



Safer Policy and Performance Board

**Tuesday, 21 November 2017 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 (Chair)	Labour
Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair)	Labour
Councillor John Abbott	Labour
Councillor Sandra Baker	Labour
Councillor Susan Edge	Labour
Councillor John Gerrard	Labour
Councillor Valerie Hill	Labour
Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones	Labour
Councillor Kath Loftus	Labour
Councillor Shaun Osborne	Labour
Councillor Geoff Zygadlo	Labour

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

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 20 February 2018

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

Part I

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1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
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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.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 12 September 2017 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Thompson (Chair), N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), Abbott, S. Baker, Edge, J. Gerrard, V. Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus and Osborne

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadllo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino, S. Ashcroft, S. Bell and D. Perchard

Also in attendance: Councillor D. Cargill in accordance with Standing Order 33.

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF8 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Chair announced that Peter Astley has been appointed as the new Chief of Staff for the Office of the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	
SAF9 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2017 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>Arising from the minutes, it was noted that following the recent incident at Grenfell in London, Cheshire Fire and Rescue had met with various agencies to discuss high rise buildings across Cheshire. It was requested that the Decks buildings in Runcorn should be included in any future discussions that take place.</p>	
SAF10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no public questions had been received.</p>	

SAF11 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The report detailed the number of domestic incidents across Cheshire from Sept 2015 to February 2017 and the number of domestic violence prevention orders during January to February 2017.

Members noted a summary of the key achievements across Cheshire during the last quarter which included information on:

- Operation Enhance;
- Domestic Abuse Matters – First Responder (Cheshire Police Officer) training;
- a successful Domestic Abuse Funding Bid to DCLG;
- development of a Pan-Cheshire Communication Strategy; and
- the publication of the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire and Merseyside) RASASC Annual Report.

The Board enquired about the following:

- could a referral form be made available for Councillors to refer members of the public to domestic violence support;
- raising awareness of support services for victims of domestic violence over the Christmas period; and
- clarification on the statistics provided on page 16 of the agenda with regard to Improved Health and Wellbeing.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

SAF12 ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE IN HALTON

The Board received an update report and a presentation on the work carried out across the partnership in the Borough to tackle alcohol and substance misuse. The report included information on the:

- Trading Standards North West Young Persons' Alcohol Survey which was carried out every two years and had taken place in January to April 2017;
- Action plan developed to address Halton's opiate successful completion rate, which was performing

below the Change Grow Live (CGL) (Drug and Alcohol service) and Public Health England national averages;

- The number of those clients who had received the flu vaccination;
- Mental Health: Following publication in November 2016 of Nice Guidance 'Coexisting severe mental illness and substance misuse: community health and social care services', there had been an agreement to increase interagency work between mental health and substance misuse services in Halton with an emphasis being placed on all teams being flexible and problem solving together;
- The success of The Work Company: During this year the Work Company had supported 73 individuals affected by substance misuse to address their education, training and employment needs. Since April 2016, The Work Company had supported individuals in gaining 114 qualifications. During the same period, 3 individuals commenced voluntary work, with 29 individuals gaining employment within various sectors;
- Progress against related targets to reduce the harm from alcohol and substance misuse; and
- School and College based alcohol education programmes.

In addition, the Board noted work involving the establishment of the Cheshire and Merseyside Five Year Forward View Alcohol Board and the Drink Less Enjoy More Campaign across Cheshire and Merseyside.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF13 COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT OFFICER, SAFER SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

This item was deferred.

SAF14 CONSUMER ADVICE

The Board received a report which provided information on the work of the Trading Standard's consumer advice service, explained how it worked with the national Citizen's Advice Consumer Helpline and outlined case studies from the last financial year.

The report also provided details on the performance of Halton Trading Standards Consumer Advice Service which had been assessed by issuing a satisfaction survey of

service users. It showed that 98% of users were either very satisfied or satisfied with the service they had received. In addition, it was noted that in the last financial year the consumer advice service obtained at least £39,476 redress for Halton consumers. Only a relatively small percentage of consumers responded on the outcome of their complaint, so it was expected that the figure was likely to be higher.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 21st November 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Enterprise, 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: 21 November 2017
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 meetings, 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**

a member of the Halton Strategic Partnership

Action Points From 19th July 2017

Present:

David Parr	HBC (Chief Executive) : Chair
Cllr Dave Cargill	HBC (Community Safety Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Dave Thompson	HBC (Community Safety PPB Chair)
Chris Patino	HBC (Operational Director)
Deana Perchard	HBC Trading Standards
Elsbeth Anwar	HBC (Public Health)
Gareth Jones	Youth Justices Services
Greg Sharples	Faith Representative
John Boswell	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
John Davidson	National Probation Service
Karen Taylor	CRC (Probation)
Kevin Bennett	Cheshire Constabulary
Lorraine Crane	HBC (Children's Services)
Mark Antrobus	Cheshire Police (Community Safety Team)
Mark Bushnell	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Mark Harvey	Halton Housing Trust
Matthew Young	Halton's Youth Cabinet
Michelle Cotgreave	HBC (Principal Emergency Planning Officer)
Mike Andrews	HBC (Community Safety Manager)
Patricia Preston	HBC (Housing Solutions Manager)
Phil McClure	Addaction
Rhiannon Knowler	Refugee Action
Richard Rees	Cheshire Constabulary
Shélah Semoff	HBC (Partnership Officer)

- 1) **Welcome and Introductions** **Action**
- 2) **Apologies**
Danielle Whitwell, Lynsey McVay
- 3) **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes of 5th May were agreed.
- 4) **Task Group Updates:**
 - a) Alcohol : Report noted – no major issues or concerns raised.
 - b) Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Partnership Tasking : Report noted – some discussion about data integrity took place with some work ongoing around processes

and what data is actual recorded - it was noted that officers working within LPU's don't feel that's there been a spike of any kind – question was asked about whether new offences were included such as mobile phones (to be checked) – it was also noted that whilst there was a slight increase in household break-in – this category now included sheds, which people use to hold some expensive items such as bikes; comment was made that the “moveable feast” meant it was hard to have confidence in the figures; reports from summer campaigns were good – discussion around mopeds – if Police are notified they will try and send out officers if possible with tracker spray – but members of the community need to report – suggested that the Blue Lamp reports could be shared across a wider footprint to show how the Police act on information.

- c) Domestic Abuse : Report noted – again data collection was an issue with incidents being recorded under different categories in some constabulary areas, whilst others recorded all incidents under DA – Halton does appear to have reduced recorded incidents – additional analysis of figures was requested – looking for trends across the last four years; the group agreed that it would like to see a Pan-Cheshire sign up to the White Ribbon campaign.
- d) Substance Misuse : Report noted – there was some discussion about the increase in service user deaths nationally – however it was noted that most of these were older, long term users and there was ongoing work to identify the true cause of death (drug use or a drug use related illness).
- e) Licensing : Report noted – no major issues or concerns raised.

5) **Youth Cabinet Updates**

Website being developed for resources around Hate Crime incidents, including support and reporting. Schools have been contacted, and MY has been asked to go and speak to students Ashley Special School. Social media work ongoing to raise awareness of the work done by the Youth Cabinet on it's various activities include the hate crime project and Halton Against Hate event on the 26th October. The Youth Cabinet are also doing work around challenging Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism. They want to raise awareness amongst young people to celebrate differences, and they are looking to develop the work around other faiths, disability and LGBTI issues.

6) **Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Halton – Update**

A discussion was held about issues raised by local residents, with the Police, who felt that their community safety concerns were not being addressed in relation to the proposed Initial Accommodation site at Wilmere Lane. The Police have produced a Community Impact report and will continue to hold regular meetings to ensure that residents' concerns are heard and the fear of crime is managed appropriately. David Parr assured partners that issues raised by residents with the local authority have been addressed and responded to, with most already being dealt with, which are on public record in the planning report (16th January 2017).

