

Date: Thursday 26 September 2024 at 4.30 pm

Venue: Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library, Church Road,
Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1TU

Cllr Paul Rowling (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Vice-Chair)

Cllr John Coulson
Cllr Jason French
Cllr Barbara Inman
Cllr Alan Watson

Cllr Richard Eglington
Cllr Shakeel Hussain
Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

AGENDA

- 1 Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 8)
- 2 Apologies for Absence**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 July 2024. (Pages 9 - 16)
- 5 Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres**

To consider information from the following Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) departments in relation to this scrutiny topic: (Pages 17 - 50)
 - SBC Town Centres Development
 - SBC Public Health (supported by CGL)
- 6 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025** (Pages 51 - 54)

Members of the Public - Rights to Attend Meeting

With the exception of any item identified above as containing exempt or confidential information under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A(4), members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting and/or have access to the agenda papers.

Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please

Contact: , Senior Scrutiny Officer, Gary Woods on email gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk

KEY - Declarable interests are:-

- Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's)
- Other Registerable Interests (ORI's)
- Non Registerable Interests (NRI's)

Members – Declaration of Interest Guidance



Table 1 - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land and property	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2 – Other Registerable Interest

You must register as an Other Registrable Interest:

- a) any unpaid directorships
- b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority
- c) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Jim Cooke Conference Suite, Stockton Central Library **Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping**

If the fire or bomb alarm should sound please exit by the nearest emergency exit. The Fire alarm is a continuous ring and the Bomb alarm is the same as the fire alarm however it is an intermittent ring.

If the Fire Alarm rings exit through the nearest available emergency exit and form up in Municipal Buildings Car Park.

The assembly point for everyone if the Bomb alarm is sounded is the car park at the rear of Splash on Church Road.

The emergency exits are located via the doors between the 2 projector screens. The key coded emergency exit door will automatically disengage when the alarm sounds.

The Toilets are located on the Ground floor corridor of Municipal Buildings next to the emergency exit. Both the ladies and gents toilets are located on the right hand side.

Microphones

During the meeting, members of the Committee, and officers in attendance, will have access to a microphone. Please use the microphones, when directed to speak by the Chair, to ensure you are heard by the Committee.

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Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of the Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday 11 July 2024.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Vice-Chair, acting as Chair), Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Lynn Hall (sub for Cllr Alan Watson), Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

Officers: Sharon Cooney, Stephen Donaghy, Leanne Maloney-Kelly (A,H&W); Gary Woods (CS)

Also in attendance: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety)

Apologies: Cllr Paul Rowling (Chair), Cllr Richard Eglington, Cllr Alan Watson

1	<p>Evacuation Procedure</p> <p>The evacuation procedure was noted.</p>
2	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no interests declared.</p>
3	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 13 June 2024 for approval and signature.</p> <p>AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 13 June 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.</p>
4	<p>Scrutiny Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</p> <p>Following the Committee’s approval of the scope and plan for the Welcoming and Safe Town Centres review at the last meeting in June 2024, this first evidence-gathering session involved an initial submission from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Community Safety and Regulated Services department.</p> <p>Led by the SBC Service Manager – Public Protection, and supported by both the SBC Environmental Health Service Manager and SBC Team Leader – Licensing, a presentation was given which covered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does Welcoming and Safe mean? • Welcoming and Safe in Stockton • Proposed Scope and Plan • Establish the key issues: What do we already know? • What is already in place? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Licensing

- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health
- Powering our Future: Community Safety and Regulated Services
- Next Steps: Priorities for 2024
- Role of Safer Stockton Partnership

The session began with considerations around definitions of ‘welcoming’ and ‘safe’. Highlighting that each of the Borough’s six town centres (Billingham, Ingelby Barwick, Norton, Stockton, Thornaby and Yarm) had unique characteristics and different opportunities and challenges, a late-2023 Parliament debate on town centre safety was referenced which experienced its own difficulties in narrowing down what this actually meant, principally as it impacted all who lived, worked or visited these locations. An example of another Local Authority (York) which had outlined a vision for its town centres was also shared, and a potential definition for Stockton-on-Tees was provided which could be adapted / refined as part of this review.

One of the Committee’s aims was to establish the key issues within each of the Borough’s six town centres with regards safety. To this end, feedback on the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation from December 2022 was relayed which, following an encouraging 1,300 responses, identified public perceptions of feeling unsafe in Stockton and Norton town centres, and particular concerns about alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB) and aggressive begging. It was also known that Stockton town centre had the highest volume of reported crime and ASB across the Borough, whilst Yarm and Ingelby Barwick had the lowest. In terms of Community Safety requests for service in relation to town centre locations, ASB (38%) and crime (17%) had the largest percentages of all requests between April 2022 and June 2024.

Attention was drawn to data on reported incidents within each of the Borough’s town centres since 2022-2023 which indicated the following:

- Stockton: Highest number of incidents, with over 900 ASB reports in 2022-2023, dropping below 700 last year (2023-2024). Crime reported to SBC was over 700 last year. *(note: last year, SBC started including CCTV-monitored incidents in the figures, which accounted for the increases in other categories)*
- Thornaby: ASB continued to be the stand-out issue at around 200 incidents each year for the last two years (2022-2023 and 2023-2024). Recently, a group of young people (who had been causing problems around the Golden Eagle / Allensway) successfully completed the ‘Making Good’ programme and had not been involved in further incidents. Thornaby town centre was covered by ASB hot-spot patrols (funded by the Home Office).
- Billingham: ASB reports were around half of that in Thornaby. Off-road bikes were often a cause for concern. Billingham was also in the ASB hot-spot patrol routes which were delivering reductions in ASB reports

(outcomes from an evaluation of these patrols by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland were awaited).

- Yarm: Parking issues were the most reported category, with low reports of ASB each year (an average of 50 reports per year). Challenges associated with the busy night-time economy did occur but were well managed between partners, including the SBC Licensing Team.
- Ingleby Barwick: ASB issues remained low at around 50-60 reports a year. Vehicle issues around schools did feature, either through direct reports or via Elected Members. Demand due to reports were low but perceptions including fear of ASB were poor.
- Norton: Biggest reported issue to SBC was ASB, peaking at over 400 in 2022-2023, dropping to 150 last year (2023-2024) following the introduction of a PSPO. Concerns regarding off-road motorbikes high. ASB hot-spot patrol routes had recently been reviewed and Norton town centre will form part of the revised coverage.

An overview of activity that was already taking place within the SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services department to support town centre safety was then provided:

- Licensing: The core functions of these services were to ensure public safety through licensing policies and documents to promote the licensing objectives throughout the Borough. Licensing Officers carry out both proactive and reactive visits, and investigate / take action against licenced and unlicenced activity to promote public safety. The team process around 2,000 applications and 1,000 service requests per year.

Relevant town centre-related initiatives were highlighted, including Pubwatch (local, independent groups of people working in licensed premises who work together to tackle and prevent ASB / crime and promote safe drinking environments) and the introduction of trauma packs (designed to improve the chances of victims in the event of a serious accident or a violent incident) in key locations and licensed premises. The team's contribution to regular audits organised by SBC Town Centres Development was also noted.

- Trading Standards: Working to promote a fair and safe trading environment (to the benefit of both consumers and reputable businesses), SBC Trading Standards Officers investigate all complaints regarding the sale of such products from town centre premises and market traders. This also plays a part in disrupting organised crime.

Examples of involvement in named operations to combat sales of counterfeit / illicit tobacco and illicit / non-compliant vaping products were highlighted. The service utilises the help of young volunteers to check if shops are selling age restricted products (i.e. cigarettes, alcohol, vapes and fireworks) to children – much of this work was carried out within the

Borough's town centre locations, often alongside police colleagues. Officers also carry out proactive food standards inspections to check that town centre premises are selling food that is correctly described and meets compositional standards, as well as ensuring that the requirements around allergen controls are being implemented.

