

## Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – July 2025

| <b>Scrutiny Review – Welcoming and Safe Town Centres</b> |   |
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| <b>Achieved since last meeting</b>                       | A draft Action Plan in relation to the Committee's agreed recommendations (which were endorsed by Cabinet in April 2025) was presented to, and subsequently approved by, the Committee in May 2025. |
| <b>Problems or concerns</b>                              | None  |
| <b>Planned this / next month</b>                         | An update on progress of the agreed actions linked to the review's recommendations will be presented to the Committee in mid-2026.  |
| <b>On track – yes / no</b>                               | Yes   |

| <b>Scrutiny Review – Children affected by Domestic Abuse</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Achieved since last meeting</b>                           | <p>A draft scope and plan was presented to, and approved by, the Committee at its meeting in May 2025. The main aims of the review were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Articulate the current local offer for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, providing clarity for frontline professionals, families and children / young people.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>A large number of contributors had been identified in relation to this scrutiny topic, including SBC directorates / departments (Children's Services; Public Health), Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, Cleveland Police, and Harbour. Given the intention to focus specifically on early years, it was also proposed to engage with NHS Trusts from a midwifery and health visitor perspective, as well as early years providers (e.g. childminders). It was anticipated that the Committee's findings and recommendations would be reported to Cabinet in March 2026.</p> <p>The first evidence-gathering session took place in June 2025 and featured presentations from SBC Public Health and SBC Early Help, Safeguarding and Children in our Care.</p> |
| <b>Problems or concerns</b>                                  | None  |

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| <b>Planned this / next month</b> | It is anticipated that the next evidence-gathering session in July 2025 will involve contributions from the local Domestic Abuse Steering Group, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office (regional lead), and representatives of the commissioned support service, Harbour. |
| <b>On track – yes / no</b>       | Yes  |

| <b>Monitoring</b>                        |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b> | <p>No updates have been received by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC)</li> <li>• Outdoor Play Provision (July 2025)</li> <li>• Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC – mid-2026)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Requests for more information</b>     | None   |

| <b>Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Key Issues / Problems or Concerns</b>            | <b>Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP):</b> Minutes of previous SSP meetings are now periodically included on Committee agendas so Members are sighted on developments within that forum. |
| <b>Requests for more information</b>                | None   |

| <b>2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children affected by Domestic Abuse</li> <li>• Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budgets</li> </ul> |  |

| <b>Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)</b> |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Thursday 31 July 2025  | Thursday 18 December 2025 |
| Thursday 25 September 2025                                     | Thursday 29 January 2026  |
| Thursday 30 October 2025                                       | Thursday 26 February 2026 |
| Thursday 27 November 2025                                      | Thursday 26 March 2026    |