

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 14 November 2023 at 6.30 p.m.
Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

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 for further information.

The next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 6 February 2024

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

Part I

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1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
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3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Goodall, A. Lowe and Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler and N. Goodwin

Also in attendance: Councillor M. Lloyd-Jones, S. Baxter and J. Dwyer (Police & Crime Commission), S. Heath, R. McLoughlin and S. Pyke (Cheshire Constabulary)

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF8 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Chair reminded Members of the Board that it had previously been agreed that the meetings would be held at alternative venues between Widnes and Runcorn so that the public could access the meetings from both sides of the River. To date, no members of the public had attended any recent meetings, however, the Board confirmed that their preference would be to continue with the current arrangement. The Chair agreed to review arrangements again at a later date.</p>	
SAF9 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
SAF10 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no questions had been received.</p>	

SAF11 POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner attended the meeting to present the latest Police and Crime Plan to Members of the Board. Following feedback from a public survey, the Plan set out the Commissioner's vision for policing, crime and community safety in Cheshire.

During the Commissioner's time in office, Cheshire was the only County in the Country to see a reduction in crime,

The six key priorities for policing and crime in Cheshire were to:

- 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; and
- Modernise the Police service.

It was noted that one of the concerns raised during the public survey was the speed issues on Watkinson Way and as a result average speed cameras were due to be installed in October 2023.

The Board noted the report and provided feedback which included:

- Councillors were confused with boundary changes and which Police Officers to contact on behalf of their constituents. The Commissioner agreed to provide an up-to-date contact list and this information would also be included on the newsletters which would soon re-commence again;
- Councillors believed that constituents did not report minor crimes. Both the Commissioner and the Police reassured the Board that they would encourage the public to report minor crimes as often those who commit minor crimes graduate to committing more serious crimes. All information received by the Police help them to build intelligence;
- There was a discussion about how the Police could improve their communications and it was suggested that Police messages need to be communicated at grassroot level e.g. women's community groups. Other communication outlets that were suggested were:
 - the Council's "In Halton" newsletter which was

delivered to every household in the Borough;
and

- Halton & St Helens Voluntary and Community Action Group, of which 560 organisations were members.
- There was a discussion about dangerous dogs and the need for all dogs to be licensed and chipped. Councillors suggested that the matter would be taken via the MP; and
- The Police Commissioner was invited to contribute to a message that is delivered to all secondary school pupils via a group of Magistrates who visit schools to explain the consequences for those who commit crime.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF12 CHESHIRE POLICE - HALTON PERFORMANCE

The Board received a presentation from the Cheshire Police Halton Area Commander, the Chief Inspector for Runcorn and the Chief Inspector for Widnes, which provided an overview on policing performance and priorities for Halton.

The presentation outlined:

- Local performance figures (April – June 2023);
- Priorities for both Runcorn and Widnes Local Policing Units;
- An update on Operation Scrambler; and
- Recent improvements in the Runcorn and Widnes Local Policing Units.

Members of the Board discussed the information shared within the presentation and agreed to help share the good messages with their constituents.

The Board thanked Police colleagues for their hard work in keeping the Borough safe.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

SAF13 EMERGENCY PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team during 2022-23.

As a Local Authority, Halton Borough Council had a statutory duty to comply with the following legislation:

- the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004;
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015; and
- Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) 1996.

Members noted that Halton had a number of Emergency Plans in place with the aim to ensure resilience. These Plans were regularly updated and tested. The Board was advised on examples of local risks, details of the exercises that take place at COMAH sites in the Borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work the Emergency Planning Team carried out with partner agencies both within Cheshire and cross-border, and as part of Cheshire Resilience Forum.

Emergency Planning was part of the new Community Safety and Protection Division and an information session would be held at the Council meeting in October to update Members of the progress.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF14 ENFORCEMENT TEAM OVERVIEW, INCLUDING ANNUAL COMMUNITY TRIGGER UPDATE

The Board received a report which provided an update on the work carried out by the Enforcement Team which included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Environmental Crime and Waste Enforcement; and
- Alcohol Licensing.

