

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**Meeting to be held at Care and Support Sunderland Limited,
Leechmere Centre, Carrmere Road, Sunderland SR2 9TQ on Thursday,
13th March, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.**

Please note the change in usual venue for this meeting

Membership

Cllrs, Bonallie, Howe, Kay, T. Martin, Shattock, Tate, Waller and N. Wright

Co-opted Members - Ms A. Blakey, Ms R. Elliott and Ms. H. Harper

ITEM		PAGE
1.	Apologies for Absence	-
2.	Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 13th February, 2014 (copy attached).	1
3.	Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)	-

Part A – Cabinet Referrals and Responses

No Items

Part B – Scrutiny Business

4.	Safer Sunderland Partnership: Key Achievements 2013/14 and Strategic Priorities 2014/15 and Update on the Work of the Police and Crime Panel	8
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Report of the Lead Policy Officer for Community Safety (copy attached).

Contact: David Noon Principal Governance Services Officer Tel: 561 1008
Email: david.noon@sunderland.gov.uk

5. **Announced Inspection Action Plan – Progress Monitoring Report** 19

Report of the Head of Children’s Safeguarding People Directorate (copy attached).

6. **Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel Referral : Draft Housing Financial Assistance Policy April 2014 – March 2017** 23

Report of the Lead Scrutiny Member for Health, Housing and Adult Services (copy attached).

7. **Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel Referral: Children and Young People’s Plan Refresh** 25

Report of the Lead Scrutiny Member for Children’s Services (copy attached).

8. **Notice of Key Decisions** 27

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached).

9. **Annual Work Programme 2013/14** 32

Report of the Chief Executive (copy attached).

Part C – Scrutiny Lead Member Update

10. **Lead Scrutiny Member Update: February 2014** 36

Joint Report of the Lead Scrutiny Members (copy attached).

Part D – Health Substantial Variations to Service

No items

Part E –CCFA/Members Items/Petitions

No items

E. WAUGH,
Head of Law and Governance,
Civic Centre,
SUNDERLAND.

5th March, 2014.

At a meeting of the SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on THURSDAY, 13th FEBRUARY, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Tate in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Howe, Kay, T. Martin, Shattock and N. Wright.

Also Present:-

Councillors F. Miller, N. Padgett and D. Snowdon

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Waller Ms R. Elliott.

Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 16th January, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 16th January, 2014 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no interests declared.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that item 12 on the agenda (Request for Inclusion of Item) would be taken at this juncture. This would allow the members of the public attending only to hear this matter to leave the meeting thereafter. This would be followed by item 6 (Building Participation in Physical Activity, Leisure and Sport) and item 5 (2013 – 2014 School Performance). The agenda would then revert to the order of business as printed.

Request for Inclusion of an Item

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated), on a member request received for the inclusion of an additional item in the Scrutiny Committee work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The request had been received from the Lead Member for Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Shattock) and related to a proposal to reduce the operating times of 10 Sea View Road West Respite Centre.

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Ms. Meg Boustead Head of Children's Safeguarding. She apologised that the proposal to reduce the operational nights from 7 to 5 appeared to some that a decision had already been taken. This was not the case. It had always been a proposal to make the situation more sustainable in the long term. She assured those present in the public gallery that the proposal had now been withdrawn following the concerns raised by so many parents. There would now be a full scale review of all services for disabled children in partnership with parents to come up with a joint solution to a situation that was currently not sustainable. She welcomed the involvement of the Scrutiny Committee and estimated that the review would take approximately six months.

Councillor Shattock thanked Ms Boustead for addressing the meeting at such short notice and also to her colleagues in the Washington East Ward for drawing the matter to her attention in the first place.

The Chairman then welcomed Mr Regan who spoke on behalf of the parents attending. He stated that 10 Sea View Road was highly valued by the parents and children. For many it was the only help they received and the only light at the end of the tunnel. As far as the parents were concerned there was no alternative. The proposed 2 day closure represented a 30% cut. The savings that would accrue were minimal in the overall scheme of things but would have a massive impact on the lives of the families using the service. He stated that as far as the parents were concerned they wanted to maintain the status quo. They wanted a 7 day service at Sea View Road, not extra cash or extra social workers. They didn't care what Ofsted thought of the Centre. They were the end users and they valued it. The parents wanted more Sea View Road not less.

2. RESOLVED that the information supplied by Ms Boustead and Mr Regan be received and noted and that the Committee and or relevant Scrutiny Panel be involved in the holistic review of services for children with disabilities.

