Safer Stockton Partnership

A meeting of Safer Stockton Partnership was held on Wednesday 16th September 2026.

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE (Chair), Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Clare Besford, Dawn Tyerman, Marc Stephenson, Alan Turner, Anna Waddington, Leanne Maloney-Kelly, Jamie Bell, Mark Hall, Andrew Stephen, Steven Harris, Adam Bateman, Mandy Mackinnon, Mandy Rowlands, Darren Hope, Sarah Bowman-Abouna.

Officers: **John Devine & Junita Agyapong.**

Also in attendance: NA

Apologies: Alan O'Donoghue (Deputy Chair), Ann Powell, Jen Moore.

SSP/13/26 Evacuation Procedure

The Evacuation Procedure was noted.

SSP/14/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

SSP/15/26 Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 were agreed as a true record.

SSP/16/26 Recorded Crime and Disorder Report

Members were presented with the Recorded Crime & Disorder report, the report focused on the recorded crime in the Stockton on Tees Borough over a 12-month period from August 2025 to August 2026

Officers highlighted the following sections of the report to Members:

- Total Crime numbers had risen by 27.5%
- Publicly reported crime & Police generated crime had also risen by 31.5% and 7.9% respectively.
- Increased amount of proactive Policing of historic offences which Officers explained would be partly due to the increases.
- A change had been made to how Robbery was reported which Officers informed members was the reason for the 81.7% increase shown in the report.
- Shoplifting had shown the largest increase of 156.3% which Officers and Members noted was connected to the continued Cost of Living Crisis.
- Drug related offences had seen a decrease of 7.4%.

Officers acknowledged that there were several areas of improvement noted with in the report but were confident that with continued work from their Officers improvements would be made.

Members also discussed the increase in Shoplifting, Officers explained that this was due to increased engagement with retailors and a streamlined reporting process.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/17/26 DASG Annual Report

Members were presented with the annual update report on the Stockton On Tees Borough Council Domestic Abuse Strategy. Officers began by briefly giving an overview of the strategy for newer members of the partnership, before moving onto the three year update.

Officers highlighted the key achievements to members:

- Successful relaunch of the Safe at Home (sanctuary scheme).
- Increase in sanctuary provision.
- Significant growth in domestic abuse workforce training and awareness activities.
- Increased opportunities to identify domestic abuse.
- Improved perpetrator programme completion rates with Harbour.
- Improved data management and monitoring arrangements.
- Improved system collaboration on evidence-based interventions for children and families

The future priorities for the Strategy were also discussed with Members, Officers explained that they had started to explore the provision of female only temporary accommodation. As well as the sustainability of specialist services, support pathways for children and young people, how to respond on other prevalent issues such as child to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) and responding to recommendations set out in local reviews on domestic abuse and the early years.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/18/26 Fire Prevention Methodology

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade presented a report to members on “Tackling Fire Fatalities & Injuries Through Better Targeting”.

The report looked at changes which had been made in the County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS) following a decrease in Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADF) but increased fatalities. Officers were keen to share the insights from the report with Members and implement the changes CDDFRS had already made.

Officers explained that ADFs in the CDDFRS area had decreased to an all-time low as of 2023/24 (199 instances), but Fire deaths were at an all time high of 7. A number of post fire reviews were conducted which found that if the 9 fire fatalities review 0 had been in the high or very high-risk rating, but they had all been medium risk of below.

The solution that was found was to enhance the NFCC aligned risk model, so that it incorporated additional information and factors such as Blue Badge holders, assisted bin collections and those receiving single person council tax discount. The CDDFRS reported that the results had been better identification of hidden vulnerabilities, more homes prioritised for Home fire safety visits (HFSV) and this created a clearer operational picture for crews.

Evidence of the success of the new approach was shown in the drastic drop in fatalities from a high of 7 in year to 31 March 2024 to only 1 in the year to 31 March 2026 period. A similar reduction was shown in the number of fire related hospitalisations from 8 severe cases in the year to 31 March 2024 to 1 severe case in the year to 31 March 2026 period.

Officers from Cleveland Fire Brigade stated their aim to implement this new approach from CDDFRS but they would need the help of all partners to make it a success. Partners agreed to work with the Fire Brigade to provide the extra data within the GDPR guidance.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/19/26 Op Shield Update

Members were given an update on Operation Shield by Officers. Officers started the update by giving members a brief recap of Operation Shield, it had been launched in 2025 in partnership with Cleveland Police, Stockton Recovery Services, Stockton BID, Wellington Square, the Crown Prosecution Service as well as other partners.

Officers discussed the public consultation that had been undertaken on the new, expanded and strengthened Public Spaces Protection Oder (PSPO). It was noted that support for the new version of the PSPO had peaked at 97.4%. However there had also been a number of pessimistic comments with members of the public stating “What’s the point in changing the PSPO, if we aren’t going to enforce it?”. That feedback and all other feedback had been brought back to the dedicated Town Centre Officers, which had led to an increase in the level of productivity.

This was evidenced by the increased level of proactive disruption of anti-social behaviour (ASB). Officers showed examples of this by informing members that between April 2025 and August 2025 there had been a recorded 56 uses of the PSPO. But since the new PSPO had come into effect between April 2026 to August 2026 there had been 298 recoded uses of the PSPO.

Officers and Partners agreed that it was important that through visible and proactive prevention of ASB that public confidence in the PSPO would grow.

Members praised Officers and partners for their hard work, commitment and to the joint work being undertaken to deliver the PSPO.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/20/26 Prevent (CT) Update

Following an annual inspection from the Home Office Stockton on Tees Council had passed its assessment. There were no other updates on Local cases to bring to members attention at the time of the meeting.

Members AGREED to note the report.

SSP/21/26 Any Other Business

At the commencement of the meeting Members and Partners observed a moment of silence for PC Tom Clough and PC Matthew Blades who were tragically killed in the line of duty.

SSP/22/26 PSPO

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/23/26 Project Forge

This report was restricted due to the links to Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

AGREED that the report be noted.

SSP/24/26 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/25/26 CSP Action Plan

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

AGREED that the report be noted.

Chair: .....