The report also provided an annual update on Community Trigger, however, it was noted that a more detailed report would be provided at the next meeting.

Following discussions on the report, Members of the Board requested further information including:

- An updated list of contacts within the Community Safety and Protection Division;
- Feedback following the “Love Parks Week”, and
- Details of any future campaigns.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

SAF15 WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the White Ribbon Initiative; a UK charity set up to engage boys and men to end violence to women and girls.

On 18 October 2023, Council would receive a Notice of Motion to support the development of an action plan and pursue accreditation.

Key elements of the action plan included:

- Awareness raising and e-learning offer to engage staff, Council Members and 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; and
- A communication and engagement plan to ensure information was available to ease navigating support for victims and system learning from lived experience.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) endorse the draft Action Plan.

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 14 November 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.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	14 November 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Cheshire Fire Authority Draft 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service is attending to provide a presentation explaining the proposed changes to fire and rescue provision across Cheshire resulting from Cheshire Fire Authority's draft 2024-2028 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Fire and rescue authorities are required to produce a CRMP, which must identify key fire and rescue risks and how they will be addressed. Cheshire Fire Authority is currently consulting on its draft 2024-2028 CRMP, which outlines a series of proposals to achieve its vision of a Cheshire where there are no deaths, injuries or damage from fires and other emergencies.

Through the life of the plan, the draft CRMP aims to deliver more fire prevention and protection activities to reduce risk in the community and proposes several changes to the way in which emergency cover is provided in order to provide a better response across Cheshire. Proposals are detailed below:

Prevention

- Implementing the outcomes of a review into the Prevention function.
- Refining the Authority's Safe and Well targeting methodology to meet the needs of those most at risk.
- Increasing the number of Safe and Well visits in the community through the life of the CRMP.

- Working with partners to improve the quality of referrals to support the most vulnerable.
- Reducing the occurrence of deliberate fires and explore arrangements with Cheshire Police to support this.
- Implementing a new Road Safety Strategic Plan with partners.
- Including bespoke advice around lithium-ion batteries within home safety visits.

Protection

- Reviewing the Protection department and its Risk Based Inspection Programme to ensure it remains efficient and effective.
- Reviewing the Authority's primary authority responsibilities to ensure they are effective and self-funding.
- Ensuring Protection activities align to the outcomes of the Building Safety Review.
- Upskilling operational managers with protection qualifications to enhance Firefighter safety and allow for more effective inspection of non-domestic premises.
- Continuing to lobby and campaign for the installation of sprinklers in the built environment.

Response

- Changing the way the Authority measures and reports its response times.
- Changing four on-call fire engines into full-time weekday fire engines/
- Introducing a day crewing system at Knutsford Fire Station.
- Reorganising daytime fire cover in Warrington.

Further details on the draft CRMP and more information on the consultation can be found at www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Building Safety Act 2022

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The draft CRMP outlines proposals to mitigate risks covering all age groups. In particular, the proposed increase in the number of guaranteed fire engines during weekday daytime hours creates more capacity to engage with children and young people through Key Stage 2 school visits; in addition to existing youth engagement provision such as The Prince's Trust Team, RESPECT, On the Streets programmes, and hosting of fire cadet units on fire stations.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None to report.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The draft CRMP proposes to create capacity to increase the delivery of Safe and Well visits across Cheshire. These visits also provide individuals with health signposting and information, which can lead to positive health outcomes in the community. Proposed changes to the Authority's fire prevention activity are aimed at improving how the Authority and other partners work together to support the most vulnerable in society, including improving health outcomes.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The draft CRMP proposes to improve the provision of fire cover across Cheshire and create capacity to increase fire prevention and protection work in the community; reducing risk and creating safer neighbourhoods.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Authority's ambition to increase its community fire protection work and the increase in capacity to undertake site specific risk inspections and other safety inspections aims to reduce the risk of fire within non-domestic premises, thereby contributing to a safer built environment.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

None to report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None to report.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

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.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	14 November 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Corporate Director, Chief Executive's Delivery Unit
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	The Corporate Plan - The Big Conversation Update
WARD(S)	Borough Wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on 'The Big Conversation', which is integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That**

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) that Board continues to endorse the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.

