

**Date:**

Thursday 31 July 2025 at 4.30pm

**Venue:**Council Chamber, Dunedin House, Columbia Drive, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees  
TS17 6BJ**Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair)****Cllr Katie Weston (Vice-Chair)**Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Ray Godwin,  
Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman and Cllr Alan Watson**Agenda**

1. **Evacuation Procedure** (Pages 7 - 10)
2. **Apologies for Absence**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Minutes** (Pages 11 - 18)  
To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 26 June 2025.
5. **Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations – Outdoor Play Provision** (Pages 19 - 28)  
Progress report for the previously completed Outdoor Play Provision review.
6. **Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse** (Pages 29 - 64)  
To consider submissions in relation to this scrutiny topic from:
  - Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group
  - Harbour
7. **Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP) - Previous Minutes (March & May 2025)** (Pages 65 - 72)
8. **Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026** (Pages 73 - 78)

**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.

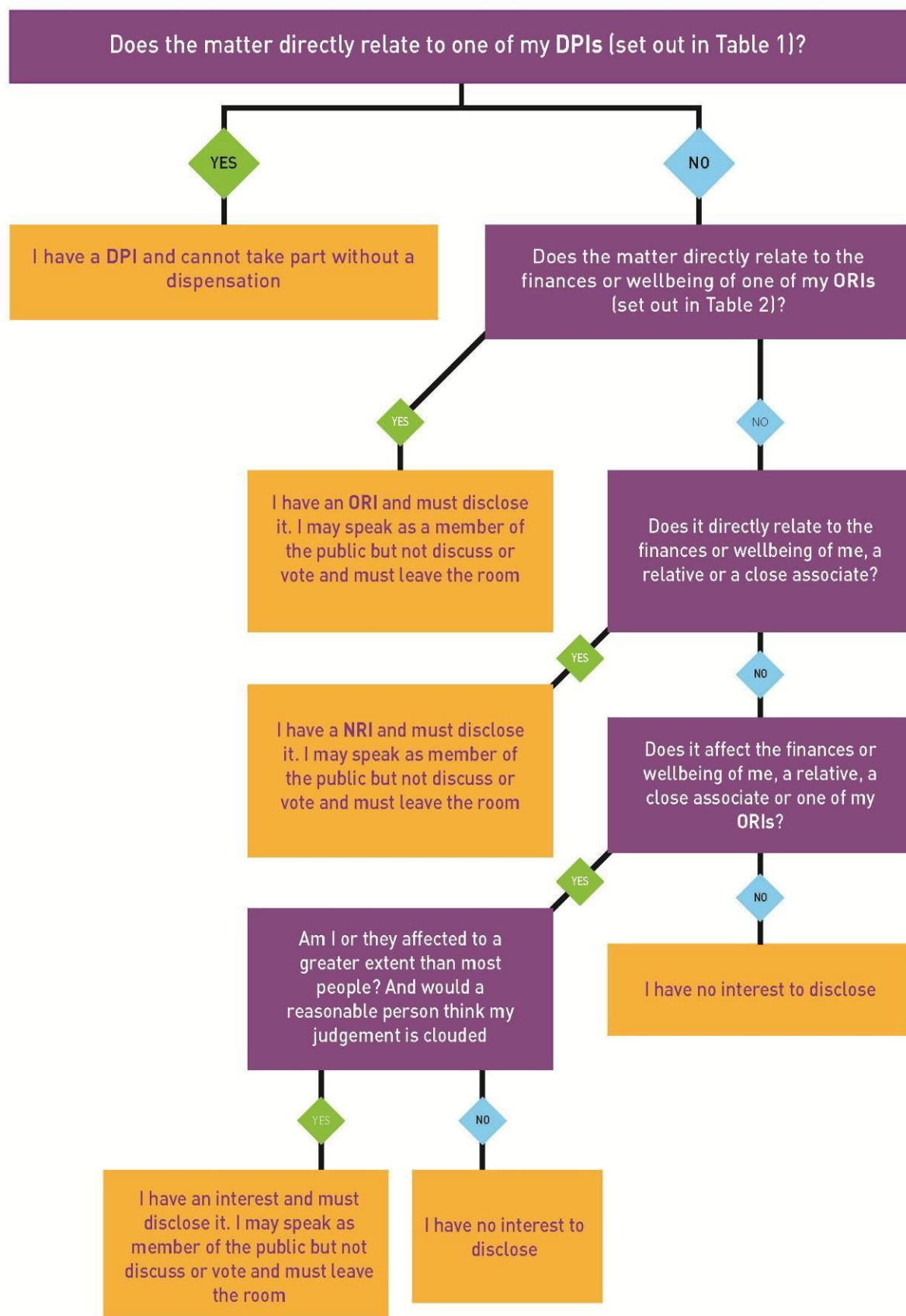
Persons wishing to obtain any further information on this meeting, including the opportunities available for any member of the public to speak at the meeting; or for details of access to the meeting for disabled people, please.

Contact: Senior Scrutiny Officer, Gary Woods on email [gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk](mailto: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**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain
<b>Sponsorship</b>	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.
<b>Contracts</b>	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.
<b>Land and property</b>	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.
<b>Licences</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer.
<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	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.
<b>Securities</b>	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 Registrable 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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## Council Chamber, Dunedin House Evacuation Procedure & Housekeeping

### Entry

Entry to the Council Chamber is via the South Entrance, indicated on the map below.



In the event of an emergency alarm activation, everyone should immediately start to leave their workspace by the nearest available signed Exit route.

The emergency exits are located via the doors on either side of the raised seating area at the front of the Council Chamber.

Fires, explosions, and bomb threats are among the occurrences that may require the emergency evacuation of Dunedin House. Continuous sounding and flashing of the Fire Alarm is the signal to evacuate the building or upon instruction from a Fire Warden or a Manager.

The Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point is in the overflow car park located across the road from Dunedin House.

**The allocated assembly point for the Council Chamber is: D2**

Map of the Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point - the overflow car park:



All occupants must respond to the alarm signal by immediately initiating the evacuation procedure.

When the Alarm sounds:

1. **stop all activities immediately.** Even if you believe it is a false alarm or practice drill, you MUST follow procedures to evacuate the building fully.
2. **follow directional EXIT signs** to evacuate via the nearest safe exit in a calm and orderly manner.
  - do not stop to collect your belongings
  - close all doors as you leave
3. **steer clear of hazards.** If evacuation becomes difficult via a chosen route because of smoke, flames or a blockage, re-enter the Chamber (if safe to do so). Continue the evacuation via the nearest safe exit route.
4. **proceed to the Evacuation Assembly Point.** Move away from the building. Once you have exited the building, proceed to the main Evacuation Assembly Point immediately - located in the **East Overflow Car Park**.
  - do not assemble directly outside the building or on any main roadway, to ensure access for Emergency Services.



**5. await further instructions.**

- **do not re-enter the building under any circumstances without an “all clear”** which should only be given by the Incident Control Officer/Chief Fire Warden, Fire Warden or Manager.
- do not leave the area without permission.
- ensure all colleagues and visitors are accounted for. Notify a Fire Warden or Manager immediately if you have any concerns

**Toilets**

Toilets are located immediately outside the Council Chamber, accessed via the door at the back of the Chamber.

**Water Cooler**

A water cooler is available at the rear of the Council Chamber.

**Microphones**

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

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## Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of the Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday 26 June 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy (Chair), Cllr Jim Beall (sub for Cllr Barbara Inman), Cllr Carol Clark (sub for Cllr Bob Cook), Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Lynn Hall (sub for Cllr Jason French), Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Katie Weston

**Officers:** Mandy MacKinnon (A,H&W); Louise Hollick (ChS); Aishah Waithe, Gary Woods (CS)

**Also in attendance:** None

**Apologies:** Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Alan Watson

### **CSS/7/25 Evacuation Procedure**

The evacuation procedure was noted.

### **CSS/8/25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

### **CSS/9/25 Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Community Safety Select Committee meeting which was held on 22 May 2025 for approval and signature. A query was raised in relation to the following item:

- Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations – Review of Welcoming and Safe Town Centres: With reference to the early impact of *Operation Shield*, clarity was sought on whether local businesses had experienced their busiest day or, in fact, their busiest week (given how footfall was sometimes presented) – it was confirmed that officers had reported that the measure stated was ‘day’.

In related town centre matters, Members were saddened to learn of River Island announcing that it would be leaving Stockton High Street (Wellington Square). The Committee acknowledged that it was disappointing to lose any shops, though expressed confidence that new businesses would continue to be attracted to town centre spaces.

AGREED that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 22 May 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **CSS/10/25 Scrutiny Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse**

The first evidence-gathering session for the Committee’s review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse considered submissions from Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) departments, Public Health (Adults, Health and Wellbeing), and Early Help,

Safeguarding and Children in our Care (Children's Services). Prior to these presentations, the Committee was reminded of the links to key documents within the covering report for this item, including:

- Home Office: *Domestic Abuse – Statutory Guidance* (July 2022)
- GOV.UK: *Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse* (part 3: opportunities to identify and intervene early)
- Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028
- SBC Children and Young People Select Committee – *Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children* (2019-2020) (final report and subsequent Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations).

## SBC PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by the SBC Strategic Health and Wellbeing Manager, information was provided as follows:

- Defining domestic abuse: The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 stated that domestic abuse involved any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another was abusive, and where the people involved were aged 16 or over, and were or had been personally connected to each other (including relatives and intimate relationships). The different types of abuse comprised psychological, physical, sexual, financial and / or economic, emotional, and controlling and / or coercive behaviour. A significant change in the law had led to children being recognised as victims in their own right if they saw or heard domestic abuse. It was also important to distinguish that abusive behaviour directed at those aged 16 or over was deemed 'domestic abuse' but was categorised as 'child abuse' when directed at those under 16 years.
- Prevalence of domestic abuse: According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2024), approximately one in five (20.5%) people aged 16 years and over had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years – this equated to 33,508 people in Stockton-on-Tees given its 16 years+ population was estimated to be 163,456 (ONS population estimates, June 2023). An estimated 4.8% (7,845) of people aged 16 years and over (6.6% of women and 3.0% of men) had experienced domestic abuse in the last year.
- Domestic abuse in Stockton-on-Tees: Several statistics were highlighted in relation to the extent of domestic abuse within Stockton-on-Tees. During 2023-2024, there were 5,225 recorded 'incidents' of domestic abuse across the Borough and 3,907 recorded domestic abuse 'crimes', with 17% of all crimes recorded by Cleveland Police during this period being domestic abuse-related. The Stockton-on-Tees rate of 26 domestic abuse incidents and crimes per 1,000 population was slightly higher than the England and Wales average (24) but less than the North East average (32).

