti-Social Behaviour – new tools and power • Consumer Protection <p>As well as core activity for Council services the themes will shape the focus of Board enquiries.</p>
	COMMUNITY SAFETY
	<p>Throughout the year the Board has received presentations related to initiatives which impact on both the immediate and longer-term needs of the community in relation to safety.</p> <p>The change in Council remit to include Public Health has provided</p>

some significant focus on crucial agendas which affect both the health and the safety of Halton residents.

Over the course of the municipal year the Board has received updates and feed-in on the issue of alcohol harm across the Borough. The Board were advised that **Alcohol Harm Reduction** is a priority of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board and that alcohol issues impacted substantially on other areas considered under the Safer remit, including influence on domestic violence, anti-social behaviour and crime. The Board heard reports on activity aimed at alleviating alcohol harm, including a 'social norms' programme with young people, the development of a 'dry bar' project, and proposals to conduct a 'community conversation' to identify the influences on residents' relationship with alcohol.

It was reported that Halton had been awarded the status of **Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA)**. This was a national campaign which had asked for pilot areas to self-nominate and receive support in addressing the harm from alcohol across three areas – health, the night time economy and crime and anti-social behaviour. The Board were updated throughout the year on progress against the project plan.

The **Halton Alcohol Strategy** was considered by the Board. This set out actions aimed at rebalancing the relationship that Halton has with alcohol. It was reported that alcohol problems cut across the entire population of Halton and affected local residents of all ages. For this reason, the strategy is to take a 'life course' approach to the reduction of alcohol harm. The Board were advised that the Strategy builds upon the effective work already undertaken by the Authority and its partners. The Strategy was noted and endorsed.

The multi-agency **Halton Suicide Prevention Strategy** was presented to the Board. Suicide prevention is an important aspect of community safety. Locally, the Silver Jubilee Bridge is renowned as a suicide hot-spot. The Board heard that responding to suicide threats and attempts places a considerable burden on the time and resources of partners locally, including the police. The Strategy is contextualised with background information which sets out the policy framework in which it has been developed, considers the factors that influence why a person takes their own life, reviews the evidence on suicide prevention, outlines what is known about suicide in Halton and sets out actions to reduce the risk of suicide occurrences. The plans will be monitored by the Halton Suicide Prevention Partnership and outcomes are to be reported back to relevant bodies including the Safer Halton Partnership as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Commissioned services for substance misuse (drugs and/or

alcohol) came under review and an update was brought to the Members on the plans to remodel provision. It was reported that the **Halton Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service**, delivered by Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI), is to be altered to establish services across two new venues. The review of the Widnes service site was forced by a lease expiry. A new location has been sourced and is envisaged as giving greater scope for service-user led activity. A new Runcorn site secures parity for the provision of services across the Borough. Outreach activity will continue to be developed alongside venue-based services.

The Board received a presentation on the emergence of **Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)**, known as 'legal highs', and related issues. Members were informed of the national context and the scale and impact of the issue. Enlightening details were given around the design and sale of the substances and the evasion techniques employed to escape prosecution. The Board agreed that the matter presented the potential for substantial public interest and impacted on the safety of the community.

Updates were presented to the Board on the subject of **Anti-Social Behaviour**. In particular, the emergence of issues related to a small peer group in the Ditton area of Widnes raised concerns and actions involving multi-agency operations and interventions were reflected upon. The Board were informed of wider activity aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour including the establishment of injunctions; successful evictions of problematic residents; parental responsibility instructions being issued along with physical removals of young people to places of safety; victim support interventions; and collaborations with other agencies such as the Alcohol Harm Reduction Team. Reductions in anti-social behaviour were attributed to the tactics employed and agencies involved were commended for their tenacity.

Under the **Crime and Policing Act 2014** new tools and powers came into statute covering Anti-Social Behaviour and an organisation's ability to act on it. The Board were informed of the developments and notified that one of the purposes of the Act was to ensure that responses to anti-social behaviour are victim-focussed. The Board were advised that reforms (under Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014) gave a civil power to apply an injunction to deal with anti-social individuals. The injunction could offer fast and effective protection for victims and communities and sets clear standards of behaviour for perpetrators, stopping the person's behaviour from escalating. In addition, it was reported that a number of agencies could apply for the injunction to ensure that the body best placed to lead on a specific case could do so.

Community Safety is a primary concern for the Safer Board and

updates were also heard on scheme and resources aimed at alleviating community tensions and promoting safe and prosperous neighbourhoods. These included: **The Navigation Scheme**, which focussed on re-offending; the **Inspiring Families** programme, working with vulnerable families to consider issues of worklessness, school attendance and domestic violence; **ArcAngel** branding and the **Pub Watch** scheme to support safe practices of licenced premises.

