

Safer Policy & Performance Board Priority Based Report

Reporting Period: Quarter 4 – 1st January to 31st March 2016

1.0 Introduction

This report provides an overview of issues and progress against key service area objectives and milestones and performance targets during the fourth quarter of 2015/16; for service areas within the remit of the Safer Policy and Performance Board.

The report has been structured by the following key priorities for Safer PPB, as identified in the Directorate and Corporate Plans:

- Community Safety
- Safeguarding and Dignity (including Consumer Protection and Substance Misuse)
- Domestic Violence
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Environmental Health
- Risk & Emergency Planning

The way in which the Red, Amber and Green, (RAG), symbols have been used to reflect progress to date is explained in Appendix 2 at the end of this report.

2.0 Key Developments

There have been a number of developments within the Directorate during the fourth quarter which include:

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Community Alcohol Partnerships

A new initiative aimed at tackling underage drinking and related anti-social behaviour is being introduced in Halton. The Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) is a partnership between alcohol retailers local authorities, the police, schools, alcohol services and communities, and is based upon the realities of how young people obtain alcohol.

The CAP is an opportunity to focus on the issues around alcohol and young people and work with the local residents and businesses to reduce alcohol consumption and anti-social behaviour. Consideration is also being given to addressing the use of legal highs in the CAP, in particular the use of nitrous oxide canisters and the impact that has on young people, local residents and the local environment.

CAPs are developed with and within individual communities. Each partnership is tailored to suit local needs and activity is designed to meet local objectives around three main themes; enforcement, education and public perception.

Evidence shows that whilst some young people buy alcohol themselves from shops, pubs and bars, more obtain it from parents and other adults. Therefore CAP recognises that retailers are part of the solution rather than part of the problem and traditional enforcement activity cannot, by itself, be the answer.

CAP focuses on promoting positive change through education and work on public perception, developing unique local partnerships that bring together everyone with an interest in challenging underage drinking in a co-ordinated effort to tackle the issues collectively in a particular locality.

The CAP initiative will initially be introduced as a pilot within an area identified as experiencing problems of under aged drinking and associated anti-social behaviour which could be rolled out across the rest of the Borough depending upon the outcomes.
No key developments for Community & Environment.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Road Safety - Completion of new crossings

The Pegasus crossing (a crossing for pedestrians, cyclists and horses) across A56 at Daresbury near Keckwick Lane has been commissioned. The Pegasus crossing is part of the sustainable travel routes, funded via the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Local Growth Fund (LG) Sustainable Transport Enhancement Packages 2015/16, and helps to link the bridleway route in Keckwick Lane to Daresbury Lane. The crossing also links SciTech to Daresbury village where employees are able to catch buses and some employees park with the agreement of the church.

The Zebra crossing on High Street, Runcorn, near the NatWest Bank, has been installed, with positive feedback received from members of the public. The crossing was installed following requests from the public via local councillors.

LCR Transport Policy Update

Halton has acted as a critical friend for Merseytravel, which is coordinating the preparation of a bid to Sustrans, on behalf of the LCR. Sustrans is a leading UK charity that works with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

This bid is to gain access to 20 days support from their national time-bank programme. If successful, the LCR will benefit from mapping/auditing of its current green network, and community engagement to identify particular problem areas (e.g. those inaccessible, overgrown paths and corridors).

Halton reviewed and commented on the application with particular reference to the benefits this service could bring to the Healthy New Towns project in identifying new or alternative solutions to making the Halton Lea area more accessible on foot or bicycle, and in turn linking up to the area's existing assets. This will help support any future funding opportunities that may arise by providing an evidence base of what possible infrastructure maybe required.

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

Supported accommodation – vulnerable adults

Procurement for a new framework agreement has been completed and new contracts will commence in June 2016. Services provision will change from the current model of agencies delivering dispersed provision across the Borough to a dedicated provider for each of seven zones. This will enable providers to deploy staff more efficiently whilst maintaining quality services. The new rates include the impact of the national living wage/national minimum wage increases and sleep in support.

