

## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Thursday 15 February 2024

**10:00**

Oak Room, County Buildings, Stafford

The meeting will be webcast live and archived for 12 months. It can be viewed at the following link: <https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell  
Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Corporate Services  
7 February 2024

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### **Agenda**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2024** (Pages 5 - 12)
4. **MASH Review and Adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door** (Pages 13 - 18)  
  
Report of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
5. **Community Safety Agreement 2023 - 2026** (Pages 19 - 48)  
  
Report of the Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture
6. **Early Response in Adult Safeguarding** (Pages 49 - 52)  
  
Report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care
7. **Right Care Right Person Scrutiny** (Pages 53 - 58)  
  
Report of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman

8. **Work Programme**

(Pages 59 - 70)

9. **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”.

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**Part Two**

(All reports in this section are exempt)

Nil.

<b>Membership</b>	
Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Kath Perry, MBE
Janet Eagland	Paul Snape (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Ann Edgeller	Bob Spencer (Chair)
Johnny McMahon	Mike Wilcox
Gillian Pardesi	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 4 January 2024**

Present: Bob Spencer (Chair)

<b>Attendance</b>	
Johnny McMahon	Paul Snape (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))
Gillian Pardesi	Mike Wilcox
Kath Perry, MBE	Conor Wileman

**Also in attendance:** Paul Northcott, Jeremy Pert and Mark Sutton

**Apologies:** Gill Burnett-Faulkner, Janet Eagland and Ann Edgeller

**Part One**

**6. Declarations of Interest**

There were none at this meeting.

**7. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023**

Members congratulated Staffordshire’s Trading Standards Team for the excellent work evidenced in the National News recently around seizing illegal vapes.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 November 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**8. Homes for Children in Our Care**

The Scrutiny Committee considered proposed changes to provision of homes for children in the County Council’s care. These proposals were due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting of 17 January 2024.

Members received a presentation outlining: the vision; national, regional and local context; the residential care framework; the range of options considered; and the financial impact of proposals, including capital costs, estimated running costs and operational costs.

To help compliment the current homes and provide smaller homes for children & young people (C&YP) who have more complex needs the Scrutiny Committee heard proposals to open six in-house local authority run children’s homes. The aim was to help maintain some control over the

market by enabling the County Council to take C&YP that the private sector were reluctant to take without a significant increase in their fees. This proposal would require a contribution of £0.3m in 24/25 from the Council's transformation fund to meet upfront costs incurred during the transition process.

There was also a proposal to join the West Midlands Framework for the Provision of Residential Placements 2024. The current flexible framework contract was due to expire in December 2024. The plan would be to implement a new framework earlier, by October 2024, aiming to encourage more providers to join and therefore enabling a wider choice, broader specialisms and achieve better value for money. This contract was currently led by Coventry on behalf of the West Midlands region.

The final proposed change was to join the West Midlands Foster Care Framework 2024. This framework would replace the existing framework which had been in place since April 2020 and was due to expire in March 2024. The current framework had been successful in maintaining costs and had helped access to a wide market. The current contract could be extended by 3 months given that timescales were tight.

Members discussed the proposals in detail, particularly the concept of disrupting the care home market and the rationale and expected impact of that. The Committee had particular concerns around the required 85% occupancy of the six proposed new homes to ensure they were financially viable. Whilst this remained a risk that would need monitoring, it was seen as a risk worth taking to ensure the needs of children were met and to help address the continued price growth from the private sector.

Members were made aware of the requirement to match children within a home, with smaller homes enabling this process to be more easily achieved. It also enabled more complex needs of children to be catered for and provided more local places, enabling continuity for children in their schooling, with their friends etc. Members also considered issues around staffing the potential new homes.

The Committee supported the proposals, whilst having some reservations around maintaining the 85% occupancy and successfully staffing the proposed new children's homes.

**Resolved:** That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the recommendations for Staffordshire County Council to:

- a) open six in-house local authority run children's homes;
- b) request a Contribution of £0.3m in 24/25 from the Council's transformation fund to meet upfront costs incurred during the transition process;
- c) join the West Midlands Framework for the Provision of Residential

Placements – from October 2024; and  
d) join the West Midlands Foster Care Framework from April 2024.

## **9. Family Help Model**

The Scrutiny Committee considered a presentation and report on the Family Help Model Pilot, including the rationale for its implementation, the engagement undertaken with staff to date and the pilot's next steps. The pilot had been approved by the Children and Families Senior Leadership Team in October 2023 and formed part of the change and transformation activity that was happening within Children and Families.

Family Help was an approach suggested by the government in their consultation proposal "Stable Homes, Built on Love", a response to "The Independent Review of Children's Social Care". The pilot had been formed in line with the government's vision for "a non-stigmatising, welcoming family help service based in local communities". The intention was to use a skilled, multi-disciplinary workforce so that the needs of children and families could be met in one place. The government had introduced a 'Twelve Families First for Children Pathfinder' initiative. Local authorities had been identified to test the operationalisation of the family help vision, being supported by £45 million of investment. The first wave of pathfinding authorities were identified in July 23: Lincolnshire, Wolverhampton, and Dorset. Staffordshire had been unable to bid to be a pathfinder in wave 2 due to being part of Family Network Pilot. However the County Council was aspirational for their children, supporting the current government proposals which were based upon the same principles Staffordshire adhered to:

- a. prioritising relationships at the heart of the care system;
- b. reducing the need for crisis response and providing more early support to families including local early help and intervention with issues such as addiction, domestic abuse, and mental health to keep families together;
- c. using family networks at an early stage to support parents and minimise risks to children by using family group decision-making, such as family group conferences. Staffordshire has pathfinder status (Wave 2) for the Family Network Pilot which compliments this model.

It was intended to trial the Family Help Model in two districts, Stafford and Lichfield. The Committee considered the governance, implementation time plan, operating model and the risks and opportunities of the pilot. It was intended to be launched mid March 2024, with an evaluation during October/November of that year, with consideration to roll this out across

the County from December.

Members sought clarification between the Family Help Model and the Family Hub. The Family Hub had replaced the supporting families model and provided timely support for children and families, working within early help and at Tiers 1 and 2. The Family Help Model was a way to better support flow and demand, working within the Tier 4 referrals to social care. This looked at managing staff in a different and more effective way, stabilising the system and managing case loads better, focusing on Children in Need (CIN) to help avoid escalation.

Members queried whether there were issues with recruitment and the rate of agency social workers currently used by Staffordshire. There was currently a 7% rate, however two years ago the rate of agency social workers had been 21%, so it was an improving picture.

The Committee also discussed in detail the proposed change of practitioner emphasis. This was a more creative way of working with CIN, with this work not always being undertaken by a social worker, although still being overseen by a social worker and remaining a statutory responsibility.

**Resolved:** That the Family Help Model pilot trialled in Lichfield and Stafford be supported.

## **10. Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board (SSCB) Annual Report 2022-2023**

*[Ian Vinall, Independent Chairman and Scrutineer of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board]*

The SSCB are required to report annually on the progress made by the 3 statutory safeguarding partners to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable robust Member scrutiny of its statutory functions. SSCB Annual Reports provide a transparent, public account of the work of the partnership during 2022-2023.

Since the last Annual report was considered by the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee the SSCB had continued to make steady progress on a wide range of objectives through effective local partnership working, despite the legacy challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the economic climate, and agency restructures. This included engaging in activity which was targeted at groups of children and young people who had been identified as being vulnerable due to criminal exploitation, and neglect. The information provided in the annual report highlighted some of the most noticeable achievements in respect of the priority areas and work undertaken with partner agencies.



The Committee heard from the Independent Chair and Scrutineer, Mr Ian Vinall, hearing his reflections on the work of the Board. These included the new arrangements with the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub following separation of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to form two separate Hubs, as well as the learning from child safeguarding practice reviews. He commended the front-line workers he'd met for showing true passion and commitment to their role. He also felt some very strong relationships had been formed with schools, working well together during the last year with headteachers and designated safeguarding leads.

Whilst the Scrutiny Committee felt the Annual Report evidenced some real highlights, they had concerns over elements within the report, including reference to:

- "lack of commitment and buy-in from senior managers in understanding the benefits of using Graded Care Profile";
- the 20% increase during this period in children discussed at the Multi-Agency Child Exploitation Panels (MACE);
- the 6% increase in domestic abuse crimes and incidents;
- poor attendance at SSCB training events from partner organisations, with 7% from Staffordshire County Council, 5% NHS and 2% Staffordshire Police/Fire & Rescue attendance.

In light of these concerns the Committee asked whether Staffordshire had effective safeguarding practices. Mr Vinall felt there was still work to do but that the SSCB had brought openness and honesty into the system through this report. He gave assurances that front line staff were committed to their role and that they knew the children they worked with well. However, challenges existed within the partnership and how well it worked together. The new MASH arrangements would help with this, as would learning from Reviews. He acknowledged that finance was a challenge and he felt there was a need to agree a budget that put children and young people as the priority. He also felt the statutory leadership of the partnership needed to be focused on the Board's priorities.

The Scrutiny Committee shared their frustrations that the report evidenced a need for better partnership working, information sharing and communication. They were informed that the information sharing agreement between partners was being refreshed again which should help with communication moving forward. Child exploitation was a key area of focus for the Partnership and there was a need for the data provided to be multi-agency, clear and more focused on the experience of children and young people.