From a Local Authority perspective, during 2023-2024, 1,010 referrals into SBC Children's Services had domestic abuse listed as the reason for contact, with 25% of referrals made to SBC Children's Services over this period being domestic abuse-related (a reduced percentage compared to 2022-2023 when this was around a third). The gender split of domestic abuse victim-survivors was 73%

female: 27% male, 40% of domestic abuse incidents involved a repeat victim, and 64% of victims were unsupportive of prosecuting their abuser.

- Domestic abuse is a crime: Crime data from the Home Office for the year ending March 2024 showed the number of domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes recorded by the police. Of the over two million estimated victims, 851,062 'crimes' and 499,366 'incidents' were documented, though the number of suspects referred, charged, and offenders convicted was very low by comparison.
- The impact of domestic abuse: A range of potential consequences following experiences of domestic abuse were listed, from fear, anxiety and depression through to suicide. Specific impacts during pregnancy were outlined (it was estimated that 30% of domestic abuse began in pregnancy), as were the effects throughout different child phases (infants, toddlers, primary school age). It was also noted that domestic abuse was present in 52% of child deaths, and that 50% of children accessing Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) were victim-survivors of domestic abuse.
- Local Authority duties: Councils were required to undertake a range of tasks in relation to the issue of domestic abuse, with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 requiring the provision of safe accommodation (refuges, dispersed properties, sanctuary support (known locally as 'Safe at Home')) which was facilitated via the production of a safe accommodation needs assessment and subsequent strategy to influence commissioning. Other key Local Authority obligations involved leading on a domestic abuse partnership with other organisations (in Stockton-on-Tees, this was done via the Domestic Abuse Steering Group), working with organisations that can represent the voice of victim-survivors (Harbour fulfilled this role locally), allocating the role of a Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator, and responding to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner.
- Domestic Abuse Commissioner: Dame Nicole Jacobs began this role in 2019 which was granted additional powers in 2021. With regional offices across the UK, the Commissioner had published a policy paper in April 2025 which reflected the voice of those children and young people who had experienced domestic abuse.
- Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-28: Three key elements in relation to the local vision were outlined – everyone experiencing domestic abuse is listened to, supported and protected to live their life free from abuse; all victims of domestic abuse have access to inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation and support; perpetrators of domestic abuse are held to account and supported to change their behaviour.
- Commissioned service: Harbour: SBC commissioned Harbour as the local domestic abuse support service whose offer included a GP Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), a children's team and a Child IDVA (to ensure the voice of the child was heard), and the provision of safe accommodation. Harbour and SBC Children's Services worked together to jointly plan support and develop the workforce.

Emphasising that the Committee's review of this scrutiny topic was an important piece of work which aligned with the Council's belief that every child should have the best possible start in life, Members commended the detailed presentation and the inclusion of extensive data which highlighted the seriousness and extent of this type of abuse.

From a local perspective, the Committee was particularly shocked that 64% of victims were unsupportive of prosecuting their abuser, and wondered what proportion of these cases involved victims who had children and whether they were aware of the possible impact of domestic abuse upon their child. The victim-survivor gender-related statistics were also queried, with Members suggesting that the male figure (27%) may be an underestimate due to a reluctance to come forward and report their experience.

Continuing with the focus on data, the Committee noted the labelling of cases as either 'crimes' or 'incidents' and felt this needed further probing to establish how instances of domestic abuse were determined / recorded. SBC officers referenced the Council's involvement in work being undertaken on a Tees Valley-wide basis (led by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland) around perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Switching attention to the impact of exposure to domestic abuse on children, the Committee felt it would be useful to understand how well self-harm was investigated / identified as this could sometimes be a symptom which remained hidden – it was subsequently noted that Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) was included on the list of anticipated contributors to this review. Members were also keen to unpick the statistic that 50% of children in CAMHS were victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

Links between the rise in alcohol consumption / substance misuse and domestic abuse were discussed, with SBC officers acknowledging that these factors were interconnected, and that settings where such behaviour was entrenched were more likely to see exploitation occur (it was also noted that alcohol and drugs could be used as a coping mechanism). Whilst domestic abuse could be a compounding factor in areas of deprivation, it was, however, prevalent across all communities.

Further reflections on the effects of exposure led Members to query if any information was available on the likelihood of a child going on to become a perpetrator if they themselves had experienced domestic abuse in their formative years. The Committee also recognised the need to understand the causes of domestic abuse as well as its subsequent impact.

Questions on commissioned services were then raised, with the Committee asking how much of the Public Health budget was spent on local organisations to provide support in relation to domestic abuse. SBC officers confirmed that the annual spend was around £500,000 which was part-funded via the Public Health grant and a 'safe accommodation' grant. Regarding Harbour, Members were informed that further details around their offer and how this was financed could be obtained directly from them when they provided their contribution to this review.

Committee comments concluded with a request for further statistics on domestic abuse prevalence over a longer period of time to ascertain its trajectory (SBC officers stated that an increase in recorded incidents may be reflective of more individuals reporting cases (as opposed to a rise in prevalence) which was to be welcomed), and praise over the involvement of health organisations in local partnership arrangements as this was where many experiences of domestic abuse could be identified. Members also spoke of their personal involvement in supporting those who had been abused, noting that women were often reluctant to seek help until their child / children became affected, and were also liable to return to their partner despite being abused by them.

## SBC EARLY HELP, SAFEGUARDING AND CHILDREN IN OUR CARE

A presentation was given by the SBC Assistant Director – Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care which focused on the following:

- Children's Social Care (legal framework): Relevant legislation on this scrutiny topic involved the legal recognition of children as victims within Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (as outlined in the previous presentation), as well as the requirements under the Children Act 1989 which placed a duty on Local Authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need (i.e. a child requiring support and protection because their health or development was likely to be significantly impaired without such intervention, or because they had a disability).

The Children Act 1989 included an escalating scale of obligations, from the provision of services (Section 17), the need to investigate if a child was suspected to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm due to domestic abuse (Section 47), and the provision of accommodation for children in need in specific circumstances (Section 20), through to a Care Order (a legal order made by a family court under Section 31 of the Children Act 1989, this placed a child under the care of a Local Authority, giving them shared parental responsibility with the child's parents).

- Working Together framework: The Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (updated in 2020 and 2023) guidance was statutory and set out how all organisations and agencies (not just social care and the police) should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in England. Key principles included a child-centred approach, a whole-family focus, and multi-agency collaboration, with specific regard to domestic abuse (stating that practitioners should continue to expand their understanding of domestic abuse and the impact it had on children).
- Information sharing to safeguard children (multi-agency work): Guidance clarified that the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) did not prevent the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children safe. Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare and protect the safety of children.

All partners had a responsibility to have written safeguarding policies, and staff should be trained to identify the signs of abuse and harm for children. Where there were concerns for a child's wellbeing, a referral should be made to children's social care (through the Stockton-on-Tees Children's Hub (CHUB)). Partners should attend multi-agency meetings to share information, participate in safeguarding planning, and contribute to assessments and support plans.

- Stockton context (domestic abuse referrals): Data on contacts to the Stockton-on-Tees CHUB for 2024-2025 indicated that 989 domestic abuse-related referrals were received in relation to children up to 16 years-old (around 25% of the total number of referrals received (just under 4,000)). Of these 989, 384 involved children aged five or under, and 99 were unborn or under one year-old.

As outlined in the accompanying table, the police was by far the biggest referrer, submitting 485 (49%) of all referrals relating to domestic abuse (it was noted that SBC and Cleveland Police were currently undertaking a joint pilot involving daily

'pitstop' meetings to triage domestic abuse referrals – this identified anything considered medium-risk and above, and also involved Harbour). Referrals from other organisations / agencies were very dispersed, with some, arguably, not as high as they perhaps should be.

- Early help support: A number of options existed locally to support families with children in the early stages of their lives – this included the commissioned service, Family Action (outreach volunteers providing community support (e.g. food parcels, signposting to other services), four Family Hubs across the Borough (offering a range of parental support, group sessions and programmes – engagement workers were also in place to encourage access), the Family Solutions Teams (senior family workers providing 1:1 help to develop plans, visit homes, and work directly with children), and the SBC Project and Interventions Service (family group conferencing and therapeutic support, featuring an established model which identified extended family / friends / distant relatives to allow the family unit to develop its own support plan).

As part of the current support offer, the Family Hub programmes including an element on 'nurturing' which covered the emotional wellbeing of the family, communicating / negotiating with a child, and how to keep a child safe and supported. The 'keeping your child in mind' principle was also highlighted – this aimed to give parents a better understanding of their own behaviour and the behaviour towards their partner, and the impact this could have on their child / children.

- Social work interventions: Further to the earlier section around legislative considerations, potential involvement of social workers was outlined which included children and families assessments (completed within 45 days), Child in Need plans, Child Protection plans (under Section 47 requirements), Pre-Proceedings plans under Public Law Outline (PLO), and Child in our Care (CIOC) planning. Interventions for any of these situations would include referrals to Harbour, direct work with the child (obtaining their 'voice' if old enough), home visits, observations of the child with parent(s), parenting work, assessments, and referrals for other interventions such as substance misuse or mental health (often reflecting case complexity). Child in Need and Child Protection planning involved regular multi-agency partnership meetings.

The Committee began its response by enquiring whether *Operation Encompass* (helping children who experience domestic abuse and aiming to reduce the long-term impacts by providing early intervention and support) was still an active initiative. SBC officers confirmed that it continued to exist, though Members noted recent challenges which emerged due to the loss of (and subsequent delays in replacing) dedicated police personnel.

Comments and questions on the theme of multi-agency working saw the Committee again commending the emphasis on local organisations and agencies talking to each other. However, Members sought clarity on what was in place (in terms of monitoring and evaluation) to provide assurance that the overarching 'system' around the issue of domestic abuse was working. It was noted that the Committee would have the opportunity to scrutinise both the Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group and the Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP) as part of this review.



Analysing the referral data, the Committee wondered if safeguarding-related assessment tools used by the Council and its partners included specific references to domestic abuse so that professionals were aware of the signs they should be looking out for. Members also felt that the statistics for the EDT (Emergency Duty Team) – 27 for the 2024-2025 period – should be checked to see which organisation made the original referral (as the EDT would have merely forwarded this on).

Regarding social work interventions, the Committee asked what the timescales were in relation to the Section 47 duty and what happened to the child during this process. SBC officers stated that there was a statutory timeframe of 15 days to complete an investigation and decide if a child protection conference was required (though this was often determined within 15 days). Any investigation involved seeing the child by themselves and was a joint operation with the police. A family and child safety plan would be created and followed during this process.

Members drew attention to those families who were more transient and queried how organisations / agencies monitored those who did not remain in one place for very long. SBC officers provided assurance that if a family / child moved into the Borough from a neighbouring Local Authority, they would 'transfer in' (SBC would take responsibility for any existing plan). However, it was acknowledged that the Council may initially be unaware of some families / children who arrived into the locality from other areas.

