

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 19 January 2016 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

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

*Please contact Gill Ferguson on 0151 511 8059 or
gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk for further information .*

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 15 March 2016

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

Part I

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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: 19 January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Community 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: 19 January 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Operation Treacle – Bonfire Initiative

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on the annual work of the Safer Halton Partnership during the period of Halloween and Bonfire Night.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the presentation be received and noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The overall aim with regard to the multi agency action plans is to reduce the impact of these events on the residents of Halton. Each of the plans for each night is different as there are individual issues that need to be addressed from a Widnes and Runcorn perspective.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

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

6.5 Environment and Regeneration

None

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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: 19 January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Integrated Offender Management Scheme (Navigate)

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on the work of the Integrated Offender Management Team.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the presentation be received and noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Government's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Policy Statement was issued in June 2009. This set out 5 Key Principles which should underpin local IOM arrangements. These are:-

- All partners tackling offenders together
- Delivering a local response to local problems
- Offenders facing their responsibilities or facing the consequences
- Making better use of existing programmes and governance
- All offenders at high risk of causing serious harm and/or reoffending are 'in scope'

IOM is an overarching framework for bringing together agencies in local areas to prioritise interventions with offenders who cause crime in their locality. The best IOM schemes will be those that are directly responsive to the crime and offending problems of the local area, and that effectively harness local agencies to work together to tackle the risk factors.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

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

6.5 Environment and Regeneration

None

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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 & Performance Board
DATE:	19 January 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Scrutiny Review – Draft Final Report - Novel Psychoactive Substances
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To introduce the findings of the scrutiny group formed to review the current and emerging issues around the use of Novel Psychoactive Substances, also known as ‘legal highs’, across the Borough and on a wider, national, scale.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The report is approved and the findings are noted, and;
- ii) The Board agree to monitor issues around the topic over the course of the municipal calendar.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Review (attached as Appendix 1) was commissioned by the Safer Policy and Performance Board as a result of concerns around the apparent and emergent increase in focus on Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS). The Chair of the Safer Board established a working group to examine and evaluate the issue in order to gain an indication of what action might be taken to prevent and mitigate the use of such substances.
- 3.2 A scrutiny review working group was established with four Members from the Board – reducing to three following the results of the May election. The lead officer for the group was the Operational Director for Community and Environment, and officers from a breadth of services fed into the process.
- 3.3 The Group gained an overview of current trends; examined options for enforcement of sanctions; considered the particular impacts on and culture of use amongst young people, and how to tackle this; and looked at activity, across the borough and on the national agenda, to approach the issue.

3.4 The scrutiny review was conducted through a series of meetings, where evidence was presented and analysed. The review took place between April 2015 and September 2015.

3.5 Review methodology involved:

- Monthly meetings
- Briefings and verbal reports
- Provision of data/statistic
- Site visit - CRI

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The subject of NPSs has been incorporated into the Statement of Licencing Policy (as set out in the report).

4.2 No other policy implications have been identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The review impacts on the welfare and wellbeing of young people across Halton, and identified an emergent sub-culture which needs to be monitored.

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

N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Scrutiny Review supports the Council's priorities around health and the long-term approach to substances misuse and the related impacts of this on the community.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The Council's focus on safety is upheld by the formation of the Scrutiny Group and the risk factors associated with NPS usage have been examined as part of the review.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

N/A

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The approaches being taken to tackling the use of NPSs and related substances have been reviewed. While the Scrutiny Group is satisfied that wide-ranging activity and operations are taking place there is a need to remain responsive to changes in trends and to monitor incidents and shifts in patterns and cultures of the use of such substances.

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

To be confirmed.



*Scrutiny Review of
Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPSs) and 'Legal Highs'*

Report
September 2015

CONTENTS

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report, as outlined in the initial topic brief (at *Annex 1*) is to:

- Analyse the extent of the issues (with NPSs/'legal highs') across Halton, in comparison to the rest of the UK, and assess the potential risks posed.
- Review Halton Borough Council's position in discouraging use of NPSs and recommend action to deter use.
- Identify awareness raising activity and explore the resources available to achieve required outcomes.

2.0 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

This report is structured with the introduction, a brief summary of the methodology followed by evidence, analysis with findings/conclusions and recommendations. The annexes include the topic brief, methodology detail, documents considered by the group, and Action Plan.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 Reason the report was commissioned

During the January 2015 Policy and Performance Board Members were presented with a report commissioned by the Strategic Director, Communities, which provided an overview of Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs) also known as 'Legal Highs'. Within discussion on the subject, a particular concern, around evidence of use of canisters of nitrous oxide, was communicated. The Chair felt that sufficient interest and unease was generated to reflect a need to further investigate the issue and consider the Council's position in relation to tackling usage of NPSs/'legal highs'.

3.2 Policy and Performance Boards

This report was commissioned as a scrutiny working group for the Safer Policy and Performance Board.

3.3 Membership of the Topic Team

Membership of the Topic Team included:

Members	Officers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dave Thompson • Cllr Geoff Zygadlo • Cllr Martha Lloyd-Jones • Cllr Margaret Ratcliffe (Prior to the May election) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Patino – Divisional Manager, Communities and Environment • John Williams – Commissioning Manager, Communities • Mike Andrews – Community Safety Co-ordinator • Simon Bell – Commissioning Manager, Public Health • Elspeth Anwar – Public Health Registrar • Nicola Hallmark – Principal Policy Officer, Communities • Tracey Coffey – OD, Children and Family Services

4.0 Methodology Summary

This scrutiny review was conducted through a number of means:

- Monthly meetings of the scrutiny review topic group;
- Verbal report and presentations by various key members of staff (detail of the presentations can be found in *Annex 2*);
- Provision of information;
- Field visit to CRI Widnes, Ashton Dane.

5.0 Evidence (summary of evidence gathered) and Analysis with findings/conclusions

5.1 Usage and prevalence

Across the meetings information and data was conveyed and discussed, highlighting some pivotal issues:

- Usage presents a number of dangers. Firstly, in relation to lack of understanding of how to use, e.g. on-set time, resulting in increased possibility of overdose. Also, there are inherent dangers of usage due to their uncontrolled and altered chemical make-up – manufacturers label products as ‘not for human consumption’ to avoid prosecution, and change substance

composition to evade detection and stay ahead of legislative changes.

- Anecdotal evidence was presented to indicate a combined usage, with illegal substances, often to enhance or prolong the effects of the 'high'.
- 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
- The topic was presented as an evolving issue. Sixty eight deaths across the UK were attributed to the substances in discussion during 2014, however it was suggested that no empirical evidence exists of long-term use of NPSs/'legal highs'.
- Work undertaken to raise awareness across Environment and Open Spaces Services had resulted of the increased recognition of evidence of the use of nitrous oxide (in the form of discarded canisters). Reports coming back indicate use of this substance represents a particular cultural trend for Halton. The Topic Group heard that this is a readily available substance, with legitimate uses in the catering industry. The canisters can be bought cheaply over the internet. A potential fatal dosage can be contained in one single canister (8g).
- A supply chain is difficult to tackle in Halton as there are no 'head shops'¹, like in some of the surrounding cities. Internet purchases of NPSs/'legal highs' are not possible to monitor or control from a local perspective.