With regards to the Syrian Resettled Refugees, Partners were given an update regarding numbers in Halton and when the next arrivals are expected. Rhiannon Knowler gave some feedback from Refugee Action's resettlement work, including the neighbourly support which has been shown by Halton's residents. There was some concerns from the families regarding potential hate crime following incidents in Manchester and London, but so far this has not resulted in a massive increase of incidents. RK did raise the fact that is some areas Refugees are vulnerable to scams and some forms of exploitation.

7) **Police and Crime Commissioner**

Nothing of concern noted.

8) **Police and Crime Panel**

There is now a Deputy PCC and offices have moved to Warrington. Some concerns raised regarding reduction in budget for anti-terrorism activity when there is an increase in related incidents.

9) **Serious Organised Crime**

Cheshire Police reviewing what is classified as SOC and how they deal with it. SHP Members will be kept updated.

10) **Information Items**

All information items noted.

11) **AOB**

Gareth Jones shared information regarding a thematic inspection of services

Cllr Thompson raised the issue of tolls on the Mersey Gateway for emergency vehicles. He explained that there were several issues under discussion such as the difference between health service operational work and emergency service, and system in place may work for Fire Trucks but what about non-emergency activity? David Parr reassured Partners that the arrangements that were in place for the Mersey Tunnels would be replicated and for non-emergency crossings, staff would have to reclaim the costs as they would with other expenses. It was felt that the new bridge will improve response times as it allows for better connectivity across the Northwest.

12) **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 18th October @ 10:00 : Ground Floor Boardroom, Municipal Buildings, Widnes

Agreed As A True And Accurate Record of the Meeting Held on 18th October 2017



Safer Halton **PARTNERSHIP**

a member of the Halton Strategic Partnership

Action Points From 18th October 2017

Present:

David Parr	HBC (Chief Executive) : Chair
Cllr Dave Cargill	HBC (Community Safety Portfolio Holder)
Cllr Dave Thompson	HBC (Community Safety PPB Chair)
Chris Patino	HBC (Operational Director)
Deana Perchard	HBC Trading Standards
Dorothy Roberts	HBC (Children's Policy Officer)
Elsbeth Anwar	HBC (Public Health)
John Davidson	National Probation Service
Mark Harvey	Halton Housing Trust
Michelle Cotgreave	HBC (Principal Emergency Planning Officer)
Mike Andrews	HBC (Community Safety Manager)
Richard Rees	Cheshire Constabulary
Simon Bell	HBC (Public Health)
Simon Pasonage	Cheshire Constabulary
Stuart Devereux	Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
Shélah Semoff	HBC (Partnership Officer)
Yvonne Smallman	Halton Speak Out (for part of meeting)
Mal Hampson	Halton Speak Out (for part of meeting)

1) **Welcome and Introductions**

Action

2) **Apologies**

Danielle Whitwell, Lynsey McVay, Donna Yates, Karen Taylor, Greg Sharples, Gareth Jones, Karen McDonough, Lorraine Crane,

3) **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

Minutes of 19th July were agreed, with the inclusion of John Davison being present at meeting.

4) **Safe In Town Scheme Update**

Mal Hampson and Yvonne Smallman presented information to the Group regarding the above scheme. This included the latest update on premises and individuals signed up to the scheme, along with some of the softer outcomes such as anecdotal comments from clients about how they feel safer being signed up to the scheme, or they feel their loved ones are safer.

Board Members were supportive of the scheme and approved of the Community Safety

Manager's commitment to integrate the scheme into his team. Another meeting to be arranged to progress this piece of work. MA/SS

Members also suggested that Halton Speak Out should consider applying to the PCC's Community Fund again.

Presentation to be sent out with draft minutes. SS

5) **Task Group Updates:**

- a) Alcohol : Report noted – no major issues or concerns raised.
- b) Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour and Partnership Tasking : Report noted – this was a new style of report which now includes Licensing issues – DT did raise an issue regarding the consistency of door staff who then get to know regulars and relevant concerns – MA explained that when agency staff are used, the establishments don't always know who they will end up; The Royal has now changed Agency's and will try and use the same door staff; it was noted that clientele from Bar Bananas have moved to the Wellington which is now having similar problems however this is on the Licencing Officer's radar.
- c) Domestic Abuse : A downward trend was highlighted and this was felt partly due to the Enhanced scheme and the work with repeat offenders; rest of report noted and no major issues or concerns raised.
- d) Substance Misuse : The latest CGL internal report shows Halton has the 2nd highest engagement rate compared to their services delivered elsewhere in the Northwest, with report including user feedback and case studies; it was noted that Test on Arrest numbers were quite low – this has also been picked up by the Police, and they are working closely with CGL to look why this is the case; a future item for the SHP to look at the Drugs chapter of the JNSA. SB/SS

6) **Police and Crime Commissioner**

Nothing of concern noted, however the Chair has asked that the Community Safety Manager pick up the issue of lack of representation from the PCC's Office since their change over of staff. It was agreed that whilst everyone understands the pressures that colleagues around the table are under, a request will be made that if they are unable to attend, a paper will be submitted instead. MA/SS

7) **Police and Crime Panel**

DT explained that there is a drive at the moment to see a national panel, however he felt that a special interest group sitting within the LGA structures might be a better option; at the last meeting the PCC explained that Cheshire Constabulary has lost half of its armed force and was in an agreement with other Northwest areas to share resources – however this did raise some concerns with regards to the deployment of resources in an emergency situation such as a terrorist attack as recently seen – he was assured by RR that NW resources are pooled and allocated based on appropriate need and the Constabularies involved were not worried about being able to respond to any calls as resources could be called upon from across the Country if needs be – this included a national resource which could be airlifted in via helicopter if required.

8) **Serious Organised Crime**

A presentation was circulated which was given to the Protecting Vulnerable People's Forum on 5th October. This gave a detailed view of what SOC is and how it is dealt with by Cheshire Constabulary. It was noted that Halton has some good examples of

partnership working and that the excellent cameras on the new bridge would help monitoring cross county lines of criminal activity and hopefully leading to a similar situation as with the tunnels, i.e. criminals know not to use them due to the cameras.

9) **Channel Panel**

A short discussion took place around the arrangements for Channel Panels, with it being noted that there was one in each local authority area, with people being referred in and assessed by Panel members for their danger of being radicalised. MA explained that there was actually a consultation event with the Home Office taking place the day after the SHP meeting which might change how arrangements are currently managed. There is a suggestion potentially to have one panel per Constabulary area or even one for the Northwest. A further report will be brought back to the next meeting, and the Chair requested that Cllr Cargill be briefed following the consultation event.

MA/SS
MA

10) **Information Items**

All information items noted.

11) **AOB**

Officers were asked to ensure that the Blue Lamp reports were shared with Elected Members, as it was felt they were an excellent resource to ensure that residents know that the Police are doing.

12) **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 21st February 2018 @ 10:00 : Ground Floor Boardroom, Municipal Buildings, Widnes

Yet To Be Agreed As A True And Accurate Record

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	21 st November 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Cyber Crime
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the verbal report and presentation from TITAN in relation to the emergence of CYBER Crime as a local threat to communities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report attached as “appendix 1” be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Cyber-crime: what is it

Cyber-crime is a nebulous term that means different things to different people.

Cyber crime is an umbrella term used to describe two distinct, but closely related criminal activities: cyber-dependent and cyber-enabled crimes. The use of ‘cyber crime’ refers to both forms of criminal activity, and we distinguish between them as outlined below. .