Bringing the item to a close, the Committee thanked SBC officers for their presentations which had provided an important initial overview around this scrutiny topic and prompted several areas of follow-up for the remainder of the review's evidence-gathering phase.

## SCOPE AND PROJECT PLAN

It was proposed, and subsequently agreed, that representatives of the local Domestic Abuse Steering Group, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office (regional lead), and Harbour would be invited to provide information at the next evidence-gathering session in July 2025.

AGREED that the information provided by SBC departments, Public Health (Adults, Health and Wellbeing), and Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care (Children's Services) be noted.

## **CSS/11/25 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026**

### CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair had no further updates.

### WORK PROGRAMME 2025-2026

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme. The next meeting was due to take place on 31 July 2025 where the second evidence-gathering session for the Children affected by Domestic Abuse review would be held. In addition, the first progress update on the Action Plan which was agreed following the Committee's previous review of Outdoor Play Provision would be presented (this had

been pushed back a month so the scheduled discussions at Cabinet earlier in July 2025 could be relayed / reflected upon as part of the update).

AGREED that the Chair’s Update and Community Safety Select Committee Work Programme 2025-2026 be noted.

Chair: .....

## Community Safety Select Committee

31 July 2025

**PROGRESS UPDATE ON PREVIOUSLY AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS –  
OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION****Summary**

Members are asked to consider the evidence and assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Update on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations in relation to the review of Outdoor Play Provision (see <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s9508/Final%20Report%20-%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision.pdf> for the final report).

**Detail**

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Update report approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan (unless requested earlier). Evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed off as having been completed.
3. If any recommendations remain incomplete, or if the Select Committee does not agree with the view on progress, the Select Committee may ask for a further update.
4. The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

1	Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2	On-Track (but not yet due for completion)	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on track but the timescale specified has not expired.

3	Slipped	<p>The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped.</p> <p>An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.</p>
4	Not Achieved	<p>The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved.</p> <p>An explanation for non achievement of the recommendation would be provided.</p>

5. To further strengthen the monitoring process, from August 2020, the Progress Update report will also include (where available) references on the evidence of impact for each recommendation.
6. For progress update reports following the completion of a review, the relevant Link Officer(s) will be in attendance.
7. **Appendix 1** (Review of Outdoor Play Provision) sets out the recommendations for this Committee. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessments of progress.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Gary Woods  
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## APPENDIX 1

### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Outdoor Play Provision

SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Outdoor Play Provision</b>
<b>Link Officer/s:</b>	<b>Neil Mitchell</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>June 2024</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<b>SBC ensures both revenue and renewal considerations are an intrinsic part of any existing and future outdoor play space proposal within the Borough to maximise the long-term sustainability of such sites.</b>
Responsibility:	Tony Raine (with support from Steve Bowerbank / Keith Jackson)
Date:	30 December 2024
Agreed Action:	Calculate estimated costs for inspections, maintenance and renewal / replacement of equipment and surfacing - for all SBC play areas and informal sport facilities (e.g. MUGAs).
Agreed Success Measure:	Estimated costs identified to ensure SBC can ensure long-term sustainability of sites.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	<p>All play areas have been assessed and tables developed identifying individual items of equipment at each site, the play value of each item, it's life expectancy and replacement costs (including surfacing).</p> <p>First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. During the development of the paper intensive work was undertaken estimate costs. Strategy contains several principles designed to address revenue and renewal considerations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 6, 'We aim to limit the overall scale of provision to a level which is sustainable in terms of Council resources for management and maintenance.'</li> </ul>
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>

## APPENDIX 1

### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Outdoor Play Provision

<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	<b>To encourage a greater sense of community ownership, consideration be given to approaching relevant Town / Parish Councils and the local business community within the vicinity of existing outdoor play spaces to potentially support the development / maintenance of a site.</b>
Responsibility:	Neil Mitchell
Date:	At draft Strategy stage (see 7)
Agreed Action:	Approach Town and Parish Council to determine whether they are willing to provide additional financial support to maintain / develop play provision in their local area.  Business sponsorship / involvement to be discussed with individual organisations and within forum opportunities.
Agreed Success Measure:	Third parties contribute towards costs of maintaining, renewing or developing outdoor play provision.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	This area of work will commence when we have completed the analysis of play provision utilising the principles agreed at Cabinet on the 17 <sup>th</sup> July 25.
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	N/A

<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	<b>Regarding future proposals by developers for new outdoor play spaces, SBC does not adopt any site installed by a developer which contravenes the key outcomes from this review.</b>
Responsibility:	Graham Clingan / Keith Mathews
Date:	At draft strategy
Agreed Action:	Liaise with Planning to ensure developers are aware of these requirements ( <i>note: SBC currently would request a commuted lump sum to cover maintenance and replacement after 25 years, but timber equipment may need replacing in 15yrs</i> ).
Agreed Success Measure:	Terms for adoption agreed via strategy.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. Strategy contains several principles designed to address developer site adoption.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 5: New or improved play facilities should only be considered where there are significant 'gaps' in provision, or where existing sites have poor play value.</li> </ul>

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### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Outdoor Play Provision

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle 6: We aim to limit the overall scale of provision to a level which is sustainable in terms of Council resources for management and maintenance.</li> <li>• Principle 8: The Council will only support the development of new play provision if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• it aligns with our strategic aims (in accordance with Principles 4 to 6)</li> <li>• external capital funding can be secured</li> <li>• it will achieve 'good' or 'excellent' play value (based on RoSPA assessment)</li> <li>• funding is secured to cover inspection and maintenance for the anticipated lifespan of the equipment (e.g. a commuted lump sum if the site is to be title-transferred to the Council).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>

<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	<b>SBC considers support of existing play areas before any additional outdoor play spaces are agreed / approved.</b>
Responsibility:	Graham Clingan / Neil Mitchell
Date:	At draft strategy
Agreed Action:	To be discussed with Planning in the Stakeholder Group which is to be established as part of this review process.
Agreed Success Measure:	Principles agreed via strategy.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	<p>First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. Strategy contains several principles designed to support existing play areas before new spaces are agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle 5: New or improved play facilities should only be considered where there are significant 'gaps' in provision, or where existing sites have poor play value.</li> <li>• Principle 11: Where resources allow, we will seek to deliver measures that enhance the value of existing provision, such as improved toilets and changing places, landscaping and improved access and security</li> </ul>
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>1 (Fully Achieved)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>

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### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Outdoor Play Provision

<b>Recommendation 5:</b>	<b>Regarding inequality of outdoor play provision across the Borough, SBC clarifies where it is deemed there is little / no provision and possible steps to address these inequalities (including, in exceptional cases, the provision of new play spaces).</b>
Responsibility:	Graham Clingan
Date:	At draft strategy
Agreed Action:	To be addressed through the proposed Strategy (see 7).
Agreed Success Measure:	Principles agreed via strategy.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. The strategy document highlights areas of inequalities and over provision. Following cabinets decision, officers are preparing the second stage of the strategy document which will identify specific sites in which to invest, and which may be decommissioned at the end of equipment life.
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>

<b>Recommendation 6:</b>	<b>As part of a required rationalisation process in relation to the existing outdoor play offer:</b>	
	<b>a) Informed by the recent (March 2024) RoSPA assessments and an analysis of the distribution of existing outdoor play provision, proposals for the removal / repurposing of sites be developed with the aim of reducing pressure on the overall parks budget.</b>	
Responsibility:	Graham Clingan	Graham Clingan
Date:	31 July 2024	31 December 2024
Agreed Action:	Recommendations to be formulated on the basis of that analysis and to form part of the proposed strategy (see 7).	Recommendations to be formulated on the basis of that analysis and to form part of the proposed strategy (see 7).
Agreed Success Measure:	Analysis of distribution.	Overlay financial breakdown.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. Strategy contains several principles designed to	



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### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Outdoor Play Provision

	<p>manage our assets in a sustainable manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 6: We aim to limit the overall scale of provision to a level which is sustainable in terms of Council resources for management and maintenance.</li> </ul> <p>Cabinet resolved that: The requirement of additional revenue funding of £150,000 per annum from 2026/27 onwards be noted. This would enable the Council to retain approximately 30-35 play areas in good condition, in addition to the new play area at Stockton Waterfront urban park. Approximately 7 to 12 play areas would be subject to removal of play equipment at end of life and repurposing of sites for recreational open space. Funding would be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan Update &amp; Strategy report to Council in February 2026.</p>	
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>	
	<b>b) Complementing sub-section a), SBC undertakes a piece of work around those sites requiring more urgent attention to ascertain costs of either removing the play area or raising it to an appropriate standard.</b>	
Responsibility:	Steve Bowerbank	
Date:	Compiled list by 30 June 2024	
Agreed Action:	List of sites requiring urgent attention to be compiled (and note of sites already earmarked for refurbishment, e.g. Newham Grange Park).	
Agreed Success Measure:	List compiled which feeds into analysis and strategy development.	
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	All play areas have been assessed and tables developed identifying individual items of equipment at each site, the play value of each item, it's life expectancy and replacement costs (including surfacing). This information will be	

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	invaluable with the development of the second phase of strategy to be presented to Cabinet.	
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	N/A	
	<b>c) Further detail be provided around the anticipated longer-term maintenance requirements of the new Stockton waterfront park and the impact that this may have on the available funds for maintaining other existing outdoor play spaces.</b>	
Responsibility:	Town team	
Date:	Compiled and submitted by September 2024	
Agreed Action:	Costs to be identified and potential impact on other play spaces to be assessed.	
Agreed Success Measure:	Provision of information which clearly demonstrates long term maintenance obligations including warranty consideration.	
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	An inspection and maintenance package is being negotiated with the play park contractor. This will form a multi-year package purchased up front using a capital allocation.	
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	N/A	
	<b>d) With due regard to the SBC Powering Our Future initiative, appropriate consultation (particularly with Stockton Parent Carer Forum and SBC Ward Councillors) is conducted around any proposed changes to existing outdoor play provision.</b>	
Responsibility:	Keith Mathews	Graham Clingan
Date:	n/a	Dec 2024 - Feb 2025
Agreed Action:	Appropriate consultation to be carried out in relation to current planned developments.	Consultation process for changes identified in proposed strategy to be developed as part of the process for strategy delivery.
Agreed Success Measure:	Ongoing, fully developed process.	Process confirmed as part of strategy development.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	Consultation is embedded for new play provision. We will consult with stakeholders when considering	

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	outcomes for specific sites affected by the strategy principles.	
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>	
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	N/A	

