

Community Safety Select Committee Chair's Update – November 2025

Scrutiny Review – Children affected by Domestic Abuse	
Achieved since last meeting	<p>Two evidence-gathering sessions had been held for this review since the last update, both of which had a health focus.</p> <p>In September 2025, the Committee considered submissions from NHS Trusts covering health visiting (Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust), maternity services (North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust), and mental health services for young people (Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust). Information was provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how professionals identified at-risk individuals / families; how confident staff felt about spotting the signs of domestic abuse • staff awareness of how to report domestic abuse; Trust promotion of reporting routes • available data on domestic abuse-related referrals made • how staff were supporting in relation to domestic abuse • working with SBC and other partners – effectiveness and areas to strengthen • views on key areas of future focus regarding this scrutiny topic <p>Several areas of follow-up were requested by the Committee – further information had since been provided by all three Trusts.</p> <p>At the Committee meeting in October 2025, a presentation was received from the NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB), with feedback from local Primary Care Networks (PCNs) also considered. Regarding the former, Members were notified of plans for a new complex trauma team which would be hosted by Stockton-on-Tees (further details would be provided following the meeting).</p>
Problems or concerns	None
Planned this / next month	The next evidence-gathering session in November 2025 is expected to consider a submission from Cleveland Police. Prior to that, a survey will be issued to early years providers (childminders / nurseries), feedback on which will be considered at the meeting in December 2025.
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 second 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 October 2025. Reflecting a second-stage strategy paper that</p>

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	<p>was presented to Cabinet earlier in October 2025, all remaining actions were now deemed 'fully achieved', central to which was the adoption by SBC Cabinet of a new '<i>Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Outdoor Play Provision 2025</i>' – Members were also given information about funding arrangements for the future maintenance of play areas. Subject to the outcomes of the call-in which had since been submitted in relation to the Cabinet's decision on the new strategy, the Action Plan was signed off as complete (no further updates required).</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) • Welcoming and Safe Town Centres (TBC – mid-2026)
Requests for more information	None

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 received 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. Queries / discussion ensued on the communication of the strategy to the public, the need to ensure business / trader voices were heard, engagement with residents to understand / address concerns, and the portrayal of isolated incidents (often via social media) which gave the public the impression crime and disorder was more prevalent in a particular area than it really was.</p> <p>SBC Air Quality Strategy 2025-2030: Further to the adoption of a new air quality strategy by SBC Cabinet in July 2025, the Committee will receive a presentation on its content at the meeting in November 2025.</p>
Requests for more information	None

2025-2026 Scrutiny Reviews

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

**Community Safety Select Committee
Chair’s Update – November 2025**

Remaining 2025-2026 Meetings (all 4.30pm unless stated)	
Thursday 27 November 2025	Thursday 26 February 2026
Thursday 18 December 2025	Thursday 26 March 2026
Thursday 29 January 2026	