Some frustration was also shared at the level of delegation of those attending the Board and/or SSCB Scrutiny and Assurance Group, being at a level where strategically decisions wouldn't be made. Members

requested data on attendance at Board meetings, specifically how often the three chief executives of the statutory partner organisations attended in the last 12 months. They also requested data on whether meetings were held virtually or in person. They were informed that Chief Executives did not attend Board meetings but delegated this responsibility, with the SSCB statutory members being the Director for Children and Families for Staffordshire County Council, the Chief Nursing and Therapies Officer for the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board and the Assistant Chief Constable for Staffordshire Police.

The Committee was grateful for the honesty and frankness of the report. They felt that having an independent scrutineer as chairman was hugely beneficial. Members also felt there was a need to seek the attendance of Chief Executives to this scrutiny committee, asking them to account for the issues outlined within the report, specifically the poor communication and information sharing.

Members raised concerns around on-line abuse and were informed that child exploitation was the focus for the learning hub, and on-line abuse would be included as part of this work.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee remain concerned over elements highlighted within this report, particularly around communication, information sharing and delegation. They intend to pursue some form of engagement with Chief Officers from partner organisations to share these concerns and seek reassurance.

**Resolved:** That:

- a) the work of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board be noted and that their concerns around communication, information sharing and delegation be taken back to the Board;
- b) engagement with Chief Officers takes place to highlight concerns around communication and seek assurances for work taken to ameliorate these issues.

## **11. Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) Annual Report 2022/2023**

*[John Wood, Independent Chairman of the SSASPB & Helen Jones, Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Manager, and Ruth Martin, Principal Social Worker and Safeguarding Lead, in attendance for this item]*

The Annual Report of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) covered the period 1st April 2020 to March 31st, 2021. The report provided an overview of the work of the Board and its sub-groups and illustrated, with case studies, how the

focus on Making Safeguarding Personal was making a positive difference to ensuring that adults with care and support needs were supported to make choices in how they live their lives in a place where they feel safe, secure and free from abuse.

This was the first year the SSASPB reported on the priorities within its revised strategic plan. The Independent Chairman, Mr John Wood, informed Members that the SSASPB was in a mature position, with good engagement across a strong partnership.

There had been a drive to raise awareness and encourage reporting of safeguarding concerns. The number of safeguarding concerns had increased but this was seen as a positive reflection of the work to encourage reporting.

The Committee discussed in detail the issue of neglect, referencing the "Andrew" Adult Safeguarding Review (SAR). As a direct response to this SAR the Partnership Board had developed training around the issue of self-neglect, the response and engagement to this being very positive. This had included the impact of grief and loss on an individual. It was noted that during the last 18 months of Andrew's life he was visited on 307 occasions by 11 service providers, highlighting again the importance of information sharing and effective communication. There was also an understanding that these issues took time to address and there was a need for senior leaders to enable this time to be available for front line staff.

Members noted a greater level of concerns reported for female than male individuals, with 63% of Section 42 enquiries being in relation to females. Further investigation had been undertaken around this. National figures showed that women were more likely to suffer abuse than men, and this was not a simple under-reporting of male concerns. Females were more likely to live longer and therefore proportionally more likely to be in residential care homes. However further work was being undertaken to look at comparisons with Staffordshire's population, including ethnicity, and the number of Section 42 referrals, to establish whether there was underreporting from specific groups within our population.

The Committee were informed that a pilot was being introduced to seek feedback from adults with lived experience, as this was currently the missing piece of evidence in evaluating practice. Learning from this feedback would help focus learning and development training. Details were shared with the Committee of safeguarding learning events, including practitioner focused events, many of which offered an opportunity to discuss approaches to case examples from a multi-disciplinary perspective.

Members queried the percentage of Section 42 referrals where no action was taken. In many cases this would be because the referral should not have been made under Section 42. An explanation of this detail would be included in the next annual report. Members also discussed what constituted a Section 42 referral, noting that this was in relation to an adult who was unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect. In these instances, there was a duty to make enquiries, however the individual had the right to refuse any support offered. Work was ongoing to provide training and on-line tools to support colleagues in understanding when Section 42 referrals were appropriate. An on-line referral form was also being developed which would further help direct appropriate referrals.

The Committee thanked the Independent Chairman, Mr John Wood, for his 8 years as chairman, understanding that this was his last year and congratulating him on his service and dedication to the work of the SSASPB.

**Resolved:** That the Annual Report 2022/23 of the SSASPB be welcomed and Mr John Wood, Independent Chairman be thanked for his 8 years' service as SSASPB Chairman.

## **12. Work Programme**

The Committee had previously requested an item on the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services be included on their agenda for 15 February. The report was due to be published on 12 January. A request had been received to move this item back to enable an appropriate report and response to be produced. It was noted that the Committee do not have a meeting scheduled for March. Rather than adding an extra meeting Members agreed to schedule the report to come to their April meeting.

**Resolved:** That the item on the outcome of the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services be put back from February to the April meeting.

**Chair**

## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 15 February 2024**

### **MASH Review and Adoption of a Staffordshire Childrens Front Door**

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Receive an update in respect of changes to the MASH and Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements for comment and observations.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

N/A

#### **Report of Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People**

#### **Summary**

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

1. Consider the report for comment and observations. The MASH is the current arrangement for The MASH is the current arrangement in Staffordshire for multi-agency information sharing between statutory partners. Arrangements have been updated due to Stoke on Trent LA leaving the arrangement formally in March 2023.

#### **Report**

##### **Background**

2. In common with many local authority areas the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent MASH was originally developed in 2011.
3. A MASH or Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub co-locates a range of agencies, including police, children's social care, adult social care, education, probation, and health staff, to share information and in addition to meeting statutory functions, identify emerging risks and issues, particularly in relation to domestic abuse. It should be noted that the success of the MASH model is that information sharing between agencies is much improved by co-location and a shared sense of identity

and purpose which speaks to a physical location and is not just about shared systems or processes.

4. Since its inception the MASH has been under constant informal and formal review including the use of internal and external change management, the most significant of which resulted in a new operating model delivered by the 'Doing More' project delivered in 2015-2016. This defined the responsibility for specific cohorts in terms of owning agency namely:
  5. Children's Services – concerns about the welfare of a child
  - Adult Services – concerns about the welfare of a vulnerable adult
  - Police – concerns regarding a domestic abuse situation (no children or vulnerable adults.
6. Referrals then move into the MASH for information-sharing by the owning agency when a defined indicative threshold (for that cohort) is assessed as being met.
7. This is fundamentally the abiding operating model supported by an information sharing system the ISL (Information Sharing Log) which is provided on a system and server developed and maintained by Staffordshire County Council.
8. In March 2019, an inadequate Ofsted judgement in respect of Stoke on Trent Childrens Services led to an examination of various elements of practice within that authority. Whilst the original Ofsted judgement had not criticised the MASH, it did comment on the authority's interaction with it.
9. As a result, there was a clear indication from interim and permanent senior managers in Stoke on Trent that they wished to leave the current arrangements in the MASH and create separate arrangements of their own. In July 2021 Stoke on Trent staff physically left the building and have since carried out their MASH functions remotely.
10. In early 2023 senior managers, in Stoke on Trent Childrens Social Care agreed to separate out their governance arrangements and explore the formation of a separate MASH function with specific accountability and design for the City of Stoke-on-Trent Council.
11. This precipitated a final separation of governance arrangements in March 2023 from those in Staffordshire County Council.
12. This separation creates a clear opportunity for Staffordshire Childrens Services to develop a specific Staffordshire Childrens multi-agency

safeguarding arrangement, and for partners in adult services to consider how they may wish to develop corresponding arrangements using shared technology and the continued benefits of co-location with police and other partners.

## **MASH**

13. Research would suggest that up to 80% of outstanding local authorities do not have a formal MASH and it should be clear at the outset that a MASH is not the only model for effective multi agency cooperation and information sharing.

The DfE in their most recent evaluation of MASH had agreed with the national Panel to stop using the term 'MASH'.

14. To signal a change and to focus the emphasis on evidence of impact on children and less about the structure of MASH, there has been some discussion that the usage of the term MASH be stopped. This would correspond with the new version of Working Together (to safeguard children) 2023 which talks about MASA's (Multi agency safeguarding arrangements) at all levels of the system.

15. The scope of the current MASH arrangements is focussed primarily on statutory partners, that is, police and health and not necessarily partners in Housing, Education, Probation, and the youth offending service for example. As the MASA's are developed there will need to be discussion about what functions are retained in a centralised service and which are developed using a district footprint which corresponds to a place-based approach and the development of Family Hubs and for the police, Harm Reduction Hubs.

16. There is also the opportunity for co-location and participation of partners and local authority functions in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation and missing children which are not integrated into MASH arrangements currently but would also benefit from co-location.

## **MASH Transition**

17. The departure of colleagues from Stoke on Trent LA has required some consideration in terms of specific areas of operation specifically:

## **ISL (Information Sharing Log) Replacement**

18. The current MASH arrangements use a System developed by the Staffordshire ICT for information sharing between partners known as the ISL Information Sharing Log. The system was implemented in the first instance as a short-term measure in 2013, believing that there would be

systems developed which would offer interoperability across systems operated by statutory partners.

19. Becoming a 'Staffordshire only' MASH does offer the opportunity to develop an information sharing system integrated with the Care Director CSC system however, that is no longer an option and in December 2023 several software providers demonstrated similar systems to members of the Operational Management Group, also invited were colleagues from adult social care. In January 2024 a decision was reached to continue with the current ISL until a pending social care recording system is identified.