Conclusion:

It is agreed that the issue is complex and multi-faceted, with no single or short-term resolve being apparent. A risk appraisal approach is to be considered, based on intelligence available at any one time.

It was agreed that Halton Borough Council should be seen to lead the way with local decisions, and should consider an immediate ban of NPSs/legal highs on Council premises.

Recommendations:

- (i) *To take immediate action to ban the possession and use of NPSs across all Halton Borough Council premises. (Annex 4 - Report taken to Safer Policy and Performance Board in June, resulting in*

¹ A head shop is a retail outlet specializing in paraphernalia used for consumption of cannabis, tobacco, legal highs, legal party powders and New Age herb, amongst other items.

unanimous agreement to enforce a ban across all Council premises. Report to be taken to Executive Board for ratification.)

(ii) To monitor trends, over time, and to continue with multi-agency approaches to awareness raising, reporting and challenging. The Board shall remain open to further enforcement or education information being brought to their attention; for their decision-making input.

5.2 Enforcement options

At the start of the scrutiny review City of Lincoln Council had recently made a judgement to forbid the consumption of intoxicating substances in the city centre. Soon after, a spate of similar responses followed from Authorities around the country.

Mike Andrews, Community Safety, gave a comprehensive overview of the tools and powers that could be utilised to prohibit both the sale and uses of NPSs. Detail of papers shared are contained within Annex 3. Some of the existing legislation is reliant on a 'burden on proof' which involves time-consuming costly testing of substances. The advent of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 has brought about new opportunities and enforcement options. The City of Lincoln standpoint used the new Public Space Protection Order, and discussion took place around additional options such as the Community Protection Orders and premises closure notices.

It was fed in to the Scrutiny Group that Trading Standards are monitoring retailers and have conducted site visits to raise awareness of misuse of substances, in particular the nitrous oxide canisters. Retailers were receptive to conducting age challenges in relation to sales of potentially harmful substances, and work continues across the borough to ensure a flow of intelligence.

Conclusion:

No particular requirement to use tools and powers at present within Halton due to the absence of 'head shops' and any direct link between NPS and anti-social behaviours.

Work is already undertaken to monitor sales of potentially harmful substances and paraphernalia which could be used in the abuse of substances and NPSs.

Recommendations:

- (i) *Re-visit tools and powers as needed.*
- (ii) *Endorse the activity being undertaken, across the Authority, to monitor changes in activity and raise awareness of potential for harm.*

5.3 Schools and Young People

A key theme which was raised throughout the review was a requirement to safeguard young people within the community.

Debate was held around the need to raise awareness of NPSs and related-substances and how best to approach this. Consideration was given to the need strike a balance between raising awareness and introduction of the concept.

The group heard that Public Health England has taken an approach which looks at supporting young peoples' resilience in terms of; where access to substances is present, safe use is advocated. Public information campaigns are being aimed at eliminating risk factors, for example, looking at substance dosages and onset times for the effects of individual substances.

On taking the decision to ban NPSs across Authority premises debate was held around the position of Halton schools. It was concluded that Members (while some additionally stand as Governors in some schools and may have influence within those roles), have no direct jurisdiction to enforce ban across schools.

Work undertaken through the Community Safety Schools Liaison role is already taking forward this agenda within education settings. Work underway involves awareness raising with schools' professionals – teaching and auxiliary staff.

John Bucknall, from the Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS), fed-in on the multi-agency interventions taking place to tackle the issue of substance misuse, including activity at the CRMZ (youth hub) and the work of the street-based teams. Training taking place through the IYSS service has had a good response, with engagement from a wide range of professionals working with young people.

Tracey Coffey, proposed a particular need to understand the requirements of vulnerable young people and the propensity for greater risk taking behaviours and/or poor decision-making. She reassured the Scrutiny Group that 'Child Protection Plans' implemented involved work with such behaviours.

Conclusion:

The Scrutiny Group were satisfied that a multi-agency approach across Council teams and services, schools, commissioned services (CRI and Young Addaction) and wider authorities (Police and Probation) was effective and proactive in approaches to the growing concerns around NPSs and their use across the youth demographic.

Recommendations:

- (i) Members to, periodically, review activity, via presentations on the work being undertaken, at Policy and Performance Board meetings.*

5.4 Activity and action across the wider community and region

During July the Scrutiny Group made a site visit for CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives), the Council's commissioned service for adult substance misuse. During the visit the attendees were impressed with the range and scope of activity being undertaken with both service-users and their wider support networks, as well as with the public and community as a whole.

Activities and initiatives learnt about during the visit included:

- Needle exchange
- Hep-B vaccination programme
- Health checks
- Sports activities
- Social clubs and wider wellbeing initiatives
- Recovery education programmes
- Training
- Carers support
- Website development – education messages and awareness raising campaigns
- Plans to develop a 'dry' bar – Halton Brew

CRI reinforced the standpoint of the Group that the issue is not straightforward and is still evolving. Service uptake and engagement, to date, for use of NPSs alone (and not in conjunction with other substances), is low. Further anecdotal indicators point towards a more complex picture in relation to NPSs and related substances, known as ‘legal highs’.

Over the course of the Review the use of NPSs was repeatedly discussed in the context of Halton’s Night-time Economy. The Group were assured to hear that licenced premises were on-board with a lack of tolerance to possession and use of NPSs and related substances. Mike Andrews fed back that Halton’s Pubwatch Scheme² members were open to awareness training, and that some premises had already situated visible messages within their venues around the dangers of NPS use.

More recently an amendment within the reviewed Statement of Licencing Policy (SOLP) has incorporated a commitment to the management of NPSs by licensed premises. This has been initiated through work in conjunction with the Council Regulatory Committee and licensing team³.

The extract reads:

Drugs

The Council recognises that the supply and use of illegal drugs by individuals is not relevant to all licensed premises but it is recognised that conditions may need to be attached to the licences for certain venues if representations are received. The aim will be to endeavour to reduce the availability, sale, and consumption of illegal drugs and to create a safer environment for those who may have taken them. Any conditions will take into account the relevant guidance and advice from appropriate bodies.

The Council expects licensees of all venues to take all reasonable steps to:

- *Prevent the entry of drugs into licensed premises*
- *Prevent drugs changing hands within the premises*
- *Understand the signs of drug misuse in people so that practical steps can be taken to deal with any instances that occur*
- *Have appropriately trained staff to deal with drug related incidents.*

² Halton Pubwatch is a voluntary, licensee-led organisation with the aim of assuring a safe drinking environment for the local Night-time Economy. Pubwatch forums currently run in both Runcorn and Widnes.

³ The Licensing Act 2003 requires Licensing Authorities, in this case Halton Borough Council, to provide a Statement of Licensing Policy to detail the general principles that the Council will take into account when making its licensing decisions.

The Council expects licensees to permit the access and use of drug dogs within the public and staff areas of the premises upon request of the Council and/or police involved in such an initiative.

The increasing prominence and dangers that can occur from Novel (New) Psychotic Substances (Legal Highs) is recognised and the Council would encourage all venues to include suitable steps within their Drugs Policy to deal with legal highs. The Council will consider whether it would be appropriate to impose a condition in order to promote one or more of the statutory licensing objectives where there is evidence to do so.