- 3.2 **Cyber-dependent crimes** are offences that can only be committed by using a computer, computer networks, or other form of ICT. These acts include the spread of viruses and other malicious software, hacking, and distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks, i.e. the flooding of internet servers to take down network infrastructure or websites. Cyber-dependent crimes are primarily acts directed against computers or network resources, although there may be secondary outcomes from the attacks, such as fraud.
- 3.3 **Cyber-enabled crimes** are traditional crimes that are increased in their scale or reach by the use of computers, computer networks or other ICT. Unlike cyber dependent crimes, they can still be committed without the use of ICT.

For the purposes of this review the following types of cyber-enabled crimes are included:

- fraud (including mass-marketing frauds, 'phishing' e-mails and other scams; online banking and e-commerce frauds);
- theft (including theft of personal information and identification-related data); and
- sexual offending against children (including grooming, and the possession, creation and/or distribution of sexual imagery).

3.4 TITAN

Titan, is the name for the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit, it was established in 2009 as a collaboration between the six police forces in Cumbria, Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and North Wales to tackle serious organised crime that crosses county borders in the region.

The mission of the unit is simple - to tackle organised crime groups causing the greatest levels of harm to communities in the North West.

The unit is comprised of five teams working closely together and includes representatives from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, UK Border Agency and the National Crime Agency. Those teams are: the Regional Intelligence Unit (RIU), the Regional Crime Unit (RCU), the Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART), Regional Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU) and the Protected Persons Service Unit (PPS).

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **None**

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

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

6.4 A Safer Halton

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

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

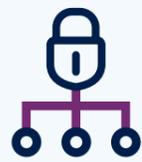
None

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

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

10 Steps to Cyber Security

Defining and communicating your Board's Information Risk Regime is central to your organisation's overall cyber security strategy. The National Cyber Security Centre recommends you review this regime – together with the nine associated security areas described below, in order to protect your business against the majority of cyber attacks.



Network Security

Protect your networks from attack. Defend the network perimeter, filter out unauthorised access and malicious content. Monitor and test security controls.



User education and awareness

Produce user security policies covering acceptable and secure use of your systems. Include in staff training. Maintain awareness of cyber risks.



Malware prevention

Produce relevant policies and establish anti-malware defences across your organisation.



Removable media controls

Produce a policy to control all access to removable media. Limit media types and use. Scan all media for malware before importing onto the corporate system.



Secure configuration

Apply security patches and ensure the secure configuration of all systems is maintained. Create a system inventory and define a baseline build for all devices.



Managing user privileges



Establish effective management processes and limit the number of privileged accounts. Limit user privileges and monitor user activity. Control access to activity and audit logs.



Incident management

Establish an incident response and disaster recovery capability. Test your incident management plans. Provide specialist training. Report criminal incidents to law enforcement.



Monitoring

Establish a monitoring strategy and produce supporting policies. Continuously monitor all systems and networks. Analyse logs for unusual activity that could indicate an attack.



Home and mobile working

Develop a mobile working policy and train staff to adhere to it. Apply the secure baseline and build to all devices. Protect data both in transit and at rest.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	21 st November 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director People
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	The Trading Standards Scams Project
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report describes the work of the Trading Standard's Scams project. It explains the different types of scams; who can become vulnerable to them; the impacts of being scammed; the approach taken in Halton; the impacts of the project to date and an estimate of the extent of the problem in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board notes and welcomes the good done by the Scams Project.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 What is a scam?

3.1.1 There is no standard definition of a scam so we have developed our own: a communication (by letter, email, text, phone, pop-up internet advert or face to face contact) or activities that make a promise of something, appear to fulfil a need in an individual and that ultimately involve the development of a relationship and the illegitimate manipulation of the individual for the financial gain of another. A scam always involves trickery and a loss of either personal information or money to the person being scammed.

3.1.2 Scammers have a sophisticated understanding of human behaviour and have developed a scam for every consumer:

- Lotteries and prize draws for people who believe in fate and luck, risk-takers and those who may be in need of money but have no real prospect of increasing their income.
- Investment opportunities for people who have significant financial acumen, previous business experience and those who believe that they are in control of their own destiny.
- Clairvoyant letters for those who believe in luck and fate and

particularly those who are recently bereaved or who are still finding it difficult to cope with the loss of a loved one.

- Romance scams that are designed to catch out the recently bereaved or divorced.
- Masquerading as bona fide company or organisation which is intended to catch everybody out.

3.2 Who can become vulnerable to scams?

3.2.1 Anybody can be caught out by a scam if they are taken off-guard or distracted. Different scams are designed to appeal to different personality types but a common theme with all scams is a sense of urgency that requires the victim to respond quickly, without being able to exercise their normal decision-making process.

3.2.2 There is often a misconception that people who respond to scams are foolish, greedy, stupid, or naive and that they are to blame for the decisions they've made. We have worked with a lot of scam victims who believe they have been foolish in falling for a scam when the reality is that a lot of people, in their particular situation at the time the scammer strikes, would make the same decision. If this wasn't the case scams would not be as prolific as they are.

3.2.3 From the people we have worked with, it seems to be the case that most people can have a scams blind spot and whilst they may be able to identify some scams they will not be able to detect others.

3.2.4 Whilst anybody can get caught out by a scam there are certain characteristics that can make a person more vulnerable to scams: recent bereavement or divorce, pre-existing financial difficulties, poor health including mental health issues such as depression, impaired cognitive ability such as dementia and those who feel lonely or isolated.

3.2.5 The work that we have done focusses mainly on mass marketing fraud, mainly postal scams. Older adults appear to be the targets of such scams with text and online scams being targeted at younger people.

3.3 What are the impacts of being scammed?

3.3.1 Being scammed can have an impact on the individual's well-being; embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, a reluctance to trust people and a loss of enthusiasm for life. It can result in worry, stress and lost sleep. It

can cause financial hardship and homelessness and put family relationships under severe strain. It can lead to a fear of the future and social isolation. All of these impacts have been reported by the individual's we have worked with so far. The socio-economic impacts also increase a person's likelihood to experience ill-health and their likelihood to need care services in the future.

3.3.2 The National Centre for Post-Qualifying Social Work and Professional Practice published a report in December 2016 (Financial Scamming: The Value of Early Intervention by Trading Standards) which found that the population often targeted by scammers are those who do, or are likely to, require care and support services but whose ability to fund those services is reduced or eliminated. The report concluded 'Prevention of need, including the early intervention by Trading Standards, is a crucial factor in ensuring social care is sustainable in the longer term.'

3.3.3 In August 2016, The Telegraph featured an article on Harvard University's recent report about the health impacts of loneliness. Social isolation is known to activate the 'fight or flight' stress signal which increases levels of the protein fibrinogen in anticipation of injury and blood loss. Too much fibrinogen is bad for health, raising blood pressure and causing the build-up of fatty deposits in the arteries.

The article stated that Harvard researchers had compared levels of the blood-clotting protein with the numbers of friends and family in a person's social network and found striking correlations. As the number of social connections fell, the level of fibrinogen rose.

The researchers found that having less than 13 friends had the same impact on fibrinogen levels as taking up smoking.

Previously research reports have linked loneliness to a compromised immune system, high blood pressure, and ultimately, premature death.

3.3.4 A recent study by the University of York found that lonely people are around 30% more likely to suffer a stroke or heart disease, two of the leading causes of death in Britain.

3.3.5 The following are quotes from participants in the project, talking about the impact of scams on them:

"While this has been going on I just lost like the enthusiasm, that's probably the right word...And I get asked to do things for friends and

such like and, I've just not had the enthusiasm. It does really affect you and I never thought it would."

"Because I'm getting older you know and you get to think "my mind is starting to go" so I think (laughs) you know that I might get sort of conned".

"I mean my son is just, well he was around here last night very, very, very angry about the whole thing, he says that (people) have ruined me because I have sent them a lot of money. A lot, a lot, a lot of money."