- Environmental Health: The service is involved in a wide range of activity, including animal controls (joint responsibility with the police), addressing dog fouling, air quality monitoring, noise / dust / odour assessment and control (incorporating the imposition of controls around any new developments), and food safety inspections / complaints management.

The Borough's positive performance in relation to air quality was documented (an area which was predominantly impacted by either vehicle movement or domestic heating sources), as was the number of noise complaints addressed during 2023-2024.

As part of the Council's *Powering Our Future* initiative, a review of the existing Community Safety and Regulated Services offer was ongoing, with a view to presenting recommendations to Cabinet later in 2024. The review was focusing on having the correct team structures to meet future demand, improving digital innovation to maximise officer time in the community (demonstrations for potential new initiatives / technologies were scheduled for next week), and improving customer access and experience (including reporting and updates).

Several identified priorities for the department during 2024 were listed which involved maximising the use of civil legislation to disrupt crime (particularly serious and organised crime), diverting young people away from ASB, and utilising Safer Streets 5 funding to further support town centre safety. An evaluation and review of the Stockton and Norton town centre PSPO was planned, as was the introduction of a Problem Solving and Partnerships officer to work alongside the community and internal / external partners to enhance community resilience and exploit opportunities for collaboration.

The presentation concluded with a summary of the role of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP). Responsible for setting a strategic plan to identify and tackle key community safety issues in Stockton-on-Tees, it monitored progress and performance in relation to harm reduction and perceptions of safety, and acted as a critical friend for proposals and initiatives with all partners. SSP brings together key statutory stakeholders and partners to deliver plans, provides an overarching view of key strategies that impact this area of business, and is responsible for setting a strategy and action plan to tackle serious violence.

Committee questions began with a query around the distribution of trauma packs and whether these were accompanied by some form of training. SBC officers stated that a QR code was included within the pack which users could scan to take them to a video about how to utilise the contents, though the Council was considering whether to create its own version as the one via

the QR code was quite formal. There had also been some (albeit limited) communications issued regarding the introduction of these packs (of which funding had been provided about a year ago for 50, with further talks to be held with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to increase this number), and individual premises should be able to train their staff in using them. Members commented that the availability of these packs should not be a replacement for people calling 999 in the event of an incident necessitating the use of such kits, and also flagged concerns regarding the contents of the one in Yarm – SBC officers committed to following this up after the meeting.

Commenting on the statistics for reported incidents within each of the Borough's towns (note: police data represented recorded cases on a Ward-basis, not just town centres), Members noted some positive developments which did not appear consistent with negative perceptions of safety – SBC officers added that the majority of issues within these locations were seemingly being caused by a small number of individuals. The Committee also stressed the importance of ensuring a sense of safety for those working within town centres – something which would aid recruitment and retention efforts (a well-documented area of concern for many sectors at present).

Noting the encouraging stated priority of the new Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland around tackling shoplifting, the Committee asked if there was any evidence that the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Stockton and Norton town centres had diverted identified problem behaviour to other areas of the Borough. In response, Members were informed that one individual did reappear in Thornaby (though this had been dealt with by authorities), and added that the perception from some about the implementation of the PSPOs was that certain people would be moved out of those town centre areas. However, issues only arose when individuals were not behaving appropriately.

Pointing to the numerous references to alcohol within the presentation, the Committee expressed surprise that there was no mention of drugs, a factor which continued to be a significant problem in parts of the Borough. SBC officers stated that a recording issue may be at play in this regard (with drug-related cases being coded under 'ASB' or 'addiction'), and that Cleveland Police would have more specific statistics on this element. That said, SBC did recognise the impact of drugs on town centre environments.

Highlighting the ongoing problem of scooters / bikes within Thornaby, Members sought further information on the referenced 'Making Good' programme. The Committee heard that this was a national initiative (via the Office of the PCC) and operated as a diversionary programme for those aged 12 and over. SBC could refer young people into the scheme where they completed a workbook on the impact of their behaviours and the potential consequences if this continued. Referral routes were currently being reviewed, though it was too soon to understand the effect of the initiative (the Office of the PCC would be evaluating the programme at some

point in the future). Members highlighted a similar scheme to stop fire-setting, though cautioned that some may think that referral into such a programme could be viewed as a 'reward' for poor behaviour.

Drawing attention to a recent survey on the Council Plan which elicited concerns about people and towns within the Borough, the Committee suggested that SBCs vision for its town centres should include references to 'hospitable' and 'access to and from safely' (the latter being a particular issue for some following past changes to public transport routes which had inhibited / discouraged visits to town centre locations). Members also queried if any risk assessments had been done on the new Stockton waterfront development in terms of the potential spread of existing problem behaviour.

The Committee turned its focus onto air quality matters and noted the ongoing positive picture following the monitoring of pollutants of concern (comfortably below target for the last five years). A query was, however, raised around the effect of Teesside International Airport – SBC officers were not aware of any detailed analysis on the impact of local flights, though diffusion tubes could be placed at new sites to assess this if required.

Reflecting on the contents of the presentation, specifically the previous and ongoing work to improve safety within the Borough, the Committee felt that more needed to be done to highlight the positive work being undertaken (emphasising the success stories) to make town centres more welcoming and safer. That said, Members also acknowledged that many concerns being witnessed in these spaces were long-term issues that were not easily remedied, and therefore encouraged the Council and its partners to be persistent in tackling existing problem behaviour. SBC officers referenced continuing issues within Liverpool and Newcastle despite significant regeneration initiatives – authorities needed to find the best way to manage locally identified challenges, though matters were not helped by people commenting on the state of town centres when they themselves had not visited the areas. Members concluded that the key word for all parties (the Council, its partners, all town centre users, and the wider public) was 'respect'.

Also in attendance was the SBC Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety who praised the teams within the SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services department for the considerable efforts in making the Borough a safer place, and stated that there were answers to diverting people away from sitting around, for example, the Stockton town centre fountain all day – this would be for the benefit of the individuals themselves and also for all town centre users. An issue with the North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (NEAS) regarding responsibility for bleed packs was also noted – the positioning of these packs next to defibrillators was being considered as a way of possibly resolving this.

Thanking SBC officers for the presentation, the Committee turned its attention to the next evidence-gathering session which was scheduled to

	<p>involve input from further Council departments. In relation to seeking future views from a range of town centre users, it was also suggested that The Moses Project (a registered charitable company which provides guidance, mentoring and support to adult males with past and current addictions to drugs and alcohol) could be a useful vehicle to gain valuable contributions towards this scrutiny topic.</p> <p>AGREED that the information be noted.</p>
5	<p>Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025</p> <p><u>Chair's Update</u></p> <p>The Chair had no further updates.</p> <p><u>Work Programme 2024-2025</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme (2024-2025). The next meeting was due to take place on 26 September 2024 where the second evidence-gathering session for the review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres would be held featuring anticipated contributions from further SBC departments.</p> <p>AGREED that the Community Safety Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025 be noted.</p>

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Community Safety Select Committee

26 September 2024

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF WELCOMING AND SAFE TOWN CENTRES

Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres will consider submissions in relation to this scrutiny topic from the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Town Centres Development team and the SBC Public Health team (supported by Change Grow Live (CGL)).

Detail

1. The SBC Town Centres Development team was identified as a key contributor to this review and were therefore approached for information on plans for / progress on town centre investment and making these spaces welcoming / safe, examples of work undertaken / planned with other SBC directorates / departments to make the Borough's town centres more welcoming / safe, and feedback on town centre audits in relation to safety. A report has since been prepared and is included within these meeting papers.
2. The SBC Public Health team were also recognised as an important contributor towards this piece of work. Relevant officers were therefore requested to provide a response to the following:
 - Specific issues identified for each of the Borough's six town centres (including any relevant data) which may be impacting upon the public's perception of safety.
 - Examples of efforts to influence community safety / violence prevention within the Borough's six town centres.
 - Partnership-working (both internally and externally) to support individuals who may be contributing to public perceptions of town centre safety and any analysis on the effectiveness of interventions.