Building Participation in Physical Activity, Leisure, and Sport

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed the committee of the work being undertaken to develop a policy position for participation in physical activity, leisure and sport and which also requested the Committee to commission the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Panel to act as the consultative group to gather views and comments to contribute to the production of the policy position.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that the Public Health, Wellness and Culture Panel be commissioned to drive the policy position forward and act as a consultative group in the process.

2012 – 2013 Schools Performance

The Executive Director of People Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on the school performance data for the academic year 2012/2013 in relation to Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 pupils. To compliment the report, members received a presentation which provided a commentary on the performance statistics and the key themes emerging from an analysis of standards undertaken by the School Improvement Team.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Members welcomed the general improvement in standards but noted that looked after children still appeared to be at a disadvantage when compared to others. The Committee stated its desire to see that this gap continued to close.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman offered his congratulations to the pupils, staff and all concerned in delivering the improved performance.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that a letter be sent to the Executive Director of People's Services commending all involved in delivering the improved performance figures.

Reference from Cabinet - 12 February 2014 – Budget and Service Reports

(A) Collection Fund 2013/2014

(B) (i) Capital Programme 2014/2015 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2014/2015, including Prudential Indicators for 2014/2015 to 2016/2017.

(B) (ii) Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017.

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (copy circulated), seeking the advice and consideration of the Committee on a number of reports considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 12th February, 2014, on the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2014/2015 to assist the Council with its service and financial planning arrangements.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

Ms Sonia Tognarelli, Head of Financial Resources presented the report and addressed comments and questions from Members.

Councillor Kay referred to the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream. He stated that the current figure of 6.26% was not a problem but advised that it may become one if it rose significantly above the estimated 14% in 2016/17. Ms Tognarelli replied that it was something that the Council would have to keep an eye on but that it would continue to invest in its assets. To this end the Council had increased its capital programme over the last three years as it sought to regenerate the city without recourse to revenue spending.

In response to Councillor Kay's observation that in terms of treasury management, achieving optimum yield on investments appeared to be the poor relation behind the liquidity of investment and security of capital, Ms Tognarelli explained the operation of the Lending list and the flexibility of approach. Councillor Kay welcomed the approach being taken in this regard which he felt had not been fully reflected in the narrative of the report.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Kay, Ms Tognarelli advised that as far as the North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was concerned, Sunderland Council carried out the treasury management of all LEP funding in its role as the accountable body.

Councillor Kay referred to paragraph 3.9 (page 93 of the agenda papers) which highlighted that during 2013/14 the Council did not employ any external fund managers with all funds being managed by its in house team. Added to this its performance was in the top quartile of all local authorities. He stated that it was a great headline that the Treasury Management function was performing so well. Ms Tognarelli added that the Council was also the best performing Metropolitan Authority in terms of treasury management and had the lowest long term debt of all Metropolitan Councils.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor N. Wright, Ms Tognarelli confirmed that the differences in the final financial settlement from central government had been so minor that they had no impact on the proposals going forward. With regard to a further enquiry from Councillor Wright, Ms Tognarelli confirmed that the delivery of the savings proposals would be monitored by reports to the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked Ms Tognarelli for her report, and having thanked her and her team for the work they had carried out to prepare the budget proposals in such difficult financial circumstances and having commended the overall performance of the Council's treasury management function, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Council be advised that the Scrutiny Committee having expressed its disappointment with the final Local Government Finance Settlement commented that, having considered the proposals, it was happy to support the detail within the Budget and Service reports and therefore supported the Cabinet recommendation to the Council that the budget proposals be approved.

Scrutiny Policy Reviews 2013/2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Scrutiny Committee with the draft recommendations of two of the scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by the Scrutiny Lead Members and their supporting Panels.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Helen Lancaster, Scrutiny Coordinator advised that detailed evidence gathering for the two policy reviews before the Committee had taken place from June 2013, with the City Services and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panels agreeing the content, conclusions and recommendations of the final reports at meetings throughout January and February 2014. The final reports of the two policy reviews were now submitted to the Scrutiny Committee as follows:-

Panel	Policy Review Topic
Children’s Services	Child Obesity
City Services	Alcohol and Licensing in Sunderland

For ease of reference the recommendations from each of the Policy Reviews were set out in paragraph 3 of the covering report.