3.4 The approach taken in Halton

3.4.1 In the summer of 2014 Halton Trading Standards received information from a National Trading Standards team that a significant number of Halton residents were being targeted by scammers. Early experience of working with victims allowed the team to identify some of the unexpected barriers that would need to be overcome if the interventions with scam victims were to be successful. It became clear that simply providing information to victims on what scams were and what to look out for was not enough; time needed to be spent looking at why somebody was vulnerable to scams and identify ways of changing behaviour.

The core team did not have capacity to provide the support required by victims and it was decided that dedicated scams officer/s were required. To maximise the benefit to victims it was important that all staff involved in the Project had a broad knowledge and experience of Trading Standards including the civil and criminal law that the Service advises upon. The Project recruited two officers (1FTE) who met these criteria and they were in post by early October 2014.

The Scams Project Officers are employed on a fixed term contract which ends on 31st March 2018.

3.4.2 The project was designed to avoid stigmatising victims and frame the issue in a consumer rather than a criminal context. The project designed a misleading offers flyer and standard letter which was sent to areas of the Borough that we had identified as being targeted by the scammers. The letter explained that Halton was being targeted by misleading offers; Trading Standards Officers would be in their area in the next few weeks and would knock to see if they're getting any of this type of post.

3.4.3 The project had three phases which were not time bound and were tailored to the individual needs of those who had been caught out by scams:

Phase one: the team door knocked the target addresses with the intention of merely establishing contact with residents. A very general conversation was had around whether or not the person was aware of this sort of mail and whether they received it. The officer asked householders to keep any of this kind of mail for them to collect in a couple of weeks so that the project could learn what types of misleading offers the borough was being targeted with.

Phase Two: officers would re-visit periodically to collect the mail and to talk about the different types of mail that people had received. The intention in this phase was to build trust and engage the person in conversation that could result in them sharing their experiences if they had responded to scam mail.

Phase Three: officers would begin to work with the person with the aim of facilitating them to identify, for themselves, the reasons they were responding to scams and to look at how that behaviour could be changed.

3.4.4 As the project started to make contact with potential victims it became clear that moving people through the process of acknowledging that they had been scammed, identifying any features of their lives that increased their vulnerability to scams, being able to recognise scams and changing their behaviour so that they stopped responding, was a lot more complex and time consuming than at first envisaged. It became clear that some people required an incredibly gentle approach over repeated visits before sufficient trust could be developed for them to talk to the officer about what they had been responding to.

3.4.5 Officers decide on how frequently to visit individual participants according to what support they assess is required. Officers continue to visit until they are satisfied that the person has been empowered with the knowledge, skills and abilities to identify scams. There has been one case where despite intensive support from Trading Standards, Adult Social Care, health professionals and family members, the individual was unwilling or unable to stop responding to the scammers. Once all avenues had been exhausted, and with great reluctance, we stopped supporting this individual.

3.4.6 Various research papers had identified pre-existing loneliness was a risk-factor in a person's vulnerability to scams and also a consequence of being caught out by scams. The team also recognised that for some people, responding to scams provided a routine or a 'relationship' that was valued by them. The project was therefore designed to address the issue of loneliness and isolation and to encourage the individual to replace the routine of responding to scams with some other activity. Information about local groups and activities and leaflets for Silverline (the telephone befriending service) was given to those that we visited.

We also introduced a Breakfast Club to facilitate peer support and enable people who have been, or who are at risk of being, scammed to meet and share their experiences. Attendees have formed friendships and some now meet outside of the Breakfast Club meetings.

3.4.7 As well as working on a 1-2-1 basis with people who have been caught out by scams, we put a lot of effort into raising awareness of scams and how to spot them with the general public, other council services and other agencies via iCAN, press releases and the attendance at events and meetings.

3.4.7 The project respects the right of all individuals to make unwise decisions – the aim of the project is to provide people with the information they need to be able to make an informed decision and to offer support where it is needed and wanted.

3.5 The impact of the project in Halton

3.5.1 In November 2015 we carried out a survey with the participants in the project. The main findings were:

- 38% said they were embarrassed that they had believed a misleading offer
- 58% felt that after their contact with Trading Standards they think they are a lot better at spotting scams.
- 62% said that after contact with Trading Standards they spend less money on scams.
- 57% said that after contact with Trading Standards they definitely will not respond to scams in the future.
- 24% said that after contact with Trading Standards they felt better about the future.
- 38% said that after contact with Trading Standards they felt less worried and less isolated.

- 28% said they had lost sleep because of scams.

3.5.2 We have worked with the National Trading Standards Scams Team to refine a detriment calculator which attempts to calculate the detriment caused by scams, the actual savings to consumers and the estimated savings to the local economy. We have worked with over 200 people, 100 of whom have confirmed that they are scam victims. Using data from these 100 people:

- The detriment caused to Halton consumers is £95,355
- The **actual** savings to Halton consumers is £140, 851
- The estimated savings for the economy is £5,013

Every £1 spent on the project resulted in £3.16 savings for consumers or the local economy.

3.5.3 Age UK, in a report published in April 2015 called 'Only the tip of the Iceberg', stated that 53% of people aged over 65 believe they have been targeted by scammers and that one in 12 had responded. It should be noted that this is an area of massive under-reporting because of embarrassment, stigma and the fear that others will consider you to be unable to look after your own affairs.

The Age UK figures have been applied to the age profile of Halton residents to produce an estimate of likely scam victims in the Borough.

Halton has 22,300 people aged 65 and over. Using Age UK's figure, if 53% of this age group has been targeted there will be 11,819 Halton residents who have been targeted by scammers. If one in 12 of these people have responded, there will be 984 scam victims in Halton. Applying the detriment calculation to these figures results in the following estimate of the scale of the problem in Halton:

- The estimate of annual detriment caused to Halton consumers is £437,453
- The estimated annual savings for the economy would be £49,325

3.5.4 The following are quotes from participants in the project talking about what impact the project has had on them:

"They've given me the confidence to get onto them and ask them to help and the confidence to be able to say 'I'm not happy about this, do

something'. Yes, that's it, it is confidence, and knowing someone is there to help. I would certainly recommend them to anybody".

"I feel a lot more confident yeah. Gives you more confidence doesn't it when there's people you can talk to who know about these things, gives you a lot more confidence."

"I'm in the process of setting up an IVA to try and at least dodge some of my debts. And I went to see the CAB to talk to them about that. And (Trading Standards office) came with me to that meeting and she's going to be with me when I talk to the IVA lady as well.... I'm very grateful for the degree of involvement that both social services and Trading Standards have had."

3.6 Case studies

3.6.1 Detailed case studies can be found in Appendix 1. The case studies demonstrate the range of losses and impacts suffered by those who get caught out and also the challenging circumstances that those individuals are often already experiencing at the time.

3.6.2 One of the earliest cases we dealt with involved a man in his late 60's, living alone, he had few friends and no family. He spent so much of his disposable income on scams that for five years he lived without a cooker, surviving mainly on soup, beans and bread.

3.6.3 Another early case involved a 97 year old man, who was referred to us by Social Services when they learned that he was overdrawn, had no money for food and he had stopped paying for his care charges.

3.6.4 One lady had been unable to sleep because she'd given her driving licence details to a scam telephone caller; another lady was spending £200 a month to enter prize draws; a gentleman lost £102,000 to a boiler room scam; a gentleman lost £24,000 to a romance scam and faced eviction;

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The annual cost of employing 1 FTE Scam Project Officer from 1st April 2018 is £45,890.

The estimated annual detriment for the 100 confirmed victims we are already working with is £44,457.

The estimated annual savings for the economy in relation to the 100 confirmed victims we are already working with is £5,013.

The actual savings the project has already delivered for the 100 confirmed victims we have been working with is £140,851.

