

## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Monday 24 October 2022

**10:00**

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live which can be viewed at any time here:

<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell

Director of Corporate Services

14 October 2022

## **A G E N D A**

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**
- 3. Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview & Scrutiny meeting of 1 September 2022** (Pages 1 - 8)
- 4. Report on Action to Prevent Future Deaths Following the Inquests Arising from the Deaths in the Fishmongers' Hall Terror Attack** (Pages 9 - 16)  
Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
- 5. Prevent Activity** (Pages 17 - 22)  
Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
- 6. Work Programme** (Pages 23 - 32)
- 7. Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

"That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 indicated below".

## **Part Two**

(All reports in this section are exempt)

nil

### **Membership**

Gill Burnett (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Gillian Pardesi
Janet Eagland	Kath Perry, MBE
Richard Ford (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))	Bob Spencer (Chair)
Derrick Huckfield	Mike Wilcox
Johnny McMahon	Conor Wileman

### **Notes for Members of the Press and Public**

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**Minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Meeting held on 1 September 2022**

Present: Bob Spencer (Chair)

<b>Attendance</b>	
Gill Burnett (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Johnny McMahon
Janet Eagland	Gillian Pardesi
Richard Ford (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))	Mike Wilcox
Derrick Huckfield	Conor Wileman

**Also in attendance:** Paul Northcott, Jonathan Price and Mark Sutton

**Apologies:** Kath Perry, MBE and Victoria Wilson

**PART ONE**

**18. Declarations of Interest**

There were none at this meeting.

**19. Minutes of the Safeguarding O&S Committee meeting held on 19 July 2022**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 July 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**20. Recommissioning Arrangements for the Domestic Abuse Contract**

Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and the Staffordshire Commissioner's Office (SCO) currently jointly commission Domestic Abuse (DA) services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with the SCO acting as lead commissioner. Members heard that the current Service Contract, which had commenced in October 2018, had seen the provision of Domestic Abuse Services for Victims awarded to Victim Support and the Service Contract for Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to the Reducing Reoffending Partnership. Both services had been provided under the brand name of 'New Era' and had included provision for victims, perpetrators, children, and young people. The current contract

ends on 30 September 2023. To allow sufficient time for the procurement process, work was underway on the service recommissioning.

Domestic Abuse is a key priority highlighted within every Community Safety Strategic Assessment across all Staffordshire Districts and Boroughs and the joint commissioning of the service had enabled a consistent approach for Domestic Abuse services across the whole of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The Scrutiny Committee were informed that demand for Domestic Abuse services remained high, with referrals to the victim service having increased by approximately 30% on pre-covid figures.

The committee received figures for the number of referrals made into the current contracted services to date. They noted that the overarching governance for the contract was provided by the Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Delivery Board (DACDB) which was jointly chaired by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council representatives. Domestic Abuse, including the commissioned service contract performance, was also considered at the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group, chaired by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture and it was intended that these arrangements would continue with the new Contract.

The Committee scrutinised the draft recommendations to Cabinet within the Domestic Abuse Recommissioning report. They asked that consideration be given to how services would ensure they reached all in need, including those in more rural areas. They also queried why the level of support for the new contract mirrored that from 5 years earlier when demand had increased by 30%, which would see a decrease in real term funding. Members were particularly concerned that this appeared incongruous with the priority status currently given to Domestic Abuse in Staffordshire and asked whether funding levels were mirrored in other authorities. The Committee also noted the disparity in funding allocation between the victim and the perpetrator service, being concerned that not all perpetrators would benefit from services as a result and having concern that opportunities for prevention work may be missed.

The Committee was informed that whilst there had been an increase in demand, the service methods used had also changed post covid, allowing more group work again, which was more cost effective. No request had been made for an increase in core funding, however funding from other areas was also used for targeted services. Officers agreed to look at comparisons in service funding from other authorities. Members noted that participation in offender services was voluntary, with not all offenders choosing to participate.

The Committee requested a breakdown of how the Domestic Abuse SCO funding contribution had been allocated across Staffordshire in comparison with the level of SCO funding allocated across Stoke-on-Trent.

**Resolved:** That:

- a) the O&S Committee's comments and concerns be shared with Cabinet to help inform their consideration of the proposed contract renewal; and
- b) a breakdown of how the SCO Domestic Abuse funding contribution had been used between Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent be forwarded to the Committee.