<b>Recommendation 7:</b>	<p><b>Reflecting the main outcomes from this review, SBC develops and publishes an outdoor play provision strategy which includes the following elements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The Council's aims in relation to the provision of outdoor play spaces.</b></li> <li><b>The locations and assessments of existing and outdoor play provision, as well as any planned developments.</b></li> <li><b>The key challenges associated with providing these spaces.</b></li> <li><b>How the Council will seek to address these key challenges (including guiding principles).</b></li> <li><b>Timelines for action and who will be accountable.</b></li> </ul>		
Responsibility:	Graham Clingan	Graham Clingan	Graham Clingan
Date:	28 February 2025	31 March 2025	31 May 2025
Agreed Action:	Develop draft strategy for internal consultation.	External consultation / engagement regarding any major changes to play area provision.	Final strategy published.
Agreed Success Measure:	Draft strategy circulated for comment.	Draft strategy circulated for comment.	Draft strategy circulated for comment.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	First stage of Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025 agreed by Cabinet 17/7/25. Second part of strategy will be submitted to cabinet identifying which sites are affected after applying the principles and data.		
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>		

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Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	<a href="https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf">https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/documents/s18385/Appendix%20A%20-Strategy%20for%20Stockton-on-Tees%20Borough%20Council%20Outdoor%20Play%20Provision%202025%201.pdf</a>
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<b>Recommendation 8:</b>	<b>This final report be shared with the SBC Planning Committee for information only.</b>
Responsibility:	Gary Woods
Date:	June 2024
Agreed Action:	Share final Action Plan and Strategy with SBC Planning.
Agreed Success Measure:	Circulated strategy document.
Evidence of Progress (July 2025):	The Committee's final report was circulated to the SBC Planning Committee in June 2024. The associated Action Plan and new outdoor play provision strategy will be shared with the SBC Planning Committee for information once the latter is agreed.
Assessment of Progress (July 2025): (include explanation if required)	<b>2 (On-Track)</b>
Evidence of Impact (July 2025):	n/a

<b>Assessment of Progress Gradings:</b>	<b>1</b> Fully Achieved	<b>2</b> On-Track	<b>3</b> Slipped	<b>4</b> Not Achieved
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## SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE

### Summary

The second evidence-gathering session for the Committee's review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse will feature contributions from the Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group and the commissioned support service, Harbour.

### Detail

1. Reporting to the local Health and Wellbeing Board, the **Domestic Abuse Steering Group** is a multi-agency partnership between Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) and relevant organisations (e.g. police, health professionals, Harbour, etc.) which supports system-working to prevent, identify, intervene early, and respond to domestic abuse within the Borough. The Steering Group has been asked to provide a response to the following lines of enquiry:

- *Brief overview of the Steering Group*
- *Details of any previous / current work focusing on children (in particular those in their early years) affected by domestic abuse*
- *Details of any intended future work focusing on children (in particular those in their early years) affected by domestic abuse*
- *Involvement in any communications around this issue (e.g. raising awareness of domestic abuse, impact on children, reporting / referral routes, promotion of support services, etc.)*
- *Is the Steering Group effective (how is this measured)? Are there any areas in which it could be strengthened moving forward?*

A presentation has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. The SBC Director of Public Health (who is the Chair of the Steering Group) is scheduled to be in attendance to give a summary of this submission and address any Committee comments / questions.

2. As referenced during the Committee's first evidence-gathering session in June 2025, **Harbour** is commissioned by SBC as the local domestic abuse support service. Harbour's offer includes a GP Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), a children's team and a Child IDVA (to ensure the voice of the child is heard), and the provision of safe accommodation (for further information, please see <https://www.myharbour.org.uk/are-you-a-child-or-young-person-affected-by-abuse>). For the purposes of this review, Harbour has been asked to provide a response to the following:

- *Brief overview of Harbour (purpose, structure, available resources (inc. how funded), etc.)*
- *Any data on the prevalence of children's exposure to domestic abuse across the Borough*
- *Harbour's current support offer for children affected by domestic abuse (has this changed over time – if so, why?)*
- *Capturing the voice of the child – how is this done; what themes have emerged over time; how does this inform support?*
- *Working with SBC and its partners – how does this operate; is this effective; is there anything that could strengthen current arrangements?*
- *Any views on key areas of future focus relating to this scrutiny topic (e.g. existing challenges that need to be addressed)*

A presentation has been prepared and is included within these meeting papers. The Manager of the Children and Young People (CYP) Team is scheduled to be in attendance to give a summary of this submission and address any Committee comments / questions.

3. In advance of this session, Members may again wish to familiarise themselves with some relevant background material in relation to this scrutiny topic:
  - Home Office: Domestic Abuse – Statutory Guidance (Jul 22)  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62c6df068fa8f54e855dfe31/Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Act\\_2021\\_Statutory\\_Guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62c6df068fa8f54e855dfe31/Domestic_Abuse_Act_2021_Statutory_Guidance.pdf) (page 52: impact on child victims)
  - GOV.UK: Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse (part 3: opportunities to identify and intervene early)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/babies-children-and-young-peoples-experiences-of-domestic-abuse/victims-in-their-own-right-babies-children-and-young-peoples-experiences-of-domestic-abuse-accessible#part-3-opportunities-to-identify-and-intervene-early>
  - Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028  
[https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/3841/Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-2022-28-Accessible/pdf/Stockton-on-Tees\\_Domestic\\_Abuse\\_Strategy\\_2022-28\\_Final\\_Accessible.pdf?m=1674053753577](https://www.stockton.gov.uk/media/3841/Domestic-Abuse-Strategy-2022-28-Accessible/pdf/Stockton-on-Tees_Domestic_Abuse_Strategy_2022-28_Final_Accessible.pdf?m=1674053753577)
4. Attention is again drawn to the previous Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children undertaken in 2019-2020 by the SBC Children and Young People Select Committee (this included contributions from **Harbour**). The final report went to Cabinet in January 2020: see <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Cabinet/202001231630/Agenda/att37946.pdf>.

The ensuing Action Plan in relation to the agreed recommendations (featuring references to both the **Domestic Abuse Steering Group** and **Harbour**) was presented and agreed by the Children and Young People Select Committee in August 2020 – this can be accessed via <https://moderngov.stockton.gov.uk/Data/Children%20and%20Young%20People%20Select%20Committee/202008261700/Agenda/att38920.pdf>.

5. A copy of the agreed scope and plan for this review is included for information.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Gary Woods

**Post Title:** Senior Scrutiny Officer

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**Email Address:** [gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk)

# Domestic Abuse Steering Group

Sarah Bowman Abouna, Public Health

July 2025



# DASG: Role & remit

- Mandated by the DA Act
- Membership includes representation of:
  - the interests of victims of domestic abuse
  - the interests of children of domestic abuse victims
  - Police
  - Health services
  - Voluntary sector specialist services

The objectives of the Group are to:

Oversee the delivery of system outcomes for domestic abuse, as defined in the Domestic Abuse Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees 2022-8

Facilitate the development and implementation of an action plan to deliver the strategy

Whole system approach to domestic abuse, across partners



# DASG: Governance & approach

- Sub-group of Health & Wellbeing Board
- HWB development work & terms of reference / revised governance – will reinforce links with / update reports to other strategic groups e.g. Safer Stockton Partnership, TSAB

Meetings are themed to align with DA Strategy (overview of progress against actions, problem-solving discussions e.g. themed discussions held on CYP, particularly education & role of Harbour's CYP workers.

Resulting actions e.g. clarified Harbour education offer to schools (and attended Heads meetings); raised awareness of Harbour CYP workers and connected in to children's services and wider colleagues.

Whole system and whole family approach e.g. wider community awareness raising work / work with adult victims and perpetrators, will impact on CYP

## Our Vision

Everyone experiencing DA is listened to, supported and protected to live their life free from abuse

All victims of DA have access to inclusive, quality, affordable and appropriate safe accommodation and support

Perpetrators of DA are held to account and supported to change their behaviour

# Early Years Children & Young People (EYCYP)

## Through DASG / Strategy

### The actions undertaken to date include:

- Exploring ways of working with childcare providers, including preschool
- Workforce development planning for frontline professionals working in the system for EYCYP (373 people trained to-date in yr 2 (total of 788 across 2yrs) including schools; nursery managers; childminders
- Healthy relationships training in schools & school community awareness: healthy schools approach
- Joint assessment/planning between social care and Harbour
- Establishing a CYP Team in Harbour
- Establishing a GP IDVA, working in primary care
- Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilot in place (OPCC) – now includes a zone rather than a house. Helps protect children going to school from ‘bumping’ into the abuser
- Bridging the Gap (OPCC & Catalyst): understanding of picture re: DA & ethnically diverse communities across Cleveland – helping shape support offer