The average actual saving per scam victim that we have worked with is £1408.50

- 5.2 Modelling the detriment and savings figures on the likely scam victim population of Halton (984 victims):

The estimated annual detriment to Halton residents would be £437,453

The estimated annual savings for the economy would be £49,325

The estimated actual savings to scam victims would be £1,385,964, assuming there are 984 victims in Halton and we could engage successfully with all of them.

It should be noted that there is massive under-reporting by scam victims so the above figures are very conservative.

- 5.3 Empowering residents to identify scams will enable them to avoid the health and financial impacts of being scammed; preventing premature access to health and care services and preventing people from losing their savings so that they can pay for their own care should they need it in the future.

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

6.3.1 Being scammed can have an impact on the individual's well-being; embarrassment, loss of self-esteem, a reluctance to trust people and a loss of enthusiasm for life. It can result in worry, stress, lost sleep and a fear of the future.

6.4 A Safer Halton

6.4.1 Scammers are criminals and those they catch out are victims of crime. The project will make the Halton population more resilient to scammers.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

6.5.1 The project has already realised savings for the local economy. Since the project began in October 2014 it has achieved actual savings to the victims of £140,851. At least some of that money, which has been diverted from the scammers, will have been spent in the local economy.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None – the report is for information only

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The project to date has mainly focussed on mass marketing fraud because the intelligence we had related to this type of scam. 85% of the people we have worked with are aged over 60 with 36% aged over 75 and 26% report they are living with existing health issues.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

Case Studies

Case study 1

Mr F was in his late 60's, lived alone and had been without a cooker for five years. He had lived on soup, beans and bread because this was what he could cook in his microwave. Mr F had spent more than £6000 on scam lotteries and prize draws in a 10 month period (he said he had been doing it for years) and exhausted his savings. The microwave had started to fail but the gentleman had no money to replace it.

As well as supporting Mr F with the scams we assisted Mr F to complete an application for a grant from United Utilities for a cooker. United Utilities noted that he lived on his own and with his agreement arranged to have a water meter installed to save him money on his water rates.

Case study 2

Mr E was 97 years old when we started working with him. He had lost around £20,000 to scam mail but was reluctant to stop replying. He was receiving approximately 20 letters a day and numerous phone calls. Social Services reported to us that in one week his bank account balance had gone from £60 credit to £220 overdrawn - he had no money for food and he'd stopped paying his care bills.

Mr E agreed to have his mail redirected to Trading Standards so that we could filter out the scam letters.

Mr E was being sued by a betting company for an unpaid debt of £59, we arranged for that to be cancelled. This victim had bought a call blocker device for £85 which was very poor quality and would not afford the protection he needed. Trading Standards obtained a full refund for him.

Unfortunately, a few months after we started working with him he had several falls at home and is now in residential care. Mr E renewed his mail re-direction for over two years so that Trading Standards could continue to filter his post. Mr E told us that if he received the mail he would continue to respond.

Case Study 3

Mrs V had received a scam call and provided her driving licence details to the caller. She had been worried about this and by the number of nuisance calls that she was receiving each day - she was in a constant state of anxiety and wouldn't answer the phone.

Her husband had died 2 years previously with Alzheimer's and at the same time her daughter was diagnosed with breast cancer. She had not been sleeping with worry over the phone calls and was constantly crying. Trading Standards contacted the DVLA who put a note on her records to say that if they receive a request for changes they would ask more security questions.

We provided Mrs V with a call blocker device which is now blocking all of her unwanted calls. Within the first week of having the device she was sleeping again and felt so much better, she stated that we have given her her life back.

Case study 4

Mrs H lives alone and had been scammed by a doorstep caller. On a visit to his mother, Mrs H's son learnt of this incident and phoned Trading Standards for advice. The officer discussed mass mailing scams with the son who stated that each month his mother sent off in the region of £200 to enter prize draws.

Mrs H had suffered a stroke 18 months previously, could no longer drive and was missing getting out and about. Our officer put her in touch with a community development officer and Mrs H is now attending local exercise classes. At the time of our first visit she was receiving a lot of cold calls, we signed her up to the Telephone Preference Service and she reports that the number of calls have now reduced.

Case study 5

Mr G invested £102,000 in a sophisticated boiler room scam in which he visited London and met the scammers in their luxurious offices. This individual has an investment background and thought that he knew what he was doing and what to look out for.

Case study 6

We were made aware of Mrs D, who is 88 because the National Trading Standards Scams Team seized her response to a prize draw letter.

During our visit Mrs D admitted that she had been responding to prize draw type mail for a long time. Her family were aware of it and were concerned about the number of letters she was responding to. Family members had attempted to persuade her to change her behaviour but unfortunately the techniques that had been used had resulted in Mrs D feeling embarrassed and ashamed and the subject became too sensitive for any of the family members to discuss.

She told her family that she was no longer responding but she told our officers that she is. Mrs D has stressed to us that she did not want her family to know the reason for our visits.

During one visit a family member arrived and quietly raised concerns that Mrs D was continuing to respond to scams on a daily basis and because of this she was heavily in debt. The family member claimed that Mrs D was receiving up to 20 letters a day and made daily visits to the Post Office. The family member did not want Mrs D to know they had spoken to us because the problem was severely affecting their relationship.

Case study 7

Mr J is 66 and has been the victim of two concurrent romance scams that appear to have started shortly after he lost his wife. He was referred to us by Social Services at the beginning of August 2015 in an already dire situation. He had given the scammers £30,000 in less than 12 months, taking loans out for £24,000 in order to raise the money. They had also used him to launder their money. He was convinced that the ladies were genuine and that one of them was moving to England to marry him.

He was investigated by the Police for money laundering. The Police seized £14,300 from his account (money sent by the scammers that he was to return to them) which was later forfeited at a Forfeiture Hearing. The bank closed his account because of the money laundering and he now has to use expensive banking facilities designed for people with very poor credit ratings.

Mr J lived in a shared ownership house - 25% mortgage and 75% rent. Whilst he had negotiated a reduction in his mortgage payments with the building society, he had failed to pay his rent for 3 months and he had not made any payments on any of the loans which he took out in November 2014. Mr J had his car repossessed. He had his phone cut off because he didn't pay the bill but he continued to pay for broadband so that he could contact the two ladies.

We assisted Mr J to attend the CAB for advice on an IVA and we made arrangements with Silverline for him to have a Silverline friend because he felt

lonely – there's normally a 3 month waiting list for this service. We discovered that Mr J was interested in learning to play the guitar, we found a local group that he joined and enjoyed attending.

Social Services referred Mr J for psychological therapy.

We continued to work with Mr J who very slowly appeared to be accepting that the two ladies didn't exist and that he was actually in contact with scammers. In December 2015 Mr J said that his belief that the ladies were real had fallen from 100% to about 10%. Unfortunately, during the same conversation Mr J told us that he had met another young American lady online who was going to marry him, that he had been in contact with her solicitor and sent money to help her and her mother.

Case study 8

Mr S's daughter contacted us for help as she was very concerned about her father (in his 80's) as he was receiving and responding to lottery and prize draw scams on a regular basis. Mr S was showing early signs of dementia. She explained that the family had tried telling him that the letters claiming he has won large sums of money are all fake but he would not believe them and continued to send cash on a weekly basis, sometimes several a day.

We made contact with the gentleman, and continue to visit him every 2 weeks. During this time Mr S had been identified as a priority referral from the National Trading Standards Scams Team as they had seized a completed prize draw acceptance form along with £20 in cash, which he had sent to an Australian lottery scam. When we visited Mrs S was extremely grateful, she explained that she was at her wits end with it all.