## **21. Children's Services Transformation Six Month Review**

*[Rev Preb Michael Metcalf in attendance for this item, representing the Prosperous Overview & Scrutiny Committee]*

The Committee had previously scrutinised the development and implementation of the Children's Services Transformation. They now received a presentation giving an overview of the Children's Transformation six-month review findings, considering the interdependencies of national pressures, and showing the key themes that had emerged and the plans being put in place to address these.

Members noted that the number of children in care was rising across all authorities, and that whilst Staffordshire numbers were rising, the increase was relatively low when compared with neighbouring authorities. The impact of Covid, and the lack of face-to-face activity, had been greater than expected and would impact on Children's Transformation. The number of children coming into care was also greater than the figure on which the Transformation had been based and therefore there was a need to consider the impact this had on staffing levels.

Plans to address areas for improvement had been agreed, these being:

- a review of the staffing structure to ensure it is fit for purpose, whilst maintaining the principles of the transformation and budget constraints, reflecting on the feedback and making the required changes;
- establishing three task and finish groups to take forward the areas that received the most feedback, these being: workforce; communications and engagement; and ways of working. These groups will be led by multidisciplinary teams to ensure that they reflect the needs identified. Feedback from the workforce had been shared with these task and finish groups to ensure the development of a coherent plan; and,

- continuing to keep the workforce up to date with progress and continuing to engage in regular dialogue about how the system operates so that continuous learning can take place, evolving to better meet the needs of children and their families.

Members received an outline of the task and finish groups, with the plans to be overseen by the leadership team for Children and Families Services.

Members noted that there remained social worker vacancies in some areas within Staffordshire, these currently being filled by agency workers. Examples of the disparity were given, with no vacancies currently in Newcastle in comparison to a number of vacancies in East Staffordshire. There remained a national shortage of social workers and Staffordshire had an on-going recruitment campaign to help address these vacancy issues. Members also considered the issue of silo working and how this was avoided.

The Action Plan was detailed, and the Committee discussed its implementation and requested a quarterly update on progress. It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the most appropriate method for updating Members, with a suggestion that the framework could be shared on a quarterly basis, and a report reviewing progress in 12 months.

The Committee thanked Officers and the Cabinet Member for the candid and detailed information shared with them.

**Resolved:** That:

- a) the detailed information showing progress with the Children's Transformation Service be welcomed; and
- b) further consideration be given to the process by which the Committee can receive regular detail on progress with the Transformation action plan over the next 12 month period.

## **22. Ofsted Focused Visit - Improvement Action Plan**

On 26 and 27 May 2022 Her Majesty's Inspectors working on behalf of Ofsted visited Staffordshire County Council under the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. This was a focused visit to look at Staffordshire's arrangements for children subject to child in need and child protection planning and was Staffordshire's first social care visit from Ofsted since 2019.

The inspection findings had been largely positive, stating that children in need of help and protection received services that responded to their

needs, risk was managed effectively, children were visited and trusting relationships built with their practitioners, and that there was effective partnership working. Some areas for improvement were identified, these being:

- the quality of case supervision records, to ensure a consistent focus on planning for all children to: make sure that children's needs are prioritised over adults; have team managers record actions that progress children's plans ensuring there is no drift or delay; and, that supervision records detail child's experience and reflection on practice;
- the maintaining of timely recording on children's case files, to accurately reflect children's experiences, ensuring: appropriate case loads; the effectiveness of the audit process to improve outcomes for children; independent scrutiny within the audit process; an improved moderation process; and, that accurate performance data is used effectively, to improve social work practice.

Members received details of the improvement action plan which showed prioritisation of identified actions and gave a timescale for these.

Members reinforced the importance of good record keeping for both the child and for the practitioner. It was explained to the Committee that Ofsted's reference to record keeping had related to officers not always recording the level of work and engagement with partners that was undertaken. It was imperative to keep the child as the focus, considering if they should seek to see their files in the future and wanting them to be able to see the level of work undertaken to support them and their families.

**Resolved:** That the Committee commend the work already undertaken and note the action plan and timescales in place to address the outstanding areas for development.

### **23. Independent Review of Children's Social Care (MacAlister Report)**

The Committee had been aware of the draft MacAlister report at their meeting of 17 June 2021, intending to consider the report's proposals and any potential impact on Staffordshire's Children's Services. Members had agreed to await the final report before considering possible implications.

The final report from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published on Monday 23rd May 2022, followed by the report from the National Panel into the deaths of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson on 29th May 2022. The Government responded to the Care Review on the day of publication committing to producing an implementation strategy by the end of the year and moving forward with the development of a national children's social care framework, support for social workers in

their early career, exploring data to increase transparency and improving foster care recruitment.