A presentation has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. Representatives from CGL are also scheduled to be in attendance to add to the discussions and address Member comments / questions.

3. In advance of the session, Members are reminded of the link to the latest Town Centre-related developments which can be accessed via <https://www.stockton.gov.uk/regeneration>.
4. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

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Town Centre Development Team – Scrutiny Review

The Town Centres Development Team (TCDT) are part of the Regeneration and Inclusive Growth Directorate and have responsibility for the development and delivery of a wide range of interventions across the Borough's six town centres.

The team is made up of a broad range of roles with the focus on overseeing and coordinating the development, design and delivery of capital projects. Predominantly under the funding umbrellas of Levelling Up Fund, Towns Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Future High Streets Fund, as well as town centre business engagement and market management.

Until a few years ago, town centres were built almost exclusively around retail with traditional shopping habits which have dominated the nation's high streets for 200 years.

Increasing use of online shopping and growth of out-of-town retail parks has meant that the retail-dominated function of the High Street has changed and town centres need to evolve and react to changing consumer habits if they want to remain vibrant and popular places for people to visit.

Ultimately the role of the TCDT is to ensure our town centres continue to thrive as a critical part of the Borough's economic growth through the creation and development of high quality, welcoming and safe spaces that encourage visitors and support economic growth

The Council is building on this investment and continuing to drive change forward in the six towns across the Borough, to adapt to the changing face of retail and town centres in the coming years.

A key and intrinsic part of our vision is to create places that are both safe and welcoming.

Design of our Regeneration schemes

When approaching the design of plans and regeneration schemes, we aim to deliver an outcome that meets the needs and requirements of end users. They need to reflect the ambitions of residents, elected members, businesses and a variety of wider stakeholders

From this point on, a wide range of inputs are sought from across the authority and through a variety of external partners and agencies to ensure that emerging concepts and designs are compliant with relevant policy, guidelines and laws whilst continuing to meet the needs of the initial brief and end users. Ensuring that all significant components of its design, planning and layout are considered together at an early stage,

Individual workstreams for each element of the project include discussion with key stakeholders (both internal and external), to ensure understanding across all parties. This helps identify who is responsible for areas of delivery and reach collective agreement on mitigation strategies moving forward, when faced with issues.

When developing our spaces and places, there are many factors that need to be considered to ensure that we are in line with legislation as well as other functions within the authority. Examples include:

- Planning
- Legal
- Highways
- Community Services
- Care for You Area
- Licencing
- Security & Surveillance

Linking in with the various teams listed as part of project teams or through specific workshop sessions, ensures that all relevant departments are involved in the development of the schemes and are able to feed into the delivery of the projects and feel a sense of involvement and responsibility.

A fundamental aspect to the development of the schemes is the level of public consultation and engagement. The aim when consulting the public is to take them on a journey and inform and update during the design and development of the project.

With regards to the major regeneration schemes we are delivering across the borough, in 2019 the TCDT undertook a consultation about a shared vision for the 6 town centres across the borough.

The main objectives of the consultation were to seek people's views on the future of town centres in their town, to identify what is important to the users of the town centre and to inform future priorities for intervention.

An online survey was created for responses, as well as face-to-face sessions held within central locations (libraries and customer service points). The consultations were promoted widely on social media, via a postcard drop to central homes and to all town centre businesses.

The findings of this helped scope the initial designs for each of the schemes. Obviously when dealing with such regeneration projects, there are other factors and other considerations that must be considered too.

As the project starts to evolve, it is usual for initial concepts and scheme designs to be presented back to the public through engagements sessions or viewing online. After any further amendments are made, the public are then presented with the final scheme.

Once the project is operational, communication about the scheme is ongoing and regular social media posts, briefings with councillors and press releases are common throughout, until the scheme is complete.

The process of how we do this does differ between projects, but by way of example, here is a flavour of how we approach this:

- **Romano Park** – initially based on community consultation and discussion with elected members, the project was designed with some key safety aspects incorporated to ensure the scheme was as appealing and welcoming as possible. This included new safety surfacing and play equipment. Both of which are subject to ROSPA inspections to ensure they are compliant with European and British standards. In addition, further CCTV was installed, in response to public requesting more, due to ASB incidents.

One unique element seen on this project was the incorporation of the design ideas from school children into the final design of the feature Dragon playground feature.

- **Norton Public Realm** – the driver was to make the environment more welcoming for visitors, particularly pedestrians. The public realm and quality of the materials will create a welcome environment, which will help provide a better place for businesses to trade. It will also offer a space to potentially host small scale events and markets.
- **Billingham** – a masterplan has been drawn up for Billingham Town Centre following the “Lets Talk about our Towns” consultation in 2020. It will create a more welcoming and modern environment which will include improvements to the public realm, housing and retail elements. Further public engagement will be held in 2024, when the plans are presented in more detail.
- **Stockton Waterfront** – our flagship town centre regeneration scheme which will change the face of the high street for generations to come. Creating a safe, attractive and welcoming place for all has been fundamental to the design, with conversations with internal and external stakeholders crucial to this. CCTV, Civic Enforcement, Police are all part of this process.

Seeking views from the “Parent Carer Forum” was beneficial to understand what young people and families would like to see within the park. This considered all aspects, including the play area, green spaces, event space, as well as safety and security aspects.

An additional safety item incorporated within the design is a fence around the playground area, so that young children are contained in a safe, well designed and protected area, that also offers peace of mind for parents too.

The installation of “Pleached Trees”, will provide a look of a “green wall” in certain locations. This also allows better sight lines and another pointer to the creation of a secure environment.

Lighting throughout the park is a key element to ensure a sense of safety, particularly in winter months, encouraging use of the park throughout the evening. It has also been designed to allow the lighting to be adjustable, thus creating different types of atmospheric environments, be it for events, shows, markets etc.

What makes our towns welcoming?

It is not necessarily easy to define “what makes a town centre welcoming”, quite often, the focus is on large scale regeneration initiatives, however the following examples highlight where, smaller scale interventions go a long way towards a sense of welcoming in our town centres.

An instant and obvious barometer for the look and feel of our town centres is the condition of the public realm and buildings. Across the town centres we have an extensive programme of street cleaning and cleansing which is done on cyclical and programmed basis.

This includes jet washing and street cleaning vehicles, working hard to create clean, well presented town centres. These are operated and work undertaken by experienced and knowledgeable staff who deliver an excellent service.

First impressions really do count and ensuring street cleansing, litter collection and other aspects such as horticultural services, are critical to providing a strong foundation when presenting the towns in their most welcoming light.

We are pro-active in our approach to ensuring vacant properties are kept in a presentable condition, via a regular audit of buildings. This allows us to monitor them and where necessary identify issues with building owners and encourage them to make necessary improvements when required.

In addition to the above we also undertake a regular audit inspection of town centre locations, specifically at areas which attract dumps of waste (both residential and commercial) and fly tipping.

Across the borough there are numerous examples of improvements and initiatives that make our town centres a welcoming place to live, work and stay.