Mr S has agreed to keep the mail for us and over time it has reduced slightly and we feel that we are progressing slowly with the gentleman. His wife is grateful for our regular visits and support as Mr S does admit that on occasion he is still very tempted to respond.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 21st November 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Community Safety Team – Youth Engagement Officer, Safer Schools Partnership

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the presentation from the Safer Halton Partnership outlining the work that is carried out in

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The role of the School Liaison Officer (SLO) was implemented in Cheshire Constabulary in April 2002. In 2008, Cheshire Constabulary revised their Youth Strategy. The process included scanning local and national best practice. As a result, the new strategy included the aim of developing the Safer Schools Partnership model in Cheshire and a Safer Schools and Young Person's Officer was appointed for the force.
- 3.2 At this time the force conducted an audit of educational premises, which was then shared with partnership colleagues and negotiations commenced to recruit a further six Officers who would join the team and be based within schools. In 2015/2016 the Force again reviewed the aims of the Partnership which brought about the change in name for both the partnership and the Officers who worked within it. All eleven Officers who now work within the Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership are now the Forces' designated Youth Engagement Officers.

- 3.3 The Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership consists of a Lead/Coordinator, 8 Area Officers, 1 School Based Officer, (with the opportunity to engaged with further identified schools as and when the need is identified) 1 designated Alternative Provision Officer and seconded Officers/PCSO's to the Princes Trust. All the Officers are experienced Police Officers/PCSOs. They have been handpicked for the positions and between them hold a vast knowledge of police, community and partnership workings. They all work closely with educational establishments, staff and pupils to provide community support locally.

Halton has two of these officers as listed below:

Youth Engagement Officer Widnes LPU PC Jane Tetlow
Email: Jane.Tetlow@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Youth Engagement Officer Runcorn LPU
PC Suzi Williams
Email: Suzi.Williams@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

- 3.4 The Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership also involves multi-agency working, fostering positive relationships between the schools and Police service. The main role of the Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership is to provide the young people of Cheshire, Halton and Warrington with the relevant tools to facilitate self-awareness and self-insight. This will help them to make informed, sound decisions to avoid becoming offenders or victims of crime. This results in a positive effect on the school and wider community, reducing incidents of anti-social behaviour and other crimes, creating a safer environment.
- 3.5 The Safer Schools & Young Person's Partnership takes a three tier approach: Please see appendix 1

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 **None**

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

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

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

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

6.4 A Safer Halton

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

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

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

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

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	21 November 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Response to Grenfell Tower Tragedy
WARDS:	All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the actions and activities the Council has undertaken following the tragic events that took place in Kensington and Chelsea with the Grenfell Tower Fire.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the Board notes and supports the actions and activities undertaken; and**
- (2) seeks any further reassurances it requires in relation to fire safety.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Following the tragic events that took place at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017 in Kensington and Chelsea, the immediate and understandable focus was on the type of cladding used on residential tower blocks greater than 18m tall. The Council was required, as also were all Registered Social Landlords, to send various returns to Government in relation to buildings in their ownership. The Council provided all information requested within the timescales set. As the Council does not own any housing stock, most returns were therefore nil returns.
- 3.2 There are no residential blocks of 18m tall in the Borough, however, the Council Building Control Team offered support to both Halton Housing Trust (the owners of Churchill Mansions in Runcorn) and also to the Management Company who look after The Deck in Runcorn. Following a review with the owners of those buildings, it was concluded that the high rise accommodation in Halton is considered low risk in relation to the external envelope of the building. However, two recommendations were made to the building owners:

- review all fire risk assessments and action any recommendations from those assessments; and
 - retreat any timber above 18m as advised, or with any suitable treatment giving class 0 surface spread of flame (this relates specifically to The Deck).
- 3.3 The only other ‘high rise’ building in the Borough, although clearly not residential, is the Municipal Building in Widnes and whilst it does have aluminium cladding panels to the podium, this is extruded aluminium and not aluminium composite material (ACM) that was used in the Grenfell Tower.
- 3.4 So from the initial and immediate response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, it was clear that Halton did not have any similar high rise buildings to Grenfell Tower; the multi storey buildings that do exist in the Borough have been reassessed with the landlords and considered low risk, albeit with the recommendations being made above.
- 3.5 Whilst there are no similar buildings to Grenfell Tower in Halton, the Council carried out further activities to ensure, as far as possible, that public buildings within the Borough are safe. It is important to say that the Council already has in place established procedures to ensure the safety of its buildings and those who work, occupy or visit them. Health and Safety has a high profile within the Council and regular reports are made to Elected Members and the Council’s Management Team.
- 3.6 Detailed below are actions the Council has undertaken since the Grenfell Fire:
- The Fire Risk Assessments (FRA) to the main corporate buildings and schools have been updated. All will then have a FRA less than 12 months old.
 - An online survey in respect of the school buildings the Council has responsibility for issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency has been completed. The survey focused on the use of cladding on schools with residential accommodation and those buildings of four storeys or more, so there are no major concerns in respect of any schools. The most recently completed high schools, Wade Deacon and The Grange have been checked and it has been confirmed that neither of them have any such cladding.
 - The Health and Safety Team has conducted Fire Management audits of all Council Buildings. This took account of local procedures including testing and maintenance of fire equipment, general housekeeping fire drills and training which are fundamental in fire management. The majority of actions have now been

completed, but procedures are in place to follow up any incomplete actions.

- Based on the results of the audits the Health and Safety Team has updated the Fire Management Policy, which has subsequently been approved by Management Team. The Policy includes the requirement to maintain a Fire Precautions Log Book at Council buildings. This is designed to provide a consistent approach to fire management and will be updated by local Building Managers.
- All Fire Marshalls and related staff are now required to undergo annual Fire training. Also there is refresher training taking place for Evacuation Chair officers and also Fire Wardens and building managers who have additional duties on the activation of the alarm to check the panel and zone to establish if it is fire.
- The Quality Assurance Team within Social Care undertook a review of Fire safety processes in Registered Care Homes in Halton. The review was in addition to the questions routinely asked within annual review processes for residential homes and monitored during visits requiring a home walk around.
- Care Homes were asked to confirm that:
 - ❖ Fire Risk assessments have been completed and are current, tried and tested.
 - ❖ Staff have accessible information and training, and that fire drills have been undertaken.
 - ❖ Premises and equipment is maintained by a competent person.
 - ❖ Any action identified action is addressed.
- Most services have stated that there was no further action needed to be taken after Grenfell. Where issues have been raised they will be followed up by the Quality Assurance Team.
- The Council has been working for some time now with Registered Social Landlords in relation to having contingency plans and business continuity plans should an incident take place in for example, extra care premises, which require the speedy and safe evacuation of the residents of such buildings. This work was initiated by the Council but has now been taken further with training and awareness events taking place with appropriate partners across the Liverpool City Region.
- Discussions have also taken place between the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Strategic Director with representatives from the Cheshire Fire Service to review the liaison arrangements that already exist between the Fire Service and the local authorities in Cheshire and to identify any improvements to those arrangements required following the Grenfell Tragedy.

- 3.7 Fire Safety has, and will remain, an important issue for the Council. Tragedies such as Grenfell Tower give further impetus to ensuring that buildings are safe. It is felt that the steps the Council has taken since Grenfell will further enhance the safety of people using its buildings.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 As a result of the Grenfell Fire the Council has revised and updated its Fire Management Policy. This has been issued to all Building Managers.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Fire Safety and Health and Safety have always had a high profile and focus within the organisation and will continue to be monitored and reviewed through the Council's usual processes.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**
- 6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
- 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**
- 6.4 **A Safer Halton**
- 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Having safe buildings to operate within is important for all of the Council's services

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 As mentioned in the body of the report all Council buildings have Fire Risk Assessments that have been undertaken within the last 12 months.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 As part of the Fire Risk Assessment process procedures for those individuals with mobility issues are taken into consideration. Evacuation Chair training is undertaken throughout the Council's estate, where it is necessary.