3.0 **Supporting Information**

3.1 Background

The Big Conversation is about engaging with the public so that they understand the challenges that the Council is facing.

It is an approach between the Council and those who live or work in Halton to work together in order to create an improved borough in all aspects of everyday life.

A Stakeholder Analysis together with a Communications Plan was developed in order to generate and establish as many opportunities as possible to involve all our stakeholders in many different and varied ways.

The Big Conversation consultation is open until November 30th 2023.

- 3.2 Breakdown of responses by source, as of October 4th 2023:

Total Number of responses: 777

No reply	41
Inside Halton	37
HBC Staff	220
Councillors	-
Comms Flyer	9
Comms Poster	-
Comms Desktop	-
Comms Outdoor	-
Comms Partner	-
Comms Short URL	5
Comms Media	43
Comms Banner	-
Comms School	-
Comms Staff Poster	-
Comms Bin Wagon	-
Comms Meta Advert	197
Comms Organic Facebook	94
Comms Organic X	9
Comms Organic Threads	1
Comms Organic LinkedIn	4
Comms Chamber Newsletter	-
Comms Business Improvement Growth	-
Comms Carers Centre	116
Comms Adult Social Care	-
Comms TUC	1
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESPONSES	777

3.3 **Promotion, Consultation & Engagement:**

3.3.1 Consultation opportunity has been targeted to the following places / groups as detailed below. The number indicates the potential responses available;

- Social Media Impressions: 234,487 (times the survey was delivered to feeds on Facebook, Instagram, Messenger, Threads, LinkedIn and X)
- 1st Tuesday Business Event: 60
- Active Ageing Get Together Forum: 115
- Grangeway Community Centre: 30
- Dementia Group: 15

- Halton Patient Participation Group: 24
- Heads of Primary Schools: 60
- Runcorn Shopping city (specific) Adults: 44, Under 16`s: 6
- Widnes Market (specific) Adults: 30, Under 16`s: 10
- School Circular: 100 staff (serving 18,388 pupils)
- HBC Employees: 3000

Note that it's difficult to put an exact figure on the actual footfall for Runcorn Shopping Centre and Widnes Market, but based on estimated weekly footfall a conservative best guess would be:

Runcorn Shopping Centre: 500 – 1,000

Widnes Market: 500 – 1,000

3.3.2 Specific Forums and Venues attended / Scheduled to attend:

- **HBC Workforce**
Email to HBC Workforce: July 28th

Stephen Young Video message: September 5th
- **General Public**
Inside Halton Magazine: Summer edition
- **Businesses**
Halton Chamber of Commerce Network Meeting: September 5th

Halton & Warrington Business Fair: November 9th

Sci-Tech Daresbury Business Breakfast: November 10th

Newsletters - Halton Chamber of Commerce
Business Improvement Growth
- **Partners**
Halton Patient Participation Group: September 28th

Halton TUC

Newsletters - Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS
Halton Patient Participation Group
- **Adult Services**
Healthy & Active Ageing Event (Runcorn Shopping Centre):
September 18th

Dementia Group: Widnes (September 29th) and Runcorn
(October 11th)

Partners in Prevention Event (Widnes Market): September

21st

Healthy and Active Ageing Event Get Together: Runcorn (October 9th) / Widnes (October 17th)

Newsletters – Young Carers and Adult Carers

- **Children Services**

Primary Schools Heads Meeting: September 21st
(with an email follow up: September 21st)

Children`s Provider Network Meeting: October 4th

Halton Youth Cabinet: October 12th

Family Hub Centres – Kingsway (October 12th) and Windmill Hill (October 24th)

Riverside College: October 17th

Newsletters – Schools e-circular: September 4th

3.4 **Emerging Themes:**

3.4.1 A reminder that the 5 suggested themes identified were:

- Tackling inequality, helping those who are most in need
- Building a strong, sustainable local economy
- Supporting children, young people and families
- Improving health, promoting wellbeing and supporting greater independence
- Working towards a greener future

3.4.2 Level of agreement to all of the 5 suggested themes is very high, with the highest level of agreement being: 'Improving health, promoting wellbeing and supporting greater independence', and the lowest being 'Working towards a greener future'.