# Community awareness



**Libraries** 100% of libraries have received training on domestic abuse

**Schools** 10% of Primary Schools have received training on domestic abuse

Briefing session with **Nursery Managers & Childminders**

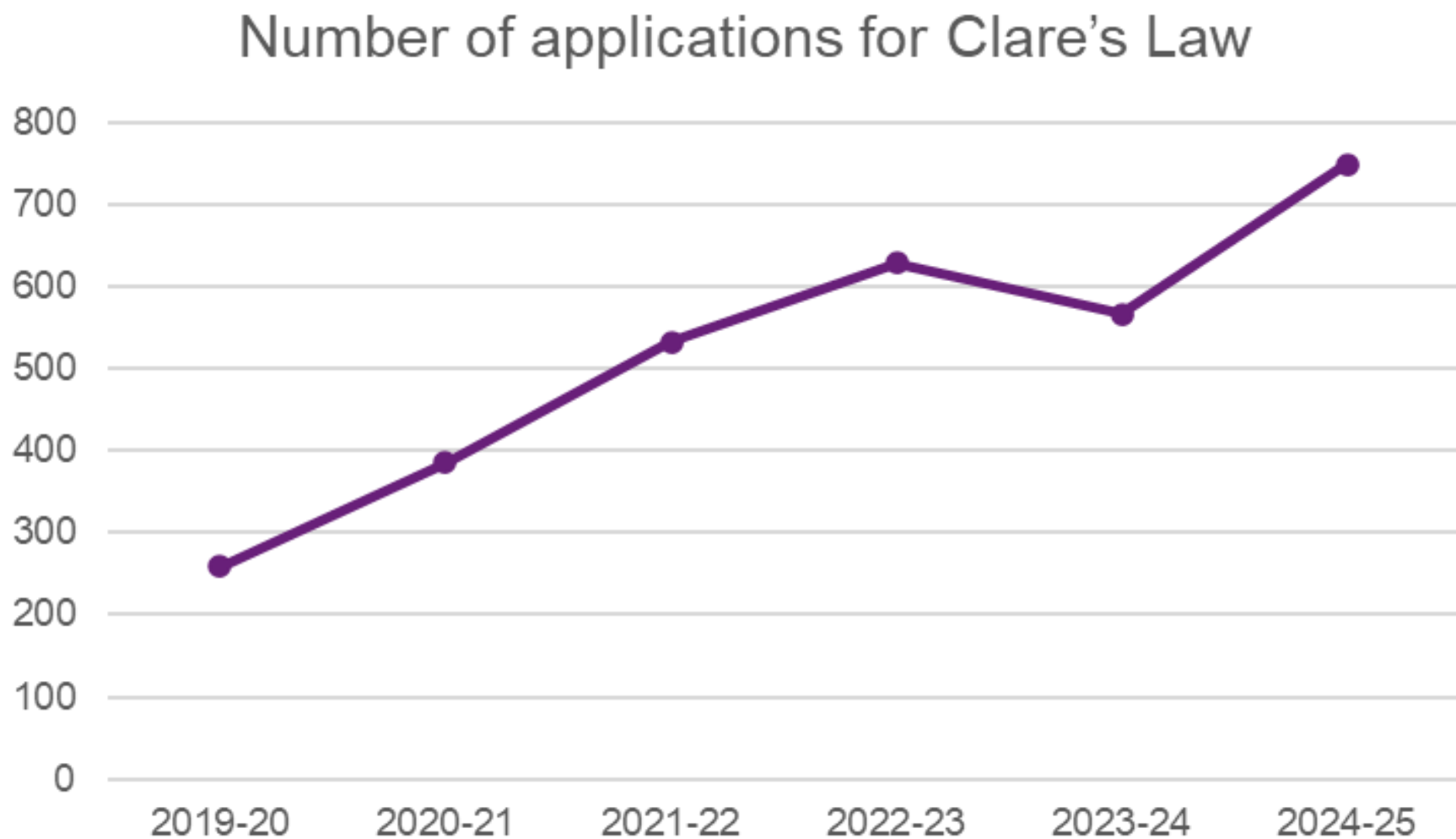
# Early Years Children & Young People (EYCYP)

## Through DASG / Strategy

### **The actions undertaken to date include:**

Support from services and commissioned services:

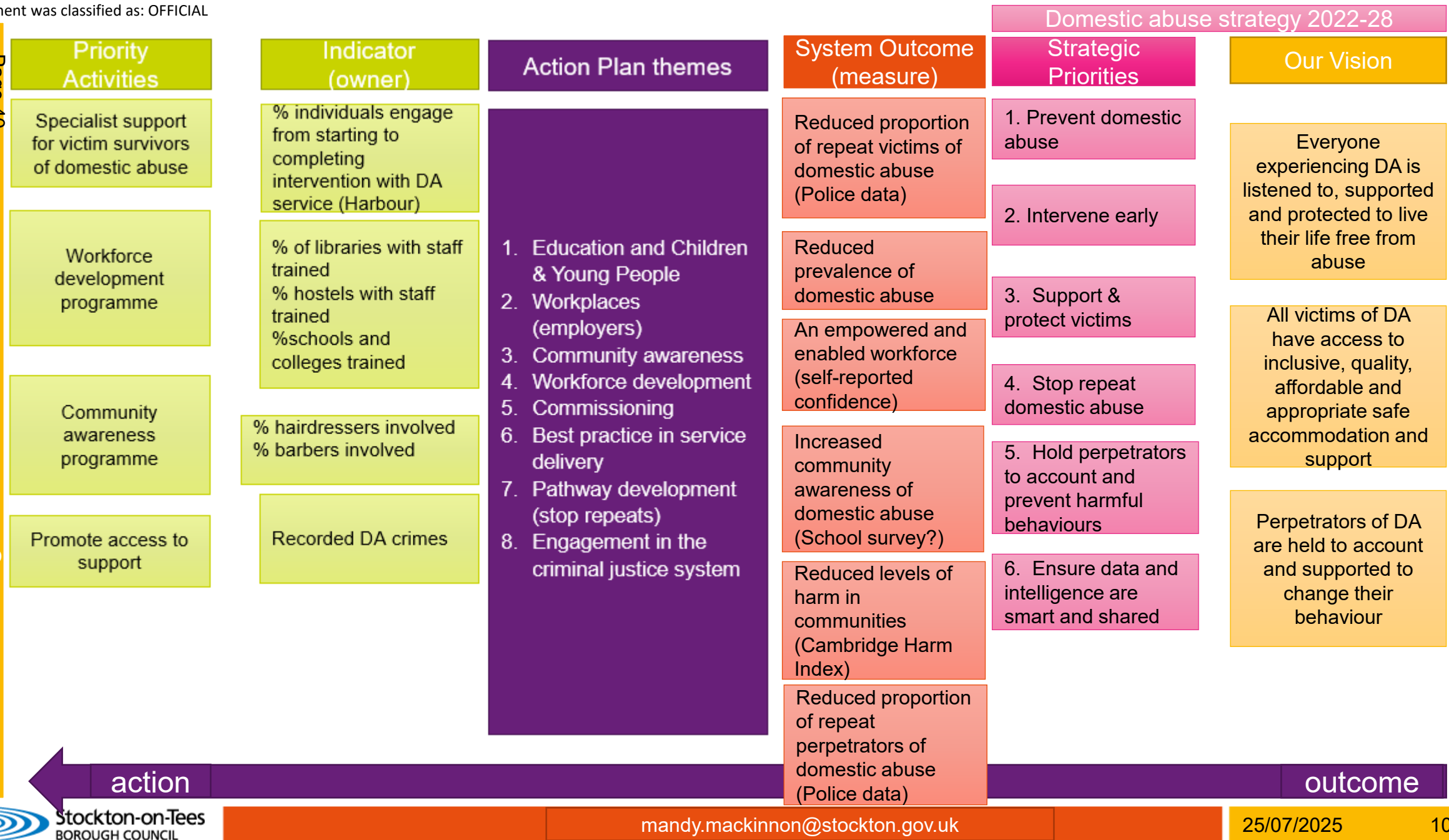
- 0-19 health visiting and public health school nursing
  - identifies and responds to DA through several approaches, including routine enquiry & arranging meetings with families outside the home when appropriate
  - response is risk-based - actions tailored to level of risk disclosed. Referrals to relevant partners e.g. CHUB, Early Help, STEPS, Harbour.
  - strong partnerships with Harbour, ensuring all staff are trained to Level 3 in DA awareness and receive regular supervision. Individual cases are reviewed through deep dives to ensure effective support and safeguarding.
- CGL 'Hidden Harm Team' working with CYP, links to Harbour as needed
- Hospital IDVA (OPCC funded) links with maternity and midwifery
- Children's services and early work on children's system Families First Partnership reforms



# Outcome monitoring framework

Developed to monitor progress towards strategic priorities

Strategic priorities are aligned to Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other key strategies e.g. Community Safety Strategy





# Next steps

## Year 3 planning workshop

- DASG has DA & CYP as a focus area, linking with Families First Partnership agenda (working group)
- Ensuring joined up strategic outcomes re: DA & CYP inc:
  - Through H&W Board - joint strategic outcomes with other key strategies e.g. Community Safety strategy
  - Families First Partnership (children's system reforms), inc. working with communities, safeguarding, family support, early help & front door to services
  - Powering Our Future – Early Intervention & Prevention: Complex Lives (severe multiple disadvantage)
- Exploring opportunities to maximise identification of Domestic Abuse in maternity services (e.g. does maternity services data on patients experiencing domestic abuse equate to expected proportions?)
- Continue strengthening relationships with childcare providers to strengthen offer / prevention support
- Strengthening relationships with Safeguarding Partnership, including exploring joint training opportunities
- Whole school approach to domestic abuse (includes school community)
- Community awareness plan: expand to include bystander programme for CYP
- Continued wider work on empowered workforce, repeat perpetrators & repeat victims
- Monitoring through agreed outcomes framework

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# Harbour Support Services Supporting families and CYP affected by Domestic Abuse



- Background

Working with families affected by DA,  
across the region for over 50 years.

Commissioned service in Stockton

Supporting the whole family

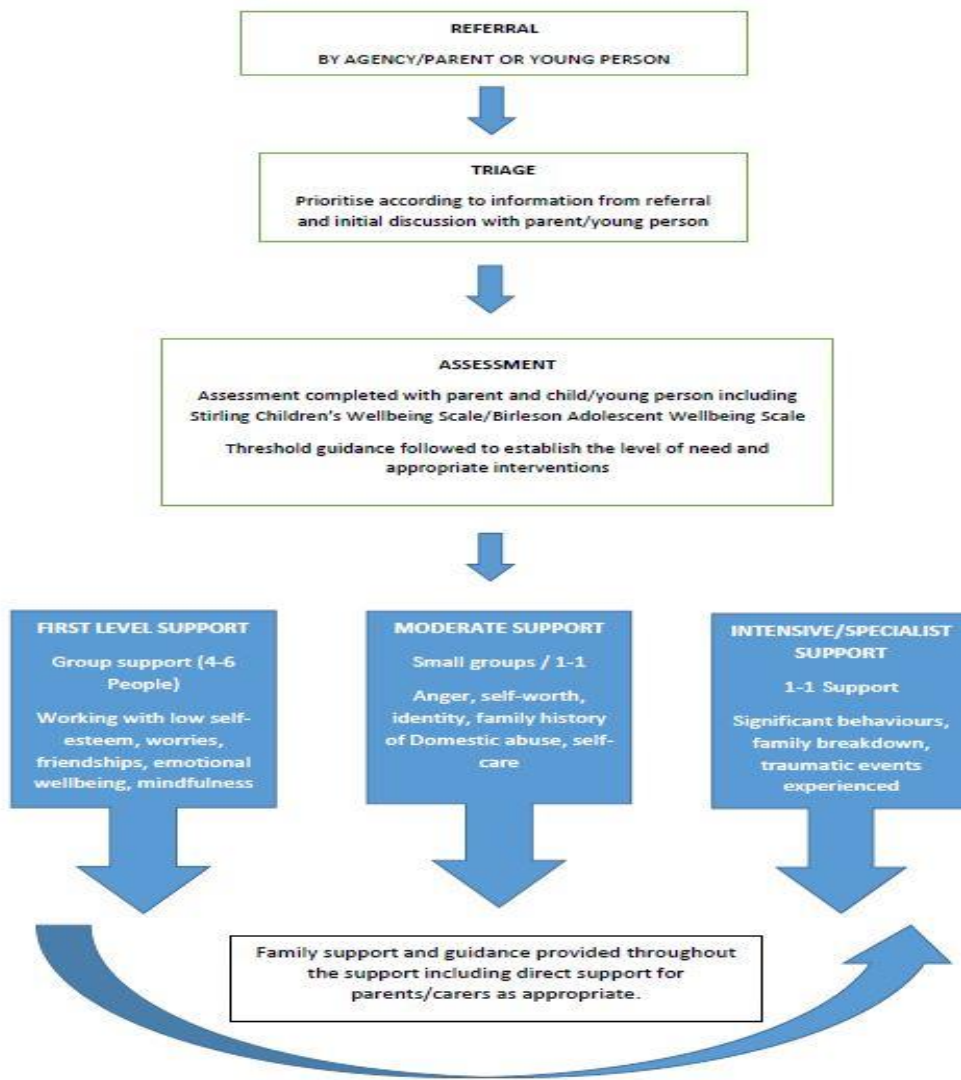
# Support available for families and children in Stockton

Safe Accommodation  
Outreach support  
IDVA Service  
Assertive Outreach  
Counselling  
Recovery  
Health IDVA's  
C&YP  
DAPS

# Data in relation to children affected by DA

- January 2024- July 2025 **867** individual children and young people were referred into Harbour's Children and Young people's Team
- January 2024- July 2025 Harbour has currently completed support with **690** of those children and young people and remaining children are still currently accessing the service.