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

- 9.1 None.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	21 st November 2017
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Organised Criminal Gang Board
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the verbal report and presentation in relation to Halton Councils response to Organised Criminal Gangs and the Government Strategy to tackle “County Lines” and Criminal Exploitation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the report attached as “appendix 1” be noted; and**
- 2) the Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS (OCG)

Serious and organised crime: local profile guidance

The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy places significant emphasis on the importance of effective local partnerships. Strong multi-agency working, a key commitment of the Strategy, can be supported by a shared view of the threat set out in a Local Profile.

To support this we have now established a partnership group chaired by David Parr (Chief executive) to tackle organised crime groups in Halton. (Operation Portfolio). This group will initially meet on a monthly basis.

The aim of Operation Portfolio is to deliver an effective partnership response to the threat posed by serious crime and organised crime groups impacting on communities in Widnes and Runcorn.

The group has a number of key objectives which are highlighted below:

Objectives

- Identify and research the threat posed to local communities by serious and organised crime in Widnes.
- Document the threat posed by serious crime, Organised Crime Groups, Urban Street Gangs, cross border criminality and thematic serious crime threats in a format which can be shared. This document is termed be the 'Widnes Local Profile'.
- Single or group 'Partnership Profiles' will be the information basis for assessment of specific individuals, Organised Crime Groups, Urban Street Gangs, or locations.

Partnership Profiles will be produced by police for each meeting
- Identify and establish a partnership group to use all available civil, criminal and legal powers to implement enforcement, disruption and safeguarding tactics to reduce the threat.

The group meets on a bi monthly basis and agrees a partnership action plan against a number of key nominals that have been identified by the partnership profiles. This group is now currently working on two profiles with Partners

This will now be a standing item on the Safer Halton Partnership agenda.

COUNTY LINES

County lines is the police term for urban gangs supplying drugs to suburban areas and market and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or "deal lines". It involves child criminal exploitation (CCE) as gangs use children and vulnerable people to move drugs and money. Gangs establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults by force or coercion in a practice referred to as 'cuckooing'.

County lines is a major, cross-cutting issue involving drugs, violence, gangs, safeguarding, criminal and sexual exploitation, modern slavery, and missing persons; and the response to tackle it involves the police, the National Crime Agency, a wide range of Government departments, local government agencies and VCS (voluntary and community sector) organisations.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The policy implications of the review relate primarily to the Safer Halton priority. However this is a cross cutting work area which has wider implications on other areas of council business.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 **None**

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

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. County lines activity and the associated violence, drug dealing and exploitation has a devastating impact on young people, vulnerable adults and local communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

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

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

DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR PARTNERSHIP DISRUPTION OF OCG NUMBER **

The attached action plan has been created to assist the local partnership organised crime board in identifying potential tactics and opportunities to disrupt the criminal and anti-social behavior being displayed by OCG number **. The action plan will provide opportunities under the four strands of Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent and will suggest suitable owner’s best placed to deliver that tactic.

Pursue:

We will share information on known organised crime groups and we use every agency’s powers to deliver multi-agency interventions to disrupt and dismantle organised crime networks and bring offenders to justice. We will run joint initiatives to gather intelligence from our communities to help tackle organised crime.

SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIMEBOUND	OWNER
Consider powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 e.g. Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), Civil Injunctions, Closure Powers and Community Protection Notices	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Local Authority ASB Co-ordinator
Department of Work and Pensions to review the benefit claims of all subjects and their immediate family linked to OCG number ** with	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		DWP

a view to identifying disruption / prosecution opportunities		the action owner.			
Consider DVPN powers under S24 – 33 of the Crime & Security Act 2010 to disrupt subjects of OCG number ** and to remove them from the domestic home	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Police
Consider powers under S34 to 50 of the Policing & Crime Act 2009 in relation to gang injunctions	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Local Authority legal services
Consider powers under the Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2014 to identify disruption / prosecution opportunities against subjects of OCG number **	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Gangmasters Licensing Authority
Consider harbouring notices and assisting an offender notices against associates and family	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG	This tactic is achievable within the resources and	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused		Police

members of OCG number ** subjects wanted for criminal offences	Partnership Board	legislative framework of the action owner.	by this OCG.		
Consider possible breaches of health & safety being committed by OCG number ** subjects who are business owners	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		HSE
Consider powers under Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to immediately seize uninsured vehicles from subjects of OCG number **, their associates and family members	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Police
Consider possible breaches of the Security Industry Authority codes and revocation of licenses of subjects of OCG number ** who have links to the security industry	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Police
Consider powers under Part 1 of the Serious Crime Act 2007 to	The success of this tactic will be measured through	This tactic is achievable within the	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle		Police

implement a prevention order against subjects of OCG number**	the Local OCG Partnership Board	resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	the harm being caused by this OCG.		
Local Authority to review licensing applications submitted by subjects of OCG number ** including taxi licensing, pub licensing, planning applications / building regulations, disabled blue badges and multi occupancy landlord premises	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Local Authority
Trading Standards to consider powers to disrupt any businesses owned by subjects of OCG number **	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Trading Standards
Environmental Health to consider powers to disrupt any businesses owned by subjects of OCG number **	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Environmental Health

		owner.			
Consider review of Council Tax and Housing Benefit accounts of the subjects of OCG number ** their associates and their immediate family members	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Local Authority
Social housing provider(s) to review any tenancy agreements with the subjects of OCG number **, their associates and immediate family members to identify disruption / prosecution opportunities	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to tackle the harm being caused by this OCG.		Social housing providers

Protect:

We will raise the awareness of our frontline staff to the methods employed by organised criminals to exploit the vulnerable and we will develop appropriate support and referral mechanisms to identify and protect those with complex dependency needs. We will work at neighbourhood level to remove those environmental factors that support organised crime and we will work together to develop Sub-Regional campaigns to protect our communities from organised crime.

SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIMEBOUND	OWNER
Consider powers under S8 to 10 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 in relation to parenting orders and the requirement for parents to engage with educational services	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to protect the local communities from the harm being caused by this OCG.		Youth Offending Team
Consider powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 in relation to the protection of vulnerable people via Sexual Harm Prevention Orders (SHPO) and Sexual Risk Orders (SRO)	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to protect the local communities from the harm being caused by this OCG.		MASH
Complex Dependency team to review information held upon the families subject of OCG number ** and to identify any activity required to protect vulnerable members of those families	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to protect the local communities from the harm being caused by this OCG.		Complex Dependency team
To brief frontline staff (wardens, help desk,	The success of this tactic will be	This tactic is achievable within	This is a proportionate and		Local Authority

CCTV) regarding the potential indicators of OCG activity and the likely impact it has upon vulnerably members of our communities	measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	relevant consideration to protect the local communities from the harm being caused by this OCG.		
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Prepare:

We will work at neighbourhood level to build resilient communities with low tolerance of organised crime and we will develop our on-line presence and guidance for communities who may be impacted by organised crime. We will work together to plan multi-agency follow up to support communities following enforcement interventions.

SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIMEBOUND	OWNER
To develop a partnership communication strategy which informs our local communities of the joint activity and positive outcomes achieved through targeting local OCG's	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to better prepare the local communities to respond to the threat of this OCG.		Local Authority
To promulgate contact details of the organisations and charities available to	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to		Local Authority

support those members of the local community impacted by local OCG's	OCG Partnership Board	framework of the action owner.	better prepare the local communities to respond to the threat of this OCG.		
Post overt enforcement activity to provide a multi-agency visible presence within our local communities (drop in sessions, social media, leaflet drops)	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to better prepare the local communities to respond to the threat of this OCG.		Local Authority
To identify targeted media initiatives tackling specific / seasonal vulnerability to organised criminality (e.g. illegal money lending prior to Christmas)	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to better prepare the local communities to respond to the threat of this OCG.		Local Authority

Prevent:

We will identify those young people who are at risk of being drawn in to organised crime and working through our schools, develop appropriate group and individual interventions. We will share information on known organised crime groups and their families to identify children and siblings in need and develop appropriate support. We will work in partnership to prevent those convicted of organised crime from reoffending.