The updated SOLP will come into effect from January 2016.

As part of the June meeting Mike Andrews communicated a cross-regional working-group response, involving a number of relevant agencies, to an incident in early June. The incident involved four people being hospitalised following the use of an NPS (Vertex), including a 16-year-old girl from Runcorn. The Scrutiny Group were confident that a responsive and appropriate approach was being taken.

The Scrutiny Group were assured by recurrent messages around increased awareness and monitoring of issues resulting from NPS use. Vigilance of the issue is already embedded into activity taking place across the borough to counter wider substance misuse. An example cited was Operation Stay Safe, an outreach programme to safeguard the welfare of young people who are under the influence of one or more substances.

A particular successful piece of work remarked upon within the scrutiny review was the continued multi-agency input into the safety and welfare of those attending the annual Creamfields festival in Daresbury. A zero-tolerance to illicit substances and NPSs has been well-managed and the recent event (26, 27, 28 August 2015) passed with few problems. The dance culture is synonymous with drug use, however only a small number of arrests (34) were made for possession of suspected substances intended for supply. The Scrutiny Group praised the cross-organisational approach taken to the event.

Conclusion

Across the board, it was found that a well-co-ordinated and attentive approach is being taken to tackling the issue of substance misuse, and in particular the emerging concern over NPSs.

Recommendations

- (ii) That Members' endorse the wide-ranging activity, as well as the cross-regional and multi-agency initiatives, to tackle the supply and use of NPSs.*

5.5 National agenda

Since the start of the Scrutiny Review a broader, national picture has started to emerge in response to concerns over NPSs. The current Government are working to take forward the Psychoactive Substances Bill, which will be watched closely within Halton to ensure the local need is met.

It was apparent that there are a number of strands for concern which need to be challenged on a legislative footing. Discussion, during the meetings, took place around the ambiguities utilised the advertising of potentially harmful substance. It was found that contradictions with labelling and wording (such as the use of 'not for human consumption') are consistently used as caveats to avoid prosecution.

A keen interest was taken in the media portrayal of NPSs and related substances, and the use of the term 'legal high'. It was felt that the use of the word 'legal' legitimised practises.

Conclusion

Since the start of the scrutiny review a wider national agenda has emerged which will be observed.

The issues faced by Halton are felt to be managed at present, based on balancing current needs against intelligence and the known extent of the issue.

Recommendations

- (i) Monitor, and feed-in to, national agendas as required.*
- (ii) Prohibit the use of language that legitimises and normalises substance misuse in Council communications.*

6.0 Overall Conclusion

The Scrutiny Review has been both educative and informative. Members have gained an extensive overview of provision and services aimed at the tackling substance misuse issues, anti-social behaviour, and in particular the growing concerns around access to and use of NPSs.

Members have taken a clear standpoint on the issue of NPSs and support a fundamental need to oppose them.

While particular trends and an emerging culture has been identified Members were assured that a wide range of exemplary work was being undertaken to recognise, prevent and manage the situation as it evolves.

The Safer Board are unanimous in their decision to ban NPSs across Halton Borough Council premises and the report outlining the proposal will be taken to Executive Board directly.

The Scrutiny Group have been successful in influencing a focus on this issue within the services already active. No further actions, at this time, are felt necessary due to the plentiful and excellent work being achieved. As such, no supplementary action plan needs to be agreed, however are steadfast in their resolve to remain conversant with the issue and take further action should the need arise.

Topic Title: Respond and recommend action to the emerging issue of the increasing use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Officer Lead: Chris Patino

Planned start date: March 2015

Target PPB Meeting: November 2015

Topic Description and scope:

- Analyse the extent of the issues across Halton, in comparison to the rest of the UK, and assess the potential risks posed
- Review Halton's position in discouraging use of NPSs and recommend action to deter use
- Identify awareness raising activity and explore the resources available to achieve required outcomes

Why this topic was chosen:

- The emergence of increased use of NPSs
- The need to understand the complexity of the issue
- The National agenda around NPS is being escalated

Key outputs and outcomes sought:

- Make practical recommendations across Council, partners and key stakeholder services to prevent the tolerance of use of NPSs
- Raise awareness and recognition, across the borough, of the use and potential harm of use of NPSs

Which of Halton's 5 strategic priorities this topic addresses and the key objectives and improvement targets it will help to achieve:

- Safer
- Health and wellbeing
- Opportunity to fulfil potential

Financial issues

The identification of awareness raising activity may require additional resource and consideration needs to be made as to how this can be achieved.

Nature of expected/desired PPB input:

Member-led scrutiny review by Cllr Thompson and up to three Members,

together with Officer input: Nicola Hallmark (Principal Policy Officer), Elspeth Anwar (Public Health), John Williams (Commissioning Manager), Mike Andrews (Community Safety).

The scrutiny review will identify other key partners during the first meeting.

Preferred mode of operation:

Monthly two-hour meetings with a completed action plan by November 2015 for Executive Board approval in January 2016.

Site visits – To include Young Addaction and CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives)

Agreed and signed by:

PPB chair

Officer

METHODOLOGY DETAIL**a) Presentations**

The following officers gave presentations as part of this scrutiny review:

Name of officer	Title of Presentation	Meeting Date
Mike Andrews, Community Safety Co-ordinator	Enforcement Options	April 2015
John Bucknall, Commissioning Manager, Integrated Youth Support Service	NPSs and Young People	June 2015
Deana Perchard, Principal Trading Standards Officer	Trading Standards, and the sale of NPSs	June 2015
Charlotte Roberts, CRI	CRI Services at Ashton Dane – site visit	July 2015

Documents Considered including Best Practice within the review

The Drugs Wheel
Article: Legal highs banned from city in UK first
Local Drug Early Warning System
New psychoactive substances – A toolkit for substance misuse commissioners
A Councillors' Guide to tackling New Psychoactive Substances
New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) – Resource pack for informal educators and practitioners
Article: Call to halt legal highs ban based on 'flawed' Irish system
Article: Two new 'legal highs' to be banned under temporary order

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 16 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

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

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES (NPS)

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

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

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

- 3.5 Evidence of potential harms is emerging, with indications that the health implications of NPS can be just as serious as illicit drugs and can cause a range of physical and psychological symptoms.
- 3.6 The number of NPS available is constantly changing and growing. A record number of 81 substances were identified for the first time in Europe in 2013 - an increase on previous years. This means the number of identified NPS now exceeds the total number of psychoactive substances currently controlled by the international drug conventions. Whilst there has been a general increase in the number of novel NPS detected, it is important to note that the vast majority are permutations of groups of similar substances and many have not yet been identified in the UK.