# CYP model of support



# First Level Support



- CYP aged 3-18 requiring First Level Support will join therapeutic support groups. The focus will be prevention, safety, risk management and healthy relationships, a space for CYP to express feelings about their experiences and have these acknowledged.
- Before starting any group work CYP will attend a 'Getting to Know You' session to alleviate apprehension about attending sessions and this will be on a 1to1 basis. At the end of group support each child attending will also attend a further 1to1 session to provide them with the opportunity to re-cap and to further understand any additional support needs.
- Groups will be ran outside of school times and will be delivered in age groupings.
- 
- Groups themes:
  - 
  - Emotional well-being (feelings, worries/anxieties, anger, self-esteem)
  - Well-being and Resilience (Mindfulness, emotional literacy, goal setting)
  - Emotional Intelligence (self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, self-care)
  - Healthy relationships (family, bullying and abusive behaviours, equality in relationships, safety)
  - Managing emotions (guilt, anger, mindfulness)

Each group will run weekly for four weeks and the young person will attend those beneficial to their needs.



# Moderate Level Support



- Where children's needs are assessed as moderate, they would be offered an intensive version of First Level Support. This will target any problematic behaviours/presenting issues and will involve 1:1 support or smaller groups.
- These CYP will be experiencing acute circumstances and without support, harms could escalate. As well as covering the themes for groups in first level support, these CYP may also explore self-worth/identity, emotional regulation, anger management, family history of domestic abuse and self-care.
- 
-

# Specialist Level Support



- The decision about specialist level support would depend upon the circumstances of the CYP as well as the level of need. In line with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, if a CYP's physiological and safety needs are not met, they are unable to engage with psychological therapy. Therefore, if a CYP is still experiencing domestic abuse, specialist therapy may not be appropriate. In such cases they would be allocated a caseworker to work intensively as above to prevent escalation. If appropriate the child/ young person would receive support from our specialist trained counsellor

# Adolescent support

- Specialist adolescent worker role
- Supports children and YP age 12 plus
- Supports Young people who may be using harm
- Works closely with YP IDVA to support with teenage relationship abuse

# YP IDVA- Commissioned by PCC

- The Overall purpose of the YP IDVAS is to provide a trauma-informed, client-led support service to Young People who are experiencing harm from domestic abuse (interpersonal abuse) Our YP IDVAS will support young people age 12-17 enabling them to:
  - Address issues resulting from experiences of domestic abuse
  - Empower young people to aspire to a positive future
  - Contribute to the prevention of future abuse by promoting healthy attitudes to relationships
- Our YP IDVAS will offer immediate and intensive support to young people and will engage with the young person right from the point of referral to build and strengthen relationships and to provide continuity to the young person

# Support provided to families and children in our safe accommodation

- Family work- 1to1 and group sessions with mum's and children
- EYP support- Pregnant mum's and 0-3's
- Weekly well-being sessions for mum's and children (funded separately from kids in mind)
- HAF- additional funding from SBC in school holidays

# Voice of the child

## How do we capture this?

- Making the child or young person central to the story being told
  - No child is too young to have a voice - involve the child regardless of age
  - Think about creative methods used to involve the child or young person,
  - Observe and record their behaviour and experiences
  - Have a real understanding of what makes a child or young person's day good or not so good
  - Focus on what you are hearing or seeing means for a child
  - Think about outcomes.
  - Observe the interactions between a child and their parents or carers – is there any difference in their interactions with other people
- 
- All Harbour staff regardless of role undertake voice of the child core training
  - Regular consultations undertaken with CYP

# Tell Nicole

- Harbour has worked closely with the DAC office and our children and young people were involved in the Tell Nicole project
- Through creative pieces of work they told Nicole what support they found helpful, what needs to improve and what changes they would like to see that will help children in the future
- The voice of our children were at the heart of this and were published in the report issued from the DAC office and their feed-back and work included within the Tell Nicole framework
- Nicole and her team came to visit our children and young people who took part to thank them for their involvement and to share with them the next steps and the commitments to child victims of domestic abuse

# Working with SBC and partners

- Work closely with a multitude of agencies involved with families
- Attend joint visits and assessments
- Work together to support engagement, safety planning
- Attend safeguarding meetings in relation to families accessing support
- Provide weekly updates and liaise regularly throughout support
- Work force development available
- SPOCS



# Existing challenges

- Understanding new social care transformation
- The need for specialist roles in social care settings
- Ongoing funding- e.g health roles
- Education and DA awareness for CYP not consistent across the Borough
- Highest referral rate across areas

# Any Questions?

<b>Community Safety Select Committee</b>
<b>Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse</b>
<b>Outline Scope</b>

<b>Scrutiny Chair (Project Director):</b> Cllr Ann McCoy	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk">ann.mccoy@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager):</b> Gary Woods	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk">gary.woods@stockton.gov.uk</a> 01642 526187
<b>Departmental Link Officer:</b> Louise Hollick (SBC Assistant Director – Early Help, Safeguarding and CIOC)  Mandy MacKinnon (SBC Strategic Health & Wellbeing Manager)	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:louise.hollick@stockton.gov.uk">louise.hollick@stockton.gov.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:mandy.mackinnon@stockton.gov.uk">mandy.mackinnon@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<b>Programme Management Office Link</b> Aishah Waithe (SBC Senior Project Manager – Early Intervention & Prevention)	<b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk">aishah.waithe@stockton.gov.uk</a>
<p><b>Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</b></p> <p>The review will contribute to the following Stockton-on-Tees Plan 2024-2028 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Priority 1: The best start in life to achieve big ambitions:</i> We will support all children to have the best possible start in life, within a safe and inclusive community where everyone can thrive.</li> <li>• <i>Priority 2: Healthy &amp; Resilient Communities:</i> We will continue to work with our partners through the Safer Stockton Partnership to make Stockton-on-Tees a safer place, where people are protected from serious harm and live in communities that are safe and welcoming (Building safe and connected communities).</li> </ul> <p>The outputs from this review will also contribute to the SBC <i>Powering Our Future</i> transformation review of ‘Early Intervention and Prevention’.</p>	
<p><b>What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?</b></p> <p>In December 2023, Foundations (the national What Works Centre for Children &amp; Families) reported figures which revealed that at least 827,000 children in England and Wales may have suffered domestic abuse by the end of 2023. Amid concerns that the numbers of children affected by domestic abuse had escalated, the organisation called for an urgent focus on testing the most promising approaches to strengthen support for children.</p>	

The impact of domestic abuse is felt by children regardless of their age, and this is now recognised in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Children exposed to domestic abuse or experiencing domestic abuse in their own relationships are regarded as victim-survivors in their own right.

Domestic abuse can seriously affect families and the physical, mental and emotional health, wellbeing and development of children and young people. Children and young people can develop emotional, behavioural and developmental issues such as anxiety, challenging and aggressive behaviour or withdrawal, delayed speech, language and communication and low self-esteem, affecting their ability to form healthy relationships and educational attainment. In 2020-2021, the local domestic abuse service found that children were exposed to three-quarters of domestic abuse incidents, whilst a third of referrals to Children's Services were related to domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can be experienced by anyone and disproportionately affects children and young people. Domestic abuse can be one of the factors resulting in child exploitation and can contribute and exacerbate multiple disadvantage. In 2020-2021, services in Stockton-on-Tees reported that 17% of homeless presentations were related to domestic abuse and 20% of substance misuse service users had experienced domestic abuse.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022-2028 for Stockton-on-Tees highlights the importance of intervening early to minimise the impact of domestic abuse on children. As such, the main aims for this review will be to:

- Understand the impact of domestic abuse on children, the extent of this issue across the Borough, and the ways in which those who experience this are identified. In particular, explore how domestic abuse impacts children in their early years, and the extent of the lasting impact as they grow older.
- Articulate the current local offer for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, providing clarity for frontline professionals, families and children / young people.
- Explore opportunities for early intervention (focusing on those services engaging with children / families with children in their early years) to protect children from the enduring impacts of domestic abuse.

**The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:**

When children experience domestic abuse in their early years, how does this then impact them throughout their lives (immediate and longer-term)? Are there variations in terms of a child's experience / impact of domestic abuse across different cultures?

What local data exists in relation to children experiencing domestic abuse and / or the subsequent impact of this?

How are children at risk of / experiencing domestic abuse identified locally? What are the reporting routes for professionals and how are these reinforced with staff?

What is the Local Authority's offer for children affected by domestic abuse in Stockton-on-Tees? Has this evolved over time and is it effective? How are support services promoted?

What is in place across local partners (particularly those engaging with children / families with children aged 0-5) to identify and mitigate the effects of domestic abuse on children in the Borough (including involvement in multi-agency arrangements)?

How does the Council and its partners capture the voice of children themselves when considering / reflecting upon their service offer?