SPECIFIC	MEASURABLE	ACHIEVABLE	RELEVANT	TIMEBOUND	OWNER
Consider powers under S8 to 10 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 in relation to parenting orders and the requirement for parents to engage with educational services	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to prevent vulnerable members of the community from the harm caused by this OCG.		Youth Offending Team
Consider the powers available to the Immigration & Lifetime Management team in relation to the restrictions (residency and association) that can be placed on released offenders	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to prevent vulnerable members of the community from the harm caused by this OCG.		NOM's.
Complex Dependency team to review information held upon the families subject of OCG number ** and to identify any activity required to protect vulnerable members of those families	The success of this tactic will be measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	This tactic is achievable within the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	This is a proportionate and relevant consideration to prevent vulnerable members of the community from the harm caused by this OCG.		Complex Dependency team.
To identify schools based diversionary	The success of this tactic will be	This tactic is achievable within	This is a proportionate and		Children's Services

initiatives to guide vulnerable young people away from organised criminality	measured through the Local OCG Partnership Board	the resources and legislative framework of the action owner.	relevant consideration to prevent vulnerable members of the community from the harm caused by this OCG.		
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What is 'County Lines'?

September 2017



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North West Regional Organised Crime Unit

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21.25, UK
Wednesday 14 January 2015

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PUBLISHED: August 10, 2016 07:00 LAST UPDATED: August 10, 2016 08:04

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THINKSTOCK

What is 'County Lines' ?



North West Regional Organised Crime Unit

County Lines is the term used by police and law enforcement to commonly describe the approach taken by gangs and criminal networks originating from urban areas, who travel to locations such as county or coastal towns to sell class A drugs. Gangs typically use children and vulnerable people to deliver drugs to customers and this often involves deception, intimidation, violence, debt bondage and/or grooming. The County Lines business model is linked by a marketed mobile phone line, known as the 'line', through which users phone for specific drugs to be supplied.

Traditionally the 'line' is kept away from the area where the drugs are sold and a relay system is used to contact those acting as dealers in the county location. Gang members travel between the urban and county locations on a regular basis to deliver drugs and collect cash.

The use of a local property which is commonly occupied by a vulnerable person is used as a base for the group's activities. The acquisition of the property is usually undertaken by force or coercion and is known as 'cuckooing'. Adult drug users (often addicts) and vulnerable females are also exploited for their properties or to assist with dealing in the county market.

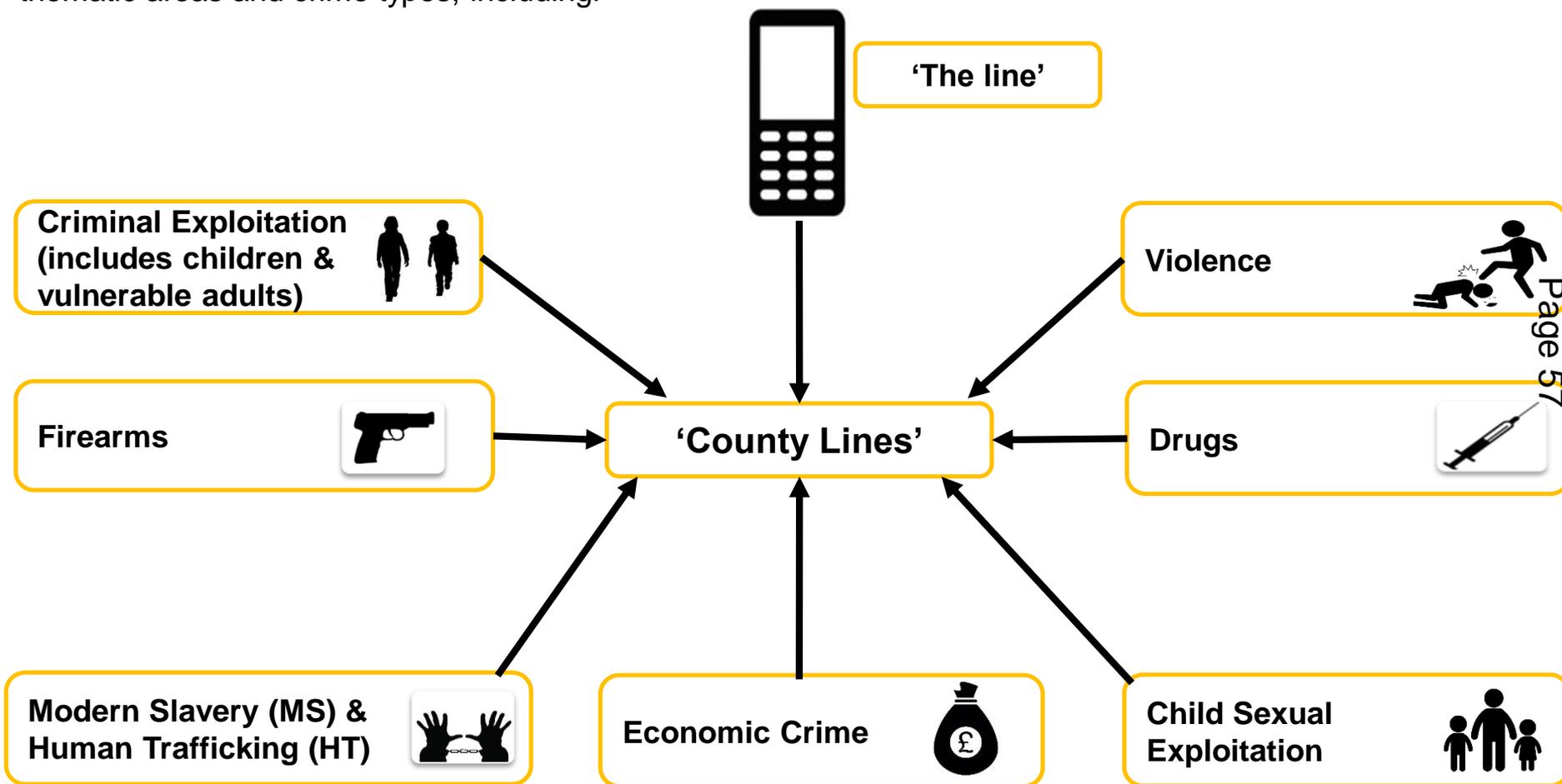
Typically children are exploited to deliver drugs from the urban location to the identified area using intimidation, violence, debt bondage and or grooming. This is commonly conducted by the child or vulnerable adult using rail networks, taxis, hire vehicles or vehicle owned by vulnerable adults.

Groups and OCG's 'recruit' and exploit children and teenagers to deal on their behalf in areas where there is little or no intelligence known on them and this may/ would not draw attention to Police. Children may be seen as easily controlled and a relatively inexpensive resource. Commonly, the children, fall into some form of debt bondage by the group and this can lead to violence and assaults committed on them.



Features of 'County Lines'

'County Lines' is not solely a drugs issue as it cross cuts a number of other thematic areas and crime types, including:



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Criminal Exploitation



North West Regional Organised Crime Unit

Some of the factors attributable to Criminal Exploitation include:



**Vulnerable adults
(males & females)**

Debt owed

Drug user

Mental Health

Female relationship with gang member may lead to some form of domestic violence

'Cuckooing'

Alcohol issues

Children & teenagers

Mispers

Truancy

Deprived background

Looked after children

Difficulties at home

Debt Bondage

No or limited offending/
intelligence history

Under care of Social Services