### **Governance**

20. Governance arrangements have been disaggregated and there is now a bimonthly Childrens services Operational group chaired by the Head of Access to Services and attended by statutory and other partners. There are quarterly updates to Staffordshire Safeguarding Board Q&A and the activity is overseen by the MASH project Board which currently accepts updates from Stoke and Staffordshire Childrens and adult services.
21. As part of the Ways of Working strand post transformation, the monthly 'Future Vision Planning Partnership' meeting has now moved to '*Early Help Access Development - Partnership Working Group*' to focus on and develop the Family Hub, Early Help offer.

### **Information Sharing agreements.**

22. The current MASH information sharing agreement to be updated by colleagues from IGU and agreed with partners once Stoke on Trent LA leave the ISL.

### **Performance management**

23. The current arrangements including the ISL provide a wealth of information however it is difficult to interpret as the information relates to both Stoke and Staffs. It is also mixed with adult services information and has been notoriously difficult to establish an effective framework. Once functions are disaggregated there will be scope for accurate reporting and development of a meaningful performance framework.

### **Location**

24. The current location remains the preferred option for co-location alongside colleagues from police, health, and adult services.



## Developments

25. Customer Services, with oversight and advice from one or more Consultant Social Workers have provided, since November 2023, an early and brief initial Triage to consider an indicative level of need and then direct the enquiry to an Early Help Gateway staffed by unqualified Advice and Support Workers (SCAS) supported by a consultant Social Worker and Family Practitioner Lead. This gives a better consistency of referral and proper oversight of the appropriate team.
26. Where the indicative threshold is CIN/ Sec 17 these are directed to the Social Work Gateway (SCAS) with a further route to a direct line (SCAS) for serious and immediate concerns including where a Sec 47 is indicated.
27. Customer services are ideally placed to provide information and advice where neither of these thresholds is reached and this is where development of pathways and processes are required in terms of Tier 2 and Family Hubs for example and the opportunities for engaging with PBA and services offered by way of Staffordshire Connects.

## Link to Strategic Plan

28. To offer every Staffordshire child and young person the best start in life, and the chance to achieve their potential.

## Contact Details

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## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 February 2023**

### **Community Safety Agreement 2023 - 2026**

#### **Recommendation**

- a. I recommend that the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews and comments on this report relating to the Community Safety Agreement 2023-2026 within Staffordshire.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

N/A

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

#### **Summary**

1. The report has been prepared at the request of the Chair of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee to update Members on the partnership priorities within the Agreement and outlines how Staffordshire County Council is meeting its statutory duties related to Community Safety.

#### **Background**

2. The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for Staffordshire. It is reviewed and refreshed every three years. The CSA can be viewed as Appendix 4 of this document.
3. The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.
4. Staffordshire County Council must meet the obligations of the statutory duty but also has an additional role in providing the overarching governance for community safety partnership (CSP) priorities.
5. The 2023-2026 CSA aims to develop a joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community

safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, and more effective outcomes.

## **Governance**

6. The Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, known as the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) is responsible for the efficient and effective delivery of the Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement priorities to comply with statutory responsibilities.
7. The group is chaired by the County Council Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture. Membership includes senior officers from across the responsible authorities: Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire District & Borough Councils, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service, NHS, and Probation Service and non-statutory agencies.

## **Countywide Partnership Priorities**

8. The Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the eight District and Borough Strategic Assessments identify the priorities that sit within the CSA. These assessments draw upon data held by partners and include emerging issues with input from a wide range of stakeholders, including District Community Safety Partnerships.
9. The areas identified as Local Community Safety County Wide partnership cross cutting priorities are detailed below. There are local priorities contained within the local community safety strategic assessments sitting at District/Borough CSP level which will be included in their local plans (e.g. vehicle crime, rural crime).
  - a. Domestic Abuse
  - b. Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism
  - c. Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls
  - d. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
  - e. Drug Supply & County Lines
  - f. Fraud
  - g. Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation

## **Locality Priorities**

10. In addition to the thematic priorities, the Knowledge Hub at Staffordshire Police has identified localities within Staffordshire which, due to levels of crime, disorder, vulnerability, and risk, would benefit the most from a

strong partnership focus, in order to address long-standing challenges and vulnerabilities.

11. These areas have been identified through a combination of different elements of local area data (including crime, ASB and police intelligence and insight) covering multiple years, including pre-pandemic. Assessment of areas considers levels of crime and disorder over time and the overall levels of vulnerability and risk in each area. The local authorities listed below have specific wards identified within their boundaries where a more holistic approach is required.

- a. East Staffordshire
- b. Cannock
- c. Stafford
- d. Newcastle-under-Lyme

12. Areas have also been identified as a local priority using the same data used to identify force-wide priority localities. Risks in these areas are considered in the context of their local Safety Partnership area and appropriate responses will be included in local policing and CSP plans.

### **Reporting performance against priorities**

13. In addition to coordinating the Community Safety priorities and producing a Community Safety Agreement, Staffordshire County Council has to meet the legislative requirements in its own right to ensure compliance.

14. The SSCSG is directly responsible for monitoring performance and holding partners to account for the following partnership priorities:

- a. Community Cohesion and Tackling Extremism
- b. Fraud
- c. Locality priorities for East Staffs, Stafford, Newcastle, and Cannock

15. The partnership priorities are outlined in further detail within sections six to eight of the Report.

### **Community Cohesion and tackling extremism**

16. This priority is divided in two with two leads reporting into the SASCSG. Tackling extremism is reported by the Prevent Coordinator at SCC whilst the Community Cohesion reporting is coordinated by the Support Staffordshire partner representative.

17. **Tackling Extremism** - Staffordshire County Council is a specified authority for tackling extremism under the Prevent Duty.
18. As part of the Prevent duty SCC has a coordinating role and the implementation of Prevent is overseen by a multi-agency Prevent Board, chaired by the County Commissioner for Regulatory Services and Community Safety. The Board meets quarterly and receives input and guidance from a Home Office Regional Advisor for Prevent acting as a critical friend.
19. The Prevent Board reports into the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent CONTEST partnership Board, which oversees all the counter-terrorism strands of activity and is chaired by Staffordshire Police. The Prevent Board also provides updates to the SSCSG on performance within Staffordshire.
20. The priorities for the Prevent Board are informed by the annual Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), presented by West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit (WMCTU) and completion of the Home Office Self-Assessment Tool Kit. A delivery plan is developed to drive partnership working to meet the requirements of the Prevent Duty and to respond to and manage risk. Progress against the Prevent Delivery Plan is reported to the Prevent Board on a quarterly basis.
21. The current priorities contained in the Prevent partnership Delivery Plan are as follows:
  - a. Training,
  - b. Completion of the Home Office Prevent Duty toolkit,
  - c. Safeguarding,
  - d. Young people,
  - e. Online threat,
  - f. Referral pathways
22. These are also priorities for SCC and progress is ongoing with a key priority area for delivery this year being refresher training for relevant staff.
23. Training has previously taken place for all staff in SCC, and refresher training has recently become available after a delay to the national system rollout. The Community Safety Team are currently working with Learning and Development colleagues to host the training on SCC's own IT platform via a link to the Home Office site. This will enable evidence of course completion to be captured in line with the Duty requirements. Further face to face training from the Home Office is currently being developed and once this is available, it will be reviewed and rolled out to appropriate staff.

24. Staffordshire schools have held Prevent focused briefings and Prevent featured in the Council's recent Education Safeguarding Conference. There has also been a Prevent briefing carried out for adult social care staff.
25. In addition, development training has taken place for Channel panel Core Members alongside specific training for the Chair and Deputy Chair.
26. At the latest Prevent board a presentation was delivered by a CTU analyst who provided reassurance to the board on the referral process within Staffordshire. The presentation showed that referrals in Staffordshire are received from a wide variety of different organisations and the number of referrals converting into cases progressing to Channel is operating at a conversion rate of around 25%. This is significantly higher than other local authorities within the West Midlands and indicates that the referrals in Staffordshire are of good quality.
27. The Council recently received feedback from the Home Office as part of the annual self-assessment process. The Feedback acknowledged that the partnership has progressed significantly over the last 12 months which has been attributed to the support and commitment of the partners, and the ongoing commitment and support of SCC via the Prevent Board Chair and the County Commissioner for Community Safety.
28. **Community Cohesion** describes the ability of all communities to function and grow in harmony together rather than in conflict. It can therefore be used as a measure of how well different minority and majority communities develop and relate to each other and this is led by Support Staffordshire on behalf of the partnership for reporting activity to the SSCSG.
29. At the last SSCSG meeting, a new set of indicators was proposed and accepted. These were agreed and will be reported on at future meetings:
  - a. Indicator 1: People are able to actively contribute to their community through volunteering.
  - b. Indicator 2: People are able to come together within local communities to discuss challenges and problem solve together.
  - c. Indicator 3: People from diverse backgrounds are supported to feel included, respected and celebrated in local communities.

