

# Public Document Pack



## Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at 6.30 p.m.  
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S. Young'.

**Chief Executive**

### **BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh (Chair) | Labour            |
| Councillor Chris Carlin (Vice-Chair)     | Labour            |
| Councillor Sandra Baker                  | Labour            |
| Councillor Laura Bevan                   | Labour            |
| Councillor Irene Bramwell                | Labour            |
| Councillor Dave Cargill                  | Labour            |
| Councillor Louise Goodall                | Labour            |
| Councillor Alan Lowe                     | Labour            |
| Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe            | Liberal Democrats |
| Councillor Aimee Skinner                 | Labour            |
| Councillor Pamela Wallace                | Labour            |

*Please contact Kim Butler on 0151 511 7496 or e-mail  
[kim.butler@halton.gov.uk](mailto:kim.butler@halton.gov.uk) for further information.*

*The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 14 November 2023*

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

**Part I**

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| <b>1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  |                 |
| <b>2. MINUTES</b>  | <b>1 - 4</b>    |
| <b>3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)</b>  |                 |
| 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. |                 |
| <b>4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b>   | <b>5 - 7</b>    |
| <b>5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES</b>   |                 |
| (A) <b>POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE</b>  | <b>8 - 9</b>    |
| (B) <b>CHESHIRE POLICE - HALTON PERFORMANCE</b>  | <b>10 - 11</b>  |
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| (D) <b>ENFORCEMENT TEAM OVERVIEW, INCLUDING ANNUAL COMMUNITY TRIGGER UPDATE</b>  | <b>21 - 24</b>  |
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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, 20 June 2023 at the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Carlin (Vice-Chair), Baker, Bevan, Bramwell, Cargill, Goodall, A. Lowe, Ratcliffe and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, N. Goodwin and J. Gallagher

Also in attendance: A. Norton (North West Regional Crime Unit) and one member of the press.

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

|  | <i>Action</i> |
|--|---------------|
| SAF1 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS   |               |
| There were no Chair's announcements to be made.  |               |
| SAF2 MINUTES   |               |
| The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.  |               |
| SAF3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME  |               |
| It was reported that no questions had been received.   |               |
| SAF4 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23   |               |
| The Annual Report of the Safer Policy and Performance Board was received which outlined the contributions made to the ongoing work of the Board. |               |
| RESOLVED: That the report be noted.  |               |
| SAF5 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE   |               |
| The Board received a presentation on "The Big Conversation" which was the Council's approach to  |               |

formulating a new Corporate Plan to take effect from April 2024.

“The Big Conversation” would engage with the public so that they understood the challenges of the Council. It would be an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life.

The Corporate Plan Survey would consist of 5 themes and 6 questions. There would be different consultation methods depending on the audience. Responses will be monitored during the consultation period and any low response area will be targeted with iWalkers which proved to be an effective consultation method during the elections. Staff within the One-Stop-Shops and Libraries would be able to offer assistance to anyone who required help to complete the survey.

All feedback and responses would be scrutinised and evaluated and then in conjunction with North West Employers, be summarised accordingly to establish a number of key objectives to form the Council’s new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation, Members’ discussions and comments included the following:

- Consideration to be given to re-wording the term “hard to reach groups” to “under-served groups”;
- Members offered assistance to provide links with community groups via the NHS;
- Queried if the survey would be available in other languages;
- Suggested that a stall in the market be opened to engage with shoppers;
- Suggested linking with the Community Development Network, Housing Providers and the Voluntary Community Action.

RESOLVED: That the Board endorse the approach to facilitate “The Big Conversation”.

### SAF6 PRESENTATION ON COUNTY LINES

The Board received a presentation from Adam Norton from the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit on County Lines.

County Lines is a term used to describe organised

distribution of illegal drugs across networks. This is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another and often across police and local authority boundaries, usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

The presentation provided an insight into County Lines and the work going on in Halton and the wider footprint to tackle county lines and its impacts.

Following the presentation, Members' discussions and comments included the following:

- More education needed for communities and more opportunities in early educational settings regarding healthy relationships;
- It was suggested that the most vulnerable children were those with parents with few parenting skills;
- Examples were given how older people could also be victims of crime;
- Any Members with concerns regarding problem addresses, were invited to contact the Community Safety Team; and
- Mr. Norton offered to speak to local landlords and housing providers.

The Board thanked Mr. Norton for an interesting and insightful presentation.

#### SAF7 DOG CONTROL

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which described the Council's measures to help tackle irresponsible dog ownership and dog control within the Borough.

In 2019 and under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Council introduced a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to help deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that was damaging to the local community's quality of life. Legislation required that PSPO's need to be periodically reviewed and approved. The PSPO, attached in Appendix 1 of the report, contained the following control measures:

- Dog Fouling;
- Exclusion of Dogs;
- Dogs on Leads;
- Dogs on Leads by Direction;
- Restriction on Number of Dogs Walked at a Time;

and

- Evidence of the Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces.

The Board were also advised of the issues of dealing with dangerous dogs i.e.

- Dog attacks and dogs out of control;
- Banned Breeds;
- Stray Dogs; and
- Dog Breeding.