<p>Does the existing service offer from individual organisations contribute effectively to a whole 'system' approach to the provision of domestic abuse support for children?</p> <p>What evidence-based practice exists to tackle and reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children who have been exposed to or experienced this in their early years?</p> <p>What national / regional / local developments will / are likely to impact upon this scrutiny topic and how will this affect services?</p>	
<p><b>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</b></p> <p>Council, Cabinet, health sector, police, schools, early years providers, families and young people.</p>	
<p><b>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</b></p> <p>8 months (report to Cabinet in March 2026)</p>	
<p><b>What information do we need?</b></p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Office: Domestic Abuse – Statutory Guidance (Jul 22)</li> <li>• GOV.UK: Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse (part 3: opportunities to identify and intervene early)</li> <li>• SBC Children and Young People Select Committee: Scrutiny Review of Domestic Abuse and its Impact on Children – Final Report (Jan 20)</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</i></p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children's Services (Early Help, Safeguarding and CIOC)</li> <li>• Public Health</li> </ul> <p>Domestic Abuse Steering Group</p> <p>Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSSCP)</p> <p>Cleveland Police</p> <p>Early Years Providers</p>	<p><i>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What domestic abuse is and how it involves / can involve children</li> <li>➤ Known impact of domestic abuse on children</li> <li>➤ Identification / reporting routes / local data</li> <li>➤ Local Authority support offer / future plans</li> <li>➤ Capturing the voice of the child</li> <li>➤ Evidence-based practice to tackle this issue</li> <li>➤ Previous / current / future work re. this topic</li> <li>➤ Previous / current / future work re. this topic</li> <li>➤ 'System' co-ordination / accountability</li> <li>➤ Identification of at-risk individuals / families</li> <li>➤ Working with partners</li> <li>➤ Identification of at-risk individuals / families</li> <li>➤ Awareness / promotion of reporting routes</li> </ul>

North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 'System' considerations around this topic</li> <li>➤ National / regional developments re. this topic</li> </ul>
Primary Care Networks (PCNs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identification of at-risk individuals / families</li> <li>➤ Awareness / promotion of reporting routes</li> <li>➤ Working with the Council / NHS partners</li> </ul>
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (Maternity)	
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (Health Visitors)	
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mental health impact of domestic abuse</li> </ul>
Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office (Regional Lead)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National / regional developments re. this topic</li> <li>➤ Views on local offer / strategies</li> </ul>
Harbour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Local data / support offer</li> <li>➤ Capturing the voice of the child</li> <li>➤ Working with partners</li> </ul>
Housing Services (SBC / Thirteen)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Identification of at-risk individuals / families</li> <li>➤ Awareness / promotion of reporting routes</li> </ul>
<b>How will this information be gathered? (eg. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)</b>	
Committee meetings, reports, research, case studies.	
<b>How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?</b>	
Committee meetings, information submissions.	
<b>How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?</b>	
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.	
<b>How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?</b>	
<u>Stockton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)</u> : The current Stockton JSNA includes a (now dated) section on 'Domestic abuse victims' – references to children are incorporated throughout.	
<u>Stockton-on-Tees Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2030</u> : <i>All children and families have the best start in life</i> – Commitments (Safe from harm): Children and young people are safe from harm and safe in their communities, protected from bullying, neglect and abuse in the home, online and in the community. <i>Everyone lives in healthy and sustainable places and communities</i> – Commitments (Domestic Abuse): We want everyone living or working in Stockton-on-Tees to feel safe, supported and protected from domestic abuse, regardless of their age, sex, gender, sexuality, disability, socio-economic status, faith or background.	

**Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and / or transformation:**

This review will seek to make recommendations which contribute to the provision of an effective multi-agency approach towards supporting children and young people who experience domestic abuse in Stockton-on-Tees.

With a focus on early intervention, reducing the impact of domestic abuse on individuals may reduce the need (demand) for services. This review will contribute to greater understanding of interventions and approaches which are effective at protecting children and young people from harm. The review will also identify where services and practice can be improved.

**Project Plan**

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	May 2025	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	07.05.25	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	22.05.25	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed	TBC	Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	SBC • Children's Services • Public Health  DA Steering Group Harbour	26.06.25	Select Committee
		31.07.25	
		25.09.25	
		30.10.25	
		27.11.25	
		18.12.25	

<b>Members decide recommendations and findings</b>	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	<b>29.01.26</b>	Select Committee
<b>Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders</b>	Circulation of Report	<b>February 2026</b>	Scrutiny Officer
<b>Tri-Partite Meeting</b>	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	<b>TBC</b>	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
<b>Final Agreement of Report</b>	Approval of final report by Committee	<b>26.02.26</b>	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
<b>Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee</b>	Consideration of report	<b>[17.03.26]</b>	Executive Scrutiny Committee
<b>Report to Cabinet / Approving Body</b>	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	<b>12.03.26</b>	Cabinet / Approving Body



## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 19th March 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Norma Stephenson (chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Jen Moore, Adam Bateman, Andy Evans, Angela Corner, Marc Stephenson, Dawn Tyreman, Mandy Mackinnon, Mandie Rowlands, Kay Nicolson, Tracy Brittain.

**Officers:** John Devine

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** John Wrintmore, Sharon Conney.

### **SSP/60/24 Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

### **SSP/61/24 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report**

The Recorded Crime and Disorder Report was presented to Members in a new format, it had been changed to make the report easier to read and incorporate visual aids for the benefit of Members and the public. Members were asked to provide feedback to Officers on the new layout.

Officers began by highlighting that publicly reported offences had decreased from the same time the year previously, as had Police generated crime. An increase of publicly reported Anti-Social behaviour had been noted, Officers were of the opinion that this increase was related to off road bikes which usually cause cases to spike leading up to the summer months.

It was acknowledged that the increased numbers are earlier in the year than previous, but work was underway to tackle the issue. A number of bikes and quads had been seized by Police in the previous month, with help from the public on the location that the vehicles were stored and intel on the perpetrators.

Members asked if the figures of total number of bikes seized could be provided to the Partnership, Officers agreed to bring a report back to a later meeting. Officers were thanks for the new layout of the report.

Members AGREED to note the report.

### **SSP/62/24 Update from Knife Crime Summit**

The Recorded Crime and Disorder Report was presented to Members in a new format, it had been changed to make the report easier to read and incorporate visual aids for the benefit of Members and the public. Members were asked to provide feedback to Officers on the new layout.

Officers began by highlighting that publicly reported offences had decreased from the same time the year previously, as had Police generated crime. An increase of publicly

reported Anti-Social behaviour had been noted, Offices were of the opinion that this increase was related to off road bikes which usually cause cases to spike leading up to the summer months.

It was acknowledged that the increased numbers are earlier in the year than previous, but work was underway to tackle the issue. A number of bikes and quads had been seized by Police in the previous month, with help from the public on the location that the vehicles were stored and intel on the perpetrators.

Members asked if the figures of total number of bikes seized could be provided to the Partnership, Officers agreed to bring a report back to a later meeting. Officers were thanks for the new layout of the report.

Members AGREED to note the report.

#### **SSP/63/24 Town Centre Partnership**

Officers informed members that the implementation of a seven-day footprint plan of patrols had begun, which would be done by two Officers. Joint patrols with partners would continue and local business in the town centre had already begun to give positive feedback. As touched on in the Recorded Crime and Disorder agenda item this positive feeling would lead to an improved perception of local crime levels.

Members Agreed to note the report.

#### **SSP/64/24 Project Harmony/Shield Update**

The increased patrols which Officers had highlighted in the previous agenda item were directly connected with Projects Harmony & Shield. An increase in the joint working with Licensing Officers had also been undertaken alongside the increased patrols.

Offices also informed members that members of the public were being encouraged to report crimes directly to the Police instead online.

The ward Councillors for the areas covered by the projects discussed with Officers their experiences joining the partnership patrols, and the impact the public had felt from them. Councillors and Partners had also stated that they were committed to continuing regular walkthroughs.

All partners were keenly aware of public perception of crime and the need to keep pushing key information to the public on the reductions in crime levels. This was also connected to the work being done on the urban park in Stockton and wanting to reassure the public that the park wouldn't become a hot bed of anti-social behaviour when it opened.

Members AGREED to note the report.

#### **SSP/65/24 Prevent (CT) Update**

Officers gave a brief update on the number of Prevent case currently underway in the Stockton area and noted that there had been an increase in the number of referrals.

Officers and Members thought that this could be due to the tv series Adolescents raising the public awareness and highlighting to the public the risks of radicalisation.

Members agreed to note the update.

**SSP/66/24 iQuanta Report**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP/67/24 SBC Performance**

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

Chair: .....

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## Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 14th May 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Norma Stephenson (Chair), Jon Writmore (Vice-Chair), Sharon Cooney, Dawn Tyerman, Eddie Huntington, Marc Stephenson, Adam Bateman, Gina Hurwood, Gary Knight, Andy Evans, Mandy MacKinnon, Gordon Bently, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Ann Powell, Dave Connor, Andrea DellAquila.

**Officers:** John Devine

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Pauline Beall, Anna Waddington, Tracy Brittan, Majella McCarthy, Mandie Rowlands, Sarah Wilson.

### **SSP/1/25 Evacuation Procedure**

The Evacuation Procedure was noted by members.

### **SSP/2/25 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **SSP/3/25 Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 19th March 2025 were agreed as a true record.

AGREED.

### **SSP/4/25 Update On DARDRS**

Members were given a brief update on the three Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) which were being reviewed by Stockton Council. One would be completed within the coming weeks, another had begun after terms of the review had been agreed, and the final review would be scheduled shortly.

A presentation on Safeguarding Adults Reviews was then given to partners from Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB), Officers gave a brief introduction about TSAB and how they work to protect adult's rights to live independent lives, free from abuse and neglect across the Tees area. They also work closely with various bodies such as the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership, Community Safety Partnerships, Domestic Abuse Steering Groups, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Tees Exploitation Groups and partners to deliver joint priorities and objectives.

Officers went on to discuss Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) with members and how they are linked with DARDRs. They are a statutory multi-agency review where an adult with care and support needs has died or experienced serious harm due to abuse/neglect, and there is a reasonable cause for concern about how agencies worked together to safeguard the adult.

SARs are not about blame and are done to find any improvements which could be made, to prevent similar instances from occurring in the future. What partners need to know about SARs are as follows:

- Creates an open, honest and learning culture in the workforce (Including statutory and voluntary sectors across Tees area)
- Develops professional's knowledge, skills and awareness of good practice and how to overcome challenges.
- Keeps people safe – can learn from what happened to prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Can lead to positive changes for professionals and those who access services through policies, procedures, guidance and training – this can be on a local, regional and national level too.

Officers shared various links for Partners to access more information and training. It was also agreed that the links would be shared following the meeting.

Members AGREED to note the report.

## **SSP/5/25     DAPO Pilot**

Officers gave a verbal update on the Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) Pilot which members had been informed of previously. A brief history of the pilot which started in the Greater Manchester area before being adopted in Wales. It had been launched in March for Cleveland Police and is planned to run for three years.

A number of points were highlighted to members, and they were:

- Police are required to act within 48 hours of a DAPO Application.
- There needs to be reasonable grounds for a report in order to make an application.
- Victims would have to be aged 16 or over, with perpetrators would need to be 18 or over.
- There is an option for the use of GPS tags so that restrictions can be zonal rather than limited to a home etc.
- Any breaches of the above creates opportunities to prosecute.

It was noted that there have been some challenges for Police as they are in the early stages of the pilot, but they were confident that with continued joint working any issues would be resolved.