## **Fraud**

30. This priority is Police led and regular reports are provided to update the Board on progress.

31. Fraud offences are recorded and collated by Action Fraud at the City of London. Fraud offences have been rising steadily over several years with reporting figures believed to be significantly less than the actual number of fraud victims. The scale of the issue is difficult to measure as many victims never report their involvement or hide their financial loss from family and friends for fear of being blamed for their involvement (Cross, 2016).
32. The annual assessment for Fraud and Cybercrime for 2022-2023 highlights Fraud as one of the UK's Strategic crime issues and forms part of the Strategic Policing Requirement from April 2023. National Fraud reporting is down 15% on the previous year. Social media continues to be a key enabler for Fraud and Cybercrime.
33. In 2022 to 2023 there were 4852 incidents of Fraud and Cybercrime reported by Staffordshire residents. This represents a reduction of 14% from 5642 reported in 2021-2022
34. It should be noted that Staffordshire Police have not investigated all the reports. They are assessed at the centre and distributed accordingly based on positive lines of enquiry for the suspect. Therefore, the numbers of investigations go up and down dependent on positive investigations within the area.
35. The Police Cyber Champion Programme designed to address online fraud is now delivering both internal and external courses which Staffordshire police are participating in.
36. Much of the police activity is concentrated on Cyber incidents and they are looking to increase resource to allow more work to be conducted in the Fraud space.
37. Staffordshire Police representatives also attended the recent National SOCEX conference where Fraud and Cybercrime was a key feature. The subject matter discussed will develop the Staffordshire direction going forward.
38. The conference highlighted that 89% of fraud is cyber enabled and there were 3 million victims of Fraud that reported their incidents in 2022-2023 which equates to 41% of all crime.
39. Regular contact is maintained with City of London Police to understand the work being completed and to achieve a joined-up approach to fraud incidents at the point of handover from action fraud to Staffordshire Police.



40. A new computer system is expected during 2024 which aims to transform the quality of disseminations from Action Fraud and also improve the Victim experience when reporting and with updates available online. It is recognised that this may increase figures and demand but is expected to improve understanding of how much fraud currently goes unreported.

### **Locality priorities**

41. As highlighted at paragraph 11, four District/Boroughs have areas identified within the latest Community Safety Strategic Assessment where a more holistic approach to Policing is required.

42. The East Staffordshire, Newcastle, Cannock, and Stafford CSP managers, together with the relevant District/Borough Police Chief Inspector are work together to tackle issues in their area.

43. SSCSG Members have agreed that there will be a deep dive into one of the localities at each meeting so that partners can understand the actions being taken to reduce the crime in the location.

44. At the last SSCSG meeting Cannock District provided the first of these updates and highlighted a number of actions that had been undertaken so far. These are included as Appendix 1 of the Report:

### **Community Safety Priorities updates reported to SSCSG for priorities where governance lies elsewhere.**

45. Where there are existing governance arrangements in place to report against these priorities and hold partners to account, the aim is not to duplicate effort or reporting wherever possible. Regular updates are provided to the SSCSG for information where governance is through alternative Boards.

46. The following priorities are included in the Community Safety Agreement where governance arrangements are sitting outside of the Safer and Stronger Board

- a. Domestic Abuse
- b. Serious Violence Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls
- c. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
- d. Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation

## **Domestic Abuse**

47. Members will be aware that Staffordshire County Council, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, and the Staffordshire Commissioners Office (SCO) have jointly re-commissioned Domestic Abuse (DA) services across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, with the SCO acting as lead commissioner. Services include provision for victims, perpetrators, children, and young people.
48. New contracts have been established with Victim Support, (branded as New Era) for the provision of both victim and perpetrator services, for a five year period (3 years with option for a further two, one year periods) and commenced on 1 October 2023.
49. Overarching governance for the contract is provided by the Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Delivery Board (DACDB) which is jointly chaired by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council representatives.
50. A report is included on this Committee's work programme for 2024 for Scrutiny by Members of performance when the new contract has been operational for six months.
51. DA Co-Commissioners monitor performance through quarterly and annual service reviews, and non-commercially sensitive data is reported to the DACDB in support of the pan Staffordshire DA Performance Framework.
52. Following the completion of the initial 5 year contract with New Era some highlight performance outcomes are included in Appendix 2 of this report.

## **Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls**

53. Overarching governance of this priority is via the Serious Violence Executive Board reporting into Staffordshire and Stoke Community Safety Strategic Forum chaired by the Police and Crime Commissioner
54. Updates to the SSCSG are provided by joint leads from Staffordshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioners Office.
55. The SSCSG receives an overview of work undertaken by partners, under the remit of the Violence Reduction Alliance (VRA), to implement the agreed Serious Violence Strategy and violence reduction initiatives.
56. SCC discharges its responsibility in respect of the serious violence duty through the VRA. Staffordshire Police have ring-fenced resource to

support the advancement of the serious violence strategy, VRA and prevention approach to serious violence.

57. A Violence Reduction Alliance website has been developed and is now live. This website can be viewed on the following link <https://violencereductionalliance.co.uk/>

58. There is a refreshed Violence Reduction Alliance Strategy due to be launched early in 2024 and a performance framework to demonstrate improvement, relating to the strategy and priority areas will be developed for regular reporting and scrutiny.

59. An overview of the activity of the VRA has been included as Appendix 3 to this Report.

### **Anti-Social behaviour**

60. This is a police led priority and ASB is managed locally at a District / Borough level.

61. The Police and Crime Commissioner commission a service covering Stoke and Staffordshire to provide support for ASB victims and Victim support, branded as Harmony provide support in these areas. The Community Safety Commissioning officer at SCC is a member of the contract performance management meetings and contributed to the partner panel for the procurement exercise.

62. As part of additional funding available for increased presence of police and other uniformed authority figures in problem areas for ASB, in 2023 Staffordshire was allocated £2m to over the next two financial years. Conditions for this funding include a having a visible increase in presence and a multi-agency response is required.

63. There has already been effective partnership working between Newcastle Under Lyme Borough Council, commissioned services and the third sector resulting in better information sharing and better use of legislation in the town centre, with a Public Safety Protection Order now in place for the town centre.

64. This approach has resulted in some positive outcomes with a reduction of 10% in ASB incidents in the town centre and crime reducing since July 2023.

65. There are a number of reporting requirements that Staffordshire Police have to provide for the Home Office and regular updates on progress is reported to the SSCSG on an ongoing basis.

## **Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation (CE)**

66. The Child Exploitation lead for the County Council is the Head of Futures Matters, within the Children and Families Directorate.
67. Previously a joint CE Task Group with Stoke-on-Trent, was in place, however there is now a Staffordshire only partnership group addressing the needs of children who are missing and those at risk of exploitation/being exploited. This group is jointly chaired by the Police and the Local Authority.
68. The newly formed group reports directly into the Childrens Safeguarding Scrutiny and Assurance Partnership, however an update report is also provided to SSCSG for information.
69. In relation to alcohol, drugs, and mental health priorities, these are considered within the Health and Wellbeing Board's remit and governance is provided by the Health Scrutiny Board.

## **Drug Supply and County Lines**

70. There is a national approach to this work via the National Crime Agency, with local strategic ownership sitting at Chief Superintendent level. Reporting of activity is not included in the CSA, but this paragraph has been included in the Report for completeness as ad hoc reporting is provided by police representative on the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategies group when appropriate.

## **Link to Strategic Plan**

71. This Report links with the following County Council's strategic priority:  
-Encourage good health and wellbeing, resilience, and independence.

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

72. N/A

## **Community Impact**

73. N/A

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

Appendix 1 – Domestic Abuse Outcomes

Appendix 2 – Cannock Locality actions  
Appendix 3 – Violence Reduction Alliance Activity to date  
Appendix 4 – Community Safety Agreement 2023- 2026

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Cannock Locality Area – actions taken by partnership to date.**

- Refreshed CSP Strategic Board and working groups have been created to address some of the issues raised. Key partners including Police, Fire, Probation, Youth Offending Service, Health, Housing and Family Hub colleagues with first group meetings taking place in January 2024.
- A RAG mapping to be undertaken of the Community Safety Agreement.
- A problem-solving lead has been appointed consideration also being given for Cannock to reinstate a dedicated ASB role which was lost from the organisation several years ago.
- Faraday bags have been funded by the community safety team to deliver to high-risk areas of vehicle thefts.
- Elected members have been made aware of their availability and where they can be collected from.
- A post has been created to deliver sessions on ASB in schools.
- More CCTV surveillance is under consideration in areas of high concern.
- Improved resilience has been put into place for the MARAC chairs.





## APPENDIX 2

### Domestic Abuse Outcomes

#### Adult Outcomes Oct 2018 to Sept 2023

Percentage of service users reporting improvements following intervention

Increased Safety	95
Increased Health and Wellbeing	79
Better able to Cope with everyday life	88
Improved Healthy relationships	89
Improved attachments /relationships with children	88
Improved ability to cope and recover	88
Increased resilience	91
Increased independence	79
Increased awareness of support services	95
Increased positive social networks	80
Increased awareness of DA related issues	92

#### Children and Young People Outcomes Oct 2018 to Sept 2023

Percentages of CYP reporting improvements following intervention

Increased Confidence and Self Esteem	97
Improved Mental Health (victim's assessment)	91
Increased Health and Wellbeing	93
Improved ability to cope with aspects of everyday life	93
Increased Safety	97
Increased awareness of support services	97
Improved attachments /relationships with peers/family members	89
Increased awareness of positive and negative relationships	93
Increased awareness of DA related issues	96



## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Violence Reduction Alliance – Activity to date (Jan 24)**

#### **Attitudinal Change**

A VRA newsletter, and a VRA Communications and Engagement Framework has been developed, and work with CSPs has taken place to promote appropriate violence and Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) reduction messaging. It has promoted the VAWG Safer Places for Women and Girls Charter, engaged with children and young people, required as part of the SV Duty, supported various campaigns including Ditch the Blade; and is working with the VR Delivery Group to agree to focus priority on the development of an anti-violence campaign.