An Implementation Board will be established to bring together the recommendations from the Independent Review, the National Panel Report and the Competition and Market's Authority (CMA) Children's Social Care Study into one coherent plan of work while also making the connections to the major reforms proposed in the Schools White Paper and SEND green paper.

The Committee were pleased to note that Staffordshire's Children's Transformation vision and partnership working was largely in-line with the Independent Review findings, although there was a need to await more detail from central Government.

**Resolved:** That the report be welcomed.

## **24. Work Programme**

The Committee considered their current work programme, noting that:

- the extra meeting arranged for 24 October was to consider the outcome of the Fishmonger Hall inquiry and the LAs role in the Prevent Partnership; and
- a review of progress with the new Regional Permanency Partnership be included on the 24 November agenda.

Members also noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen were meeting with Cabinet Members and Officers at the Committee's Triangulation meeting this afternoon, with detail from this meeting helping to inform work programme planning. An informal work programme planning meeting is scheduled at the conclusion of the 24 November meeting.

**Resolved:** That proposed changes to the work programme be agreed.

## **25. Family Hubs in Staffordshire (Public)**

The Committee were informed that whilst there were many strengths to the way in which work was currently undertaken, with many families saying that the help and support they received was helping them achieve better outcomes, as a partnership there was recognition that this could be better integrated around the needs of families. The need for this integrated approach had increased following the pandemic and Staffordshire's development of a Family Hub Model of delivery would help support families with children 0-19 (25 with SEND) as part of this commitment.

Family Hubs were not just a physical place but a way to bring together all the support families might need from pregnancy through to young people turning 18 (25 if they have a disability). A single physical or virtual access point would be used across the family hub network, giving easier accessibility. Family Hubs were intended to provide families with the right help, at the time and in the right place and were a critical way to deliver Staffordshire's Early Help Strategy.

Unfortunately Staffordshire had not been successful in obtaining additional funding from the Government to develop this initiative.

Members heard that these Hubs would use predictive analysis to determine the needs of a community and work with those communities using an evidence-based approach to develop partnerships and support to meet family's needs as early as possible. Hubs brought together early help and intervention delivered by a variety of people including: children, young people and their families; Children's Centres; Early Years settings; Schools; Health; Housing; Police, Fire and Rescue; District and Borough Councils; and, local voluntary and community service providers. Support and services could be delivered in a variety of ways from numerous venues that formed the wider Family Hub Network including Children's Centres, Libraries, community venues, Youth Clubs, leisure centres and many more places.

Members supported this initiative and suggested that all County Councillors would benefit from receiving briefings on these developments.

**Resolved:** That the emerging Family Hub model be welcomed.

## **26. Exclusion of the Public**

**RESOLVED** – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated.

## **27. Family Hubs in Staffordshire (exemption paragraph 2)**

A range of existing staff working across teams had roles and functions that aligned to the Family Hub model but were not currently working as an integrated team. The Committee received details of the proposed changes to the existing staffing structures that would form part of the consultation process. Staff consultation was expected to run from January to April 2023.

**Resolved:** That the family hub initiative and the consultation on the proposed new staffing structures be supported.

**Chairman**



## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Monday 24 October 2022**

### **Report on Action to Prevent Future Deaths Following the Inquests Arising from the Deaths in the Fishmongers' Hall Terror Attack**

#### **Recommendation**

- a. I recommend that the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews this report and notes the Matters of Concern, raised by the Chief Coroner in his Prevention of Future Deaths Report, following the Fishmongers' Hall terror attack.

#### **Report of Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

#### **Summary**

#### **What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?**

The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the Report relating to the Prevention of Future Deaths Report prepared by the Chief Coroner following the Fishmongers' Hall terror attack.

This report has been prepared at the request of the Chair of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide assurance that relevant lessons have been learnt and that actions have been taken by the appropriate agencies to prevent future similar events occurring.

#### **Report**

#### **Background**

1. On 29 November 2019, five people were stabbed, two fatally, in Central London. The attacker, Usman Khan, a 28-year-old British national from Stoke-on-Trent, of Pakistani descent, had been released from prison in 2018 on licence after serving a sentence for terrorist offences and was wearing an electronic tag. He was living at an address in Stafford at the time of the attack.
2. Khan was attending an offender rehabilitation conference in Fishmongers' Hall when he threatened to detonate what turned out

to be a fake suicide vest. He began attacking people with two knives taped to his wrists, killing two of the conference participants by stabbing them in the chest. He was restrained by members of the public until additional police officers arrived and fatally shot Khan.