3.4.3 In terms of how can the Council can support these themes, the top 3 identified so far are:

- 'Provide opportunities for young people to engage with their local community and do things that interest them, keep them safe and make them happy'.
- 'Create vibrant town centres for everyone to enjoy across the Borough'
- 'Continue to ensure local people are able to enjoy the Borough`s parks and green spaces'

3.4.4 In terms of the ways our stakeholders can support the identified themes, these were as follows:

- 'Spending money with local shops and businesses'
- 'Doing their best to stay healthy and active'
- 'Look out for children and the vulnerable'

3.4.5 Identifying other potential corporate themes, the top 3 were:

- Business / Regeneration / Employment
- Environment: litter / pavements / greenery overgrowth
- Crime / Police / Antisocial behaviour

3.4.6 Given only 1% of respondents were aged between 16-24 years to-date, the current desires and commitments could change significantly when we have engaged with a greater number of young people. Nationally, younger people appear to be more concerned about the climate change agenda, and therefore the lack of support for green spaces and recycling efforts may change in December once the final sum of raw data is available.

Nevertheless, there is evident support for the provision of learning and skills services that nurture young adults and provide sustainable career opportunities for the whole borough; which is subsequently supported by the desire of a strong local economy – which residents are willing to invest in.

3.5 **Gaps and actions required:**

3.5.1 Demographic – there is a clear gap in the 16 - 24 year olds age bracket.

Actions:

- Target young adults at Riverside college/post 16 education settings
- Planned visits to Family Hubs (Kingsway and Windmill Hill)
- Sharing the Big Conversation on forms of social media which would target specifically this age group, eg Instagram and Messenger.

3.5.2 Geographical areas – analysis has shown that response has been low in 4 wards, 2 in Widnes, (Ditton, Hale Village and Halebank and Bankfield) and 2 in Runcorn, (Halton Lea and Norton South and Preston Brook)

Action:

These areas will targeted by iWalkers on Saturday, November 4th. Ward members will be advised that this will be taking place.

3.5.3 Work on-going in terms of indenting specific stakeholder groups that we haven't actively engaged with as yet, such as Faith groups and the visually impaired.

3.5.4 The introduction of iWalkers, who wear screens that can feature multiple images and videos, as well as pass out flyers and collect information. On the day they will also add someone to a Whatsapp

group and send images for social media and updates about the days progress.

3.6 Timeline:

- Mid-October onwards – gaps identified and addressed
- November 30th 2023: Consultation ends.
- December 2023: Analysis undertaken – key priorities identified.
- January – February 2024: Summary developed / shared with stakeholders via drop-in sessions within council buildings and open engagement at community spaces.
- March 2024: Corporate Plan finalised and approved at key forums.
- April 2024: the New Corporate Plan is launched.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific policy implications at this stage; however ultimately there will be a new contemporary and relevant Halton Borough Council Corporate Plan.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There will be a potential financial implication around the engagement of 2 iWalkers, at a cost of £1,200 per day for 8 hours.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 The Corporate Plan is Halton Borough Council's key strategic document. This plan sets out the main vision, themes and values of the Council.

'The Big Conversation' will help to determine the Council's new set of priorities, which will be translated into the plan.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The major risk is that we do nothing and roll out the same priorities as we have done in previous years. To this end the current Corporate Plan is a losing relevance and doesn't fully engage with either the workforce or the people of Halton in the contemporary environment.

7.2 The Council is serious about 'Reimagining Halton', aligned with that commitment, this is a perfect opportunity to undertake a meaningful piece of work which will engage the people of Halton and together

with our workforce determine a set of new priorities, which will make a difference and take Halton forward over the next 3 – 5 years.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Equality and Diversity may well be a specific Corporate Plan priority, but if not then it will certainly underpin the Plan. An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the policy development process.