Nigel Cummings, Scrutiny Officer (on behalf of Councillor Waller) and Councillor Bonallie briefly introduced the Policy Review they had undertaken thanking both the Panel Members for the work they had done and the relevant Officers who had been involved, for the support and assistance they had provided.

Councillor N. Wright commended the work of the panels together with the People and Place Boards which she felt were excellent vehicles through which change could be delivered.

Ms Lancaster having advised that the recommendations would be monitored on an annual basis, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the two scrutiny policy reviews (presented as appendices A and B to the report) and the recommendations arising from them as outlined in section 3 of the report, be endorsed by the Scrutiny Committee and submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at its April 2014 meeting.

Member Development Opportunity

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Scrutiny Committee members with details of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Annual Conference to be held at Local Government House, Westminster on Tuesday 10th June, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Consideration having been given to the matter, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that approval be given to the attendance of two members and one officer at the CfPS Annual Conference to be held at Local Government House, Westminster on Tuesday 10th June 2014

Notice of Key Decisions

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an opportunity to consider those items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 11th February, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the Notice of Key Decisions be received and noted.

Annual Work Programme 2013/14

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) attaching for Members' information, the work programme for the Committee's work being undertaken during the 2013/14 council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that the information contained in the work programme be received and noted.

Lead Scrutiny Member Update

The Lead Scrutiny Members submitted a joint report (copy circulated) providing an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) R.D. TATE,
Chairman.

SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP: KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2013/14 AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2014/15 AND UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT OF THE LEAD POLICY OFFICER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report highlights for Members' information, some of the Safer Sunderland Partnership's key achievements in delivering the Safer Sunderland Strategy during the last year 2013/14. The report also highlights the key strategic priorities for the partnership for the year ahead 2014/15. The report also covers the work of the Police and Crime Panel which is the statutory scrutiny mechanism in relation to the elected Police and Crime Commissioner.

2. CURRENT POSITION

- 2.1 The Safer Sunderland Partnership has progressed much of the improvement activity that was set out in its 2013/14 delivery plan. 96% of residents report feeling safe living in their local area; high risk victims are being supported to reduce the repeat victimisation and the offending of those causing the most harm to local communities is a key focus.
- 2.2 In December 2013, the Safer Sunderland Partnership Board considered the statutory partnership strategic intelligence assessment which is used to inform the strategic priorities for the year ahead. The assessment has shown little change in the crime and disorder issues for the partnership. However, there have continued to be considerable changes to the delivery landscape and the environment in which the Safer Sunderland Partnership operates with further reductions in public sector finance across the 5 statutory responsible authorities. Recorded crime has started to rise for the first time in a decade with a current increase this year of 3%. This rise in recorded crime is also being experienced in a significant number of police force areas. Whilst the rise is relatively small the Police and Crime Commissioner has stated that this may indicate the emerging effect of the economic climate on crime and disorder rates. Within this context, the partnership has therefore agreed to retain its 2 key strategic priorities for 2014/15:

- 1. Reduce crime and disorder and improve feelings of safety**
- 2. Prevent and reduce harm to our most vulnerable people and places**

Current work area 2013-14	Agreed changes for 2014-15
1. Substance misuse – drug and alcohol-related crime and disorder	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
2. Domestic violence (including other violent crime)	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
3. Anti-social behaviour (people and places)	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
4. Safety and feelings of safety for high risk victims/vulnerable groups	Change this to a cross cutting work area
5. Re-offending	Remain as a work area in 2014-15
6. Community cohesion	Close off
7. Organised crime	Remove
8. Safeguarding	Make this a cross-cutting issue

- 2.3 Members should note that for example where we have closed an area off or removed this is due to significant progress being made in terms of for example community cohesion where we have established information and intelligence improvements and regular monitoring processes.
- 2.4 These priorities are closely aligned to the priorities of the Northumbria Police and Crime Plan published by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.5 A detailed review of key work and performance is attached as **APPENDIX 1**.

3. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

- 3.1 The Police and Crime Panel has an overview and scrutiny role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Panel has 2 members from each of the six Local Authorities in Northumbria and 2 independent members. Sunderland's representatives are the Leader and Deputy Leader of the City Council and the Deputy Leader is vice chair of the Panel. The Panel meets every 8 weeks though can call additional meetings if required.
- 3.2 The Panel has a key role in the Commissioners budget and precept process and in addition are involved in ratification of key appointments which this year have included the formal appointment of the Commissioners Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer.
- 3.3 The Panel receive regular reports on key decisions, progress reports and target performance from the Commissioner at its meetings.
- 3.4 The Panel can request additional reports as required.
- 3.5 The Panel are currently looking at ways to strengthen the connection to the 6 local Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and Community Safety Partnerships which would allow regular feed into the Panel of common issues that may be relevant to discuss with the Commissioner.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Partnership's strategic intelligence assessment has highlighted that the current community safety work areas remain relevant to Sunderland and the partnership's continued delivery in a difficult landscape is evidenced.
- 4.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership Board believes that its reductions and key achievements are sustainable and whilst identifying issues including the economy, public sector finance reductions and welfare reform as posing potential risks to local crime rates it is not possible at this stage to draw firm conclusions on rises in crime in the longer term. The Partnership however will monitor this situation on an ongoing basis. Given the reductions in public sector resources, the Board has agreed the need for continued prioritisation on the highest impact issues.
- 4.3 The Police and Crime Panel continue to develop its scrutiny role in relation to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 That the Committee notes the information contained in the report and agrees to accept a report on key achievements in delivering the strategic priorities at the end of 2014/15.

Contact Officer: Contact Officer: Stuart Douglass, Lead Policy Officer for
Community Safety

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APPENDIX 1

KEY PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE LAST PSIA (2012/13 and 2013/14) – extracted from the 2013 Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment

1. INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Appendix 1 covers two key areas:

- A high level summary of key performance (quantitative data) in 2013/14 together with some of the key achievements and partnership interventions in 2012/13; and
- An overview of the first 6 months progress against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2013/14.

1.2 This serves as a summary of performance in 2012/13 and identifies if the Safer Sunderland Partnership has done what it said it would do so far in 2013/14.

2. SIX-MONTH PROGRESS AGAINST THE SAFER SUNDERLAND PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY PLAN IN 2013/14

2.1 The table below has been included to illustrate how the recorded crime stats have changed so far in 2013/14.

Table 1: Sunderland Crime April to December 2013			
Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	Variance
Total crime	11071	10713	+358 (+3%)
Violent crime	1899	1693	+206 (+12%)
• Violence against the person	1684	1472	+212 (+14%)
• Violence against the person - With injury	1038	964	+74 (+8%)
• Most serious violence against the person	51	38	+13 (+34%)
• Less serious violence against the person	987	926	+61 (+7%)
• Violence against the person - Without injury	646	508	+138 (+27%)
• Robbery	53	76	-23 (-30%)
• Sexual offences	162	145	+17 (+12%)
Vehicle crime	935	905	+30 (+3%)
• Vehicle interference	47	69	-22 (-32%)
• Theft From Motor Vehicle	735	634	+101 (+16%)
• TWOC	153	202	-49 (-24%)
Burglary	1326	1289	+37 (+3%)
• Burglary dwelling	527	474	+53 (+11%)
• Burglary OTD	799	815	-16 (-2%)

Criminal damage	2341	2509	-168 (-7%)
Drug Crime	729	734	-5 (-1%)
Other Crime	3841	3841	+258 (+7%)
Shoplifting	1474	1360	+114 (+8%)
Theft from the person	53	63	-10 (-16%)
Serious acquisitive crime	1468	1386	+82 (+6%)
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	77	68	+9 (+13%)

2.2 The long term reductions in recorded crime achieved over recent years has started to reverse in 2013/14.

2.3 The remainder of this section provides some examples of early progress being made so far during the first half of 2013/14 against the improvement actions in the current Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2013/14 to 2015/16. This is structured around the current priority work areas.

2.1 Tackling substance misuse (alcohol and drug related crime and disorder)

2.1.1 The Mobile Treatment Unit was evaluated and 12 months data demonstrates a net saving of £14,591 in health costs from prevented ambulance call-outs and A&E attendances and reduced pressures on the emergency services. There are also less easily quantifiable savings such as freeing up police officers to patrol and freeing up street pastors to carry out their prevention and early intervention work.

2.1.2 The review of Operation Gryphon has been rolled out across the city to ensure a consistent approach around those young people stopped for underage drinking and to make the home visits more structured so that if a young person is identified as having possible problems, appropriate referrals are now made (e.g. to YDAP).

2.1.3 Significant improvements have been made this year to the data quality and completeness of the alcohol-related assault A&E data (Cardiff model).

2.1.4 In terms of the recording of alcohol-related deaths, Serious Untoward Incident (SUI) reporting measures are now in place for all deaths occurring while a client is in drug or alcohol treatment services.