3. The conference was being held at Fishmongers' Hall to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Learning Together, a programme run by the Cambridge Institute of Criminology to help offenders reintegrate into society following their release from prison.
4. Former prisoner Usman Khan had been invited to the conference as a previous participant in the programme, and although banned from entering London under the terms of his release, he was granted a one-day exemption to attend.
5. The inquest held into the deaths of Khan's victims concluded the victims had been unlawfully killed and that insufficient monitoring of Khan; unreasonable belief in his rehabilitation; a lack of information sharing between agencies, and inadequate security planning at the event were all contributing factors in their deaths.
6. Chief Coroner Judge Lucraft published a Report on Action to Prevent Future Deaths following the Fishmonger Hall inquests.

### **Prevention of Future Deaths Report**

7. Coroners have a duty to decide how somebody came by their death and where appropriate, to report about that death with a view to preventing future deaths. Prevention of Future Deaths reports are intended to improve public health, welfare, and safety. The report must state the coroner's concerns and what action the coroner considers should be taken to prevent future deaths. The report is sent to an individual or organisation who the coroner believes has power to take such action.
8. The Fishmongers Hall report identifies the agencies required to collectively address the matters of concern (MC) raised by the Chief Coroner. The Chief Coroner addressed his report to ten organisations that were required to provide a response to the MCs raised in the report.
9. Staffordshire Police, West Midlands Police and the Probation Service were included as agencies required to consider and respond to a number of MCs. The responses were submitted in January 2022 and are accessible to the public on the [www.judiciary.uk](http://www.judiciary.uk) website. The key actions are summarised in the next section of this report at 11 - 25,

whilst hyperlinks to the full responses have been included at the end of the report, together with a link to the full report.

10. There was no requirement of the Chief Coroner for Staffordshire County Council to respond to the Report.

### **Responses from relevant Agencies to the MCs.**

11. The Coroner's Prevention of Future Deaths Report made twenty-five recommendations regarding the MCs to which the key partners were required to respond. The recommendations that impact on Staffordshire can be categorised as:

- a. the risk assessment process,
- b. clarity over agency leadership,
- c. prison actions to manage radicalisation,
- d. procedural issues e.g., formal structured Minutes
- e. and communications.

### **Probation Service**

12. There have been major structural changes within the probation service following the Fishmongers' Hall attack. A National Security Division (NSD) has been created with five units including a Midlands unit which incorporates Staffordshire.
13. The NSD has specialised teams dedicated to TACT (Terrorism Act 2000) offenders, capacity has been increased to assist managing these offenders inhouse and on licence. A higher level of vetting is being conducted and reporting has increased including additional home visits that take place over a longer period. Polygraphs have been introduced and psychologists are embedded within each unit. Offenders will stay longer in approved premises and are subject to GPS tagging.
14. It has been recognised by NSD and other agencies that the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) Co-ordinator is the conduit and therefore liaison between the NSD and the MAPPA coordinator will take place when needed. There is greater clarity regarding what information can be shared and with whom following the recommendations of the Coroners' Report.

### **West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (WMCTU)**

15. The West Midlands regional CTU had already commenced making changes when the Prevention of Future Deaths Report was published

which highlighted that a better join up was required within the Police organisations.

16. There is now a WMCTU team that manage offenders going into the community. Investigators in the team check that those released are fully compliant with the terms of their release. This team also carry out the monitoring; manage the individuals concerned and have responsibility for sharing information via the MAPPA process. The entire process is now more streamlined, and roles have been clearly defined reducing the opportunity for confusion.
17. Included in their response, WMCTU advised that Licence conditions are now a matter for Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) however, if MAPPA's input is required, there is a clear process for this to take place in a structured way.

### **Staffordshire Police**

18. Staffordshire Police considered and referred to the comments of both Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters (CTPHQ) and WMCTU in their response to the Chief Coroner to ensure that the wider policing response was joined up.
19. WMCTU are responsible for coordinating the nationally set direction for Counter Terrorism (CT) Policing at a Regional level, whilst Staffordshire retain responsibility for delivering the Policing response. Staffordshire Police responses to the MCs would have duplicated responses provided by the WMCTU, due to the collaborative arrangements in place within the Region. However, where relevant, Staffordshire Police provided additional comments within their response.
20. As part of their submission Staffordshire Police confirmed that all nominals who are subject to the CT MAPPA process are now owned by the CT Nominal Management Team and are therefore managed from within WMCTU. The WMCTU Northern Hub continues to provide the Force link with Intelligence support from a local perspective via communication channels with senior CT Managers who are personally in attendance at the MAPPA meetings.
21. Personnel from the WMCTU Northern Hub no longer attend the MAPPA meetings, thereby ensuring roles and responsibilities are clear to all MAPPA attendees. As a result of these arrangements Staffordshire Police no longer receive the minutes from MAPPA meetings, however there are clear information sharing processes in place between the Northern Hub and WMCTU attendees of CT MAPPA.