The consultation process has been designed to be inclusive.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 At this stage there is nothing specific to highlight within the context of this report; however there is a distinct possibility that as a result of ‘The Big Conversation’ climate implications will form one, or a key part of on, of the Council’s key priorities.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	14 th November 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Anti-social Behaviour tools and powers
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with an overview of the tools and powers available to the Council in response to anti-social behaviour

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

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, was first published in 2014 setting out powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. Guidance for local authorities has been refreshed on several occasions since the Act's implementation, most recently in March 2023.

The application of any measures needs to be proportionate and supported by appropriate evidence.

3.2 Early and Informal Interventions

Early intervention and the use of informal approaches are effective in most cases of anti-social behaviour. These interventions set out clear standards of behaviour, highlight the impact of the behaviour on the victims, and warn of the potential for more formal action should the anti-social behaviour persist. In most cases, informal interventions need to be evidenced before any further action can be taken.

Informal interventions include: -

- A verbal or written warning – this is an appropriate course of action where the local authority is satisfied that anti-social behaviour is likely to occur or has occurred. A verbal or written warning is specific about the behaviours, its impact and the consequences of this behaviour continuing.
- Mediation – this can be an effective tool to resolve neighbour disputes, noise complaints or lifestyle differences. Mediation is

only an option if both parties are willing to engage and seek their own solution. Mediation can be used to create a 'Good Neighbour Agreement' which is signed by both parties.

- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts – this is a written agreement between a perpetrator of anti-social behaviour and agencies trying to prevent anti-social behaviour. This is a tool used with young people to try and prevent their behaviour escalating and to divert them into more positive activities. A breach of this contract does not automatically result in a more formal sanction. However, a breach or refusal to sign can form part of the evidence pack for court if the threshold for further sanction is met.

3.3 **Civil Injunction**

Civil injunctions are available to local authorities to utilise to stop or prevent individuals engaging in anti-social behaviour quickly. Where an individual has engaged or has threatened to engage in conduct causing harassment, alarm, distress, nuisance, or annoyance the local authority can apply to the court to issue a civil injunction. A civil injunction prohibits an individual from engaging in certain acts or behaviours, it can also include positive requirements to address the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour.

Although civil injunctions are civil, the legal test for granting an injunction is robust. Civil injunctions can be used against individual aged ten and above, however when applying for a civil injunction against a person under eighteen, the Youth Offending Service must be consulted.

Breaching a civil injunction is not a criminal offence. An injunction can include a power of arrest in cases where the perpetrator has used or threatened violence, or if there is a significant risk of harm to others. For those over the age of eighteen a breach can result in an unlimited fine or up to two years in prison. For those under eighteen a supervision order is applied for.

3.4 **Criminal Behaviour Order**

Criminal behaviour orders can be issued to a person who has been convicted of a criminal offence and is engaging in anti-social behaviour. Criminal behaviour orders can be applied for by the Crown Prosecution Service at the request of the local authority or the police and must be issued on conviction. Like a civil injunction, a criminal behaviour order can be applied for against those aged ten and above, but for anyone younger than eighteen, the youth offending service must be consulted.

Breach of a criminal behaviour order is a criminal offence and is dealt with by the relevant court depending on the age of the individual.

3.5 **Community Protection Notice**

Community protection notices can be used to stop a person over the age of sixteen, business or organisation engaging in anti-social behaviour that affects the community's quality of life. Council officers can apply for community protection notices where there are ongoing issues, most suitably where this anti-social behaviour relates to waste or noise nuisance. Before issuing a notice, a written warning must be issued. This is known as the Community Protection Warning.

Non-compliance with a community protection notice is an offence. The penalty for this offence can be a fixed penalty notice, remedial action, forfeiture order or seizure.

