

Public Document Pack



Safer Policy and Performance Board

Tuesday, 19 November 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes

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 Louise Goodall	Labour
Councillor Alan Lowe	Labour
Councillor Angela McInerney	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, 4 February 2025

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

Part I

Item No.	Page No.
1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
2. MINUTES	1 - 4
3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS)	
<p>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.</p>	
4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5 - 7
5. DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY ISSUES	
(A) PREVENT	8 - 10
(B) WHITE RIBBON UPDATE	11 - 13

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, 10 September 2024 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Burrows, K. Butler, R. Moore and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF7 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
There were no Chair's announcements.	
SAF8 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2024 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF9 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no public questions had been received.	
SAF10 TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE UPDATE	
The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, which provided an update on some of the work of the Trading Standards Service and the contribution this work had made in protecting public health, children and vulnerable adults from harm.	
It was noted that the Trading Standards team provided a wide range of statutory services to protect consumers and legitimate businesses from unfair,	

misleading or unsafe trading practices. Amongst others, these services included weights and measures, product safety, restricted sales, explosives, scams awareness, fair trading, doorstep crime, counterfeit and illicit goods – including tobacco and vapes. The team also provided an enhanced consumer advice service to help consumers enforce their own civil consumer rights.

The report focussed on the following services which contributed to protecting public health and safeguarding children and adults:

- scams awareness;
- doorstep crime;
- illegal money laundering;
- tobacco and vapes;
- age restricted sales;
- consumer advice and the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline; and
- iCAN consumer alert network.

The report also provided case studies for each of the services, which the Board noted.

Following discussions and arising questions from Members, some additional information was noted:

- Despite several warnings about selling counterfeit tobacco and illicit vapes, Trading Standards successfully obtained a Closure Order to shut down the News Rack in Widnes Town Centre. This was initially for 3 months which then was extended for a further 3 months. They were then prosecuted. It was confirmed that Closure Orders had a bigger impact on premises operating criminal activity as fines usually did not reflect the crime;
- A Member of the Board gave an example about how a school was dealing with vapes, as these were considered to be a safeguarding concern for children. It was suggested that the Trading Standards Team consider routes of prosecution for the selling of vapes which were targeted at children/young people. It was confirmed that the Early Years Team and the Public Health Team were involved in this area of work but it was agreed that discussion would be fed back to the team; and
- Stop Loan Sharks was operated by Birmingham City Council on behalf of Local Authorities throughout the

country via delegated powers. It was noted that there was no exchange of money; Birmingham received funding directly from central Government.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) note the report;
- 2) endorse the approach to doorstep crime and illegal money lending;
- 3) endorse the multi-faceted approach to both prosecute and disrupt illegal activity by seizing illegal and illicit products to remove them from the market; and
- 4) encourage partners to sign up to and share the iCan alert system.

SAF11 COMMUNITY, SAFETY & PROTECTION DIVISION UPDATE

The Board received a report from the Executive Director, Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the progress in the Community Safety and Protection Division.

The report provided an update on:

- Domestic Abuse Services;
- Enforcement and CCTV;
- Emergency Planning;
- Asylum Seekers and Refugees; and
- Safer Halton Partnership.

Following discussions and arising questions from Members, some additional information was noted:

- Members raised the issue of parking problems in the Borough and the fact that the powers for traffic/parking enforcements sat with Cheshire Police. It was suggested that the Chief Inspectors for Widnes and Runcorn be invited to a future meeting to discuss the issues. Councillor Angela McInerney informed other Board Members that she received some advice from Cheshire Police who recommended that anyone who witnessed a parking issue, should take a photograph and email it to the Police. They also confirmed that these issues were being investigated and hotspots would be targeted, including Farnworth and Widnes Town Centre;

- Through the Chair, Councillor Bevan requested an item on the next agenda regarding housing for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. It was noted that a report on this matter was being scrutinised by the Health PPB; and
- An update on the White Ribbon status was also requested.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE:	19 November 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Chief Executive
SUBJECT:	Public Question Time
WARD(S)	Boroughwide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE 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 **RECOMMENDATION: 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**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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

6.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None identified.

6.2 **Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy**

None identified.

6.3 **Supporting Children, Young People and Families**

None identified.

6.4 **Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need**

None identified.

6.5 **Working Towards a Greener Future**

None identified.

6.6 **Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

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 under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy Performance Board
DATE:	19 November 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	Prevent
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the Prevent programme and delivery in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receives a presentation on the Prevent programme.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The countries national threat level remains at substantial, the definition of which is, and attack is likely. PREVENT is the government's framework to prevent radicalisation, the guidance has been updated on 6th March 2024 following an independent review: - [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales)

3.2 Following the recent horrendous incident in Southport and the ensuing civil unrest seen across the UK the PREVENT work has never been more prevalent.

3.3 The objectives of Prevent are to: -

- Tackle the ideological causes of terrorism.
- Intervene early to support people susceptible to radicalisation.
- Enable people who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

3.4 Halton's governance and approach to Prevent includes a Channel multi-agency partnership which considers Prevent referrals and appropriate interventions and participating in Contest meetings; these are the mechanisms/meetings for the framework of governance.

3.5 A multi-agency Prevent Delivery Group has also been established to support proactive, preventative multi-agency approaches to tackling radicalisation to extreme ideologies. This provides an effective

mechanism of engagement working to ensure consistent approaches to Prevent across Halton's system.