Following discussions, Members raised the following comments and questions:

- There was lack of dog fouling signage in some parts of the Borough and the signs that did exist were not big enough;
- Members asked why was it not an offence for a dog to attack another dog?
- How many dog wardens did the Council have?
- There was not enough dog waste bins;
- Why was some areas not included where dogs must be on a lead e.g. tennis area and bandstand at Victoria Park; and
- It was suggested that some information surrounding responsible dog ownership should be promoted via the One Halton magazine.

Officers agreed to look into the above queries and respond directly to Members after the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) endorsed the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order;
- 2) support that a report be presented to the Executive Board to recommend that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order remains in force in Halton; and
- 3) endorse that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order presented to Executive Board be amended, as may be necessary, to reflect the outcome of the results of a planned public consultation exercise on the proposed Order.

*Operational  
Director -  
Community &  
Green Space*

*Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.*

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy & Performance Board

**DATE:** 12 September 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Chief Executive

**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 Chair 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.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>         | Safer Policy and Performance Board             |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b> | Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>         | Community Safety                               |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>           | Police and Crime Commissioners Office          |
| <b>WARD(S)</b>            | Borough Wide                                   |

#### 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner attending to provide an overview presentation covering the Police and Crime Plan.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** That the presentation is received.

#### 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The Board received a report in February 2023 outlining the updated Police and Crime Plan launched on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

3.2 The six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire are:

- Prevent and tackle crime
- Make Cheshire's roads safer
- Deliver justice for victims of crime
- Protect vulnerable and at-risk people
- Improve public confidence in policing
- Modernise our Police service

3.3 The Community Safety Team continue to work in partnership with the Police and Crime Commissioners Office on the delivery of work in Halton.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1
- Crime & Disorder Act 1988
  - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None to report.

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

**6.1 Children & Young People in Halton**

The plan covers all cohorts across the life cycle however, it recognises the strategic policing requirements which identifies child sexual abuse as a priority.

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

Cheshire Constabulary offer opportunities for Special Constables, for people to volunteer in the Police family to make a difference to local communities. The Constabulary and the Community Safety Team have employment and development opportunities.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

Suffering from impacts of crime directly impacts resident's health and wellbeing.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

The strategy strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and vibrant communities.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The safety of Halton's neighbourhoods directly impacts on the physical environment.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Have no effect on the environment.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>         | Safer Policy and Performance Board             |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b> | Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>         | Community Safety                               |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>           | Cheshire Police – Halton Performance           |
| <b>WARD(S)</b>            | Borough Wide                                   |

#### 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 Cheshire Police Halton Area Commander and Chief Inspector providing a presentation on policing performance in Halton.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** That the presentation is received.

#### 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The presentation will provide an overview of Policing performance and priorities for Halton.

3.2 The Community Safety Team work collaboratively with local policing units and targeted areas of work.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1
- Crime & Disorder Act 1988
  - Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None to report.

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

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

Policing covers all cohorts across the life cycle.

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

Cheshire Constabulary offer opportunities for Special Constables, for people to volunteer in the Police family to make a difference to local communities. The Constabulary and the Community Safety Team have employment and development opportunities.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Suffering from impacts of crime directly impacts resident's health and wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The multi-agency working through Halton's community safety partnership strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and vibrant communities.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The safety of Halton's neighbourhoods directly impacts on the physical environment.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this item.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None to report.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>         | Safer Policy and Performance Board             |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b> | Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>         | Community Safety                               |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>           | Emergency Planning Annual report               |
| <b>WARDS:</b>             | Borough wide                                   |

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the board on the role of the Emergency Planning Team and the work undertaken for the period 2022/23.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report and action plan be noted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Background**

Risk & Emergency Planning is a team within the Enterprise, Community & Resources Directorate. The team consists of an Emergency Planning & CCTV Manager and two Emergency Planning Officers.

### **3.2 Statutory Duties:-**

Halton Borough Council, as a Local Authority, has a 'Statutory Duty' to comply with the following Legislation:

- Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (CoMAH) 2015
- Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996

#### **3.2.1 Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004**

As part of the duties of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the authority has a duty to ensure the resilience of the Council's response to an emergency situation. Part one of the act is designed to deal with preparations by local responders for localised emergencies, such as risk of serious damage to human welfare or the environment. Part two is designed for use in very serious emergencies, which affect a larger geographical area.

The Act divides local responders into two categories, imposing a different set of duties on each. Category one organisations are at the core of the response to the majority of emergencies i.e Emergency Services (Police, Fire & Ambulance), Local Authorities and NHS England. As a category one responder, the Council is subject to a full set of civil protection statutory duties and is required to:

- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
- Put in place Emergency Plans;
- Put in place Business Continuity Management (BCM) arrangements;
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public regarding civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to 'warn, inform and advise' the public in the event of an emergency;
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination;
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency;
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations regarding Business Continuity Management.

Category two organisations such as Health & Safety Executive, transport and utility companies are 'co-operating bodies' which are less likely to be involved in the heart of planning work, however, will be heavily involved in incidents that affect their sector.

### **3.3 Planning for Local Risks**

As part of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the authority has produced a number of Emergency Plans, with the aim to minimise the impact of Major Incidents within the Borough. These plans are produced to reassure the community and limit the consequences. These plans are updated and validated, as part of the Emergency Planning team work programme.

The Civil Contingencies Act identifies two further pieces of legislation which relates to the major accident hazards at industrial establishments, Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) and to hazardous pipelines, Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

### **3.4 Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015**

COMAH applies mainly to the chemical industry, some storage activities, explosives and nuclear sites and other industries, where a threshold quantity of dangerous substances identified in the regulations are kept or used. The COMAH regulations require the authority to prepare adequate emergency plans to deal with the off-site consequences of possible major accidents at 'Upper Tier' sites.