3.6 **Public Space Protection Order**

Public Spaces Protection Orders are intended to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a specific area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life, by imposing conditions on the use of that area which apply to everyone. They are intended to help ensure that the majority can use and enjoy public spaces, safe from anti-social behaviour.

The breach of a public space protection order is a criminal offence, which is punishable by a fine of up to £100.

- 3.7 The Council is often working in a collaborative approach to tackle anti-social behaviour along with partner organisations. There can be other powers called upon to assist in tackling the problem. This could be housing providers with tenancy enforcement which could include grounds for possession or Police who have other measures they can implement. Dispersal powers enables Police officers to require a person who has committed, or is likely to commit, antisocial behaviour to leave a specified area and not return for up to 48 hours.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Community Safety & Protection division accords with the statutory functions and requirements set out in:-

Crime & Disorder Act 1988

Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications to this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The anti-social behaviour powers afforded to the local authority 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

Responsibility for anti-social behaviour 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

Response to anti-social behaviour contribute directly to supporting a Healthy Halton by improving open spaces making them more accessible to the community.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Work around anti-social behaviour contributes 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 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 identified

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	14 th November 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Youth Diversionary Activity
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide Members with an overview of the diversionary activity for young people in the Borough.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That the Board note the content of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Children's Services has a commissioning contract with VIBE, this is to deliver engagement with young people and provides Youth Workers three nights per week (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) in both Runcorn and Widnes. They target hotspots are identified by Safer Halton partnership working and aim to support young people connecting into positive activities. They develop relationships with groups of young people in identified areas achieving a trust element between staff and the young person.

3.2 Vibe have extensive partnership work in the Borough with a number of agencies and funding sources: -

3.2.1 **Good Choices**, Funded by Cheshire Police.

Vibe's Good Choices intervention is a crime prevention programme designed to work with young people from across Runcorn and Widnes, that have been in trouble with the police, at risk of committing a crime, or they are/have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

Delivered in small groups, across a day, and comprised of discussions and activities which will enable you to make effective decisions about your choices, understand the importance of your relationships and work towards the prevention of Substance Misuse and Anti-Social Behaviour.

3.2.2 **Positive Vibes Programme**, Funded by Cheshire Police.

Vibe's PVP works with young people to build learning and resilience to make informed positive life choices. Open to young people aged 13-17 years from across Runcorn and Widnes, that have been in trouble with

the police, at risk of committing a crime, or they are/have been involved in anti-social behaviour.

PVP is a 6-day informal educational, skills and relationships programme. It includes teamwork, goal setting, confidence building, personal challenges and 1:1 mentoring sessions.

3.2.3 Short Breaks Group Support Service - Saturday Club

Funded by Halton Council.

Vibe's Saturday Club is a fortnightly session in both Widnes and Runcorn for young people aged between 12-17 years and have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). An activity and friendship group for young people with attendance by referral through the Halton Short Breaks Service for Children with Disabilities.

The delivery plan is flexible and adaptable to ensure the young person's needs are the priority. Working with partners and families to ensure any EHCP or PBS Plan is included in the designing of options, to ensure any outcomes focus on these as well as providing social opportunities and a combination of stimulating activities that are safe, fun and provide opportunities to develop essential life skills.

Sessions can be adapted to meet the individual needs of the young person. The offer is structured to ensure that groups have equal access to opportunities, with activities simply adapted to accommodate young people's individual needs.

3.2.4 Vibe Outdoors - Sports Short Breaks

Funded by Halton Council, Short Breaks Grant

Vibe outdoors short breaks in Halton are monthly sessions involving a range of indoor/outdoor adventurous activities chosen by the young people. Available to those aged between 8-17 years and have Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND). There are two sessions for ages 8-11 and 12-17 years.

3.2.5 Inclusive Needs Club (INC)

Funded by Halton Council, Young People's Grant.

INC is a youth group with sessions for young people aged 17-25 with special educational needs. Sessions take place on Friday from 5pm-7pm. Young people enter INC club via referral.