The VRA newsletter is now produced quarterly, with over 200 professionals signed up to receive it.

The VRA Conference took place on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and was well attended.

#### **Control the Bleed kits.**

A number of Control the Bleed kits have been installed in public access locations in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, including Burton where kits stored in cabinets have been installed in five locations including the Police and Fire Station. Training videos for the public are available on You Tube and are also promoted via West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS).

WMAS also have distributed a small number of stand-alone kits within targeted Staffordshire locations.

### **Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) - Activity to date from**

#### **Funding bids**

##### **Safer Streets Round Three / Safety of Women at Night (SWaN)**

- ✓ Education – a Primary School education resource has been developed in partnership with a company called Comication. The education package is based on animation and covers the themes of name calling, personal space, photo sharing and peer pressure. These were issues highlighted through the consultation with school children.
- ✓ Education – a Secondary School education resource based on Virtual Reality has been developed in partnership Diverse Interactive. The resource provides an immersive experience for students to understand themes including cat calling, consent/unwanted behaviour, sexting/nudes and harassment; these were issues highlighted through the consultation with school children.

- ✓ Community Awareness – a range of campaigns have been developed covering public space harassment and safer nights. Make No Excuses, Unite against harassment and Safer Nights (Signs of Spiking) are all now available on the VRA website to be promoted by partners.
- ✓ Safer routes, Taxi Marshal/Street Pastors and Safe Places – have been established in Stafford and Newcastle.
- ✓ Charter and Online Toolkit – A Women’s Safety Charter has been designed based on learning from the Safety of Women at Night work in London and feedback from local stakeholders. The Charter is a voluntary pledge for businesses and organisations to sign up to, identifying practical steps to improve women’s safety. An online toolkit supports the Charter signatories by providing resources and guidance.
- ✓ Vulnerability training – Re-Solv, a local organisation, have developed vulnerability awareness training for Night Time Economy Staff. Delivery is now underway.
- ✓ Awareness Campaign – is linked to the Safer Streets campaigns however with the inclusion of spiking/pre-loading. The campaigns are now being promoted through Social Media and other digital outlets.

#### **Safer Streets Round 4**

- ✓ Safer Streets Fund allocated to Newcastle-under-Lyme, Burton, Stafford following a successful bid by the Staffordshire Commissioner’s Office (SCO) and partners.
- ✓ Preventative approach to reducing ASB and violence more broadly and the funding has been used to provide a range of partnership interventions including:
  - ✓ Additional lighting, CCTV and alley gating.
  - ✓ Environmental measures such as community clean-ups and removing graffiti in public spaces.
- ✓ Street pastor schemes to be extended in night-time economies and vulnerable locations, increasing the number of trained, capable guardians able to support and signpost those vulnerable to safe places and support.
- ✓ Community awareness campaigns to address ASB, supported by a community engagement project to empower communities to identify local concerns, design and oversee projects to resolve them, with the aid of a small grant.
- ✓ Diversionary activities for young people at risk of/involved in ASB and VAWG.
- ✓ Educational programmes to be delivered within the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education curriculum.
- ✓ A comprehensive and rounded ASB Needs Assessment to include a contemporary analysis of the ASB types, location, trends, offenders, victims, underlying factors, related guidance and legislation,

professional views, victim views, together with a series of recommendations.

- ✓ ASB and VAWG training to professionals.
- ✓ A time limited personal development program to identified “at risk” groups of young boys and girls in the hot-spot locations, to change attitudes and behaviours and to build resilience, self-confidence and awareness respectively.
- ✓ Crime prevention initiatives to support vulnerable properties / families in hot -spot areas.



# Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement 2023 – 2026

## Forward

As Chair of the Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, I am pleased to present the latest Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement (CSA).

The Community Safety landscape is ever changing and the problems we face are becoming increasingly more complex. We will continue to work with partners to address the priority issues identified within the agreement and recognise that success can only be achieved with the support of all the partners around the table.



Councillor Victoria Wilson,  
Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture

## 1 Introduction

1.1 The Community Safety Agreement (CSA) outlines the key community safety priorities for Staffordshire. The CSA is reviewed and refreshed every three years.

1.2 The CSA is mandatory for two tier authorities such as Staffordshire and helps us to meet our statutory duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006) in which responsible authorities are required to consider crime and disorder in the delivery of all their duties.

1.3 Its membership reflects this with all statutorily required partners (including Staffordshire Police, Office of the Staffordshire Commissioner, Police, Fire and Rescue and Crime, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire District and Borough Councils, Fire & Rescue Authority, Probation and Health) represented, in addition to other agencies who contribute to developing stronger, safer, and more resilient communities.

1.4 This agreement aims to develop a more joined-up approach to public service delivery, to enable more effective and co-ordinated strategic planning across partner agencies and to ensure sustainable and lasting improvements in delivering outcomes. It recognises that community safety issues do not always respect district boundaries, and that coordination of effort can lead to economies of scale, joined up working, and more effective outcomes.



1.5 Whilst Stoke-on-Trent City Council does not form part of this agreement, it undertakes a similar process. Where appropriate Staffordshire County Council works with Stoke-on-Trent City Council to tackle common priorities.

## 2 Legislation

The following Chapter outlines the key pieces of legislation and statutory duties that direct the work of the Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership.

2.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 gave statutory responsibility to local authorities, the police, and key partners to reduce crime and disorder in their communities. Under this legislation the responsible authorities, referred to as Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), were required to carry out three yearly audits and to implement crime reduction strategies.

2.2 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 introduced directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to replace Police Authorities in England and Wales. This brought a requirement for the PCC to have regard to the priorities of the responsible authorities making up the CSPs and for those authorities to have regard to the police and crime objectives set out in the Police and Crime Plan. The legislation also brought with it a mutual duty for the PCC and the responsible authorities to act in co-operation with each other in exercising their respective functions.

2.3 The requirement for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) came into effect on 13th April 2011 as a result of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act (2004). The process is managed, coordinated centrally by the Staffordshire Community Safety Team on behalf of the District and Borough CSPs.

2.4 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The DA Commissioner has powers to compel public bodies to cooperate with her office and make recommendations for public bodies to respond to within 56 days.

2.5 Part 4 of the DA Act requires Tier 1 authorities to; create a Local Partnership Board with responsibility for conducting a needs assessment, complete a Domestic Abuse Strategy on safe accommodation and undertake commissioning activity in relation to accommodation-based services.

2.6 **Serious Violence** created a new duty on organisations to collaborate, where possible through existing partnership structures, to prevent and reduce serious violence. In addition, there was an intention to amend the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to ensure serious violence is an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships, in recognition of the significant role of CSPs. The new duties have been progressed through Parliament as part of the 'Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill,' which received Royal Assent on 28th April 2022.

2.7 **Fire Safety: The Fire Safety Act 2021** received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The Act was introduced to clarify who is responsible for managing and reducing fire risks in different parts of multi-occupational residential buildings to prevent future tragedies, such as the Grenfell Tower. In addition, the Government is also looking to introduce a Building Safety Bill which would give

residents and homeowners more rights, powers, and protections – making homes across the country safer.

**2.8 Health and Care Act 2022** introduced new legislative measures that aim to make it easier for health and care organisations to deliver joined-up care for people who rely on multiple different services, building on earlier recommendations by NHS England and NHS Improvement.

## **Key Changes to the Community Safety Landscape**

3.1 Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had an unprecedented global and local impact. While restrictions have been lifted for some time now, a vaccine has been deployed, and both transmission and severity of Covid have reduced, the country is in a stage of recovery and the impact of the pandemic is still being felt. The pandemic has changed the way that partners are able to deliver services, with the working practices of many organisations changing. Community safety partners will continue to respond to the needs of the community and adapt their services and priorities as necessary,

3.2 Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls such as domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault etc. While men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women. The Home Office has published a Strategy on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls following several recent high-profile cases.

3.3 UK Strategies to Tackle Drugs and Crime: Since our last community Safety Agreement, the Home Office published the Beating Crime Plan ‘Fewer victims, peaceful neighbourhoods, safe country.’ The Government has invested in several programmes and funding schemes to help strengthen the ability to tackle these issues, including Safer Streets Fund, Violence Reduction Units, Supporting Families Fund, and tackling drugs supply and county lines.

3.4 In December 2021 the Government published ‘From Harm to Hope’ a 10-year drugs plan. The plan is the first Drugs Strategy which commits the whole Government along with public services to work together and share responsibility for creating a safer, healthier, and more productive society. The main aims are to break drug supply chains; deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system; and reduce the demand for drugs through changing attitudes in society.

3.5 War in Ukraine: The Russian invasion of Ukraine has so far led to at least 2.5 million people fleeing the country with EU officials predicting up to five million refugees. The UK alongside other countries across Europe and the rest of the world in terms of supporting the migration of refugees, Staffordshire has welcomed Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. It is important to be aware of any changes in community tensions, such as protests or demonstrations and impacts on community relations.

3.6 Migration and Resettlement: At a national level, in 2021 the Government published a New Plan for Immigration (NPI) and Nationality and Borders Act 2022. The UK currently runs a number of resettlement schemes and Staffordshire is a participant of these e.g., the Afghan resettlement scheme. Some migrants who arrive in the UK are ‘unaccompanied asylum seeking children’

(UASC) and as such are placed in the care of the local authority. There is a possibility of both pro and anti-migrant related tensions occurring in Staffordshire.