- In Wellington Square, new planters to create a greener environment and offer a tranquil offer within a vibrant shopping centre.
- Dog “hydration stations” are located throughout the scheme.
- Art features throughout the shopping centre at numerous locations, designed by local artists. Hugely improve the appearance of the area and make it feel much more welcoming.
- In partnership with a local primary school and in conjunction with “Mind”, a “Buddy Bench” has been installed within Wellington Square to help combat loneliness. The bench helps to encourage people to sit and down and talk to one another.
- 2024 saw the launch of “Wellington Wellness”, regular sessions which bring groups and organisations to support mental and physical wellbeing.
- Local primary schools were invited to draw what Christmas decorations they would like to see displayed in the centre. These were then manufactured, as drawn by the children and displayed during the festive period. This creates a real sense of community spirit
- The Council via the Town Centre Development team provided a small budget to both Norton and Yarm Business Forums to deliver small-scale interventions. In both towns these have made a significant contribution, with the delivery of Christmas events in both towns. These included Christmas Trees on buildings and “Carols on the Cobbles” in Yarm, as well as the “Meet the Reindeer” event and “Advent Window Trail” in Norton
- A grant scheme is provided to support new and existing businesses across the six towns. This helps reduce the number of vacant units and creates a better environment and a more vibrant town centre.
- Implementation of a new, dedicated Town Centre Management function, providing further evidence of our commitment to ensure the town centres are safe and welcoming places.
- Electronic video screens have been installed in three key locations of Stockton Town Centre. They display a raft of information from upcoming events, public health, community safety and a range of other information.
- We work closely alongside Stockton BID to help support a range of projects they deliver. They are independent from the council but are constantly looking at ways to

improve the town. The BID with support from SBC led on the high street becoming accredited as “Dementia Friendly”, with many businesses undertaking training. This has also been rolled out to businesses across the borough.

- Warm Spaces – across the borough we are involved with the initiative to open buildings and offer a space for people to stay warm, chat and play games etc. Thornaby Pavilion has been a huge success and Fountain Shopping Mall will shortly host the first in Stockton Town Centre.
- The “Enjoy Stockton” shop provides a central point of contact in a dedicated unit in Stockton High Street. This is a valuable service for members of the public to get information about transport, events and other council matters.
- Across the borough we host events such as SIRF, Stockton Sparkles, Festival of Thrift and many more, which attract visitors into our towns, to enjoy an experience and provide fun for all the family.
- The Walking and Cycling Hub is Stockton-on-Tees’s active travel centre. It provides a service to make it easy for people to walk and cycle around the Borough, whether that’s to school, work, the shops, or just for fun.
- Silver Street – completed a number of years ago, a pedestrianisation scheme was implemented as well as a number of public realm features, improved lighting and surfacing. This was done to enable more flexibility for the businesses, a location for events, as well as creating a safer and welcoming environment.

Conclusions

There are several factors we consider when we look at determining if our interventions are making a difference and are successful. We continually monitor footfall and dwell time in our town centres, where people are visiting, what people are doing and where they are coming from.

We have invested in system which helps us track this information and are always looking at how we can best use this to support what we are doing. It also helps us identify areas which require more focussed attention.

In the past 4 years the TCDT have undertaken over 10 individual public sessions to consult or engage with people on the plans and designs of the regeneration schemes. This will continue and we will strive to ensure all residents, visitors and businesses are proud of the town centres and see them as secure, safe and welcoming places.

*SBC Town Centres Development
September 2024*

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Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Public Health

September 2024

Welcoming & safe town centres

What creates them?



Different models – one is the WHO Healthy Cities model (adopted by e.g. Newcastle)

People are key, as is creating an environment that enables people, services and businesses to flourish.

The issues to consider are broad & a range of data and views will be needed to inform the local picture.

Local approach adopted to address inequalities.

Safety & perception of safety

Considerations

- Housing
- Built environment
- Street lighting
- Nature of businesses
- Traffic
- Anti-social behaviour
- Community cohesion
-etc.

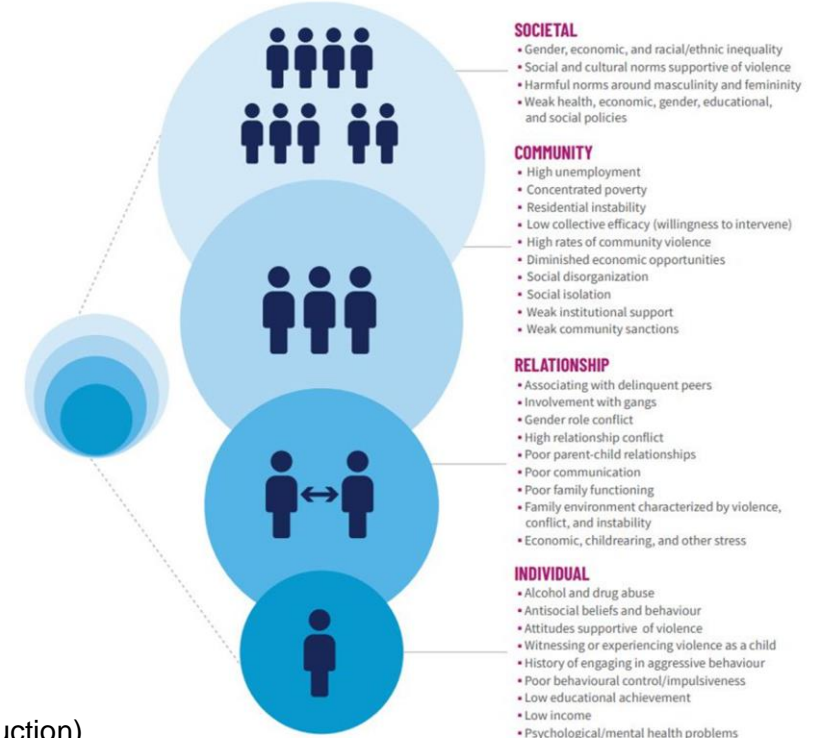
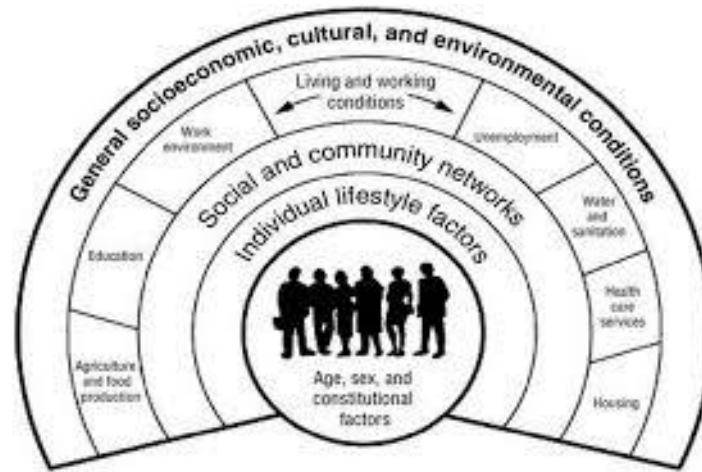
If focusing on ASB



What can drive / contribute to ASB / violence?

Place design, community cohesion, housing, education, employment opportunity....

Bonding & attachment in childhood, trauma, social networks & support, mental wellbeing, substances....