4.0 AVAILABILITY OF NOVEL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE

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

5.0 DEATHS

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

6.0 NATIONAL RESPONSE

- 6.1 The UK Government recognised the emerging threat and challenges of Novel Psychoactive Substances. National programmes have included early warning systems, banning of over 500 new drugs, and advice to local authorities with a clear prevention agenda to improve health outcomes.
- 6.2 The Government continues to clamp down on the trade in legal highs, with the development of a general ban on supply across the UK, this policy would provide an opportunity to remove Novel Psychoactive Substances from high street stores and other trading establishments or venues and increase the powers for law enforcement agencies to tackle the trading of Novel Psychoactive Substances.
- 6.3 In February 2015 Lincolnshire City Council used the Public Space Protection Order to ban individuals taking (using) intoxicating substances (alcohol and NPS) within the city centre region. Other Local Authorities have used existing powers to enforce closure of head shops or the use of legal highs.

7.0 LOCAL RESPONSE

- 7.1 Legal highs are an emerging issue for Halton. There has been an increase in the use of small canisters of national Novel Psychoactive Substances within the Halton Stadium, local parks and other public areas.
- 7.2 Council and Police Officers have provided basic information to raise awareness about the harm and risks associated with Legal Highs within the Borough with focus on local businesses (shops, pubs and clubs).
- 7.3 The Halton Substance Misuse Provider CRI (Crime Reduction Initiatives) CRI conducted workshop on the dangers of Legal Highs lead by CRI's national Novel Psychoactive Substances lead. The workshop was attended by CRI Staff, YMCA, Cheshire Police and Young Addaction and was successful in educating and refreshing knowledge on this subject matter A number of external stake holder services including local hostels and young person's substance misuse services were invited to attend sessions.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LOCAL RESPONSE TO NPS

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

9.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None identified

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None identified

11.0 *IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES*

11.1 *Children & Young People in Halton*

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

11.2 *Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton*

None identified.

11.3 *A Healthy Halton*

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

11.4 *A Safer Halton*

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

11.5 *Environment and Regeneration*

None identified

12.0 *RISK ANALYSIS*

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

13.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

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

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

13.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 19 January 2016

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Emergency Planning

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Chair of Policy Performance Board (PPB) has requested a report on the work undertaken by Risk & Emergency Planning.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Risk and Emergency Planning sits under the Community & Resources Directorate and is managed by Stephen Rimmer who is the Divisional Manager with responsibility for the areas of:

- Traffic
- Risk & Emergency Planning,
- Health & Safety.

3.2 The over-arching risk factors for Health & Safety are operationally managed by a Principal Health and Safety Advisor, and a Health & Safety Adviser.

3.3 Health & Safety are a completely separate entity and generally do not cross over in real terms with Emergency Planning. There are however some areas that crossover the specialisms such as security, terrorism and public safety issues including event safety. Health & Safety is reported to the Corporate Policy & Performance Board each year.

3.4 Structure of Emergency Planning

Emergency Planning comprises:

Principal Emergency Planning Officer; and
Two Emergency Planning Officers

3.5 **Main Function of Emergency Planning:**

To implement the Civil Contingencies Act, relevant Statutory Regulations and advise the Council on all matters relating to emergency planning in order to meet the strategic objectives of the Council.

3.6 **Key Duties & Responsibilities of the Team:**

1. To assist with the preparation, review and exercising of the Council's contingency plans for the **provision of services during and following a Major Incident or Major Incident Standby** and/or emergencies, including arranging and conducting de-briefs following incidents.
2. To assist with the **preparation, review and exercising** of the Council's plans required by statutory legislation (e.g. **Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations, Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP)**) and other plans as required.
3. To liaise with External Organisations (Category 1 & 2 Responders) including emergency services, Health & Safety Executive (HSE), voluntary organisations, etc.), Members, and other Council departments on functions covered by the Emergency Planning Team.
4. To assist with updating the Corporate and Directorate **Business Continuity** Plans, and where appropriate including testing and exercising.
5. To **arrange and present seminars and exercises** for the Council and other relevant organisations to improve and refine the Council's response to incidents.
6. To ensure records of **emergency planning training and exercises**, involving the Council are maintained.
7. To **provide specialist technical advice to the Council and other Council Departments**, participating in senior level multi-discipline officer working groups, both internal and external.
8. To **promote Business Continuity to local businesses**
9. To ensure the **public information strategy is established and maintained before, during and after incidents in line with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Media Plan**
10. To be part of the Council's **on-call duty rota for response to Major Incident and Major Incident standby and to act as Staff Officer** (if required) or as a member of the Council's emergency response team.
11. To support the working of the Cheshire Resilience Forum (**CRF**), attend Management Group meetings, act as Capability Leads, undertake Risk Assessment and Chair Groups when required.

3.7 Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH)

The above gives a very generic account of the areas of work that are covered. It does not convey or reflect the time consuming areas of work undertaken for the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations and the new Seveso III Directive.

COMAH applies mainly to the chemical industry, also to some storage activities, explosives and nuclear sites and other industries where threshold quantities of dangerous substances identified in the Regulations are kept or used.

The COMAH Regulations 1999, (2015) requires Local authorities to prepare adequate emergency plans to deal with the off-site consequences of possible major accidents at upper tier sites, and should review and where necessary revise them. They must also test them at specified intervals at least once every three years.

Local authorities need to prepare emergency plans for any sites in their area that become upper tier sites as a result of the changes in the Seveso III Directive. The Seveso Directives are the main EU legislation dealing specifically with the control of on-shore major accident hazards involving dangerous substances. The Seveso III Directive came into force on 1 June 2015, replacing the Seveso II Directive.

Under Article 12 of the Seveso III Directive the 'public concerned' must be given early opportunity to comment on off-site emergency plans as they are being developed or substantially modified. Consideration will need to give to the role the emergency planning authorities will have with regard to Annex 5, para 5 which requires that the 'public concerned' is given appropriate information about how to behave in the event of a major accident.

3.8 The above may impact on the work of the authority's emergency planners when the Authority is informed of any new companies that may be re-classified under the Directive. HSE are yet to confirm any new responsibilities.

3.9 The Authority has for many years worked with the local chemical companies located within the former ICI Runcorn site. Initially there were only 3 Top Tier sites.

3.10 Recent years have seen the sell-off of parts of the Ineos and Mexichem Group and joint ventures have resulted in many changes in names and processes. There are now 6 top tier companies on the Runcorn site and this may increase further in the future.

3.11 Below is a list of the Current Top Tier sites in Halton.

- INOVYN ChlorVinyls Limited,
- VYNOVA Runcorn Limited,
- Runcorn MCP Limited,
- INEOS Enterprises Limited,
- Packed Chlorine Limited and

- Mexichem Fluor Limited
(known as Runcorn Site COMAH Operators)
- Univar, Pickerings Road, Halebank, Widnes
- Shepherd Widnes Ltd, Moss Bank Road

Lower Tier sites

- Innospec (Widnes) Ltd, Dans Road, Widnes

Cross Border Sites

- Vertellus Specialities UK (formerly Pentagon Chemicals, Lower Road, Halewood)