The COMAH Regulations 2015, Regulation: 9, places 'nine' industrial sites within Halton as 'Upper Tier' sites. These plans are reviewed and validated as part of the Emergency Planning team work programme.

'Runcorn Site CoMAH Operators' is the 'umbrella terminology' which is used to capture the six operators, which is based in Weston Point, Runcorn. This name was agreed by the Site, the Competent Authority and Halton Borough Council.

Below is a list of 'Upper Tier COMAH sites' in Halton:

#### **'Upper Tier' - Runcorn sites**

##### **Runcorn COMAH Operators include:**

- INOVYN ChlorVinyls Ltd
- INEOS Enterprises Ltd
- VYNOVA Runcorn Ltd
- Runcorn Membrane Chlorine Plant (MCP) Ltd
- Packed Chlorine Limited and
- Koura Ltd (Previously Mexichem Fluor Ltd)

#### **'Upper Tier' - Widnes sites**

- Univar Ltd, Pickerings Road, Hale bank, Widnes
- ICoNiChem Ltd, Moss Bank Road, Widnes
- Lanxess Ltd, Dans Road, Widnes (Previously Emerald Kalama Chemicals Ltd)

### **3.5 COMAH Compliance**

COMAH regulations require all 'Upper Tier' COMAH sites to produce and submit a 'Safety Report' to the Competent Authority and this is reviewed every 5 years by them.

These sites are also responsible for producing a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP), which focuses on major accident hazards and details the Safety Management System, which will include the quantities of dangerous substances which are present or likely to be present.

All 'Upper Tier' COMAH sites are required to produce both an 'Internal' and 'External' Emergency COMAH Plan. The 'Internal' Plan is produced by the operator and the 'External' Plan is produced in partnership between Halton Borough Council and the Operator(s). All External Plans have been updated within the past 12 months to reflect changes at the site(s) and/or in line with the new Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) COMAH Template. The Competent Authority (HSE and the Environment Agency) schedules an annual compliancy meeting with Halton, the aim to review the External COMAH planning work. All nine sites within the Borough, are compliant.

### **3.6 Exercises / Validation**

Due to the complexity and interconnectivity of the six operators at the Runcorn COMAH site, the External COMAH Plan is tested/validated on an annual basis. This is a recommendation by the Competent Authority and has been implemented for a number of years.



Univar Ltd, Widnes, ICoNiChem, Widnes and Lanxess Ltd, 'External COMAH Plans' are tested / validated every three years. This is in line and in agreement with the Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF) 3-year cycle.

### **3.7 Further Local Risks**

Halton have a number of further risks within the Borough such as the Mersey Gateway, severe weather, flooding and cross border risks, such as Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Merseyside's COMAH site, Vertellus Specialities UK Ltd. Halton's Emergency Planning Team works with partner agencies to produce emergency plans and participate in validation exercises.

### **3.8 Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996**

The Pipeline Regulations 1996 governs all high pressure natural gas supply transmission and distribution network within the Borough of Halton. These substances are known collectively as dangerous fluids, as defined in schedule two of the Major Accident Pipeline Safety Regulations (1996).

Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Emergency means an occurrence i.e. an explosion, fire or breach of a Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP). This is further defined as a Mobile Cloudburst - an incident involving a release of chemicals or toxic substances at any location (usually during transportation) i.e. highways, railways, ships and pipelines and not relating to a specific site i.e. COMAH site.

Halton Borough Council, as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to work with the pipeline operators who have MAHP infrastructure in the area and partners to produce a MAHP multi-agency plan. As part of the update and review of the plan, consultation takes place between the pipeline operators, Emergency Services, NHS England, Public Health England and the Health & Safety Executive.

As part of the regulations there is no specific duty placed upon Local Authorities to test the plan. However, multi-agency table top exercises are conducted to validate the MAHP template, which is used to produce the Major Accident Hazard Pipeline Plan for each Local Authority.

### **3.9 Public Reassurance**

The 'Community' / Public Information Zone (PIZ) are consulted regarding a COMAH site which is in close proximity to their home / business. This consultation process includes a 'Safety Letter' and 'Information Card' which is circulated, at least every 5 years, and includes actions to be taken in the event of a major incident. This information is also posted on the Council's website.

As part of community reassurance, the team have worked with the local parish councils and schools, where appropriate, with the aim of raising awareness

regarding a COMAH site in their area.

### **3.10 Local Authority Emergency Centres**

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, Halton has two Local Authority Emergency Centres (LAEC), one based at Municipal Building and the other at Runcorn Town Hall. All equipment and plans are checked and updated on a monthly basis. .

### **3.11 Emergency Survivor Reception Centres**

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, a Survivor Reception Centre may be activated in response to the incident. Within the borough there are approximately 50 designated centres, which are made up of Church Halls, Social Clubs and Hotels. These buildings are used as a secure area where people affected by an Emergency will be taken for short-term shelter. People attending this centre will not require acute hospital treatment, however, may require first aid.