Community safety & violence prevention

Public health action

Strategic input

Action re:

- Prevention programmes
- Communities & places
- Substance misuse – whole systems approach & services

Health & Wellbeing Strategy & delivery plan focused on socio-economic determinants

Borough-wide approach to addressing health inequality (socio-economic determinants)

Strategic groups: CURV, Combating Drugs Partnership, Domestic Abuse Steering Group, TSAB

Input to TCHIZ & blueprint

Prevention

Public health role **highlighted**

Healthy Schools programme **planning; funding** of SHEU survey; **0-19 service** in schools (public health school nursing)

Family hubs inc: midwifery, family support, **health visiting**

Community wellbeing hub inc: **mental health**, CAB, **substance misuse (0-19 service)**

CURV needs assessment, public mental health awareness, domestic abuse strategy, service & awareness inc. healthy relationships, targeted work to improve access to services (health checks, employment, Tees Credit Union)



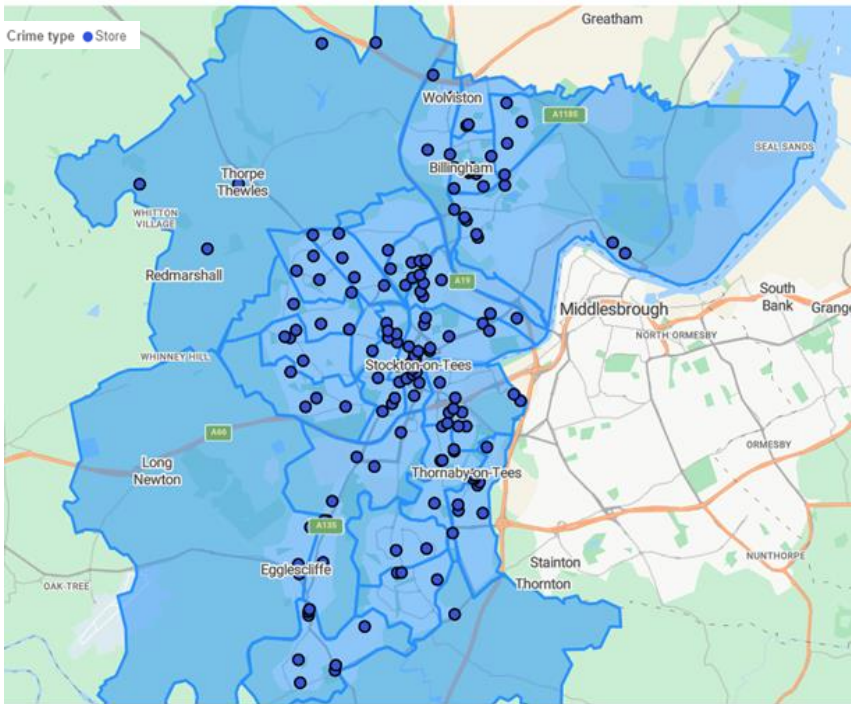
Communities & places

Examples

- Healthy Streets pilot – lead by Inclusive Growth colleagues
- Sport England development work – Public Health leading alongside Environment, Leisure & Green Infrastructure colleagues. Place-based approach to addressing inequality, increasing activity & improving experiences for children & young people
- Businesses - Stockton BID keen to work on reducing the stigma of substance misuse, working with public health
- Planning – Public Health reviewing good practice and research evidence base in liaison with Inclusive Growth colleagues, to inform H&W Board work
- Licensing – Public Health, Licensing & Community Safety; work to inform licensing applications
- Peer advocacy – Public Health pilot (ICB funding*) to improve relationships with & access to support working with individuals with multiple complex needs

Communities & places

Example: Off-licence premises



(Picture as of June 2024; each dot may represent >1 store)

Shows all the off-sale premises in Stockton-on-Tees (supermarkets, off-licences, newsagents & takeaways that sell alcohol).

- Highest density in Stockton Town Centre ward (total = 25), IMD score of 1 (greatest deprivation) and highest crime levels in the Borough
- All stores in Stockton Town Centre are classed as high risk or very high risk. (Risk levels calculated for each store based on a number of factors, including number of crimes, opening times and number of stores).
- Public Health working closely with Community Safety and Licensing to consider alcohol licensing applications against the four licensing objectives set out in the Statement Of Licensing Policy

Communities & places

Peer advocacy pilot

- 3yr pilot (from 2023), delivered by Recovery Connections
- Piloting an approach to work with communities with multiple complex needs* in a different way, to improve experience and outcomes
- Evidence-based (e.g. Changing Futures; Making Every Adult Matter; work in Gateshead)
- Individuals identified through work with safeguarding colleagues where previous engagement has not been sustained; approach designed through working across partners
- Peer advocates recruited – small caseload; focus on building relationship to understand their priorities and build step-by-step approach to accessing support to meet holistic needs e.g. money management, self-care, health screening, specialist wound care
- Peer researchers (Teesside Uni) embedded to undertake evaluation; aim is to inform model of support in future
- To-date 13 individuals engaged in pilot, initial feedback encouraging

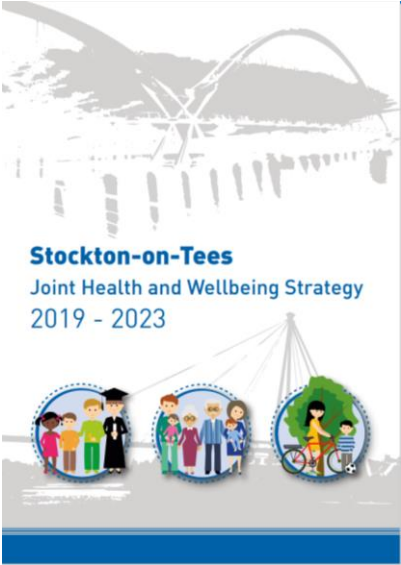
Substance misuse

Substance misuse (alcohol & drugs)

Evidence

- Alcohol use is across society; impact is greatest on those with existing poor health, exposed to domestic abuse etc.
- Price & availability of alcohol have an impact on consumption; design of local places is important.
- Drug use commonly exists alongside other issues; a holistic approach to designing places is important.
- Community cohesion and connectedness are important in safety and perceptions of safety in our local places.
- Enforcement activity must be coupled with support that starts from the needs and priorities of the individual, working alongside communities and service users to build on what is important to them and address need.
- Support must be accessible and meet people 'where they are' (outreach etc.) – not structured around what works for services.
- A 'whole system' and 'whole place' approach is needed to address the root causes of issues affecting the activity in, and feel of, our local places (housing, access to wider care and support, green space, etc.).
- A whole system approach spans early prevention through to treatment and recovery / maximising health and wellbeing.

Policy framework



2025-2030

4 priority focus areas:

- All children and families have the best start in life
- Everyone has a healthy standard of living
- Everyone lives in healthy & sustainable places and communities
- Everyone lives long and healthy lives

2025-2030

Aim: cut crime and save lives by reducing drugs supply and demand; and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system.

Public Health ring-fenced, short-term funding to implement key components:

- (1) Supplementary grant to increase capacity for treatment services, strengthen links to criminal justice; prevent DRDs
- (2) Inpatient detox grant for local medically managed provision; (3) Individual Placement Support grant employment as a motivational tool for recovery.



Local picture

Borough-wide data

Drugs

- Indicators on drug treatment, waiting times for treatment & mental health support for those in treatment are not significantly different to national average
- Deaths from drug misuse are higher than national average

Alcohol

- Alcohol-related mortality and hospital admissions are higher than national average – there are inequalities in the harm across communities
- However there are improving trends e.g. alcohol-related admissions are decreasing and closing the gap with England average

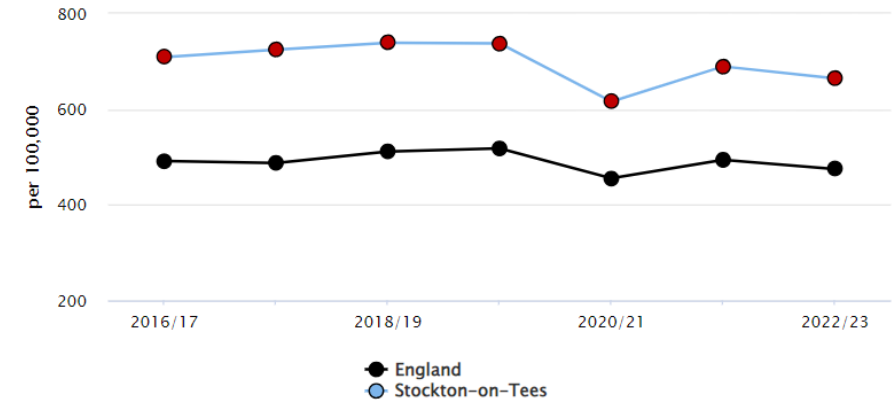
Regional & local dashboards in development e.g.:

- Alcohol consumption (age group, deprivation)
- Drug-related crime (distribution across borough)

Will enable more detailed analysis of activity, together with local service data.

Admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions (Narrow)

[Show confidence intervals](#) [Show 99.8% CI values](#)



Decreasing trend
Higher than England; narrowing gap

Local picture

Drug use is spread across the borough, but significantly concentrated in and around Stockton town centre.

Networks mean drug-related crime will extend beyond this (county lines etc.).

Alcohol misuse is spread across social groups; alcohol-related harm is greater in more disadvantaged communities. Violence linked to alcohol occurs across all socio-economic groups and may be hidden (e.g. domestic abuse).

Accessibility and price have an important impact on alcohol use and its links to violence e.g. cheap alcohol sold at off-license premises.

The nature of the impact of alcohol will look different across the 6 towns in the borough (e.g. impact of licensed premises / off-licenses); but there are many common drivers (price, accessibility, education). Delivery of support needs to be sensitive to individual need.

Our approach

Implementing policy & evidence



Local work is overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board, with reports to SSP, TSAB and HSSCP. Fits with Powering our Future:

- Working alongside **communities** and **service users** to build on what is important to them and address need. Local services take a holistic approach to individual service users.
- Trialling **innovative** ways of working (peer advocacy approach to engaging people with multiple and complex needs; using work as a motivational factor for people in structured treatment for substance misuse).
- Strategic approach in place across **partners** for drugs and for alcohol, coordinating system-wide activity and spanning prevention through to treatment across adults, children and families. Working closely with partners and colleagues (CGL, NHS, businesses, VCSE, SBC), taking a holistic approach including employment support, mental wellbeing, housing etc.
- We will build on this through the early intervention & prevention **transformation** review, looking at a more joined up and person-centred approach to prevention and support in local places.
- Building **workforce** capacity across partners through support and training on substance misuse, to enable brief intervention, advice and support in a range of community settings (e.g. community wellbeing hub, hostels, The Moses Project, Hebron Church Food Bank).
- Working further with **regeneration** & other colleagues we are looking at how we shape healthy places, helping address inequality by ensuring access to support and services and designing environments that help people to be healthy e.g. planning.

Our approach

Alcohol Strategic framework

*Our communities:

Geographical: our residents
Frontline workforce: service providers
Service Users
Carers
Strategic decision makers
Elected members
Local businesses

We will work with communities* to address four priorities. We will:

1. Increase our understanding and **capacity** to **maximise our impact** across the system to
 - Support a vibrant and diverse night time economy and reduce the demand for alcohol
 - Promote responsible drinking
 - Protect frontline staff
 - Reduce the opportunity for alcohol-related harm
2. Increase **awareness** and understanding of alcohol and its related harms within our communities and **support our workforces** to respond
3. Create environments which promote Making Every Contact Count, **early identification** of risky drinking and smooth **pathways to support**
4. Implement **prevention strategies**; early intervention strategies as well as **effective treatment**, support and recovery for individuals and families. Includes promotion, pricing and availability of alcohol.

Our approach

Drugs – harm minimisation

- **Prevent drug addiction.** Recognise the shift in drug availability and risk-taking behaviours, to non-opioid drugs. Promote awareness and offer information and advice to general population and at-risk groups.
- **Improve community safety and reduce crime and disorder linked to substance misuse**
 - Ensure appropriate support for offenders, with access to housing, training and employment, financial aid, debt recovery and drugs and alcohol services
 - Enforce against persistent and prolific offenders who misuse drugs and/or alcohol
 - Address drugs, as a driver of crime, and associated criminalities through innovative initiatives
 - Make the night-time economy in Stockton-on-Tees a safer place
- **Reduce harm caused by drug trafficking and addiction.** Improve access to harm minimisation such as needle exchange and naloxone across the system
- **Reduce drug related deaths.** Prevent DRDs through monitoring and preventing overdoses, responding to DRD working with coroners and police, individual case reviews, support to families affected by DRD
- **Improve the capacity and quality of drug treatment services.** Increase the number of people in treatment including rehabilitation and ongoing support in community. Improve access to support for young people and service users with physical health issues through outreach approaches.
- **Support population groups at higher risk from harm.** Recognise and address the specific needs of young people at risk of or with drug addiction, people with multiple vulnerabilities and families affected by drug misuse and DRD

Services & support

Change, Grow, Live



Integrated Substance Misuse Service (alcohol & drugs)

- Provided by Change, Grow, Live (CGL), funded through public health ring-fenced grant
- Service approach: Treatment and recovery journey. Clinical, psychological, and social intervention including links to housing and employment support. Additional support e.g. blood-borne virus injections.
- Referrals: Slight spike early in the pandemic in opiate users accessing service, this levelled off in summer 2020 and has been steady since. Increase in alcohol and non-opiate users referred to service. Polydrug use has increased nationally.
- New criminal justice team embedded in the service.

Outcomes

Stockton-on-Tees has **significantly increased drug and alcohol treatment numbers** over the past 2 years, in-line with new National Drug Strategy targets. Progress recognised and shared by OHID regionally and nationally as good practice; selected through a deep-dive of 30 high-performing boroughs across England.

CGL have introduced a full-time walk-in offer this year with same-day prescribing, following a successful pilot. This has **improved accessibility, increased treatment numbers and reduced waiting times** across all substances.

Stockton-on-Tees recently confirmed as the **leading area in the NE for Continuity of Care performance** (prison leavers accessing community treatment services within 3 weeks of release), following significant local efforts to improve pathways with Criminal Justice colleagues over past 18 months.

Services & support

Outreach & partnerships

- Substance use treatment and recovery **outreach provision** was increased borough-wide this year via CGL, Recovery Connections, Wellington Square Wellbeing Hub, Hostels, North Tees Hospital (Secondary Care), Hartlepool & Stockton Health (Primary Care) and Alliance Psychology.
- Public Health working with CGL to better understand current service reach across the borough, based on where service users live: planning to further increase engagement and outreach in areas with lower access.
- Public Health, CGL and Recovery Connections involved in implementing the recent Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and Stockton Angels projects, working closely with Stockton Bid and SBC Community Safety to engage local/affected communities and ensure people are supported to access help.
- Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) until March 2025: Spend focused on **reducing drug-related crime and harms**. Increasing staffing capacity within specialist substance misuse services, reducing case load, preventing drug related deaths. Key work includes physical health checks in hostel accommodation (HaSH); a criminal justice team (CGL); bereavement service for people affected by drug and alcohol related deaths (Cruse); increased capacity to respond to dual diagnosis (TEWV & CGL shared roles); naloxone in custody; long-lasting opioid substitution treatment for prison leavers.
- Public health across Teesside informed and collated the needs assessment for the Combatting Drug Partnership, shares a post to prevent Drug related Death, has a Tees Drug Related Death Oversight Group with membership from local authority, safeguarding and police and is engaged in the regional Substance misuse public health network.

Services & support

Further provision

Pharmacy-based services (public health funded): supervised consumption and needle exchange (opioid substitution treatment).

Specialist Family Carer Service (public health funded): Bridges provide a support service to families affected by substance misuse.

Overdose pathways: improving communication pathways between NEAS, A&E and CGL, to better support people returning to the community following overdose (risks of overdose combined with routine opioid substitute therapy).

Inpatient detox (North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, public health funded) for inpatient alcohol detox. Exploring broadening the offer to include poly substance misuse.