- 3.12 The number of Top Tier sites within and around Halton effectively means that the team are planning, exercising or amending one of the plans throughout the year. In 2015 there have already been three COMAH Exercises. (2 Table Top exercises and 1 Multi-Agency live exercise)
- 3.13 The Control of Major Accident Hazards (**COMAH**) Regulations 2015 requires businesses to take all necessary measures to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances, limit the consequences to people and the environment of any major accidents which do occur.
- 3.14 **COMAH** work is a time consuming process. It requires constant liaison with companies and emergency services. This is a “Statutory Duty” of the Authority to complete the work. Due to the increased number of sites, there is a need to prioritise this work is to ensure the “protection of our communities” is maintained.
- 3.15 Major incidents are rare events but emergency planning, preparedness and response help to ensure that the effects of any that do occur are kept to a minimum.
- 3.16 Local authorities will need to prepare emergency plans for any sites in their area that become upper tier sites as a result of the changes in the Seveso III Directive.
- 3.17 **Halton Incidents in 2015**

During the course of the last 12 months the team have dealt with numerous incidents including Chemical incidents, fires at Industrial properties and private dwellings, Bomb Threats, Closure of the Silver Jubilee Bridge due to incidents and closure of the M56 due to Road Traffic Collisions.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Safer Halton' priority, but reductions in resources and changes as a result of the Liverpool City Region could impact on the delivery of the service in future.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Halton's Urban Renewal'.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

No full risk assessment is required

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report

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

There are no background papers under section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	19 January 2016
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Community & Resources
SUBJECT:	Petition Concerning anti-social behaviour at Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at Royal Avenue
WARD(S)	Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To make the Board aware of a petition that was submitted by a resident of Royal Avenue, Widnes on 3 November 2015. The petition states that

'The Halton Council-run football pitch on the junction of Royal Avenue and Derwent Road Widnes, has been the centre of Anti-Social Behaviour at night. Therefore the petition is to ask Halton Council to take responsibility by installing security gates, and to lock the football pitch each night as it does the parks. This will help deter ASB, and help to secure peace and security to our neighbourhood'.

Fifty people have signed the petition.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) The petition be considered.
- 2) The MUGA should not be locked for the following reasons:
 - It is there to provide some space for young people to socialise.
 - The council does not have the resources to lock the MUGA.
 - The practicalities of locking and unlocking the MUGA can't be easily managed. Also it is not designed to be locked.
 - We have had no reports of ASB in recent months.
 - Locking would prevent use for young people who want to use them for the purposes they were put up.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Council owned MUGA at Royal Avenue was installed in February 2003. It is managed and maintained by the Open Space Service. Its purpose is to provide informal sporting opportunities for young people. Staff report that the MUGA is well used and does not appear to be subject to vandalism.

3.2 Some of the Council's formal parks and two of its cemeteries are locked at night but MUGAs are not. They are designed to be accessible and don't have gates. Locking of parks and cemeteries is carried out by a security contractor and incurs a significant cost. The Open Space Service does not have the means to pay for the installation of gates and the ongoing locking of the facility.

3.3 Widnes Vikings have run community training events at the MUGA in 2015.

3.4 There have been no reports of ASB throughout the month of December in the area of the MUGA and for a distance of 200 metres around it. The last report relating to the MUGA was on 24th April 2015. In the period prior to July 2015 there were enhanced police patrols in the area, additional CCTV cameras installed (At Queens Avenue and at a nearby Youth Centre) and community meetings. The area is currently not an ASB Priority Area. Should it become so the Community Safety team would work with local residents to resolve the matter.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 No policy implications.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There would be financial implications if it was agreed that the site should be locked at night.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

If the MUGA were to be locked at night young people would not have access to it and they would be displaced to other areas.

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

No implications.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

If the site were to be locked at night opportunities for healthy exercise would be denied to potential users.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Locking the facility may well displace young people to other areas which would not be as safe as the MUGA.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

No implications.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues.

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:	19 November 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Community & Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Performance Management Reports, Quarter 2, 2015-16
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 2 of 2015-16. This includes a description of factors which are affecting the service.

In addition Appendix 1 of the report contains a progress update concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures that are relevant to the remit of this Board.

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

- 1) **Receive the Quarter 2 Priority Based report;**
- 2) **Consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and**
- 3) **Highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring and scrutinising the performance of the Council in delivering outcomes against its key community safety priorities. In line with the Council's performance framework, therefore, the Board has been provided with a thematic report which identifies the key issues in performance arising in Quarter 2 2015-16.

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 1 – 1st July to 30th September 2015

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service area objectives and milestones and performance targets during the second quarter of 2015/16; 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 first quarter which include:

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

There are no key developments for Community and Environment.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning / Health & Safety

Lunts Heath Road / Wilmere Lane, Widnes

The new traffic signals, at the junction of Lunts Heath Road and Wilmere Lane in Widnes, have now been commissioned. The scheme comprised the installation of traffic signals to reduce delays at the junction, aimed at assisting bus services, improving safety and providing improved pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities in the developing area of North Widnes.

The finished scheme has been well received with several positive comments from residents, pedestrians and road users on how the scheme has improved the situation.

Zebra Crossing - High Street, Runcorn

The consultation for the installation of a zebra crossing on High Street, Runcorn near the NatWest bank has commenced. The intention is that it will create a link from St. Paul's car park, and the footpath from Greenway Road, to the town centre.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

There are no key developments for Commissioning and Complex Care.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

There are no key development for Prevention and Assessment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no key developments for Prevention and Assessment.

3.0 Emerging Issues

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

There are no emerging issues for Prevention and Assessment.

PUBLIC HEALTH

There are no emerging issues for Public Health.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Traffic and Risk & Emergency Planning / Health & Safety

Network Management

Construction of the Mersey Gateway is continuing and impacting on the road network. This is particularly evident in Runcorn and also with the construction of a new layout of the M56 at Junction 12 where it is proposed to close the eastbound off slip for five weeks from 12th October 2015.

The works will also increase on the Widnes side as Ditton and Moor Lane roundabouts are re-modelled to create a signalised junction. There are also some cross boundary works in Knowsley at the A5300 / A562 junction to construct left turn lanes that could conflict with the ongoing Mersey Gateway project.

Whilst these schemes, with potentially more disruptive impacts to the network in the near future, are impacting upon service delivery and are requiring staff resources to co-ordinate to minimise the impact, every endeavour is being made to select options that minimise the impact on the travelling public and residents of the Borough.

Health & Safety

Trials are being undertaken to investigate a new lone working system. Several systems are being trialled, starting on the 5th October 2015 and will last for four weeks.

There are seven different members of staff, from various teams, involved in testing three separate lone working systems, those being our current system and two other options.

Evaluations will be completed by staff and the results, once compiled, will be analysed. It is anticipated that a report will be taken to Management Team around mid-November for a final decision.

CCTV/Panic Alarms in HDLs

The CCTV/Panic Alarm systems in Halton Lea and Ditton have been linked through to CCTV Control. The systems at Runcorn and Widnes HDLs are being linked shortly.

Mersey Gateway

Works Update

The trestle bridge was closed on 20th May 2015. This was a significant event and was marked with a 'ribbon cutting' event attended by a small number of school children and teachers from Runcorn and Widnes on 5 June 2015.

The project remains on a timescale to open in autumn 2017 as set out in the Project Agreement, with notable works and milestones running from and to:

- UU diversion at Ditton 16/06/15 - 02/12/15
- Mobile Scaffold System assembled (MSS) 07/07/15 - 12/10/15
- UU sewer diversion at Victoria Junction 10/07/15 - 06/08/15

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

There are no emerging issues for Community and Environment.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

There are no emerging issues for Commissioning and Complex Care.