3.6 The Council's information, referral mechanism and training offer around Prevent has been strengthened in recent months with partners in the Home Office, Department of Education and Counter Terrorism Policing supporting this work.

3.7 In recent months, a Liverpool City Region (LCR) approach to Prevent has commenced. Halton, alongside Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helen's & Wirral is working supporting a joined-up approach to Prevent and sharing resources where possible as Liverpool benefits from being a Home Office funded area. A training offer has been developed and there was a regional approach to Prevent week which took place w/c 14th October including -

- Circulation to all Heads of Service & Directors of the LCR Training Offer
- Circulation on the staff news section of the training offers
- HBC attended LCR Prevent Advisory Group on Tuesday 15th October.

As part of the LCR training offer a Members awareness session has been arranged for Wednesday 27th November with Dr Gareth Harris.

3.8 The Council is required to complete a Home Office benchmarking exercise on Prevent arrangements annually.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None to report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None to report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The Prevent programme supports the promoting of wellbeing to Halton residents that are vulnerable and are susceptible to radicalisation.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Prevent work contributes to the resilience of the local community which impacts the sense of place and attractiveness of the Borough.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The Prevent Programme will deliver Prevent awareness training to professionals in Children's Social Care including education providers to help identify those susceptible to radicalisation and implement

appropriate support mechanisms.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

The Prevent Programme including the Channel process identifies and offers support to vulnerable residents that are susceptible to radicalisation.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None to report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

The programme of work provides support to marginalised or disenfranchised cohorts of the community.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There is significant risk in this area of work, failure to have a robust approach would result in a lack of understanding of risks locally, regionally, and nationally and the opportunity for extreme ideologies to be perpetuated in the Borough.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The programme is universal with flex to ensure the most appropriate support is provided which may involve responding to cultural and faith matters.

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

Safer Halton Policy Performance Board, September 2021.

REPORT TO:	Safer Policy Performance Board
DATE:	19 November 2024
REPORTING OFFICER:	Executive Director - Environment & Regeneration
PORTFOLIO:	Community Safety
SUBJECT:	White Ribbon Update
WARD(S)	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update the Board on the approach to White Ribbon.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receives the report and endorses the approach.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council received and approved a motion at full Council in October 2023 protecting women and girls from domestic abuse which included an action to ***'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.'***

3.2 The Domestic Abuse service co-ordinated activity for the week including 25th November last year. This is the date for a worldwide day of celebration for White Ribbon which is also the United Nations Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.

3.3 In 2023 Halton's approach to White Ribbon included lighting the Mersey Gateway and Silver Jubilee Bridge, a social media campaign and a multi-agency event on domestic abuse.

3.4 To apply for White Ribbon accreditation a Steering Group must be established requiring Champions and Ambassadors register with White Ribbon committing to a suite of pledges, becoming advocates and changemakers in raising awareness and tackling violence. A steering group for Halton has been established, this is led by the Executive Director Environment and Regeneration with Elected Member representation, Children's, Adult's, and Community Safety Officers.

3.5 Halton's White Ribbon Steering Group has developed and endorsed an action plan for delivery over the 16 days of action which includes:

-

- lighting the bridge for a week
- a social media campaign
- developing a workforce network of Champions
- circulating resources for White Ribbon to staff, Members & partners
- a series of lunch & learn sessions over two weeks.
- TED talk sessions on misogyny
- 7 themed 7 minute briefings to be circulated on Safeguarding Boards websites.

An updated and confirmed action plan will be presented at the meeting.

3.6 Halton's approach to White Ribbon and wider service offer recognises domestic abuse is not only or limited to males being the perpetrator of harm. A distinction in the Council's approach with this year's campaign is recognising working with those that harm to change behaviours and outcomes.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Domestic Abuse Act 2021

4.2 Halton Domestic Abuse Strategy

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Accreditation to White Ribbon incurs an annual cost of £660 with a minimum commitment of three years, a total cost of £1,914 as a discount is applied.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

To increase awareness and positive approaches to tackling domestic abuse removing barriers for victims and families in accessing services and being empowered to move forward.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

Domestic abuse affects 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men. With UK employment rate hovering at around 75%, that means that as many as 1.5 million employees will have experienced domestic abuse within the past 12 months. This is estimated to cost the UK economy close to £2bn annually, with output lost due to reduced productivity; unplanned time off; lost wages; sick pay.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Domestic abuse negatively impacts families and children's, a distressing time in their lives often through traumatic experience. White Ribbon supports a whole system understanding and approach, standing together in taking a stand against perpetrator behaviour and supporting victims.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

White Ribbon raises awareness and understanding domestic abuse and tackling it in all its forms. Taking positive action to protect victims and children from further harm and providing access to supportive measures to reduce the number domestic incidents, reducing the risk of further abuse.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None to report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

This area of work supports people at a time when they are most in need. It is not only a statutory duty, there is recognition the support provided will impact on the trajectory of victims and children in having fulfilling life experiences.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Halton experiences high levels of domestic abuse, White Ribbon provides a mechanism to raise awareness, a key factor in understanding and acknowledging the issue and working towards changing behaviours and improving victims experiences.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 White Ribbon is a universal approach to raising awareness of domestic abuse. The Council's wider work in this area recognises risks for cohorts of the community who may be marginalised.

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

Council, October 2023, Agenda Item 13 and minutes COU39.