Individual Placement Support (funded through OHID until March 2025): SBC is lead commissioner for Stockton-on-Tees and Hartlepool; provided by Recovery Connections. Evidence-based approach aiming for sustained employment through mainstream, competitive jobs, supporting anyone of working age engaged in structured treatment.

Alcohol Care Team (ACT), North Tees Hospital: respond to inpatients requiring detox support on-site due to admission for another reason. Liaises with primary care and specialist community-based services (e.g. CGL) to ensure continued care on return to the community. SBC link through public health team. New drug support team also being recruited in N. Tees hospital (temporary funding through SSMTRG).

Next steps

Through H&W Board (H&W Strategy delivery):

- Continue to develop & evaluate work on creating healthy places; further building links with businesses; work on planning & health
- Continued work on promotion, pricing and availability of alcohol; work on response to licensing applications
- Joint work to develop data & intelligence to inform local approaches to prevention & support
- Continue to develop early prevention work through 0-19 model and joint work to support children, young people and families
- Monitoring & evaluation of peer advocacy pilot; design work through early intervention & prevention review to inform future approach & model for people with multiple complex needs (will also inform commissioned services) – also informed by future of e.g. SSMTRG funding
- Continue to build on good outcomes delivered through commissioned services

Community Safety Select Committee
Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Paul Rowling	Contact details: paul.rowling@stockton.gov.uk
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Gary Woods	Contact details: gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk 01642 526187
Departmental Link Officer: Sharon Cooney (SBC Head of Community Safety)	Contact details: sharon.cooney@stockton.gov.uk

<p>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</p> <p>The review will contribute to all three of the Council Plan 2023-2026 key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm</i> • <i>A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed</i> • <i>A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive</i>

<p>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</p> <p>For several years now, debate has ensued over the future purpose and provision of town centres across the UK, with Local Authorities and their numerous partners considering the ways in which they can make these locations as appealing as possible within the context of a tough financial landscape. In related matters, the issue of town centre safety has drawn recent national attention, with significant concerns raised around reported increases in shoplifting, rising incidences of violence and abuse of shop staff, and police / community support officer numbers (UK Parliament - Town Centre Safety (Dec 23)).</p> <p>As Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) progresses with the redevelopment of its six town centres, fostering feelings of safety and creating welcoming spaces are crucial for several reasons. A safe environment encourages residents and visitors to engage in activities, boosting economic vitality through increased footfall and business opportunities. A welcoming town centre also promotes community cohesion and pride, attracting investment but also encouraging a sense of belonging amongst residents. Cultivating and developing a positive perception of the Borough's town centres is an essential component of the Council's regeneration strategy.</p> <p>Over recent years, a significant amount of work has gone into supporting Stockton-on-Tees town centres, both from a regeneration investment perspective and a community safety standpoint. A substantial amount of investment has been made in community safety measures such as new CCTV cameras and the provision of additional Civic Enforcement Officers to patrol and work with key stakeholders to problem-solve issues. Furthermore, last year saw the introduction of the Council's first Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to tackle aggressive begging and street drinking in both Stockton Town Centre and Norton Village.</p>
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<p>These measures, alongside additional support from SBCs strategic partners, have resulted in sustained reductions in key areas of crime and disorder. Despite this, however, the public perception of town centre safety continues to be poor amongst prospective visitors and also commercial investors.</p> <p>This review provides an opportunity to scrutinise what is currently in place in terms of promoting safety in town centres and how effective the measures are in addressing crime and disorder, whilst also further exploring what more can be done to positively promote the Borough's town centre spaces to address negative perceptions and improve feelings of safety.</p> <p>The main aims for this review will be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish the key issues within each of the Borough's six town centres with regards safety.• Understand the measures already in place to address these issues and ascertain any gaps in future plans.• Identify any potential learning from other parts of the UK.
<p>The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:</p> <p>What is meant by the term 'welcoming' in relation to the Borough's town centres?</p> <p>What has the Council and its partners done to make its town centres more welcoming and safer (inc. impact of recent PSPO implementation)? How effective have these been?</p> <p>What safety issues (real or perceived) are specific to the six town centres across the Borough; what is stopping residents / visitors wanting to access these locations? What data is available to support / contradict these concerns?</p> <p>Do town centre businesses consider their location as welcoming and safe? What issues, if any, do they feel need addressing; could they assist with any of these themselves?</p> <p>How is the grant funding allocated to the Cleveland PCC area as part of the latest Safer Streets Fund (round five) being used to improve safety within the Borough?</p> <p>What is the role of the Stockton Safety Partnership (SSP) in relation to this scrutiny topic?</p> <p>How can this review contribute to / complement the ongoing SBC <i>Powering Our Future</i> Community Safety and Regulated Services project?</p> <p>How does / can the Council utilise the local voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to support welcoming and safe town centres?</p> <p>What can the Council learn from the approach of other Local Authorities?</p>
<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Council, Cabinet, SBC partners, businesses, public.</p>
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>7 months (report to Cabinet in February 2025)</p>

What information do we need?	
Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association (LGA): Revitalising town centres (May 18) Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP): Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025 GOV.UK: Safer Streets Fund (Oct 23) 	
<i>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</i>	<i>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</i>
<p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety and Regulated Services Public Health Town Centres Development Inclusive Growth and Development Ward Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues being highlighted for each town centre Safety initiatives implemented and the impact Role of SSP in this scrutiny topic Influencing community safety / violence prevention Plans for / progress on town centre investment and making these spaces welcoming / safe Feedback from public
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre priorities / plans Safer Streets Fund – impact within Borough
Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Authority / Brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town centre crime / disorder data Safety initiatives implemented and the impact Past / future partnership-working with SBC
Town Councils Business Forums / Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues regarding town centre safety and measures taken to address these Past / future partnership-working with SBC
Catalyst / VCSE Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing VCSE involvement How the VCSE could further support efforts
Residents / Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views on / barriers to accessing town centres
Other Local Authority Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives to improve views of town centres and / or tackle negative perceptions
How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)	
Committee meetings, reports, research, existing public feedback, site visits (TBC).	

<p>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</p> <p>Committee meetings, information submissions.</p>
<p>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</p> <p>The Public Sector Equality Duty requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This review will be mindful of these factors.</p>
<p>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</p> <p><u>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA): Crime:</u> Crime and the fear of crime are key factors that affect people's quality of life and sense of wellbeing.</p> <p><u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023: All people in Stockton-on-Tees live in healthy places and sustainable communities:</u> Health and wellbeing are influenced by the environment in which people grow up, live, work and spend their leisure time and by how safe people feel in their communities.</p>
<p>Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:</p> <p>An assessment of the effectiveness of local community safety measures and recommendations on what more could potentially be done to address public concerns (whether real or perceived).</p>

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	May 2024	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	29.05.24	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	13.06.24	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services	11.07.24	Select Committee
	SBC Town Centres Dev. SBC Public Health CGL	26.09.24	
	Office of the PCC Cleveland Police Cleveland Fire Brigade	24.10.24	
	TBC	28.11.24	
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	19.12.24	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	January 2025	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBC	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	23.01.25	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	[04.03.25]	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet / Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	13.02.25	Cabinet / Approving Body

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COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE
Work Programme 2024-2025

Date (4.30pm unless stated)	Topic	Attendance
25 April	Review of Outdoor Play Provision: Quality and Distribution, Maintenance, and Physical Accessibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Final Report 	Cllr Clare Gamble / Cllr Steve Nelson / Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE / Neil Mitchell
23 May	CANCELLED	
13 June	Monitoring: Action Plan - Outdoor Play Provision Monitoring: Progress Update – Tree Asset Management Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Draft) Scope and Project Plan 	Graham Clingan Dale Rowbotham Marc Stephenson
11 July	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Community Safety and Regulated Services 	Sharon Cooney / Stephen Donaghy / Leanne Maloney-Kelly
26 September	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBC Town Centres Development • SBC Public Health 	Iain Robinson / Marc Bould Mandy MacKinnon / Sid Wong
24 October	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (TBC) • Cleveland Police (TBC) • Cleveland Fire Brigade (TBC) 	TBC TBC TBC
28 November	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
19 December	Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	
23 January		
27 February	Overview Report: Adults, Health and Wellbeing (TBC)	
27 March		

COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE Work Programme 2024-2025

2024-2025 Scrutiny Reviews

- Welcoming and Safe Town Centres

Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
 - Tree Asset Management (Progress Update) – TBC
 - Outdoor Play Provision (Progress Update) – TBC
-

Other Information Sources / Updates

- **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP):** The SSP is the local community safety partnership and works together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB) – meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be accessed via <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=1144&Year=0>. Every three years, the SSP undertake a Crime and Disorder Audit and, following public consultation, produce a Community Safety Plan which sets out how agencies within the Partnership intend to achieve targets in crime reduction – the latest version is the [Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy 2022-2025](#). Government is consulting on part two of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Review, with Councils giving input into the Local Government Association’s (LGA) response – there is appetite amongst Councils for a more fundamental look at the partnership duty landscape and how CSPs work with Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).
- **Serious Violence Duty:** The Duty (Aug 22) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-factsheets/police-crime-sentencing-and-courts-bill-2021-serious-violence-duty-factsheet> and associated guidance (Dec 22): https://www.gov.uk/government/news/efforts-to-tackle-serious-violence-and-homicide-stepped-up?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=66d44b4c-9d22-4f1d-aed7-517818847183&utm_content=immediately. The Home Office plan to update the guidance to the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) – the LGA will be giving views (Councils have contributed to this).
- **Martyn’s Law:** ([The Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Draft Bill](#)) has recently (May 23) been published, which will introduce new requirements for those responsible for certain public premises or events to take protective security measures to mitigate against terrorist attacks. Also known as Martyn’s Law, this will likely have a number of implications for Councils. Further details can also be found on [the Home Office’s Martyn’s Law factsheet](#). The LGA has recently (Apr 23) published [a case study highlighting how Manchester Council](#) has embedded the principles of Martyn’s Law into their licensing process.
- **Modern Slavery:** [New modern slavery risk assessment and due diligence guidance for local authority commissioners of adult social care](#), produced by the University of Nottingham Rights Lab in tandem with the LGA, was published in October 2023 - it provides advice on to how to set up effective local systems to identify and manage the risks of modern slavery in adult social care. The LGA has established a modern slavery network for council officers leading on work to tackle modern slavery – the network meets quarterly via Teams and aims to share good practice and discuss current issues. In March 2024, the Home Office [published data on the number of potential victims of modern slavery](#) referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) or via the Duty to Notify (DtN) process in 2023. 17,004 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office in 2023. The number of referrals for females were at

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their highest on record, as were the number of referrals for child potential victims. The most common nationality referred in 2023 was UK.

- **Youth Offending:** *Turnaround* is a voluntary youth early intervention programme led by the Ministry of Justice. The programme provides multi-year grant funding to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) across England and Wales until March 2025, enabling them to intervene earlier and improve outcomes for children on the cusp of entering the youth justice system. The eligibility criteria for *Turnaround* includes; children involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) – ranging from coming to notice for repeated involvement in ASB up to and including receiving a Civil Order for ASB. The Ministry of Justice is encouraging all community safety teams to engage with their local YOT Manager or Management Board to discuss a referral pathway for eligible children so they can be offered support via *Turnaround*.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):** The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman issued a press release in August 2023 expressing concern that [Councils were not doing enough to help victims of ASB](#). The Ombudsman has also produced a [learning lessons from complaints about antisocial behaviour](#) document which includes scrutiny questions for Councillors. The [ASB Action Plan](#) has since been updated (March 2024).
- **CONTEST:** In July 2023, the Government published its [updated counter-terrorism strategy, CONTEST](#), which judges that risks from terrorism are rising. In related matters, SBC rolled-out mandatory staff training around the Prevent and Protect duty at the end of April 2023. In March 2024, the Government [published a new definition of extremism](#), updating the one in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and to reflect the evolution of extremist ideologies and the social harms they create. The Government also recently published a [progress report one year on from the publication of the Independent Review of Prevent](#). This sets out that 30 of the 34 recommendations are now complete, including updated statutory guidance, training and the assessment framework, the launch of a new [Standards and Compliance Unit \(STaCU\)](#) to handle complaints and provide oversight.
- **Fire & Rescue:** [State of Fire & Rescue 2022](#) - His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England. Arson and deliberate fire setting remain a significant issue for Cleveland Fire Brigade with Cleveland being the arson capital of the UK – in October 2022, Cleveland Fire Brigade [appealed for everyone to become a FireStopper in a new bid to reduce arson and violent attacks on Firefighters](#).
- **Shoplifting:** Police to treat shoplifting like organised crime (BBC online article published in October 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67191793>.
- **Dangerous Dogs Act 1991:** The Government has added the XL Bully breed type to the list of dogs banned under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in England and Wales. From 31 December 2023, breeding, selling, exchanging, advertising, rehoming, gifting, abandoning, and allowing an XL Bully dog to stray will be illegal, and these dogs must be muzzled and on a lead in public. From 1 February 2024 it will be a criminal offence to own an XL Bully in England and Wales unless the owner has a Certificate of Exemption. [Defra has published further information about how to prepare for the ban which will be updated regularly](#), and they will continue engagement with stakeholders. In March 2024, the LGA wrote to Council chief finance officers on behalf of DEFRA about new burdens funding relating to the XL Bully Ban for 2023-24.

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- **Licensing:** [Legislation has been introduced into Parliament to amend the Licensing Act 2003](#) so that it is easier to get changes to licensing hours for special events or occasions, such as significant sporting events, through Parliament. The Bill is more concerned with parliamentary process than the contents of the Licensing Act itself. The Local Government Association (LGA) understands this legislation has Government support, so is likely to complete its parliamentary stages and become law. The British Beer & Pub Association has [produced advice for licensees showing European Championship football matches](#) – this is an update of the previous World Cup guidance.
- **Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs):** The LGA and DAC conducted a survey regarding DHRs - [the results can be found on the LGA website](#). The LGA, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) have established a forum to share best practice and act as a platform for government changes in relation to domestic and related death homicide. So far there has been one meeting and 132 people have volunteered to take part.
- **Float to Live campaign:** The [RNLI's Float to Live campaign](#) took place on 21 May 2024. The ['float to live' message has saved lives](#), and the RNLI is keen for Councils to support the campaign to raise more awareness amongst local communities. It has produced [a free social media toolkit](#) which may be of interest to Council communications team.
- **Fires involving e-bikes and e-scooters:** The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS) has written to heads of trading standards, asking that, where resources and prioritisation allow, Trading Standards services identify and inspect bike repair businesses and where possible inform OPSS of their findings.
- **Khan Review:** Dame Sara Khan has published her [independent review into social cohesion and resilience](#). Recommendations include the establishment of a new Office for Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience (OSCDR), a 5-year Social Cohesion and Democratic Resilience Strategy (SCDR) and Action Plan, and that Government should better engage with Local Authorities over actions that could undermine social cohesion – for example in relation to asylum dispersal.
- **Taxi Licensing:** An [HMRC consultation](#) ended on 8 August 2024 on the VAT implications of court judgements that proposes abolishing the current licensing system, which differentiates between Taxis and PHVs, and moving to a single-tier system. The LGA will respond.
- **Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Cleveland:** Further information on the office of the PCC can be found on via <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/commissioner/office/> - this includes engagement with the **Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (PCP)**. Access to PCP agendas and papers can be found via <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/commissioner/office/the-work-of-cleveland-police-and-crime-panel/>.