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 2015/16 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures relevant to this Board is included within Appendix 1 of this report.

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.

The Councils latest annual progress report in relation to the achievement of its equality objectives is published on the Council website and is available via:

http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/councildemocracy/pdfs/EandD/Equality_-_objectives_progress_report_-_April_2013.pdf

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, milestones and 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 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
PA 2	Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days (Previously PCS15) (Previously PA5 [12/13], PA8 [11/12])	86.8%	85%	64.91%		

Supporting Commentary

PA 3 Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days:

VAA completed within 28 days is being monitored, exception reports are circulated on a monthly basis.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Key objectives and milestones

None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
CE LI 10	Residual household waste per household	534 kgs	593 Kgs	287 kgs <i>Estimated</i>		
CE LI 11	Household waste recycled and composted	46.8%	40%	42%		
CE LI 13	Improved Local Biodiversity – Active Management of Local Sites	56%	55	N/A	N/A	N/A

Supporting Commentary

CE LI 10 Residual household waste per household: This is a cumulative figure however; indications are that this target will be met.

CE LI 11 Household waste recycled and composted: This is a cumulative figure however; indications are that this target will be met.

CE LI 13 Reported on in Q4

PUBLIC HEALTH

Key objectives and milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q2 Progress
PH04	Implement the Halton alcohol strategy action plan working with a range of partners in order to minimise the harm from alcohol and deliver on three interlinked outcomes: reducing alcohol-related health harms; reducing alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse and establishing a diverse, vibrant and safe night-time economy. March 2016	
PH 04	Hold a community conversation around alcohol – using an Inquiry approach based on the citizen's jury model of community engagement and ensure recommendations for action are acted upon by all local partners.	

Supporting Commentary

PH 04 Alcohol Harm Reduction: Good progress is being made towards implementing the Halton alcohol strategy action plan. Key activity includes:

- Developing a coordinated alcohol awareness campaign plan.
- Delivery of alcohol education within local school settings (Healthitude, R U Different, Amy Winehouse Foundation, Cheshire Police, Alcohol education Trust, wellbeing web magazine).
- Ensuring the early identification and support of those drinking above recommended levels through training key staff members in alcohol identification and brief advice (alcohol IBA).
- Reviewing alcohol treatment pathways
- Working closely with colleagues from licensing, the community safety team, trading standards and Cheshire Police to ensure that the local licensing policy supports the alcohol harm reduction agenda, promoting more responsible approaches to the sale of alcohol (e.g. promotion of Arc Angel and the local pub watch schemes within Halton), promoting a diverse night-time economy.
- Working to influence government policy and initiatives around alcohol: 50p minimum unit price for alcohol, restrictions of all alcohol marketing, public health as a fifth licensing objective.

PH 04 Community conversation around alcohol: The main push for 'please stop drinking mummy' campaign ran from February to June 2015, and is still ongoing through social media and websites. The campaign has been well received with good traffic to

sites, and positive feedback from midwives that is helped them to discuss drinking habits with pregnant women.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 2	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
PH LI 04	Alcohol related admission episodes - narrow definition Directly Standardised Rate, per 100,000 population	814.0 (2013/14)	808.4	761.4 (Q1 2015/16)		
PH LI 05	Under 18 alcohol-specific admissions Crude Rate, per 100,000 population	60.5 (11/12 to 13/14)	55.0	51.0* (12/13 to 14/15)		

Supporting Commentary

PH LI 04 Alcohol admissions: Alcohol related admissions during Q1 have reduced from the 2014/15 rate and are below the 2015/16 threshold (target).

PH LI 05 Under 18 alcohol-specific admissions: Good progress is being made related to this indicator with the number of under 18 alcohol-specific admissions continuing to reduce and being below the 2015/16 threshold (target).

**Please note that the 12/13-14/15 data was calculated using local unverified data, so it may change when the final figures are published.*

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Key objectives and milestones

None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.

Financial Statements

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	7,533	3,514	3,414	100
Premises	243	130	136	(6)
Supplies & Services	2,102	1,051	1,053	(2)
Carers Breaks	427	289	288	1
Transport	187	94	86	8
Contracts & SLAs	90	45	41	4
Payments To Providers	3,531	1,440	1,440	0
Emergency Duty Team	93	23	14	9
Other Agency Costs	640	296	289	7
Total Expenditure	14,846	6,882	6,761	121
Income				
Sales & Rents Income	-218	-149	-142	(7)
Fees & Charges	-176	-88	-62	(26)
CCG Contribution To Service	-360	-155	-133	(22)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-536	-230	-228	(2)
Transfer From Reserves	-620	0	0	0
Total Income	-1,910	-622	-565	(57)
Net Operational Expenditure	12,936	6,260	6,196	64
Recharges				
Premises Support	174	96	96	0
Transport	450	222	222	0
Central Support Services	1,516	747	747	0
Asset Charges	62	0	0	0
Internal Recharge Income	-2,479	-397	-397	0
Net Total Recharges	-277	668	668	0
Net Departmental Total	12,659	6,928	6,864	64

Comments on the above figures:

Net operational expenditure is £64,000 below budget profile at the end of the second quarter of the financial year.

Employee costs are currently £100,000 below budget profile. This results from savings made on vacant posts, specifically in relation to Day and Mental Health Services.

In the case of Day Services, the majority of these posts have now been recruited to, and the spend below budget is not anticipated to continue at this level for the remainder of the year. A significant saving proposal has been put forward in relation to

The Mental Health Services staffing budget for the 2016/17 financial year onwards relating to the deletion of vacant posts. The the current year underspend is therefore not set continue for the 2016/17 budget year onwards.

Income is below target to date. There is an anticipated shortfall on Fees & Charges income as a result of revised contract arrangements for the homeless hostel. 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. The shortfall is currently estimated to be in the region of £40,000 for the full year.

Trading income from Day Services ventures is forecast to over-achieve this year, principally as a result of contract for student work placements with Riverside College.

A temporary savings target reflecting this increased income is to be considered as part of the 2016/17 budget setting process.