3.7 Protect Duty - The Protect Duty will require owners and operators of public spaces and venues to put in place measures to keep the public safe from a terrorist attack. The Draft Bill was published on 2 May 2023 and reflects lessons learned following the terrorist attacks and is known as Martyn's Law.

## **4 Governance**

4.1 The Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, known as the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (SSCSG) is responsible for the delivery of the Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement priorities, with membership taken from senior officers across the responsible authorities (see below), local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chairs the County Council portfolio holder together with non-statutory other agencies who contribute to the Partnership

4.2 The Responsible Authorities are: Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire District & Borough Councils, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service, NHS, and the Probation Service.

4.3 Partners aim to effectively and efficiently deliver the priorities outlined in this agreement and to comply with statutory responsibilities.

## **5. County Priorities**

5.1 The priorities within this Community Safety Agreement have been identified using the findings of the Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment and the 8 District and Borough Strategic Assessments. These assessments drew upon data held by partners and included emerging issues with input from a wide range of stakeholders, including District Community Safety Partnerships. The Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment is attached as an appendix to this CSA.

5.2 The areas identified as Local Community Safety County Wide Priorities are as follows: -

- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)**
- **Community Cohesion & Tackling Extremism**
- **Domestic Abuse**
- **Drug Supply & County Line**
- **Fraud**
- **Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls**

- **Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation**

5.3 The following areas identified in the strategic assessment affect some District/Borough Community Safety Partnerships significantly more than others. These will form part of the appropriate District/Borough partnership plans and as such will not be included in the county wide priorities.

- **Modern Slavery**
- **Vehicle Crime**
- **Rural Crime**

## 6 Priorities by Locality

6.1 A considerable piece of work has been undertaken by the Knowledge Hub at Staffordshire Police in order to identify localities within Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent which would benefit the most from a strong partnership focus, in order to address long-standing challenges and vulnerabilities.

6.2 Areas have been identified through a combination of different elements of local area data (including crime, ASB and police intelligence and insight) covering multiple years, including pre-pandemic. Assessment of areas has considered levels of crime and disorder over time and the overall levels of vulnerability and risk in each area.

6.3 Due to levels of crime, disorder, vulnerability, and risk, some areas are considered a high priority at a force-wide level and are included below. Other areas experience challenges which are a priority for their local Safety Partnership area and will therefore be included in local District/Borough plans where appropriate.

6.4 Areas which are identified at a force-wide level as a priority reflect those selected by Staffordshire Police as in need of a 'Precision Policing' / Precision Community Safety approach. These are areas in the following Districts and Boroughs, East Staffordshire, Cannock, Stafford, and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

<b>East Staffordshire</b>	<b>Priority Type</b>	<b>Rationale for selection</b>
Burton Town & Uxbridge Burton Urban Winshill & Stapenhill	High – force-wide	As one of the largest urban areas in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, these neighbourhoods have experienced a number of challenges relating to crime and vulnerability over a period of time.

<b>Stafford</b>	<b>Priority Type</b>	<b>Rationale for selection</b>
Stafford Town Stafford South	High force-wide	The most central part of the force experiences some high levels of crime and vulnerability – particularly

		around the town centre and some vulnerable communities in the immediate vicinity.
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<b>Newcastle-under-Lyme</b>	<b>Priority Type</b>	<b>Rationale for selection</b>
Newcastle Town	High force-wide	Similarly, to other town centre areas, the neighbourhood experiences a disproportionate volume of crime (including some which is high risk) in addition to public space ASB.

<b>Cannock Chase</b>	<b>Priority Type</b>	<b>Rationale for selection</b>
Cannock South & West Cannock East & North	High force-wide	These neighbourhoods experience some high levels of crime and vulnerability – particularly around the town centre and some vulnerable residential areas, which rank amongst the 30% most deprived nationally.

## 7 Staffordshire Community Safety Agreement Priorities 2023-2026 Mapping

7.1 Several of the identified priorities already have existing multi-agency partnership arrangements in place that are ensuring a coordinated approach across organisations at a strategic level. There is no desire to duplicate work where governance arrangements are in place with appropriate strategic direction, a performance framework and good partnership attendance and engagement.

7.2 Where priorities already have existing partnership arrangements in place to facilitate and enable delivery, regular updates and assurances will be provided to the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group via a named lead.

7.3 For clarification purposes, for priorities in 7.2, the Lead Officer named in the table below is the member of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group who provides the regular updates to the SSCSG meeting.

7.4 The themes coloured yellow in the table below indicate those priorities where the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group will be responsible for monitoring performance against the delivery of the partnership priority.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Governance arrangements</b>	<b>Officer responsible for provision of performance updates to the SSCSG</b>
<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	Domestic Abuse Commissioning and Development Board	Alice Walters Staffordshire County Council –
<b>Tackling Extremism &amp; Community Cohesion</b>	Prevent - Staffordshire Prevent Board – CONTEST Board	Prevent – Fiona Chapman Staffordshire County Council

<b>Tackling Extremism &amp; Community Cohesion</b>	Community Cohesion - Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	Community Cohesion– Sandra Payne - Support Staffordshire
<b>ASB</b>	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group (ASB Partnership Task and Finish group reporting into the Community Safety Strategic Forum)	Staffordshire Police Elliott Sharrard-Williams
<b>Serious Violence and Violence against Women and Girls</b>	The Violence Reduction Executive Board	Joint - Elliott Sharrard-Williams Staffordshire Police – Naomi Smith- SCO
<b>Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons (incl. Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health) and Child Exploitation</b>	Drug and Alcohol Executive Board/ Health and Wellbeing Board  Child Exploitation Task Group/ Children’s Safeguarding Board	Tony Bullock- Staffordshire County Council Simon Scott-Staffordshire County Council
<b>Fraud</b>	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	Elliott Sharrard-Williams- Staffordshire Police
<b>Drug Supply and County Lines</b>	There is a national approach to this work via the National Crime agency, with local strategic ownership sitting at Detective Chief Superintendent level. This work is police led and partners are engaged as appropriate.	Reporting of activity has not been included in this CSA, ad-hoc reporting if as required by Elliott Sharrard-Williams
<b>LOCALITY Priorities</b> 1. East Staffs 2. Stafford 3. Newcastle 4. Cannock	Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group	District/Borough CSP Lead and Staffordshire Police Elliott Sharrard-Williams

## 8 Performance

8.1 Successful interventions against the priorities will result in a reduction in overall crime across Staffordshire. At each meeting performance will be a standing agenda item to ensure appropriate focus. Lead officers for each of the priorities have the responsibility for developing, with partners, the action plans to address the countywide priorities where these are not already documented under existing governance arrangements. The leads will also act provide regular progress updates for the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategy Group.

## 9. Links to Partner Plans

9.1 The priorities set out in this Community Safety Agreement link to and assist in the achievement of a number of national and local partnership plans and strategies.

9.2 Police and Crime Plans are a core planning tool for Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) and were introduced as a statutory requirement for all police force areas as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The Plan includes the PCC's police and crime objectives for the area.

9.3 Staffordshire's Police & Crime Commissioner Police and Crime Plan for Staffordshire 2021/2024 outlines five priorities as follows:

- A flexible and responsive service
- Support victims and witnesses
- Prevent harm and protect people.
- Reduce offending and reoffending.
- A more effective criminal justice system

9.4 Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service Safety Plan 2020-2024 outlines the following priorities:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Protecting Staffordshire and its people
- Public confidence
- Service reform

9.5 Other Plans and strategies include:

- Staffordshire Policing Plan 2023/24
- Prevent Duty Delivery Board Action Plan
- Counter Terrorism Situational Risk Assessment
- Staffordshire and Stoke Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Community Safety Plans

## **Appendix – Staffordshire Community Safety Strategic Assessment- Dec 2022**



CSSA -  
Staffordshire & Stok



## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 15 February 2024**

### **Early Response in Adult Safeguarding**

#### **Recommendation**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Notes the latest position of early adult safeguarding response in Staffordshire.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

NA

#### **Report of Councillor Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health & Care**

### **Summary**

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

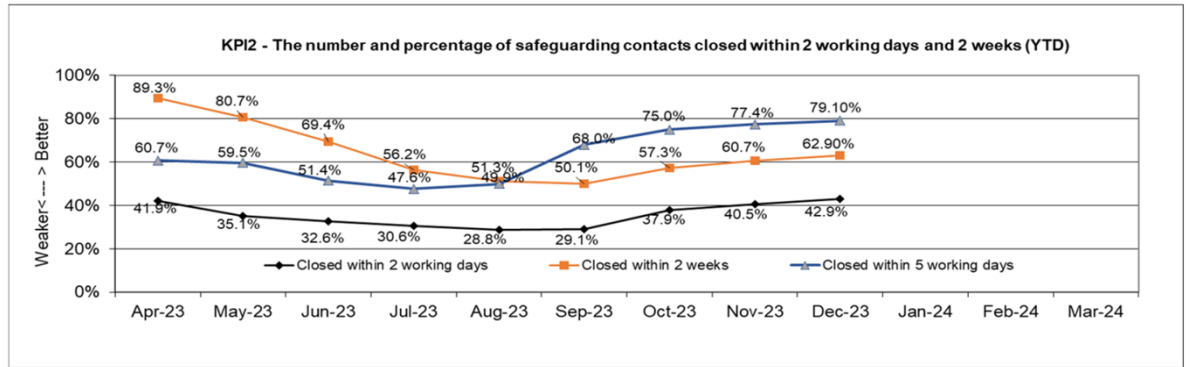
1. Consider the early response given to adult safeguarding concerns and steps being taken to reduce delays and unnecessary referrals.