The Council is finalising agreements with Halton Housing Trust for the 5 specialist bungalows at Barkla Fields and Signature Supported Housing for 12 apartments at 5 Widnes Road. This will be a valuable resource for adult social care which will be able to nominate tenants for the properties to meet the accommodation and complex support needs of some of Halton's most vulnerable adults.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

Making Safeguarding Personal

The Local Government Association and ADASS (Directors of Adult Social Services) published an evaluation of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP). This is the approach embedded within the Care Act and has moved safeguarding investigations from a process driven approach to one which focusses on outcomes for the person involved. The new IT system went live in July 2015 and the report on outcomes has been presented the Safeguarding Adult Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH

No Key Developments for Public Health.

3.0 Emerging Issues

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

No emerging issues for Prevention & Assessment

PUBLIC HEALTH

No emerging issues for Public Health.

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Restructure

The restructure within the Street Lighting and Traffic Management teams, following the Efficiency Review, has resulted in smaller teams and a small number of vacancies to fill. As a consequence, it is now likely that there will be longer response times to requests for information/action and for work to be carried out. This will mean, for example, that Traffic Regulation Orders (waiting restrictions, etc.) will take longer to implement. There are also going to be less resources available to deliver Road Safety.

Network Management

The coordination of the works for the Mersey Gateway is increasing to try and minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public. This is continuing to prove a challenge as works are underway at multiple sites throughout the Borough in order to meet the completion date.

Ditton roundabout area will become more challenging as the existing roundabout is removed. This will also be the case for Watkinson Way between Ashley Way and the Bridge where traffic will initially be in contra flow, then diverted along Hutchinson Street and Wandsworth Way. The works at M56 Junction 12 should be completed in May 2016, when the fully signalised roundabout will be operational.

Contaminated Land

Part 2A and the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy Implementation of the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy have been hampered by Central Government's removal of funding for both investigations and remediation.

Whilst there is some internal budget available for small and largely in-house investigations and assessments, there is a genuine concern that if major problems are

identified requiring significant remedial works by the Authority there will not be a funding source.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

No emerging issues for Community & Environment

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE

No emerging issues for Commissioning & Complex Care

4.0 Risk Control Measures

Risk control forms an integral part of the Council's Business Planning and performance monitoring arrangements. As such Directorate Risk Registers were updated in tandem with the development of the suite of 2015/16 Directorate Business Plans.

Progress concerning the implementation of all Directorate high-risk mitigation measures was reported in Quarter 2 and Risk Registers are currently being reviewed for 2015/16 in tandem with the development of next year's Directorate Business Plans.

5.0 Progress against high priority equality actions

Equality issues continue to form a routine element of the Council's business planning and operational decision making processes. Additionally the Council must have evidence to demonstrate compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which came into force in April 2011.

There have been no high priority equality actions identified in the quarter.

6.0 Performance Overview

The following information provides a synopsis of progress for both milestones and performance indicators across the key priorities that have been identified for Safer PPB, as stated in the Directorate and Corporate Plans.



COMMISSIONING AND COMPLEX CARE

Key objectives, milestones and performance indicators – None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

PREVENTION AND ASSESSMENT

Key objectives and milestones - None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
PA 2	Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days (Previously PCS15) (Previously PA5 [12/13], PA8 [11/12])	86.8%	85%	85% (estimated, further data quality work ongoing to confirm this)		

Supporting Commentary







PA 2 Percentage of VAA Assessments completed within 28 days:

This target has been achieved, albeit the figure is slightly lower than 2014/15; this is due to data loading issues; this will be addressed by a more detailed analysis of the completed safeguarding investigations for 2015/16, with a view to providing mandatory training for operational staff and support surgeries undertaken by the performance and carefirst teams to reduce the risk of these issues reoccurring in the future.

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Key objectives and milestones - None applicable to Safer Halton priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
CE LI 10	Residual household waste per household	534 kgs	593 Kgs	578 Kgs		
CE LI 11	Household waste recycled and composted	46.8%	40%	42%		
CE LI 13	Improved Local Biodiversity – Active Management of Local Sites	56%	55	50.94%		

Supporting Commentary

CE LI 10 Residual household waste per household:

Whilst the end of year target has been met, there has been a slight increase in the amount of waste produced per household. This increase is consistent with increases that have been experienced by other regional local authorities and it also appears to be a national trend.

CE LI 11 Household waste recycled and composted:

Whilst the end of year target has been met, there has been a slight reduction in recycling performance this year. Despite an increase in the tonnage of recyclable materials collected through the blue bin scheme, as a result of different waste treatment processes being in place, overall recycling performance has fallen. An increase in the overall amount



of waste produced per household will also have some effect on the percentage of waste recycled.