### **3.12 Emergency Rest Centres**

In the event of a Major Incident / Major Incident Standby, a Rest Centre may be activated in response to the incident. Within the borough there are 10 designated Rest Centres, which are made up of Leisure Centres and Community Centres. These buildings are used as temporary accommodation, a place of safety for displaced people who have been affected by the incident. Two of the 10 designated establishments are care homes, aimed to be used to move vulnerable people, who have been involved in an emergency evacuation. All designated establishments have an Emergency Rest Centre box, which provides kit to support those leading the rest centre, these are checked on a quarterly basis.

In responding to any major standby or incident the Council has the capacity to support vulnerable residents, a current list is maintained and refreshed every seven days to ensure reach should this be required. There is national guidance on supporting vulnerable people which informs this area of work.

### **3.13 Working with Partners**

Halton continues to work with partner agencies as part of exercise planning, training and validation exercises, both within Cheshire and Cross-Border. For example, Halton supports work in facilitating and participating at neighbouring COMAH Exercises. Also, attending cross border exercises in Merseyside. Halton is also a member of the Liverpool John Lennon Airport Emergency Planning Group.

### **3.14 Working with Cheshire Resilience Forum (CRF)**

Halton is an active member of the Cheshire Resilience Forum. The forum works with partner agencies, such as Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire &

Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service and Health/NHS organisations. The aim and objectives of the Cheshire Resilience is to prepare for, respond to and recover from any emergency. The forum brings together local emergency services, NHS and local authorities, plus other agencies that can help to prepare and respond to any event. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 every part of the United Kingdom is required to establish a Local Resilience Forum, which is a multi-agency group covering a policing area that share information and resources, and respond together to an incident. Cheshire Resilience will not offer immediate information in the event of an emergency. The aim is to work together to protect the community and make Cheshire the best prepared place for any emergency.

### **3.15 Internal Resilience**

Internal arrangements for strategic and first responder arrangements have been reviewed and strengthened to increase resilience. The training offer is also being further developed to build capacity across the responder resource.

Emergency Planning continues to develop the Emergency Planning Portal via the intranet, with the aim to ensure emergency planning documents, business continuity plans, training programmes and dates are easily accessible for Emergency Responders.

### **3.16 Training**

Emergency Planning Team scheduled training and exercises internally, for example, First Responder Training, Rest Centre Training, Business Continuity Exercises and Elected Members Training.

Halton works in partnership with Cheshire Resilience Forum, leading on training which involves external partners, for example, Introduction to Emergency Planning, Recovery, Briefing and Awareness Days and Strategic Exercises.

### **3.17 Major Incidents in Halton Borough Council**

The team have responded to a number of 'Major Incidents / Major Incident Standbys' over the last 12 months. To ensure there is resilience when planning, responding and recovering from incidents, Cheshire use Resilience Direct as an 'emergency planning platform.' To ensure learning is captured following all incidents, a structured debrief will take place, where areas of good practice, areas of development and actions generated from the incident are recorded. A report is produced which incorporates this information, with the aim to improve future responses to incidents. The team dealt with a number of incidents as outlined below.

#### **2022-2023**

Storm Eunice

Storm Franklin

Avian Flu (Hale)

Heatwave July  
Heatwave August  
Suspect device Johnson's Lane  
London Bridge (Death of HM the Queen)  
Percival Lane Fires x2  
Hostage situation / Siege

### **3.18 National Exercise – Operation Mighty Oak**

Halton Emergency Planning are worked alongside Cheshire Resilience Forum partners to deliver strategic and tactical level table top exercise with respect to a regional or national power Outage (NPO) as part of a Blackstart scenario. The aim of the exercise was to build a shared understanding of the implications for local multi-agency partner organisations in responding to a failure of the national electricity transmission system, leading to a national power outage. The exercise was carried out on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and lasted for 3 days.

### **3.19 Protect Duty (Martyn's Law)**

Emergency Planning is working with the building managers of the Council's larger public buildings, and the Health & Safety Team in producing an exercise to validate the local lockdown plans for The Brindley, DCBL Stadium, Rutland House and Widnes Market in line with the recommendations for the Protect Duty, which is expected to be enacted in to law later this calendar year. The exercise will be a command and control table top exercise with multi-agency partners using a credible scenario required to invoke the lock down protocols for the building. The exercise is scheduled to take place in January 2024. Focus continues on the emerging legislation to fully understand implications for us at place and any arrangements needed to ensure full compliance.

### **3.20 Business Continuity Planning**

As part of the authority's statutory duties, all Business Continuity Plans are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. All individual service plans have been reviewed and updated. These plans are held in a central area within the Emergency Planning SharePoint portal. All Plan Holders and Deputy Plan Holders have access to all plans. This is aimed to have shared resilience across the services, the directorates and the Council.

All individual service area business continuity plans share details and information regarding their priority 1, 2 and 3 services. Following the updates of these plans, all priority 1 and 2 services are extracted from these plans and captured within the overarching Directorate Plans. Following the sign off by the Executive Directors of both overarching Directorate Plans, the Corporate Plan is updated which reflects the Priority 1 and 2 services. This is an extremely in-depth detailed process however, this vital piece of work aims to ensure the authority is prepared for any unexpected internal incidents.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

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

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority however, should a major incident occur related to a school Children Services would have a significant role in supporting and co-ordinating the Local Authority response.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

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

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The Emergency Planning service exists to ensure high levels of preparedness and the ability to respond to major incidents that supports residents wellbeing.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The service plans and multi-agency working prepares Halton's stakeholders to support responses when needed to keep residents safe and mitigate harm from major incidents.