### **Report**

#### **Background**

2. Previously the committee has received updates as to the safeguarding transformation project. The transformation was completed last year, and this report is to highlight the wider work to ensure an early response to safeguarding matters and the actions being taken to reduce risks and ensure that concerns have the right response at the earliest opportunity.
3. Since the close of the transformation project the response from Staffordshire Adult Safeguarding Team (SAST) has improved significantly, meaning that safeguarding concerns are being responded to in a timelier way. In August 2023 safeguarding concerns closed within 5 working days was at 49.9% rising to 79.10% in December 2023 as shown below.

Figure 1a



- The number of concerns waiting has also decreased from approximately **800 in August 2023** to **154 at the start of January 2024**.
- This improvement has enabled wider work within the safeguarding arena to be completed so as to respond more effectively to initial concerns and to work with other agencies to ensure that appropriate concerns are referred into safeguarding.

### Work with Providers

- It is acknowledged that most safeguarding concerns are raised by and in relation to provider services, e.g. domiciliary care providers and care homes (up to 48% of all concerns). It is also understood that a high proportion of these concerns are closed at initial decision making as they do not meet the requirement for a safeguarding enquiry.
- In reviewing these concerns it has been established that there are a number that need not to have been referred, usually they are one off isolated incidents, such as medication errors and falls. On speaking with providers, they expressed that they refer in as they feel that they may otherwise be criticised by CQC or our own quality teams.
- We have therefore completed some joint work with Staffordshire County Council quality team in producing several flow charts and fact sheets regarding, including falls and medication errors that have been added to the MIDOS platform and that providers can use to evidence their decision making to CQC.
- Further to this we are completing provider engagement and training sessions to raise awareness of this guidance. To date we have completed 3 sessions with approximately 90 providers having attended. We have further sessions planned and will be using the feedback from the sessions completed to develop the sessions further.

## **Work with social work teams**

10. Social care practitioners will identify low level safeguarding concerns when completing assessment, review and other activities, often these can be dealt with immediately, however it was apparent that practice had developed where social work teams would refer in to SAST as opposed to dealing with the matter.
11. We have developed a process so that low level isolated safeguarding concerns identified by the social work teams are swiftly dealt with through immediate action and where there is no ongoing risk team managers record this directly into the system and close with no ongoing risk. This reduces delay in responding to the risk and also unnecessary bureaucratic processes.
12. Safeguarding training to teams has been refreshed and relaunched, this also covers early response and ensuring in line with the quality assurance framework.

## **Quality Assurance Framework**

13. We have developed a quality assurance framework that sets out the expectations of Staffordshire County Council, social work teams, partner agencies and provider services. This highlights what a good enquiry looks like, the quality standards expected and the audit and assurance process. This will be 'going live' in March 2024 and will be shared with the adult safeguarding board and will be available to providers on the MIDOS platform. We will also share this wider with partners such as West Midlands Ambulance Service and Staffordshire Police.

## **Upcoming changes**

14. Following changes at SAST and also in line with best practice we are in the process of introducing redesigned safeguarding forms to both assist with more accurate data recording but also to ensure enquiries are completed proportionately and in line with the quality assurance framework. These will be going live by March and we have training sessions planned with teams prior to this date.
15. Further to this we have an online portal being developed starting with providers, where they will be able to refer concerns into Staffordshire County Council. By using certain questions their concerns will be directed to the right process, e.g. request for assessment, quality assurance alert or safeguarding. These referrals will still be checked by relevant professionals, however any unnecessary delay will hopefully be mitigated.

16. We are also considering a new MASH arrangement, where we will remain co-located with Staffordshire Children and Families Services but will have separate Police arrangements. This will mean a dedicated and specialist adult safeguarding service from Staffordshire police enabling us to work more effectively to assess risk and respond to adult safeguarding concerns. We will keep the links that we have developed with children's teams and will continue to share the same information sharing system (ISL) and maintain links between the two services.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

17. Encourage good health wellbeing, resilience and independence

### **Community Impact**

18. NA

### **Contact Details**

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## **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 15 February 2024**

### **Right Care Right Person Scrutiny**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. support the introduction of the Right Care Right Person initiative; and
- b. refer monitoring of progress of the phased implementation of Right Care Right Person to the Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, enabling a wider strategic consideration of developments as their membership includes representation from both health and police colleagues.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

N/A

### **Report of the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

#### **Summary**

1. The Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee met with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Ben Adams, and the County Police Commander, Emily McCormack, on 24 October 2023 to discuss Staffordshire's approach to the implementation of the Right Care Right Person initiative.
2. We also contacted those local authorities within the Humberside Policing area to gain an understanding of the impact of Right Care Right Person from a local authority perspective.
3. Whilst we are supportive of the initiative in principle and are pleased with the planned phased approach to implementation, we feel there remains a need to examine how this progresses, being mindful of the implications for the local authority and how partnership working is strengthened to ensure the best outcome for vulnerable individuals.

4. Staffordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board included consideration of Right Care Right Person at their December 2023 meeting. Membership of this Board includes representation from health and from the police, and as such we suggest that they will be best placed to consider progress with Right Care Right Person throughout its phased implementation.

## **Report**

### **Background**

5. At the 15 June 2023 Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Committee, as part of our consideration of future focus, there had been discussion around whether the Police were retreating from attending some social care/mental health related calls and the Committee had concerns over any potential adverse effects this may have on partnership working as well as concerns that this may result in vulnerable individuals slipping through a gap in service responses.
6. The change related to the Right Care Right Person initiative piloted by Humberside Police, which looked to change the response to calls where individual's welfare was linked to mental health concerns. The new way of working aimed to avoid vulnerable individuals potentially feeling criminalised, with future responses being from those with mental health and social care expertise.
7. Following the success of the Humberside pilot this initiative was adopted by Central Government. On 26 July 2023 they published an agreement that set out the principles around the Right Care, Right Person approach, which aims to ensure that individuals in mental health crisis are seen by the right professional.
8. The agreement is between:
  - Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)
  - Home Office
  - NHS England
  - National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)
  - Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)
  - College of Policing
9. Right Care, Right Person is an approach designed to ensure that people of all ages, who have health and/or social care needs, are responded to by the right person, with the right skills, training, and experience to best meet their needs.

10. Whilst accepting that this is a national initiative and supporting it in principle, we remained concerned at how it would be implemented in Staffordshire, particularly how any transition process would be managed, as well as seeking assurances on the measures in place to ensure no individual would be missed.
11. Safeguarding O&S held an informal meeting with the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner), Ben Adams, and the County Police Commander, Emily McCormack, on 24 October 2023 to discuss these concerns.
12. The Commissioner set out the work undertaken to support implementing Right Care Right Person. This included discussions with partners, particularly health partners, to support proposed changes. There was an acknowledgement that the initial assessment within the Control Room would be key to its successful implementation.

### **Process Changes**

13. Calls for assistance with a health-based need under Right Care Right Person will undergo an early assessment from within the Control Room to establish the right response at the first contact point. Staffordshire Police had undertaken work with partners at a strategic level and was now working with practitioners to establish ways of working together to support appropriate decision making.
14. The Humberside pilot had evidenced effective work with the third sector, including MIND, in supporting out of hours assessment in response to calls to the Control Room and this was being explored in Staffordshire.
15. A range of training was underway to strengthen this new way of working, including for Control Room Staff. Technical options were also being explored to support Control Room assessments.
16. Right Care Right Person champions had been introduced to provide support and guidance.
17. The first phase of this process was expected to go live in February 2024. This phase will see the Police no longer attending call outs for welfare visits other than for specific instances such as Article 2 Threat to Life incidents. Assessment of the incident may change during a response and in such cases a Police attendance may be required, however they would not be included in the initial response. This was not dissimilar to the process currently followed, however, the Right Care Right Person initiative formalised the approach.

18. The second phase was expected to go live in May 2024. Phase two is Police non-attendance where individuals have walked out of facilities such as A&E, hospitals, mental health facilities, care homes etc other than where there are Article 2 concerns, where an individual is a risk to themselves or others. It is noted that, other than under Article 2 incidents, the Police would have no powers to make the individual return to the facility they left.
19. Phase three was intended to go live in August 2024. This Phase looked to introduce a commissioned service for the transportation of individuals under a 136 assessment from a public place to a place of safety (Section 136 of the Mental Health Act allows the police to take an individual to a place of safety).
20. Phase four would be introduced at the end of 2024 and was currently under consultation.

### **Local Authority Perspective**

21. Four local authorities make up the Humberside Policing area, these being:
  - a) North East Lincolnshire
  - b) North Lincolnshire
  - c) East Riding
  - d) Hull City
22. We contacted the four authorities and considered the agenda and minutes from their relevant scrutiny committees and health and wellbeing boards. No concerns were highlighted.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

23. Encourage good health and wellbeing, resilience, and independence.

### **Community Impact**

24. Refer to CIA guidance on the [Learning Hub](#)

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

25. Right Care Right Person [National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person \(RCRP\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



## Contact Details

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## **WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 2023/2024**

This document sets out the work programme for the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023/2024.