22. There has been a recognition by CTPHQ of the value of information sharing with partners and now does so where there is a need and a legal basis for doing so. Additionally, where offenders are managed under MAPPA, the MAPPA guidance has been enhanced and provides guidance on third party disclosures.
23. The Chief Coroner raised several MCs regarding the non-sharing of intelligence. This included a cause for concern that counter-terrorism police may be in possession of intelligence or information which may be useful to the management of an offender by the MAPPA panel, but that intelligence or information is not shared with MAPPA agencies for their consideration. The responses to the Report indicate that this is no longer the case as processes have been changed to prevent this happening in future.
24. The relevant MCs were addressed by CTPHQ and it's clear from Staffordshire Police's response that due to the changes in structure i.e., that CT nominal management sits with the WMCTU, Staffordshire Police have adopted and relied upon the response provided by CTPHQ.
25. The responses provided to the Chief Coroner by the above agencies indicate that lessons have been learnt from the Fishmongers' Hall attack and that appropriate action has been taken to mitigate against future similar events taking place.

#### **Staffordshire Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) Board – Local Review by Prevent Boards**

26. A joint review meeting has been held with the Chairs of Stoke City and the Staffordshire Prevent Boards on 8 March 2022 to consider the Prevention of Future Deaths Report, following an action agreed at the Staffordshire and Stoke CONTEST Board.
27. Whilst recognising that there was no requirement of local authorities to review or respond to the Report, the CONTEST Chair requested that Prevent partnerships considered whether there were any issues to address from a local perspective.
28. The review meeting was attended by Nick Powell, Detective Inspector (WMCTU) and Sadie Howard, Senior Probation Officer, National Security Division alongside Adrian Scarrott, Stoke City Council Prevent Chair, and Trish Caldwell, Staffordshire Partnership Board Chair.
29. No additional actions were identified at the meeting in relation to Staffordshire and Stoke and local authority representatives were

reassured that the regional and national actions that had been identified were either already implemented or in progress as part of an action plan for delivery.

### **Further local reassurance activity**

30. Ben Adams, Staffordshire Commissioner for Police, Fire & Rescue and Crime held a meeting on 28 June 2022 with senior partners and stakeholders to debrief following the Fishmongers' Hall Report. Invitees included John Henderson Chief Executive Staffordshire County Council and the meeting was also attended by Councillor Bob Spencer, Chair of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
31. The session shared learning, current offender management arrangements and relevant legislation changes. As part of this meeting, it was advised that a process has been agreed to ensure that the Staffordshire MAPPA Strategic Management Board (SMB) Chair will be made aware of any CT MAPPA cases where release into the community is planned. The process to ensure the appropriate Local Authority are aware has also been confirmed since the meeting on 28 June 2022.

### **Summary**

32. It is clear from the comprehensive responses to the Chief Coroners' Report from all agencies that lessons have been learnt and that many changes have taken place to give clarity over roles and responsibilities for management of CT offenders, including major structural changes at national and regional level.
33. There has been an overhaul and streamlining of end-to-end processes and improvement in communications between agencies right through the offender journey from prison, through probation and into the community. There have been specific changes to the risk assessment process to safeguard against further events of a similar nature being allowed to happen and recognition that information sharing is a key part of interaction the MAPPA process.
34. Whilst no local actions have been identified, the improvements made at national and regional level will positively impact Staffordshire as any CT offenders being released into the County will be subject to these tighter controls.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

N/A

## **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

N/A

## **Community Impact**

N/A

## **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Chief Coroners Report

[Fishmongers' Hall Inquests – Prevention of future deaths report | Courts and Tribunals Judiciary](#)

West Midlands Police Response

[https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-0362-Response-from-West-Midlands-Police\\_Published.pdf](#)

Staffordshire Police Response

[https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-0362-Response-from-Staffordshire-Police\\_Published.pdf](#)

Ministry of Justice response

[https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-0362-Response-from-MoJ\\_Published.pdf](#)

## **Contact Details**

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## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Monday 24 October 2022**

### **Prevent Activity**

#### **Recommendation**

- a. I recommend that the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews and comments on the report that relates to Prevent activity within Staffordshire.

#### **Report of Victoria Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

#### **Summary**

The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the Report relating to Prevent activity within Staffordshire.