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

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

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

No full risk assessment is required.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None identified.

#### **9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

None identified

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

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| February 2017 | Introduction to the Emergency Planning Service |
| February 2018 | Annual Emergency Planning Service update       |
| February 2019 | Annual Emergency Planning Service update       |
| February 2020 | Annual Emergency Planning Service update       |
| February 2021 | Annual Emergency Planning Service update       |
| June 2022     | Annual Emergency Planning Service update       |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>         | Safer Policy and Performance Board                                    |
| <b>DATE:</b>              | 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023                                       |
| <b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b> | Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration                      |
| <b>PORTFOLIO:</b>         | Community Safety  |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>           | Enforcement Team overview, including annual Community Trigger update. |
| <b>WARD(S)</b>            | Borough wide  |

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with a summary of the work carried out by the Enforcement Team.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That Members note the content of the report and comment on any key matters.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In June 2023, the Board received an update report on the Community Safety & Protection (CS&P) division's progress since implementation in February 2023. Within CS&P is the Council's Enforcement Team, led by the newly introduced Enforcement Manager. The team currently covers anti-social behaviour, environmental crime, waste and alcohol licencing enforcement. This report provides an overview of the team including an annual update on community trigger.

### 3.2 Anti-Social Behaviour

3.2.1 The service has worked with partners to review governance and understand how we can improve working practice to better support one another and respond to the needs of the community. The service continues to respond to referrals from partner agencies by providing support to those experiencing anti-social behaviour, this support includes:

1. Co-ordinating action plans
2. Supporting with pursuing offenders and diverting away from negative behaviours
3. Utilising restorative practice and early intervention

3.2.2 There are currently 10 residents being supported in this way. The service has received 18 referrals for this type of support since

June 2023.

- 3.2.3 The service chairs a multiagency meeting that aims to problem solve key resource intensive locations and/or individuals. This meeting is currently being rebranded as the Problem Solving Group and will meet monthly. During the most recent meeting the group accepted Padstow Square, Runcorn Hill and Lacey Streets as areas of focus; action plans will be developed ahead of the next meeting.
- 3.2.4 On the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, the government launched its Anti-Social Behaviour action plan, this rebranded Community Trigger to 'ASB Case Review'. The service has received two ASB Case Review requests so far this calendar year, neither have met the threshold therefore have been dealt with by the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Housing Provider and Police.

### 3.3 **Environmental Crime & Waste Enforcement**

- 3.3.1 During the first Quarter (1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023), the Enforcement Team have been involved with investigating 46 incidents including waste related offences ranging from a single refuse sack in an entry to fly-tipping of large amounts of building waste, green waste etc. dog fouling and littering complaints, storage and management of commercial waste generated from business premises, incorrect/nuisance storage of waste receptacles, waste being stored on private land, and other forms of environmental crime.
- 3.3.2 As a result of these investigations and speaking with suspects, witnesses, carrying out interviews under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Officers have been able to progress 37 actions which has included the issuing of fixed penalty notices, issuing of statutory notices and the issuing of advisory and warning letters.
- 3.3.3 Officers are currently in the process of investigating 3 major tips in the Borough from this period, with PACE interviews having been scheduled recently and these cases remain ongoing. Should sufficient evidence be available throughout the course of the investigation then formal enforcement action will be taken. The team are currently looking at new initiatives, processes and ideas with a view to improving not only response time to incidents but also to achieve greater success in their goal to become more proactive.
- 3.3.4 In addition, the Enforcement Team took part in 'Love Parks Week' which is a national campaign promoted by the charity Keep Britain Tidy. Between the 28<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August Enforcement Officers carried out patrols in:



- Victoria Park
- Upton Rocks Park
- Runcorn Hill Park
- Runcorn Town Hall Park
- Town Park, Runcorn
- Hough Green Park

Officers engaged with residents providing education regarding waste management and dog control measures. Officers also completed environmental audits to highlight where signage could be improved in the parks.

### 3.4 **Alcohol Licensing**

3.4.1 The Alcohol Licensing Enforcement Officer has responsibility to act as representative for Halton Borough Council in the consultation process within the licensing legislative regime, through the preparation and presentation of files at relevant committee meetings/court hearings; and work within the Safer Halton Partnership to reduce crime and disorder associated with licensable activities.

3.4.2 Most recently the work programme has been supporting Widnes Pub Watch, working with licensees to support action against those causing disturbance in licenced premises. This is an ongoing commitment to support an effective response to preventing crime and disorder.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Community Safety & Protection division accords with the statutory functions and requirements across a range of legislation:-

Crime & Disorder Act 1988  
Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014  
Environmental Protection Act 1990  
Civil Contingencies Act 2004

## 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new financial implications as a result of this report.

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

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

The Enforcement Team impact directly on this priority through its work on tackling the causes and effects of anti-social behaviour and approaches to deliver diversionary activities and work towards making neighbourhoods safer.

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

The Enforcement Team sits in a newly formed division, there is further scoping work and service remodelling to define the services functions which will generate further training, development and employment opportunities; growing the workforce and enabling skills development.

**6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The Enforcement Team activities contribute directly to supporting a Healthy Halton.