2.1.5 A young people health champions' programme is being set up in six schools across Sunderland. The project is in its very early stages and work is continuing with Public Health England to identify the provider for the social norms work (which would include young people and alcohol). It is intended to use the schools that are acting as health champions to pilot the work.

2.1.6 The newly commissioned adult substance misuse treatment services began operating on 1st August 2013. This allows the SSP to develop an outcomes based model of treatment with recovery as the ultimate outcome. The new system covers:

- Recovery Pathway – Turning Point Services Ltd.
- Clinical Interventions – Counted4 CIC
- Specialist Harm Reduction – Lifeline Project Ltd.

- Psychosocial Interventions – Lifeline Project Ltd.
- 2.1.7 The treatment services continue to operate within the Integrated Offender Management facility at Bridge House to provide interventions for drug and alcohol using offenders that are subject to statutory orders or non-statutory arrangements (e.g. the Drug Interventions Programme). The services are operating a single information system to help enable coordination of delivery. In order to maintain continuity, Care Navigation meetings (established during 2012) remain in place and are held weekly with representation from all provider agencies as well as Probation, Prison Service, YOS and housing. They focus on the heavy service users from the hospital team and the top high crime causing offenders. This is also helping to ensure that new entrants to the system are managed effectively during the transition phase and that existing clients are systematically reviewed.

2.2 Tackling domestic violence

- 2.2.1 A learning resource pack (6 lesson plans and teaching aids for KS3 & 4) was produced to accompany the 'I have the right: against abuse in teenage relationships' film developed in 2012/13. This has been provided to all secondary schools in Sunderland via the safeguarding designated persons leads. The film and resources were put onto the Police's ebeat site and shared with the DV partnership members, the North East Women's network, victim support teenage relationship project, DV co-ordinators in the region; and the young people's violence advisors at CAADA. It is currently being scoped out for inclusion in training for front line police officers. Promotion of the resources using social media resulted in 195 hits in its first week.
- 2.2.2 A council front-line social worker is being trained to be one of the 150 young people's violence advocates nationally (CAADA programme). This role will include raising awareness of teenage abuse and wider young people's violent crime issues (HBV, SE, on-line exploitation and cyber stalking); embedding data collection at MARAC for 16-17 year olds; and developing clear and consistent care pathways for 13-17 year olds to ensure child protection and MARAC processes work together.
- 2.2.3 MARAC continues to operate and provides safety plans for victims. Awareness of MARAC has been done with GPs locally and family solicitors regionally. CAADA's DASH is now used by all agencies referring to MARAC. The MARAC steering group completed and submitted its self-assessment to CAADA and is progressing the recommended improvement actions.
- 2.2.4 The IDVA service supported 462 victims of domestic abuse from April-September 2013 and also offered group support delivering the Freedom Programme to 103 victims over the same period. Outcomes data is being collated by the service.
- 2.2.5 A multi-agency operation involving Northumbria Police and WWIN was set up in Sulgrave and Concord where an outreach worker and PVP worker will attend all police call outs to domestic abuse incidents on Friday and Saturday nights over a set period of time. In addition, the neighbourhood police teams will deploy the bodyworn cameras purchased by the Partnership.
- 2.2.6 A Health Needs Assessment on domestic violence has been completed by public health colleagues and the recommendations for a range of the city's

partnerships will be taken forward in the latter half of 2013/14 and into 2014/15.

- 2.2.7 Work around domestic violence has been initiated with GPs to spot the signs of domestic violence and increase confidence in referring to MARAC. Domestic violence training has been rolled out to hospital staff and referral pathway discussions were started with A & E.
- 2.2.8 In the first quarter of 2013/14 a further 60 staff have successfully completed the e-learning training on domestic violence, bringing the total to 390 since the module was developed. Reminders have been sent to partner agencies whose staff registered to undertake the training, but who have not yet started it. The training has also been offered to all elected members.
- 2.2.9 Work has been initiated by Gentoo on developing a nationally recognised Domestic Abuse Chartermark for housing providers and the work is being supported by DCLG. The Chartermark will be included in a "Safe at Home" standard alongside issues including safeguarding and hate crime. It will have its own domestic violence strand and it is intended to be launched nationally at the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference in June 2014.
- 2.2.10 A Domestic Homicide Review process is underway and will report back to the SSP Board and the Home Office in March. This has been supported by Gentoo (independent chair) and advice/guidance from the head of safeguarding at the CCG.

