

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – September 2025

Scrutiny Review – Children affected by Domestic Abuse	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>The second evidence-gathering session in July 2025 featured contributions from the Stockton-on-Tees Domestic Abuse Steering Group (DASG) and the commissioned support service, Harbour.</p> <p>Regarding the DASG submission, the Committee expressed concern that only 10% of local schools had received training on domestic abuse, and was keen to learn how effective the GP Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) within primary care was (and how this was determined). Queries were also raised in relation to how third-party referrals (i.e. those raising domestic abuse-related concerns from outside the environment that these were / allegedly were occurring) were handled and interactions with housing associations.</p> <p>Reflecting upon the information provided by Harbour, the Committee praised the local input towards the recently published 'Tell Nicole' report (a national project capturing the voices of individuals affected by domestic abuse) which included artwork from children and young people across the Borough – see the following link: https://domesticabusecommissioner.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/dac_bcyp_tell-nicole_report_FINAL-DIGITAL-2.pdf. Other discussion points included the support given to fathers who were victims of domestic abuse, referral rates into Harbour (Stockton-on-Tees had the highest), and how success was measured in terms of the interventions used by Harbour.</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The next evidence-gathering session in September 2025 is expected to consider evidence from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)), North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (maternity), and Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (health visitors).
On track – yes / no	Yes

Monitoring	
Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>The following updates were considered by the Committee since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting:</p> <p>Outdoor Play Provision: The first progress update on the agreed actions in relation to the previously completed review of Outdoor Play Provision was given to the Committee at its meeting in July 2025. Reflecting a first-stage strategy paper that was presented to Cabinet earlier in July 2025, several actions had now been completed, though Members again requested further</p>

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	<p>clarity around maintenance requirements of the new Stockton waterfront park. Since a number of actions were yet to be achieved, a further update would be required (likely to be in October 2025 following an anticipated report to Cabinet earlier that month).</p> <p>Future progress updates regarding previously completed reviews will be received by the Committee as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly-Grazed Horses (TBC) • Outdoor Play Provision (TBC – October 2025) • Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC – mid-2026)
Requests for more information	Outdoor Play Provision: Members requested further clarity around maintenance requirements of the new Stockton waterfront park.

Overview / Performance and Quality Assurance

Key Issues / Problems or Concerns	<p>Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP): Minutes of previous SSP meetings are now periodically included on Committee agendas so Members are sighted on developments within that forum.</p> <p>Stockton-on-Tees Community Safety Strategy: The Committee will receive a briefing on the ongoing refresh of the local Community Safety Strategy (the current version expires at the end of 2025) from the relevant SBC officers and Cabinet Member at its meeting in September 2025.</p>
Requests for more information	None

2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews

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

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)

Thursday 25 September 2025	Thursday 29 January 2026
Thursday 30 October 2025	Thursday 26 February 2026
Thursday 27 November 2025	Thursday 26 March 2026
Thursday 18 December 2025	