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 on savings on staff turnover above the set target.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2015

	Annual Budget £'000	Budget To Date £'000	Actual To Date £'000	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	12,045	6,141	6,179	(38)
Other Premises	1,182	712	690	22
Supplies & Services	1,570	643	583	60
Book Fund	142	71	74	(3)
Hired & Contracted Services	1,151	437	446	(9)
Food Provisions	652	299	292	7
School Meals Food	2,077	771	755	16
Transport	54	22	13	9
Other Agency Costs	674	249	196	53
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,160	1,545	1,585	(40)
Leisure Management Contract	1,496	547	592	(45)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	322	161	155	6
Grant To Norton Priory	222	111	117	(6)
Rolling Projects	32	32	32	0
Transfers To Reserves	0	0	0	0
Capital Financing	9	5	0	5
Total Spending	26,788	11,746	11,709	37
<u>Income</u>				
Sales Income	-2,229	-1,152	-1,062	(90)
School Meals Sales	-2,180	-717	-725	8
Fees & Charges Income	-3,265	-1,782	-1,727	(55)
Rents Income	-235	-209	-238	29
Government Grant Income	-1,186	-1,170	-1,159	(11)

Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-548	-402	-425	23
Schools SLA Income	-79	-79	-83	4
Internal Fees Income	-120	-66	-81	15
School Meals Other Income	-2,270	-1,694	-1,700	6
Meals On Wheels	-196	-98	-72	(26)
Catering Fees	-225	-88	-35	(53)
Capital Salaries	-53	-24	-14	(10)
Transfers From Reserves	-44	-23	-23	0
Total Income	-12,630	-7,504	-7,344	(160)
Net Controllable Expenditure	14,157	4,242	4,365	(123)
Recharges				
Premises Support	1,947	997	997	0
Transport Recharges	2,390	707	706	1
Departmental Support Services	9		0	0
Central Support Services	3,146	1,612	1,612	0
Asset Charges	3,005		0	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-382	-382	-382	0
Net Total Recharges	10,115	2,934	2,933	1
Net Departmental Total	24,273	7,176	7,298	(122)

Comments on the above figures:

The net budget is currently £122,000 over budget profile at the end of the second quarter of the financial year.

Expenditure on employee costs is currently £38,000 over budget profile however this budget does include a staff savings target of £372,250 of which £52,380 relates to premium pay. Although savings were identified last year, delays in the reduction of staff have led to a small overspend to date, however it is anticipated that the savings will be met by year-end. Agency staff expenditure has continued to stay at a significantly lower level than last year with the introduction of the apprenticeship schemes and vacant posts being filled.

Supplies and services are currently under budget profile across all divisions on areas such as advertising, equipment, clothing and training. Expenditure is being restricted in these areas to offset other budget pressures within the department.

Although expenditure on the leisure management contract continues to be over budget profile, the contract is now in its final year and will end in January 2016, after which the service will be brought back in house.

Other agency costs are £53,000 under budget profile, due in the main, to expenditure on Area Forums where some projects have not yet been identified.

Income continues to struggle across the department with sales income, fees & charges and internal catering fees the most significant under-achievers. Last year income for these specific areas underachieved by over £322,000, although this was partially offset by an over achievement on other income streams. Although sales have increased slightly this year, at the midpoint of financial year 2015/16, income is expected to under achieve against budget by a similar figure to 2014/15. Income relating to the collection of green waste has overachieved budget by £40,000 to date. This is not expected to increase further for the rest of the financial year.

PREVENTION & ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2015**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Employees	6,818	3,212	3157	55
Other Premises	113	36	41	(5)
Supplies & Services	399	197	201	(4)
Aids & Adaptations	113	56	79	(23)
Transport	17	5	5	0
Food Provision	28	8	10	(2)
Other Agency	22	9	9	0
	1,874	0	0	0
Transfer to Reserves				
Contribution to Complex Care Pool	17,330	6,836	6,778	58
Total Expenditure	26,714	10,359	10,280	79
Income				
Fees & Charges	-292	-131	-136	5
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-149	-80	-81	1
Transfer from Reserves	-1,001	0	0	0
Capital Salaries	-121	0	0	0
Government Grant Income	-300	-300	-300	0
Other Income	-3	-3	-3	0
Total Income	-1,866	-514	-520	6
Net Operational Expenditure	24,848	9,845	9,760	85
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	331	165	165	0
Asset Charges	175	0	0	0
Central Support Services	2,193	1,048	1,048	0
Internal Recharge Income	-1,560	-774	-774	0
Transport Recharges	49	20	20	0
Net Total Recharges	1,188	459	459	0
	26,036	10,304	10,219	85
Net Departmental Total				

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms, the Net Operational Expenditure for the second quarter of the financial year is £27,000 under budget profile excluding the Complex Care Pool.

Employee costs are currently showing £55,000 under budget profile. This is due to savings being made on vacancies within the department. Some of these vacancies have been advertised and have been or are expected to be filled in the coming months.

Other Premises expenditure is £5,000 over budget profile. This is a result of expenditure on maintenance and repairs for Independent Living equipment. There are approximately 324 stair lifts, 19 thru floor/wheelchair lifts and 77 ceiling track hoists requiring an annual service and potentially repairs. For quarter two, the cost included 155 visits to 132 properties, an increase of 42 visits and 36 sites on the first quarter. This increase has placed additional pressure on the budget.

Expenditure on Aids and Adaptations is £23,000 over budget half way through the financial year and this trend is expected to continue for the remainder of the year. As more service users are supported within their own homes, as opposed to moving into residential homes, this places pressure on this budget as more modifications to homes are required.

COMPLEX CARE POOL

Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2015

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure				
Intermediate Care Services	3,561	1,215	1,209	6
End of Life	192	122	142	(20)
Sub Acute	1,743	753	738	15
Urgent Care Centres	615	615	615	0
Joint Equipment Store	810	205	205	0
Contracts & SLA's	1,197	200	178	22
Intermediate Care Beds	596	298	314	(16)
BCF Schemes	2,546	923	923	0
Community Care:				
Residential & Nursing Care	20,960	8,331	8,235	96
Domiciliary & Supported Living	9,569	5,259	5,257	2
Direct Payments	3,706	2,728	2,740	(12)
Day Care	463	152	160	(8)
Contingency	518	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	46,476	20,801	20,716	85
Income				
Residential & Nursing Income	-5,018	-2,401	-2,394	(7)
Community Care Income	-1,583	-617	-595	(22)
Direct Payments Income	-193	-113	-125	12
Income from other CCGs	-114	-57	-50	(7)
BCF Income	-9,451	-4,284	-4,284	0
Contribution to Pool	-12,166	-6,158	-6,158	0
ILF Income	-571	-285	-285	0
Other Income	-50	-50	-47	(3)
Total Income	-29,146	-13,965	-13,938	(27)

Net Divisional Expenditure	17,330	6,836	6,778	58
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Comments on the above figures:

The overall net expenditure budget is £58,000 under budget profile at the end of quarter 2 of the financial year.

Intermediate Care Services includes spend for the Therapy & Nursing Teams, Rapid Access Rehabilitation and Reablement.

There is a projected underspend on CCG Contracts due to Ship Street property vacancy. This underspend may actually increase as remaining tenants might move out.

Net Community Care is currently £54,000 under budget profile but is being monitored and analysed regularly via count and spend information which is shown below.

The total number of clients receiving a residential care package decreased by 0.5% during the first half of the financial year, from 604 clients in April to 601 clients in August. However the average cost of a residential package of care increased from £547 to £552 for the same period.

The total number of clients receiving a domiciliary package of care increased by 2.54% during the first half of the year, from 867 clients in April to 889 clients in August. The average cost of a domiciliary care package increased from £198 to £213 in the same period.

The total number of clients receiving a Direct Payment increased by 21% during the first half of the year, from 379 clients in April to 459 clients in August. The reason for the increase is previously Independent Living Funded service users now coming under the management of local authorities. The average cost of a DP package increased from £252 to £258 for the same period.

The Adult Health and Social Care budget will continue to be monitored closely due to its volatile nature.