It has been prepared at the request of the Chair of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide assurance that Staffordshire County Council is carrying out the required activity to ensure that the organisation is meeting its duties in terms of the statutory Prevent Duty.

#### **Background**

1. The UK faces a continuing threat from both international and domestic terrorism as well as violent extremism, which can emerge from any community and can be inspired by a wide range of causes. Nationally, the threat to the UK and our interests from international terrorism at the time of writing this Report, is rated as 'substantial.' This means that a terrorist attack is likely.
2. The Prevent Duty is part of the Government's overall counter-terrorism strategy known as CONTEST. The Home Office Prevent Duty Guidance can be found at [Prevent duty guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance). The Prevent Duty was introduced into law by the Government in 2015 via the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Section 26(1) of the CTSA imposes a duty on specified authorities to have due regard to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. The Act introduces a range of measures aimed at countering the risk of terrorism and radicalisation; the Prevent Duty is a statutory requirement for Staffordshire County Council.

#### **Staffordshire Prevent Board**

3. As part of the Prevent duty Staffordshire County Council has a co-ordinating role. Within Staffordshire, the implementation of Prevent is overseen by a multi-agency Prevent Board, which is chaired by the County Commissioner for Regulatory Services and Community Safety at Staffordshire County Council.
4. This board sits quarterly and during the last 12 months has received input and guidance from the Home Office Regional Advisor for Prevent. Regional Advisor roles have recently been introduced for local authorities who do not receive funding from the Home Office. The Regional Advisor acts as a critical friend to the Staffordshire Prevent Board.
5. The Prevent Board reports into the Staffordshire Contest Board, which oversees all the counter-terrorism strands of activity and is chaired by Staffordshire Police. The Prevent Board also provides updates to every Staffordshire Safer & Stronger Communities Strategy Group which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture.
6. The priorities for the Prevent Board are informed by the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), presented by West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) and completion of the Home Office Self-Assessment Tool Kit.
7. The Delivery Plan sets out how partners are working together to meet the requirements of the Prevent Duty and are responding to and managing risk. Progress against the Prevent Delivery Plan is reported to the Prevent Board on a quarterly basis. The Prevent Board provides appropriate challenge and holds partners to account
8. The partnership priorities contained in the delivery plan for 2022/2023 are:
  - a. training,
  - b. venue hire,
  - c. situational risk assessment
  - d. communication/engagement
9. The training framework is currently being updated for the County Council, to ensure that all staff have received the appropriate level of training relevant to their role in the organisation and is refreshed at regular intervals.
10. Terms for venue hire have also been identified as a priority for this year to ensure that any County Council buildings have rules to prevent them being used for inappropriate activity.

## Schools

11. The Education Safeguarding Lead is a key member of the Prevent Board and provides updates and reassurance to the Board in terms of Prevent activity in schools. Schools are monitored for their delivery of Prevent and specific Prevent-related questions are included in the mandatory audit of schools (S157 arrangements) which is undertaken by the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board.
12. In 2022, 366 schools out of 402 completed the survey. High level initial findings were shared at the last Prevent Board and further analysis is currently being undertaken. The results of the survey inform where actions are required to improve Prevent activity for the coming school terms and these findings and actions will be shared with the Prevent Board.

## Staffordshire Channel Panel

13. Channel is part of the Prevent strategy. The Channel process is a multi-agency approach to identify and provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorism.
14. Channel is a programme which focuses on providing support at an early stage to people who are identified as being vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The programme uses a multi-agency approach to protect vulnerable people by:
  - a. identifying individuals at risk
  - b. assessing the nature and extent of that risk
15. The recently updated Channel Duty Home Office guidance has increased the areas of responsibility for the County Council. The guidance has stipulated that the County Council have an additional duty to hold, co-ordinate, provide a chair and deputy chair from within the organisation for Channel Panel.
16. An annual assurance statement also must be completed and signed off by the Chief Executive to ensure that the relevant requirements are being addressed. The Home Office also support the development of the Channel panel and they assess the panel against the completed Annual Assurance statement.
17. The Assurance statement requires the County Council to rate itself using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) ratings against a number of criteria in

each of five sections, covering legal requirements, strategic governance, chairing skills, panel function and data protection.