The Partnership expressed an interest in maintaining an overview on the progress of the pilot, with regular updates to be shared with partners. Questions on capacity issues were raised by some members. However, Officers were confident that they had the capacity with the estimated number of applications at present, but work would be done to make any improvements as needed to the system.

Members also asked what training was available to partners on the new DAPO scheme, they were informed that a series of webinars were currently available to all partners. While partners were pleased that training was available some thought that more in depth training for this partnership and the Domestic Abuse Steering Group would be appropriate. Officers agreed to note the suggestion for further training.

AGREED to note the update.

## **SSP/6/25      Recorded Crime & Disorder Report**

The Recorded Crime & Disorder Report was presented to partners; there were four parts of the report. The first was an Executive Summary which highlighted a decrease in the publicly reported offences and Police generated crime when compared to the same time last year.

Two increases were also noted, the first was related to publicly reported a 2.7% increase in anti-social behaviour (reported to Police) and a 9.82% increase in Anti-social behaviour – Stockton Borough Council Community Safety, this included noise and alcohol related issues reported by the public and officers.

The next part of the report focused on Violence, Sexual Offences and Robbery. Death or serious injury caused by illegal driving had showed a reduction of -70.6%. Violent crime was down by 6.8% while Sexual offences showed an 13.7% increase in the number of reports.

Theft, Criminal Damage and Arson were the focus of the next section of the report. Theft was reported to have reduced overall by 18%. Residential burglary showed a large reduction of -35.1% however Arson had shown a 9.5% increase compared to the previous 12 months.

Members enquired if the increase in Arson was related to repeat offenders? Officers were unable to provide an answer to members as the data wasn't available at the time of the meeting.

Officers moved onto the final section of the report dealing with Public Order, Drug Offences & Weapons. It was reported that public order offences had reduced by 17.2% while drug offences had shown an increase of 37.4% when compared to the previous 12-month period.

Partners discussed the increase in reported Anti-Social Behaviour and asked Officers to bring an in-depth report on the data to the partnership. Community Confidence was also discussed, with Partners stating that members of the community would be able to have their say in the upcoming Community Survey.

Members AGREED to note the report.

## **SSP/7/25      Project Harmony/ Shield Update**

A brief update on the progress and work being undertaken by Officers and partners through Project Harmony & Shield was given to members.

The partners praised the joint working they had taken part in, Officers from A Way Out shared that they had engaged with 59 women in connection with the schemes.

Members involved shared that feedback from residents and partners had continued to be positive.

It was noted that Project Harmony was approaching two years of operation and the reductions which had been seen were significant. Similar projects had now been implemented in Middlesbrough and Redcar due to Harmonies national recognition of success.

Members agreed to note the report.

**SSP/8/25      Prevent (CT) Update**

A brief update on the progress and work being undertaken by Officers and partners through Project Harmony & Shield was given to members.

The partners praised the joint working they had taken part in, Officers from A Way Out shared that they had engaged with 59 women in connection with the schemes.

Members involved shared that feedback from residents and partners had continued to be positive.

It was noted that Project Harmony was approaching two years of operation and the reductions which had been seen were significant. Similar projects had now been implemented in Middlesbrough, Redcar and Hartlepool due to Harmonies national recognition of success.

Members agreed to note the report.

**SSP/9/25      Any Other Business**

There was no other Officer business raised at the meeting.

**SSP/10/25    iQuanta Report**

Members were presented with a restricted report that provided an overview on crime comparisons against other similar CSPs utilising iQuanta.

This report was a restricted document due to the statistical information only made available as an intelligence tool for partnerships until released by the Home Office.

AGREED that the report be noted.

**SSP/11/25    SBC Performance**

Due to the connection to an ongoing Police investigation this Agenda Item was restricted.

Agreed that the update be noted.

Chair: .....



**COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE**  
**Work Programme 2025-2026**

<b>Date</b> (4.30pm unless stated)	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1 May 2025	CANCELLED	
22 May	Monitoring: Action Plan – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres  Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Draft) Scope and Project Plan</li> </ul>	Sharon Cooney  Louise Hollick / Mandy MacKinnon
26 June	Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care (Children’s Services)</li> <li>○ Public Health (Adults, Health and Wellbeing)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Louise Hollick  Mandy MacKinnon
31 July	Monitoring: Progress Update – Outdoor Play Provision  Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Domestic Abuse Steering Group</li> <li>• Harbour</li> </ul> Minutes of the Safer Stockton Partnership (March & May 2025)	Neil Mitchell / Graham Clingan  Sarah Bowman-Abouna Samantha Neil / Danielle Chadwick
25 September	Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	
30 October	Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	
27 November	Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	
18 December	Review of Children affected by Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBC</li> </ul>	
29 January 2026		
26 February		
26 March		

## COMMUNITY SAFETY SELECT COMMITTEE

### Work Programme 2025-2026

#### 2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews

- Children affected by Domestic Abuse
- Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budgets

#### Monitoring Items (scheduled / to be scheduled)

- Fly-Grazed Horses (Progress Update) – TBC
  - Outdoor Play Provision (Progress Update) – Jul 25
- 

#### 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](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. The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's law, received Royal Assent on Thursday 3 April. Now that the legislation has received Royal Assent, the LGA expect the implementation phase will be at least 24 months. The LGA continue to signpost people to both [Protect UK](#) and [Gov.UK](#) for further information and updates on the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025. Materials and guidance to support duty holders will be published on either Gov.uk or Protect UK.
- **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

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quarterly via Teams and aims to share good practice and discuss current issues. In March 2025, the Home Office [published its end of year summary for the National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) and Duty to Notify Statistics in 2024. The statistics provide a breakdown of the number of potential victims of modern slavery referred into the NRM. 19,125 potential victims of modern slavery were referred to the Home Office last year, representing a 13 per cent increase compared to the preceding year. The [Home Office has published their Action Plan on modern slavery](#), which sets out the Home Office and partners' actions to tackle modern slavery over the next 12 months, and long-term ambition over the coming years. It sets the strategic approach for the next financial year, reflecting current parameters and constraints (including resourcing and budget). The Plan is focussed on the following four pillars; developing an approach to prevention, reforming the identification system, tailoring victim support, and improving criminal justice outcomes. [Middlesex University and Anti-Slavery International have completed research exploring the role of local authorities as first responders](#). The report looks at the challenges and opportunities facing Councils, and focuses on the need to improve training, awareness, and collaboration to strengthen the local response to modern slavery.

- **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](#).

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- **Shoplifting:** Police to treat shoplifting like organised crime (BBC online article published in October 2023): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-67191793>. In November 2024, it was reported that incidents of shoplifting had reached a 20-year high, according to figures recorded by the police. A survey of shopkeepers by the Association of Convenience Stores found that 94 per cent felt that the problem had worsened in the last 12 months: [Sky: 'We need help': Workers say shoplifting is 'out of control' after surge in brazen thefts](#).
- **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.
- **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) formed a Domestic and Related Deaths Review (DARDR) forum for those who are involved in commissioning DARDRs or DHRs. There are currently 195 members of the forum from Councils, police, Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners and health. The forum set up a task group to give recommendations to government to consider in the forthcoming output from a review of DARDRs. The second phase will begin shortly where access to qualified chairs and costs will be considered.
- **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.

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- **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.
- **Safe Access Zones Around Abortion Clinics:** Councils have been contacting the LGA regarding Safe Access Zones around abortion clinics. The LGA have been engaging with government to ensure safe access zones can be established. Legislation will come into force from 31 October 2024 and will make it illegal for anyone to do anything that intentionally or recklessly influences someone's decision to use abortion services, obstructs them, or causes harassment or distress to someone using or working at these premises. The law will apply within a 150-metre radius of the abortion service provider. The College of Policing and the Crown Prosecution Service will be publishing operational guidance to ensure there is clarity and consistency with the enforcement of the new offence. Further information is available at: [Protection zones around abortion clinics in place by October - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- **Trading Standards:** Illegal imported sweets which contain banned additives linked to cancer and behavioural problems are "flooding UK high streets", councils have said (see February 2025 article: [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/13/imported-sweets-american-candy-flooding-uk-high-streets-councils-banned-additives?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/13/imported-sweets-american-candy-flooding-uk-high-streets-councils-banned-additives?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)). The warning first came from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, which said that demand for American confectionery was being driven by influencers on social media platforms, leading to high street shops and smaller convenience stores stocking the products.
- **Crime and Policing Bill:** Early-2025 saw the UK Government introduce the Crime and Policing Bill to Parliament. Key provisions include:
  - **Powers for Theft Recovery:** Police can now enter properties without a warrant to recover stolen items located via electronic tracking, such as 'find my phone' apps. This change enables swifter action during critical investigation periods.
  - **Protection for Retail Workers:** The bill introduces a specific offence for assaulting retail workers, ensuring better safeguards for employees in shops and supermarkets.
  - **Addressing Antisocial Behaviour:** New "Respect Orders" will ban habitual offenders from town centres, and police are empowered to seize vehicles like off-road bikes and e-scooters used irresponsibly in public spaces.
  - **Combatting Knife Crime:** Measures include increased penalties for selling dangerous weapons to minors and the creation of a new offence for possessing a blade with intent to cause harm.
  - **Violence Against Women and Girls:** The bill strengthens Stalking Protection Orders, criminalises spiking incidents, and restricts registered sex offenders from changing their names to evade detection (note: publication of a new VAWG government strategy is expected later in 2025).
  - **Child Protection:** A new duty mandates adults in specific roles to report instances of child sexual abuse, implementing recommendations from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
  - **Public Order Enhancements:** The legislation bans face coverings used to conceal identity during protests and criminalises climbing on designated war memorials, promoting respect for public monuments.
- **Young Futures Programme:** The Young Futures Programme is a national, cross-government plan to prevent youth violence by proactively identifying and supporting young people most at risk. Central to the strategy are Young Futures Hubs, local centres that bring together mental health services, education, career advice, youth workers and police. Prevention Partnerships, which are multi-agency panels, will be introduced where there are Violence Reduction Units. This will work with communities, charities, schools, health services and police to map risk, co-ordinate early interventions and tailor support packages. These

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panels harness VRU expertise and local knowledge to spot vulnerabilities early, reduce youth involvement in crime (including knife crime and violence against women and girls), and offer continuous, evidence-based support. Each area with a VRU area will introduce a Prevention Panel from October 2025. Roll out to further areas is expected from April 2026.

- **Water Safety:** 25 July is World Drowning Prevention Day. This is a good opportunity for Councils to share water safety advice and guidance with local communities. The [National Water Safety Forum website](#) has information which can support Councils with any social media activity or events. The [LGA also has a water safety toolkit](#) which Councils may find helpful.
- **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/>.