Capital Projects as at 30th September 2015

	2015-16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Total Allocation Remaining £'000
Disabled Facilities Grant	500	250	119	381
Stair lifts (Adaptations Initiative)	250	125	92	158
RSL Adaptations (Joint Funding)	200	100	55	145
Community Meals Oven	10	0	0	10
Total	960	425	266	694

Comments on the above figures:

Spend on Disabled Facilities Grants funded projects, Stairlift Adaptations and Joint Funded RSL Adaptations are currently running below budget profile. Total spend to date on the three initiatives amounts to £266k, compared with £357k for the equivalent period in the previous financial year. The bulk of the capital allocations for 2014/15 were substantially spent by year-end and it is currently assumed that this trend will continue in 2015/16, although the capital allocations will be monitored closely in-year in light of the current reduced spend levels.

The Community Meals Oven is a new project for 2015/16, and it is anticipated that the capital allocation will be fully spent during the year.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**Revenue Budget as at 30th September 2015**

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual To Date	Variance To Date (overspend) £'000
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Employees	4,555	2,223	2,209	14
Other Premises	222	78	67	11
Hired & Contracted Services	243	45	46	(1)
Supplies & Services	287	122	123	(1)
Street Lighting	2,082	617	617	0
Highways Maintenance	2,290	1,469	1,469	0
Bridges	98	4	4	0
Fleet Transport	1,397	477	477	0
Lease Car Contracts	516	222	222	0
Bus Support – Hopper Tickets	180	80	80	0
Bus Support	525	300	299	1
Out of Borough Transport	51	13	13	0
Finance Charges	406	166	166	0
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	34	34	0
Direct Revenue Financing	14	14	14	0
NRA Levy	60	30	30	0
Total Expenditure	12,994	5,894	5,870	24
<u>Income</u>				
Sales	-372	-138	-141	3
Planning Fees	-531	-285	-297	12
Building Control Fees	-201	-123	-134	11
Other Fees & Charges	-449	-280	-290	10
Rents	-8	0	0	0
Grants & Reimbursements	-539	-135	-134	(1)
Efficiency Savings	-60	0	0	0
School SLAs	-40	-40	-40	0
Recharge to Capital	-312	0	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	-217	0	0	0
Total Income	2,729	-1,001	-1,036	35
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,265	4,893	4,834	59
<u>Recharges</u>				
Premises Support	642	388	388	0
Transport Recharges	629	301	304	(3)
Asset Charges	7,791	0	0	0
Central Support Recharges	1,935	968	968	0
Departmental Support Recharges	393	196	196	0
Departmental Support Recharges Income	-491	-246	-246	0
Support Recharges Income – Transport	-3,734	-1,700	-1,700	0
Support Recharges Income	-1,022	-396	-396	0
Net Total Recharges	6,143	-489	-486	(3)
Net Departmental Total	16,408	4,404	4,348	56

Comments on the above figures:

In overall terms revenue spending at the end of quarter 2 is below budget profile. This is due to small variances in a number of expenditure and income budget areas

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

Planning fee income is over the profiled budget to date due to a one-off, high value planning amount received during the last quarter, this is not expected to continue throughout the rest of the year. It is expected that income will be in line with the budget at year end.

Building Control income is exceeding the budget profile to date, the increased income reflects the increase in the number of control inspections provided by the department to members of the public, this is despite strong competition from outside competitors who can provide the same service except for the issuing of the certificate.

The above budget increase in 'Other Fees and Charges' is mainly due to income generated within the Traffic Division for overrun charges on statutory undertakers, the issuing of permits etc. This is expected to be just above budget throughout the year.

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

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

Capital Projects as at 30TH September 2015

	2015/16 Capital Allocation £'000	Allocation To Date £'000	Actual Spend To Date £'000	Allocation Remaining £'000
Local Transport Plan				
Bridges & Highway Maintenance				
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	967	65	64	903
Road Maintenance	1,261	430	427	834
	2,228	495	491	1,737
Total Bridge & Highway Maintenance				
	908	190	191	717
Integrated Transport				
	3,136	685	682	2,454
Total Local Transport Plan				
Halton Borough Council				
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	55	53	147
Street lighting – replacement programme	1,700	180	181	1,519
Risk Management	120	45	45	75
	2,174	600	598	1,576
Fleet Replacement				

Total Halton Borough Council	4,194	880	877	3,317
<u>Grant Funded</u>				
Local Pinch Point – Daresbury E'way	943	10	9	934
Surface Water Management Grant	122	5	7	115
S106 schemes	384	0	0	384
STEPS programme	664	0	0	664
Total Grant Funded	2,113	15	16	2,097
Total Capital Programme	9,443	1,580	1,575	7,868

The programme of spend regarding surface water management is dependent on uptake by members of the public. This in turn is affected by local weather conditions.

The STEP (Sustainable Transport Enhancement Package) programme is scheduled to start from quarter 3 this spend will then be reflected from this period onwards.

Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress

	Objective	Performance Indicator
Green	 Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the <u>annual target 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 whether the annual target is on course to be achieved</u>.</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 unless there is an intervention or remedial action taken</u>.</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.

Implementation of High Risk Mitigation Measures – Quarter 2 to 30th September 2015

The purpose of this report is to provide an update concerning the implementation of mitigation measures for those areas of risk which have been assessed as high within the Directorate Risk Register that fall within the Remit of the Safer Policy and Performance Board.

Business Area – Policy Planning and Transportation

Assessment of current risk – (Emergency Planning)			Impact (Severity)	Likelihood (Probability)	Score (I x L)		
PR R14	Lack of resilience in the event of a major disaster results in loss of services in the Borough. <i>(Strategic Priority: Safer Halton)</i>		4	3	12		
Risk control measure(s)		Lead Officer	Timescale Review	Residual Impact	Residual Likelihood	Residual Score	
<i>R14 a</i>	<i>Business Continuity Plans in place across the Council</i>		Mick Noone Operational Director (Policy, Planning & Transportation)	Annually	3	1	3
<i>R14 b</i>	<i>Major Emergency Plan in place and tested</i>						
<i>R14 c</i>	<i>Specialist Emergency Planning team in place</i>						
<i>R14 d</i>	<i>Regular training for key personnel</i>						
<i>R14 e</i>	<i>Joint exercises with other key partners</i>						
<i>R14 f</i>	<i>Severe Weather and Flood Response Plans in place.</i>						

Progress update

Business Continuity Plans are in place and reviewed annually. The plans, together with the Major Emergency Plan, are tested regularly.

The Emergency Planning team is fully staffed and carries out training of key personnel and COMAH exercises are carried out with key partners. However it should be noted that whilst staffing levels within the team have remained static the number of sites has increased from 3 to 8 during the last 2 years. As such should this increase in the number of sites continue, as seems likely, arrangements may need to be reviewed in order that the Council can continue to meet its Emergency Planning responsibilities.

The ongoing streamlining of staffing structures may place increasing pressure upon the smaller number of Senior Officers available to act as Key Responders and this situation will be closely monitored as we move forward in order that an appropriate and sustainable portfolio of Officers can be maintained.

Severe Weather and Flood Response Plans are in place and reviewed annually.