CE LI 13 Improved Local Biodiversity:

The majority of the sites are not owned by the council and we are reliant upon the landowners to carry out works. The sites that are owned by the council were actively managed during this quarter

PUBLIC HEALTH

Key objectives and milestones

Ref	Milestones	Q4 Progress
PH04	Implement the Halton alcohol strategy action plan working with a range of partners in order to minimise the harm from alcohol and deliver on three interlinked outcomes: reducing alcohol-related health harms; reducing alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse and establishing a diverse, vibrant and safe night-time economy. March 2016	
PH 04	Hold a community conversation around alcohol – using an Inquiry approach based on the citizen's jury model of community engagement and ensure recommendations for action are acted upon by all local partners.	

Supporting Commentary

PH 04 Alcohol Harm Reduction:

Good progress continues to be made towards implementing the Halton alcohol strategy action plan. Key activity includes:




- Reviewing alcohol communications in line with the new Chief Medical Officer (CMO) guidelines.
- Delivery of alcohol education within local school settings (Healthitude, R U Different, Amy Winehouse Foundation, Cheshire Police, Alcohol education Trust, wellbeing web magazine).
- Reviewing and updating the early identification and brief advice (alcohol IBA) training and resources across the lifecourse stages (pregnancy, children and young people, working age adults, older people).
- Working closely with colleagues from licensing, the community safety team, trading standards and Cheshire Police to ensure that the local licensing policy supports the alcohol harm reduction agenda, promoting more responsible approaches to the sale of alcohol e.g. through the development of a “Caring Landlords Declaration”
- Working to influence government policy and initiatives around alcohol e.g. 50p minimum unit price for alcohol, restrictions of all alcohol marketing, public health as a fifth licensing objective.
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PH 04 Community conversation around alcohol:

The Inquiry group have developed recommendations for local action related to: alcohol education in schools and educating parents, alcohol licensing and promoting responsible retailing, alcohol advertising and education around alcohol especially awareness of alcohol units and recommended safe drinking levels. These were shared with local stakeholders at a well-attended launch event held in June. Local stakeholders will now support the group going forward in making

these recommendations a reality. Members of the Inquiry group attended the local alcohol strategy group to ensure their recommendations are taken forward locally.

Key Performance Indicators

Ref	Description	Actual 2014/15	Target 2015/16	Quarter 4	Current Progress	Direction of Travel
PH LI 04	Alcohol related admission episodes - narrow definition Directly Standardised Rate, per 100,000 population	767.2 (2014/15)	808.4	753.2 (Q2 15/16)		
PH LI 05	Under 18 alcohol-specific admissions Crude Rate, per 100,000 population	51.0 (12/13 to 14/15)	55.0	Annual data only		N / A

Supporting Commentary

PH LI 04 Alcohol admissions:

No update from previous quarter available

PH LI 05 Under 18 alcohol-specific admissions:

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

POLICY, PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

Key objectives and milestones - None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.




Key Performance Indicators - None applicable under Safer Halton priorities.

APPENDIX 1 – Financial Statements

The Council's 2015/16 year-end accounts are currently being finalised. The year-end position for each Department will therefore be made available via the Intranet by 30th June 2016.




APPENDIX 2 – Explanation of Symbols

Symbols are used in the following manner:

Progress		<u>Objective</u>	<u>Performance Indicator</u>
Green		Indicates that the <u>objective is on course to be achieved</u> within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the annual target <u>is on course to be achieved</u>.</i>
Amber		Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> , whether the milestone/objective will be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that it is <u>uncertain or too early to say at this stage</u> whether the annual target is on course to be achieved.</i>
Red		Indicates that it is <u>highly likely or certain</u> that the objective will not be achieved within the appropriate timeframe.	<i>Indicates that the target <u>will not be achieved</u> unless there is an <u>intervention or remedial action</u> taken.</i>

Direction of Travel Indicator

Where possible performance measures will also identify a direction of travel using the following convention

Green		Indicates that performance is better as compared to the same period last year.
Amber		Indicates that performance is the same as compared to the same period last year.
Red		Indicates that performance is worse as compared to the same period last year.
N/A		Indicates that the measure cannot be compared to the same period last year.