**6.4 A Safer Halton**

The Enforcement Team responsibilities and multi-agency work, all contribute directly to a Safer Halton. Programmes of work vary from reactive to pro-active, providing support to victims were needed, working to shift outcomes and build resilient communities in Halton.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The enforcement and licensing responsibilities directly impact on the physical environment. The overall function strives to reduce crime, protect vulnerable residents and create safer neighbourhoods, all of which contribute to building strong and vibrant communities.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None to report.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified.

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

None.

**REPORT TO:** Safer Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration

**PORTFOLIO:** Community Safety

**SUBJECT:** White Ribbon Campaign

**WARDS:** Borough wide

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update Members of the Board on the White Ribbon initiative.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the Board comment on a draft action plan**

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Board has previously considered the White Ribbon campaign. There is a notice of motion going to full Council on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023 asking Council to support the development of an action plan and pursue accreditation (appendix one).
- 3.2 White Ribbon is a UK charity whose objectives are to engage boys and men to end violence against women and girls. Their objectives advise most violence is from males and aims to raise awareness, address attitudes and behaviours to change outcomes. They work towards having White Ribbon Ambassadors who are dedicated male volunteers who engage with men to raise awareness. They have White Ribbon Champions who are both male and female to ensure voices of survivors are heard. They also have accreditation for larger organisations to provide a strategic platform in raising awareness and changing cultures and support organisations for smaller organisations with less than 250 staff but wish to focus on violence against women and girls in promoting a positive and respectful culture; this could be small businesses but also other types of organisation such as schools and sports clubs.
- 3.3 The motion if agreed will require an action plan to be developed to support accreditation. Attached is a draft action plan (appendix two) that responds to the accreditation requirements which encompasses work of the Domestic Abuse service and would report into Halton's Domestic Abuse Partnership. Key elements of the action plan cover:-

- Awareness raising and e-learning offer to engage staff, Council Members, schools
- A planned event in November delivered by Halton's Domestic Abuse Partnership in collaboration with Safe Lives, the organisation Halton is actively working with
- A communication and engagement plan to ensure information is available to ease navigating support for victims and system learning from lived experience

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications at this stage.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are limited financial implications in achieving White Ribbon status. There is an annual cost for achieving and maintaining the award, which can be met from within existing Council and partnership budgets.

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

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Domestic Abuse impacts children and young people life chances. The awareness raising aims to change behaviour thus improving outcomes for future generations of children and young people.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

There is collaborative learning across Halton's system in better understanding Domestic Abuse and the impacts.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The impacts of domestic abuse are far reaching impacting the health system and wellbeing of those effected by Domestic Abuse.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

Halton experiences high risk, high harm, high volume domestic abuse which impacts neighbourhoods and communities. Measures to raise awareness and tackle domestic abuse are welcomed in striving to build strong resilient communities.

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None to report.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None to report.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None at present.

**9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None to report

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

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

**Appendix One – Notice of Motion for White Ribbon October 2023**

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**To be submitted to the meeting of Full Council to be held on: 18 October 2023**

.....

**in accordance with Standing Order Number 6.**

|                  | <b>Name (in capitals)</b>         | <b>Signature</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Proposer:</b> | <b>CLLR BEVAN</b>                 |                  |
| <b>Seconder:</b> | <b>CLLR N. PLUMPTON<br/>WALSH</b> |                  |

PROTECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS FROM DOMESTIC ABUSE

This Council agrees that it is committed to challenging all forms domestic abuse and to promoting a culture in which people can be protected and the victims of domestic abuse be supported.

Council notes that in March, on International Women’s Day, Jess Phillips M.P read out names in the House of Commons of 109 women and girls who had lost their lives in cases where a male perpetrator had either been charged or convicted of their killing. Of the names read out 2 were unnamed, unknown women. The youngest victim was 15 and the oldest was 92 years of age. This list does not include women who have survived attempts on their life or those deaths in which cases never see anyone charged. We believe that this illustrates the scale of the problem, and Council agrees to commit to taking action to challenge domestic abuse.

Council agrees to:

- 1) Take steps to prepare an Action Plan to submit the Council as a candidate for White Ribbon accreditation, so that the Council can proactively engage in a range of actions to tackle the causes, and effects of domestic abuse, and to promote support for victims, and to challenge the behaviour of perpetrators.
- 2) We will proactively promote awareness and an end of domestic abuse with local schools, and through the operation of Council services, where we can do so.
- 3) We will make available to all Council members and staff, the means for them to undertake an awareness course on domestic abuse, so that

the early signs of it can be identified, and staff and members made aware of how to react to incidents.

- 4) We will hold an annual awareness event in conjunction with White Ribbon Day annually in November, the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, to encourage men and boys to pledge never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.
- 5) We will take steps to ensure awareness for women who are experiencing violence to know where to get help through effective promotion of services available.
- 6) We will continue to promote the Safer Streets Campaign raising awareness of how both Men and Women can play their part in making Halton's streets safer in partnership with Cheshire Police.