18. The Prevent Partnership Board receives quarterly analytical data relating to Prevent activity including the numbers of referrals received for Staffordshire. This data is provided by the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (WMCTU) and is a standing agenda item considered at each meeting. The data is discussed, and appropriate actions are then taken from these discussions.
19. The data indicates that many different organisations are engaged with the process. Data is also shared regarding Channel referrals. The breakdown of the data assists in identifying where the referrals are being received from and helps indicate where there may be training needs and for actions to be taken to cover any potential gaps.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

This activity supports the County Council vision that everyone has the opportunity to prosper, be happy and healthy.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee have received a Report regarding the lessons learned from the Fishmonger Hall terror attack at the meeting on 24 October 2022.

### **Community Impact**

Not applicable for this Report

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

None

### **Contact Details**

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## WORK PROGRAMME

# Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2022/2023

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/2023.

The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for scrutinising: children and adults' safeguarding; community safety and Localism. The Council has three priority outcomes. This Committee is aligned to the outcome: The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.

We review our work programme at every meeting. Sometimes we change it - if something comes up during the year that we think we should investigate as a priority. Our work results in recommendations for the County Council and other organisations about how what they do can be improved, for the benefit of the people and communities of Staffordshire.

**Councillor Bob Spencer**

Chairman of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

If you would like to know more about our Work Programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a Work Programme, then please contact Helen Phillips, Scrutiny and Support Officer ([helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:helen.phillips@staffordshire.gov.uk))

## **Work Programme 2022/2023**

Work Programme 2022/2023			
Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
16 June 2022 10.00am  Page 24	<b>Community Safety &amp; the Outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Findings from the Fishmonger Hall incident showed there had been inadequate management of Usman Khan. Members want to satisfy themselves that changes have been made to prevent further such incidents. This also impacts on the Committee's role as the designated crime and disorder panel.	The PFCC (the Commissioner) has arranged a meeting with colleagues and partners to discuss learning from the Inquiry on 28 June 2022. The Chairman has been invited as the O&S Committee's representative. Consequently the report has been put back to allow outcomes from the 28 June to further inform Members scrutiny.
	<b>Low Level Neglect</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting to look at impact of long-term low-level neglect, the current changes to ways of working and challenges that remain.	The Committee were reassured at the work undertaken following the 2019 Serious Case Review in identifying the early signs of neglect. They were pleased to see the introduction of the GCP2 tool and the manner in which this has been introduced, noting the further work needed to measure the gains from its use.
	<b>Work programme Planning</b> Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2022-23.	The proposed amendments and additions suggested at the 23 may informal work programme planning meeting were agreed
19 July 2022 10.00 am	<b>Customer Feedback &amp; Complaints Annual report – Children's Social Care</b>	Report brought annually	The Committee congratulated Officers on the report, noting the expectation that once the District Hub model was embedded

### Work Programme 2022/2023

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Action / Outcome</b>
Page 25	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		complaints around SEND were likely to level off.
	<b>Customer Feedback &amp; Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	Members welcomed the report and, in particular, commended the proactive work to identify and address future challenges from the new Social Care Act.
	<b>Draft Early Help Strategy</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody	Draft Early Help Strategy for pre-decision scrutiny	The comments and concerns raised by the Committee inform the further development of the Early Help Strategy.
1 September 2022 10.00 am	<b>Family Hub</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Ruth Blunn-Jennings	Pre-decision scrutiny	This initiative was supported and because of the importance of the proposed changes Members suggested a whole council briefing would be beneficial.
	<b>Children's Services Transformation</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja/Natasha Moody	The new Children's Transformation went live on 1 October 2021. More than six months on this is an opportunity for Members to seek reassurance that it is delivering as intended, including on SEND.	The candid assessment and feedback of the Transformation process was welcomed. A mechanism for regular feedback on the action plan progress will be established, with a full review in 12 months.

### Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
Page 26	<b>MacAlister Report</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Suggested at 17 June meeting – looking at the report's proposals and how they impact on Staffordshire's Children's Services November date for this suggested at 3 Aug Triangulation Originally scheduled for 4 November meeting but moved back awaiting publication of the final report. Final report published on 23 May 2022	The Committee were pleased that much of the direction of travel proposed in the Report was reflected in the Staffordshire approach. Members now await details from central Government on the areas for implementation.
	<b>Ofsted Focused Visit – improvement action plan</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	The Chairman attends the Children's Improvement Board (CIB) meetings on behalf of the Committee. At the June CIB details of the Ofsted Focused Visit were discussed, including the development of an improvement action plan. The Chairman requested this plan be brought to the O&S Committee.	Members welcomed the improvement action plan and will look to receive details of progress with its implementation.
	<b>Domestic Abuse recommissioning arrangements</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Pre-decision scrutiny item	The Committee raised a number of issues for Cabinet to consider before taking a decision on the Contract renewal.

### Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
24 October 2022 10.00 am	<b>Community Safety &amp; the Outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation</b>  Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	Findings from the Fishmonger Hall incident showed there had been inadequate management of Usman Khan. Members want to satisfy themselves that changes have been made to prevent further such incidents. This also impacts on the Committee's role as the designated crime and disorder panel.  This will include outcomes from the Commissioner's 28 June meeting considering Inquiry findings.	
	<b>The LAs role in the Prevent Partnership &amp; Feedback from the Commissioner's 28 June meeting</b>  Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Trish Caldwell	As part of their Crime and Disorder role the Committee wish to scrutinise the methods the LA has in addressing community safety. They also requested feedback from the Commissioner's meeting with partners around learning from the Fishmonger Hall inquest.	
24 Nov 2022 10.00 am	<b>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual Report</b>  Independent Chair: Sue Barnsley Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan	Report brought annually.	
	<b>Regional Permanency Partnership</b>	Previously considered at 6 July 2021 O&S Committee where Members	

**Work Programme 2022/2023**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Action / Outcome</b>
	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Scott Crawford & Jo Sullivan	requested details of how the partnership progresses and specifically the two pilot projects TESSA and Mockingbird.	
5 January 2023 10.00am	<b>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report</b>  Independent Chair: John Wood Lead Officer: Helen Jones	Report brought annually.	
Page 28	<b>Adult Social Care Transformation – update</b>  Cabinet Member – Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Jo Cowcher, Ruth Martin	Suggested at the 1 September Triangulation to update the Committee on developments and progress with the Transformation programme, including performance against KPI.	
16 Feb 2023 10.00 am	<b>Whole Life Disabilities Strategy 2023</b>  Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Andy Marriot & Nicola Day	Pre-decision scrutiny	
20 April 2023 10.00 am			

### Work Programme 2022/2023

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
tbc	<b>Early Intervention &amp; prevention</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting.	
tbc  Page 29	<b>Governance Model</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	Suggested by the Cabinet Member at 17 June meeting. Considering how to work better together. Trying to develop a better and more effective governance model.	

### Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2022/2023

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting

### Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Janene Cox/Trish Caldwell	This O&S Committee is the LAs designated Crime and Disorder Panel. Following discussions with the Chairman and Officers from the PFCC and the Cabinet Member and Officers responsible for community safety, it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice	Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 19 May (at the conclusion of Full Council) to brief on performance discussed at the 18 May 2022 SSCSG</li> </ul>

### Standing Items 2022/2023

<b>Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Action / Outcome</b>
	<p>Chairmen will meet with the Cabinet Member and Officers after each Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) to gain an overview of community safety within the County and identify areas for further scrutiny as appropriate.</p>	<p>NB the May SSCSG was moved to 16 June and consequently the briefing was moved to 20 June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tuesday 13 September to brief on performance discussed at the 12 September 2022 SSCSG</li> </ul>
<b>Children Improvement Board (CIB)</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja  <span style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 30</span>	<p>The Chairman attends the CIB on behalf of the O&amp;S Committee and feeds back developments to Members at each meeting as part of the work programme agenda item.</p> <p>CIB scheduled dates: 28.04.22; 25.05.22; 30.06.22; 20.07.22; 25.08.22; 29.09.22; 27.10.22; 24.11.22; 22.12.22</p>	
<b>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja	<p>Where Serious Case Reviews have taken place the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee will consider any learning that can be taken from the Review</p>	<p>Some areas picked up by the DHR review process</p>

### Briefing Notes / Updates / Visits 2022/2023

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Action / Outcome</b>

**Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2022/2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Details (Background)</b>	<b>Action / Outcome</b>
21 September 2022	Young Carer Visits	Following scrutiny of the Young Carers Service in April, Members requested the opportunity to speak first hand with young carers to consider the service they receive.	

<b>Membership – County Councillors 2022-2023</b>	<b>Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2022-2023</b>
Bob Spencer (Chairman)	16 June 2022 at 10.00 am
Gill Burnett (Vice Chairman - Overview)	19 July 2022 at 10.00 am
Richard Ford (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)	1 September 2022 at 10.00 am
Janet Eagland	24 October 2022 at 10.00 am
Derrick Huckfield	24 November 2022 at 10.00 am
Johnny McMahon	5 January 2023 at 10.00 am
Gillian Pardesi	16 February 2023 at 10.00 am
Kath Perry	20 April 2023 at 10.00 am
Mike Wilcox	
Conor Wileman	Meetings usually take place in the Oak rm, County Buildings