The INC youth group focuses specifically on developing skills for independence. This includes elements such as planning to go shopping, going shopping, cooking a meal, learning to iron, learning to sew, first aid and other aspects such as making a telephone call and what to do in an emergency. Alongside this it provides a safe environment in which young people can take part in a range of

activities, explore interests, and have fun with peers away from home. It offers a wide programme of events including games, quizzes, crafts, and an opportunity to socialise.

3.2.6 Where's Your Head At? (WYHA?), Funded by The Arconic Foundation.

WYHA? is a twelve-week project focusing on improving the mental health and wellbeing of young people aged 11-16. WYHA? is designed for young people to learn skills and coping strategies to support their mental health.

It provides a listening ear and a safe space to connect with others with sessions themed around the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and Vibe's Relationship Model.

3.2.7 Detached Youth Club - Hallwood Park & Palacefields

Funded by Riverside

Every Thursday, between 5pm-6:30pm, Vibe youth workers engage with young people in both locations. Providing a structured youth club 'without walls' offering age-appropriate engaging interventions, directed by the young people.

3.2.8 Detached Youth Club – Windmill Hill, Funded by Windmill Hill Big Local.

Every Friday, between 4:30pm-6:30pm, Vibe youth workers engage with young people in Pheonix Park providing a structured youth club 'without walls' offering age-appropriate engaging interventions, directed by the young people. Youth workers plan activities in consultation with young people.

3.2.9 Halton Youth Cabinet (HYC), Funded by Halton Council.

Halton Youth Cabinet and UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) members are young people aged 11-18 years, elected to represent the views of young people across Halton, locally, regionally and nationally such as, British Council Youth Convention . They meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each Month in Widnes & Runcorn.

UKYP members also represent views nationally, attending an annual debate in the House of Commons in London.

Members attend events informing them about important social and political issues. They gather the views of other young people using online surveys, and campaign for changes by producing films, blogs and other media.

3.3 During the school summer holidays 2023, Vibe have provided, along with another 30 providers funded through the Department of Education to engage children and young people in holiday activities and food sessions at Crow Wood Park, Runcorn Ski centre and Windmill Hill area.

3.4 The Council have also commissioned VIBE to provide a youth club targeting support for young people impacted by parental drug and alcohol use.

3.5 The Council also has Halton Youth Grants which are to support positive activity to young people provided by 3rd sector organisations.

3.6 Children's Services have also commissioned Vibe to develop and deliver a resilience programme targeted at young people at risk of county lines and exploitation.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None to report.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no new financial implications to this report.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The activity detailed supports youth engagement to support those at most risk of becoming engaged in anti-social or criminal behaviour, or vulnerable and to support Halton's young people to engage in positive activity.

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

Skills development and learning is an intrinsic theme in the delivery of the activities. Supported young people are more likely to engage with their education and achieve better outcomes.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Emotional and mental health are key elements to youth work delivery, the programme also offers a range of physical activity to support overall health through the holiday activity funds delivery.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Young people can often be associated with anti-social behaviour. The

programme of delivery provides engagement and positive activity to support young people in safe environments and enable them to contribute positively to their community and with their peer groups.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The youth provision and targeted activities reduces anti-social behaviour which reduces negative impacts in the towns and neighbourhoods.

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 identified

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy and Performance Board
DATE:	14 th November 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment and Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Mischief, Halloween & Bonfire Impacts
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide the Safer Policy and Performance Board with a verbal update on the experience and impacts of Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night across the Borough.

2.0 **RECOMMENDED: That the Board note the content of the report.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The reporting timetable for the Board on this occasion doesn't enable a written report ahead of the meeting.
- 3.2 A verbal overview will be provided at the meeting with the opportunity to discuss impacts and any concerns.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None to report.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no new financial implications to this report.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The item will explore the experience and impacts in Halton and any significant issues for children and young people.

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

None to report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

None to report.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The occasions are often associated with increased levels of anti-social behaviour. There is multi-agency approached to mitigate and manage increases and escalation striving to prevent or limit negative impacts for Halton's community and enable a safe environment for all residents to enjoy.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None to report.

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 identified