*(NB This motion must be submitted to the Chief Executive, c/o the Committee Services Manager, at least seven clear working days prior to the date of the relevant Council meeting.*

*In accordance with SO6, if the subject matter of the motion comes within the province of any Panel, Board or Committee or Committees it shall without introductory speeches by the mover or seconder upon being moved and seconded stand referred without discussion to such Panel, Board or Committee or Committees, or to such other Panel, Board or Committee or Committees as the Council may determine, for consideration and report. However, the Mayor may, if s/he considers it convenient and conducive to the despatch of business, allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it is brought forward.)*

DRAFT - Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy – Action Plan  
September 2023



| Strategic Priority 1   | Lead Agency | Key Actions to Explore and Deliver   |
|--|-------------|--|
| <p><b>Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership – Act before someone is harmed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic abuse is never acceptable; Halton have adopted a zero-tolerance culture.</li> <li>• We actively promote Clare’s Law, The Right to Know and The Right to Ask.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safelives Plan for Change</b></p> <p>Make the new Domestic Abuse Commissioner role fit for purpose, with independence and a comprehensive approach to domestic abuse built in.</p> |             | <p>Work with schools, colleges, and places of employment to highlight issues relating to domestic abuse, promote healthy relationships.</p> <p>Develop a network of links throughout the faith sector to communicate key messages with.</p> <p>Continue to support the Safer Streets Campaign in Halton.</p> <p>Support the White Ribbon annual event.</p> <p>Explore / consider white ribbon accreditation.</p> <p>Promote Clare’s Law via ongoing social media channels. Professionals’ communications as well as highlighting at training events. Ensure that the HBC website has appropriate links and information.</p> <p>Develop a pool of domestic abuse campaigns across partnership teams to have ongoing dialogue and communicate domestic abuse resources, training opportunities and be the point of contact for staff who need first response support for domestic abuse related matters.</p> |

| Strategic Priority 2   | Lead Agency | Key Actions to Explore and Deliver   |
|--|-------------|--|
| <p><b>Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership – Identify and stop harmful behaviours.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyone needs to understand their responsibilities and what they can do to contribute to tackling domestic abuse in Halton.</li> <li>• Promote support services and upskill people so that when families, friends, neighbours, or co-workers are concerned about someone they know, they have access to specialist help, feel supported and are equipped to prevent harm.</li> <li>• Through improved systems and sharing information about adults and children at risk of harm we can identify and understand the needs of individuals and families so we can provide timely interventions.</li> <li>• We share and spend resources in a way that best matches our collective whole picture approach.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safelives Plan for Change</b></p> <p>Identify and stop harmful behaviours, with a comprehensive perpetrator strategy.</p> <p>Change the public conversation with a campaign highlighting the voice of survivors and supporting and challenging perpetrators to question their own behaviour.</p> |             | <p>Develop a multi-faceted training package that meets the needs of volunteers, professionals, and key stakeholders.</p> <p>Consider options to have a local 24-7 telephone number for victims to call.</p> <p>Develop a campaign schedule throughout the year to promote domestic abuse, with identified key themes.</p> <p>Ensure the points of access for key services have up to date material available to people with key information and contact information.</p> <p>Continually look for opportunities to improve the corporate response to domestic abuse, support staff in co-locating and linking up service responses and opportunities for joint work.</p> <p>Specialist domestic abuse trained staff working with other professionals improve understanding of roles, upskilling, mentoring, and shadowing opportunities to improve service responses for those affected by domestic abuse.</p> <p>Ensure resources are allocated in line with priorities identified by the Halton Domestic Abuse Board.</p> |

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| <p>Explore how Police, Probation and partners can work better serial Domestic Abuse offenders.</p> <p>See domestic abuse as part of a whole picture linked with other adverse experiences.</p> |  | <p>HBC to consider employing a lead officer for the development of a local domestic abuse perpetrator response.</p> <p>Develop a workforce response to upskill frontline staff to be equipped to challenge harmful behaviours.</p> <p>Look for opportunities to link in with females' offenders and provide a point of access.</p> <p>Develop a dashboard / performance framework that the domestic abuse partnership strategic group can monitor outputs and outcomes relating to domestic abuse in Halton.</p> |
|--|--|--|

| <b>Strategic Priority 3</b>   | <b>Lead Agency</b> | <b>Key Actions to Explore and Deliver</b>  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| <p><b>Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership - Increase safety for those at risk.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all frontline staff have the tools and skill sets to recognise domestic abuse, provide advice and have the understanding to do effective safety and support work within their remit, with the individuals and families they support.</li> </ul> |                    | <p>Commission a public health approach review of domestic abuse interventions, support and provision in Halton.</p> <p>Continue to support the Engage intervention in custody.</p> <p>Update the Sanctuary Policy.</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We must do everything within our gift to ensure victims and their dependents are protected from harm within the community or within a range of supported accommodation options.</li> <li>• We develop specialist skill sets to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our community, that services and support are accessible and equitable.</li> <li>• Working in partnership with Criminal Justice we must work in collaboration to ensure that those who harm are brought to justice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safelives Plan for Change</b></p> <p>Train people in a position to help giving them clear policies on their role in responding to domestic abuse.</p> <p>Fund a comprehensive range of housing options for victims and perpetrators.</p> <p>The Health Sector must step up its response as the first port of call for many living with domestic abuse.</p> <p>Streamline the criminal, civil and family courts, holding perpetrators to account and supporting survivors to access justice and be safe.</p> |  | <p>Update the MARAC Operating Protocol.</p> <p>Consider setting up a MARAC Steering Group.</p> <p>Commission specialist domestic abuse accommodation and work with partner agencies to explore other safe accommodation offers.</p> <p>Ensure learning is shared relating to suicide and domestic abuse.</p> <p>Support victims in response to Domestic Violence Prevention Orders.</p> <p>Ensure learning is developed and communicated relating to non-fatal strangulation.</p> <p>Domestic Homicide Reviews – share learning. Ensure panel member training, chair training and process manager training are in place.</p> <p>Explore opportunities with health colleagues to bring IRIS to Halton.</p> <p>Ensure we have sufficient IDVA support in place to respond to local need.</p> <p>Explore the safe and Together model as corporate approach for supporting families affected by domestic abuse.</p> |
|---|--|---|