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 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 June 2023 10.00am	<b>'Living my Best Life': Report on the Joint Strategy for Disabled and Neurodivergent people in Staffordshire 2023-2028</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Andy Marriot & Nicola Day	Pre-decision scrutiny – postponed from last municipal year	The Committee supported the Strategy and look forward to seeing the action plan that will give more detail on how the vision and strategy will be implemented and how success will be measured.  A decision on the Strategy adoption will be taken at the 19 July Cabinet meeting.
	<b>Safeguarding Overview &amp; Scrutiny Focus for the Future</b> Cabinet Members: Julia Jessel, Mark Sutton, Jonathan Price, Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Richard Harling, Neelam Bardwaja, Catherine Mann	Cabinet Members and Lead Officers highlight topics within their portfolio to support the Committee's work programme planning	Due to time restraints the Committee deferred hearing from the Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture. An extra informal meeting has been arranged for 10 July where this detail will be covered. Members will then use the combined information from 15 June and 10 July meetings to inform their work programme planning.
	<b>Work programme Planning</b> Lead Officer: Helen Phillips	Within the remit of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, begin planning the work programme for 2023-24.	
27 July 2023 10.00 am	<b>Customer Feedback &amp; Complaints Annual report – Children's Social Care</b>	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed.

**Work Programme 2023/2024**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant		
Page 61	<b>Customer Feedback &amp; Complaints Annual report – Adults Social Care</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Kate Bullivant	Report brought annually	The Annual Report was welcomed. Members asked for their thanks to be passed to all Teams for their diligence, professionalism and commitment, and particularly to those responsible for receiving the 68 compliments shown within the report. The Committee made a referral to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny asking them to consider the impact of changes to the financial assessment accessibility and method of charging six months from implementation.
	<b>PSHE Coordinator impact after first 12 months</b> Cabinet Member: Jonathan Price Lead Officer: Phil Pusey	The Inquiry Day report into Sexual Harassment in Schools asked that the O&S Committee consider the impact of the new PFCC funded PSHE Coordinator role after its first 12 months.	The impact of the PSHE Coordinator role after its first year was welcomed and Officers were congratulated for the impressive work completed.

### Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
14 September 2023 10.00 am  Page 22	<b>Impact of Cabinet Investment on Children's Services</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Considering the impact of the Cabinet's extra investment into Children's Services, looking at specific elements of investment and the differences made.	The Chairman congratulated the Cabinet Member and Officers on the improvements made through the effective targeted use of the Cabinet investment to date.
	<b>The Children in Care Programme</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	Developments through the Children in Care programme were welcomed and supported by the Committee.
04 October 2023 12.30pm Extra meeting	<b>Early Years Strategy</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Helen Gibson	Item of pre-decision scrutiny.	The Committee were happy to support the strategic vision for the early years' service, welcoming the work to reorganise the service delivery model and the planned budget profile.
24 October 2023 2.00pm Extra informal meeting with the PFCC	<b>Meeting with the Staffordshire PFCC</b>	To discuss with the Commissioner: the changes made in response to the PEEL findings and the impact of changes to date; the neighbourhood safety delivery process to enable Members to better understand and reassure their communities; and, the Humberside pilot project "Right Care Right Person", whether Staffordshire is following this	The Commissioner shared with the Committee details of the Right Person Right Care process, rationale and timescales, including partnership working and transition planning. Further discussion was around developments resulting from the PEEL report and monitoring of the

**Work Programme 2023/2024**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
		method of working with those who have mental health concerns and the potential impact of this.	current situation with regard to possible increased terrorist threats
23 Nov 2023 10.00 am	<p><b>Family Hub update and the work of the Family Improvement Boards</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Natasha Moody</p>	Item requested by Members during their June/July work programme planning.	<p>The Committee support the emerging Family Hub model and congratulated Officers and the Cabinet Member for the progress to date. Members agreed to consider becoming advocates and pledge their support for the Staffordshire Co-Production Promise.</p> <p>Details of: the Bump to Toddler Pathway; the Risk register; and the location of the Family Hubs were requested and progress against the performance framework will shared with the Committee at either 6 or 12 months (at the discretion of the Chairman in consultation with the Cabinet Members).</p>
	<p><b>Trading Standards</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	Scrutinising the work of Trading Standards in enforcing more than 250 pieces of legislation and its role in maintaining a safe and sustainable marketplace.	The Committee welcomed detail of the successful work undertaken by Staffordshire Trading Standards. They requested detail of enforcement data.

### Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	<p><b>Vaping</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>SCCs approach to dealing with vaping non-compliance, the unsafe nature of these products which are marketed at children and young people.</p>	<p>They also suggest the Chairman and Portfolio Holder write to the chairs of the eight district and borough planning committees raising the issue of vaping, and seeking their consideration to include planning restrictions through their Health in all Policies to prevent Vaping premises being positioned near schools and colleges. Members will also consider becoming scam champions.</p>
<p>January 2024 10.00am</p>	<p><b>Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board (SSASPB) – Annual Report</b> Independent Chair: John Wood Lead Officer: Helen Jones</p>	<p>Report brought annually</p>	<p>The Committee welcomed the Annual Report 2022/23 of the SSASPB thanked Mr John Wood, Independent Chairman for his 8 years’ service as SSASPB Chairman</p>
	<p><b>Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board Annual Report</b> Independent Chair: Ian Vinall Lead Officer: Lynn Milligan</p>	<p>Report brought annually</p>	<p>The Committee scrutinised the work of the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children’s Board through their annual report. From this they have concerns around communication, information sharing and delegation and will</p>



**Work Programme 2023/2024**

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
			look to arrange engagement with Chief Officers from the statutory SSCB partners to highlight these concerns and seek assurances for work taken to ameliorate these issues
	<p><b>Family Help Pilot</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Nisha Gupta</p>	Item for pre-decision scrutiny	The Committee supported the Family Help Model pilot to be trialled in Lichfield and Stafford.
	<p><b>Provision of Services for Children and Young People</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Karen Coker/Shahid Munir  (report entitled "Homes for children in our care")</p>	Item for pre-decision scrutiny (the item covers the placement sufficiency detail requested by the Committee)	<p>The Committee supported proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) open six in-house local authority run children's homes;</li> <li>b) request a Contribution of £0.3m in 24/25 from the Council's transformation fund to meet upfront costs incurred during the transition process;</li> <li>c) join the West Midlands Framework for the Provision of Residential Placements – from October 2024; and join the West Midlands Foster Care Framework from April 2024.</li> </ul>

### Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
15 Feb 2024 10.00 am	<b>Adult Safeguarding Early Response</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	Considering work towards earlier responses to adult safeguarding, considering the process, numbers and seek assurance that these are dealt with in a timely way.	
	<b>MASH Review and adoption of a Staffordshire Children's Front Door</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Clive Cartman-Frost		
	<b>The Community Safety Agreement, performance and impact</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Looking at the Community safety Agreement, considering its performance and impact. To include any potential impacts identified from the Right Care Right Person initiative.	
18 April 2024 10.00 am	<b>Ofsted Inspection Outcome</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bardwaja	To consider the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services	
	<b>Adult Vulnerability Hubs</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel	Looking at the development of adult vulnerability hubs, their intended	

### Work Programme 2023/2024

Date of Meeting	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher  <b>Adult Safeguarding Assessment</b> Cabinet Member: Julia Jessel Lead Officer: Ruth Martin/Jo Cowcher	outcomes and timescales to achieve these.	
tbc  Page 67	<b>Hearing the voice of the child</b> Cabinet Member – Mark Sutton Lead Officer – Neelam Bhardwaja	16 February meeting Members requested a better understanding of how the voice of the child is heard – particularly with respect to early identification of emerging online threats and challenges.	
Tbc	<b>Domestic Abuse Contract – 6 months in</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officers: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell	Considering the new contract 6 months in, looking particularly at the new refuge and sanctuary duties and how these are implemented in Staffordshire.	
TBC May or Nov???	<b>Family Hub – development monitoring</b>		

### Items for Consideration – Work Programme 2023/2024

Suggested Item	Details (Background)	Proposed Date of Meeting

### Standing Items 2022/2023

Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
<p><b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b> Cabinet Member: Victoria Wilson Lead Officer: Catherine Mann/Trish Caldwell</p>	<p>This O&amp;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 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>Chairman and Vice-Chairman briefings on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 July – briefing on 14 July SSCSG</li> </ul>
<p><b>Children Improvement Board (CIB)</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<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. CIB scheduled dates: 23.05.23, 28.06.23, 25.07.23, 27.09.23, 24.10.23, 28.11.23, 20.12.23</p>	
<p><b>Themes emerging from Serious Case Reviews</b> Cabinet Member: Mark Sutton Lead Officer: Neelam Bhardwaja</p>	<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 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome
	"Stable Homes Built on Love" Government's response to the Care Review		
	Adult Safeguarding Quality Assurance Framework		

### Working Groups / Inquiry Days 2023/2024

Date	Item	Details (Background)	Action / Outcome

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### Membership – County Councillors 2022-2023

Bob Spencer (Chairman)  
 Gill Burnett-Faulkner (Vice Chairman - Overview)  
 Paul Snape (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny)  
 Ann Edgeller  
 Janet England  
 Johnny McMahon  
 Gillian Pardesi  
 Kath Perry  
 Mike Wilcox  
 Conor Wileman

### Calendar of Committee Meetings - 2023-2024

15 June 2023 at 10.00 am  
 27 July 2023 at 10.00 am  
 14 September 2023 at 10.00 am  
 24 October 2023 at 12.30 pm  
 24 October 2023 at 2.00pm – informal meeting  
 23 November 2023 at 10.00 am  
 4 January 2024 at 10.00 am  
 15 February 2024 at 10.00 am  
 18 April 2024 at 10.00 am  
 Meetings usually take place in the Oak rm, County Buildings