One specific period of concern around public safety was highlighted in a report to the Board. The so-called '**Mischief Night**', the night before Halloween, but including the period right up to bonfire night was considered. The Board heard plans to tackle anti-social behaviour through co-ordinator partnership approaches covering the historical duration of incidence. A follow-up report drew attention to the success of the campaign and praised the efforts of those agencies involved. A reduction in the incidence of anti-social behaviour was evidenced and the proactive preventative approach in respect of bonfires saw positive outcomes.

Representatives from the RNLi and Cheshire Fire and Rescue delivered informative presentations to the Board on their respective work areas.

With a community that spans either side of the Mersey estuary it was felt that the **RNLi** could provide valuable insight into waterside safety issues. A presentation was heard around the RNLis remit to cover the Borough's water boundaries and rescues made therein. It was reported that Halton is covered by the New Brighton station and that an average of 60 incidents a year were dealt with from this base. Within the previous year nine incidents had been in Halton, seven of which had involved issues with the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The Board supported the work being undertaken by the RNLi and agreed that the profile of the charity could be raise across the Borough, including fund raising work.

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Safety Centre delivered a report to the Board on the development of their new Safety Education Centre in Warrington. The Centre's catchment audience includes those in the Borough of Halton. The Board were informed of the innovative design of the Centre, as a purpose-build facility, which will include realistic learning zones that simulate the environments in which injury or harm are most likely to occur. Visitors will be encouraged to experience a range of hazards in order to learn how to stay safe, well and be independent. The interactive education base would benefit the residents of Halton; in particular school visits would be arranged. The Centre has received grant capital funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government and intends to run as a charitable enterprise.

	DOMESTIC ABUSE
	<p>Within update presentations the Board were advised on new powers to issue Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO). These new enforcement laws give the police the power to remove the perpetrator from residence for a period of time. The Notice and Orders give greater scope for infrastructure support to be put in place for the victims during the intervening period.</p> <p>The Board were informed of a public consultation (by the Home Office) on proposals to strengthen the law on domestic abuse to offer better protection to victims. In particular it was noted that views were sought on whether there should be a specific offence in relation to domestic abuse and whether that should include wording on patterns of coercive and controlling behaviours. The Board were apprised of arguments for and against making a specific domestic abuse offence and concluded to feedback comments through Community Safety.</p>
	SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
	<p>Safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable adults across Halton remains a priority for Authority and its business. Details of the Council performance in relation to Safeguarding were reported back to the Board regularly. Performance measures were consistently met.</p> <p>The Board were updated on the impact of Operational Emblem, a joint initiative between Cheshire Police the 5 Boroughs Partnership, aimed at providing 'Street Triage' in situations requiring immediate response and interventions from Mental Health Services. The project has seen a significant reduction of detentions under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Figures were presented to show substantial savings on arrests and detentions of those exhibiting the appearances of acute mental health disorders. The Board heard that the 'Street Triage' model involved police working alongside psychiatric nursing staff and learnt 'through direct liaison subjects have not only been assessed far quicker but have been taken to the most appropriate site' for intervention. The Board were informed that the scheme was to be extended and widened through support from the Police and Crime Commissioner and Halton and Warrington Clinical Commissioning Groups. The Board agreed to continue to support Operational Emblem and Members are justifiably proud that this initiative began in Halton. Cheshire Police are now committed to seeing it rolled out across the County</p>
	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

	<p>The Board were informed of activity involving Environmental Health, in particular joint interventions with Licensing where intelligence on licenced premises serving food was shared across the two services.</p>
	<p>SAFER HALTON PARTNERSHIP</p>
	<p>Feed-in from the Safer Halton Partnership continues to be received, with minutes and reports being brought to the attention of the Board. As Chair I have attended all meetings and also update the Partnership specifically on the Cheshire Police & Crime Panel. This joined-up approach ensures a co-ordination of efforts and encourages collaborative working. For example, concerns about Novel/New Psychoactive Substances first emerged with the Partnership but have since been led by a Topic Group of the Safer PPB.</p> <p>The Blue Lamp Reports from Widnes and Runcorn provided valuable insight into community policing and we now share these with other Members to raise wider awareness.</p> <p>The Board received a progress update on targets contained in the Sustainable Communities Strategy for Halton (SCS). The SCS was considered as an essential approach for the Council and its partners to set out an evidence-based framework through which actions and shared performance targets can be developed and communicated. The Strategy replaces the performance measures under the Local Area Agreement (LAA) which was removed by the Coalition Government in 2010.</p>
	<p>CHESHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL</p>
	<p>The Chair & Vice Chair of Safer PPB are the Council's nominated lead representatives on the Cheshire Police & Crime Panel. The Panel forms a statutory scrutiny role of the undertakings and decisions made by the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC). There has been active scrutiny of the PCC over the last year and the Chair and Vice Chair have contributed to the review of the Cheshire Police & Crime Plan 2015/16 and the statutory setting of the Police precept.</p>
	<p>Members of the Public are welcome at the meetings of the Board. If you would like to know where and when meetings are to be held or if you would like any more information about the Board and its work, please contact Chris Patino (0151 5118556) or email at chris.patino@halton.gov.uk</p>