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|  |  | <p>Explore opportunities to link in with the third sector in Halton to share key messages and offer learning and training opportunities.</p> <p>Look for opportunities to link in with local businesses in Halton to share key messages and offer learning and training opportunities.</p> |
|--|--|--|

| Strategic Priority 4   | Lead Agency | Key Actions to Explore and Deliver  |
|--|-------------|---|
| <p><b>Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership – Support people to live the lives they want after harm occurs.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims are offered support and services that best fit their needs and help them to recover. Victims and families are empowered to be resilient and independent.</li> <li>• Children and young people are recognised in their own right, providing early and effective interventions, offering support and advice to parents and young people in order to address need and support behavioural change;</li> </ul> |             | <p>Action the Authentic Service User Voices workstream as identified by Safelives.</p> <p>Develop a network of peer support and survivors.</p> <p>Deliver a rolling program of group gateway and ensure appropriate staff are trained to deliver one-to-one interventions.</p> <p>Continue to offer You, Me and Mum.</p> <p>Continue to support Reset.</p> <p>Continue to support the delivery of Innovating Minds.</p> |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who harm are offered the support they need to change and tackle the underlying motivators to their behaviour.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safelives Plan for Change</b></p> <p>Commission a comprehensive spectrum of specialist support for Adults, working to high standards in every local area and online.</p> <p>Meet the needs of children. Ensure the response is linked to the response to all family members.</p> <p>Identify and stop harmful behaviours, with a comprehensive perpetrator strategy.</p> |  | <p>Ensure children affected by domestic abuse are supported by specialist domestic abuse interventions, counselling, and support. That provision is afforded to the non-abusive parent. To offer child to parent violence intervention.</p> <p>Deliver Building Better Relationships training with offenders.</p> <p>Develop a local voluntary perpetrator program offer.</p> <p>Ensure that we have processes in place to share the recommendations from domestic homicide reviews.</p> <p>Continue to support / explore how we improve local provision available to historical victims of domestic abuse and their children.</p> |
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**Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2021-23 – A Whole Picture Approach**

The Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy will build on previous strategies and will re-inforce local approaches to tackling domestic abuse. Partnership agencies will work in collaboration demonstrating a Whole Picture response, Whole person, Whole Family, Whole Community. Whole Society approach to supporting victims, children, perpetrators and families affected by domestic abuse. We believe the following SafeLives framework sets out the comprehensive and enduring whole picture approach that needs to be in place for domestic abuse to be ended for good.

**The Domestic Abuse Act 2021**

The Domestic Abuse Bill passed both Houses of Parliament and was signed into law on 29 April 2021.

The Domestic Abuse Act is set to provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse, as well as strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators. Detailed factsheets on each new measure are available on the government website. The Domestic Abuse Act will :

- create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of this definition, children will be explicitly recognised as victims if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse;
- create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation;
- extending the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse;
- extend the ‘revenge porn’ offence to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress;
- clarify the law to further deter claims of “rough sex gone wrong” in cases involving death or serious injury;
- create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link);
- establish in law the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse;
- place a duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation;
- provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;
- place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing;
- ensure that when local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they do not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy;
- provide that all eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance;
- stop vexatious family proceedings that can further traumatise victims by clarifying the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989;
- prohibit GPs and other health professionals from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid.

While the Bill is important, not least for public attention to the issue and the establishment of the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner to ensure advocacy continues, the legislation has some very major shortcomings, particularly in its failure to recognise and address the need for community support.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) secured £125 million to cover the cost of new burdens placed upon local authorities in England to meet (and prepare to meet) the new statutory duty relating to the provision of support within domestic abuse safe accommodation. Local Authorities will be required to appoint a multi-agency Local Partnership Board (LPB) to support them in performing certain specified functions. These will be:

- Assess the need for accommodation-based support for all victims and their children, including those who require cross border support.
- Prepare and publish strategies for the provision of support to cover the locality and diverse groups of victims.
- Give effect to strategies by making commissioning/de-commissioning decisions to meet the support needs of victims and their children.
- Monitor and evaluate local delivery of the strategy.
- Report back to Central Government; expected to include:
  - o Reporting on local delivery – setting out how the functions have been executed under the new duty (including reporting on strategy, as well as how partnership working has been approached working across key agencies and across neighbouring areas;
  - Evidence that adequate needs assessments have been undertaken;
  - Evidence that local strategies are in place and working effectively; o Evidence that local commissioning decisions have been informed by needs assessments and that there is adequate suitable provision;
  - An evaluation of the impact of decisions locally including service delivery outcomes;
  - Evidence on spend and feedback on delivery, including challenges faced and best practice.

### **SafeLives Plan for Change**

SafeLives – the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good, which introduced and rolled out IDVA and MARAC functions nationally – presented a 10-point plan for change to the government. We have endorsed their advocacy and align our strategy with their overarching aims to bring about whole person, whole family, whole system change.