2.3 Tackling anti-social behaviour

- 2.3.1 The ASB Victim Support Worker has supported 72 victims of anti-social behaviour and hate crime from April-Sept 2013. Upon initial contact, 41% of victims were very worried about being a victim of crime and 31% felt unsafe living in their local area. Upon conclusion of the support given, this improved greatly with 96% no longer feeling worried and 100% feeling safer.
- 2.3.2 The Council ASB Team has worked with Sunderland University Accommodation Services and the dedicated University Campus police officer to carry out joint visits to student properties that have been reported for ASB to either the council or police. They also linked into the Residential Students Association (RSA) on staying safe in the city and providing advice on how to be good neighbours. Talks were also given to International students.
- 2.3.3 The LMAPS have also implemented a range of interventions so far this year including environmental works to combat problems around off-road motorbikes accessing a local park; fencing to remove a problem of youth related ASB (following 30 residents' complaints at a PACT meeting); providing target hardening equipment including shed alarms and bike locks, following a spike in thefts and burglary OTD; and distributing crime prevention leaflets linked to reducing risk of wheelie bin fires on the run up to bonfire night. Community Payback is also used as and when appropriate.
- 2.3.4 Agreement has been reached to ensure family focus clients lists are shared for intelligence purposes with LMAPS key partners. In addition an offer was made that LMAPS could manage the crime and disorder elements of a family if required. LMAPS can also refer any potential families in to Family Focus.

- 2.3.5 Safetyworks! Sessions have been offered to all year 6 pupils in primary schools across the city which are tailored to be area-specific and help educate young people about anti-social behaviour and the impact it has.
- 2.3.6 Operation Harpoon (North) took place over the summer during which there were 121 stops with 115 home visits conducted with view to modifying young peoples' behaviour and focusing on early intervention/prevention of further problems occurring. A number of Acceptable Behaviour Agreements were signed and to date none have been breached.
- 2.3.7 Work will continue with the youth develop groups and the Secondary schools over the coming months.

2.4 Improving the safety and feelings of safety of high risk victims and vulnerable groups

- 2.4.1 Between April–Sept 2013, the Partnership's Homes Security and Sanctuary Scheme supported 25 high risk victims with enhanced security, the majority of whom did not feel safe before the service but who do feel safe after receiving support.
- 2.4.2 Gentoo's victim support service has showed that at the closure of a case, the majority of victims felt safer as a result of the support (55% felt very safe and 40% felt fairly safe).
- 2.4.3 Marketing and communications activity so far in 2013/14 includes:
- Re-designing the domestic violence help cards to take account of the local and national support services available and to highlight early warning signs and identify the issue of abuse in teenage relationships.
 - Promotion of key safety in the night time economy (KMP) messages over bank holidays in April and May;
 - Support to the police ASB 'report it and sort it' campaign and how to report it (via posters, leaflets, social media, PR, Community News).
 - Updated crime prevention advice leaflets produced for 'other burglary' e.g. sheds and garages, and distributed to hot spot areas across Sunderland backed up with photocall PR in the local media;
 - Promotion of Operation Engage with leaflets, posters and PR/media to boost community engagement with the neighbourhood teams in the east of the city
 - Positive PR coverage of the neighbourhood management pilot and domestic abuse operation in Sulgrave and Concord
 - Supporting the Northumbria domestic abuse 'are you walking on eggshells?' campaign including the 24/7 helpline number, and an LGBT-specific version.
- 2.4.4 Work is underway with the Council's contact centre to ensure repeat victims can be identified and to improve case histories (following improvements made on this by the police as part of their new anti-social behaviour delivery model).

2.5 Reducing re-offending

- 2.5.1 Over the last two years Sunderland has moved from having a consistently higher actual rate of reoffending to the best performing local delivery unit in the North East¹.
- 2.5.2 Data for prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs) shows a 41% reduction in offending for last six months (from 1st April - 1st October 2013) in comparison with offending over the same period 12 months ago). Data on non-statutory offenders shows a reduction in arrests and convictions after being on probation programmes by 62%, down from 121 arrests before starting on programmes down on 46 after.
- 2.5.3 The Spotlight on Shoplifting initiative launched in September 2013 which targets the top 20 prolific offenders in Sunderland. The aim of the scheme is to deter repeat offenders from continuing to shoplift by restricting their ability to commit further offences, encouraging them to change their behaviour and tackling underlying drug and alcohol issues.
- 2.5.4 The Reducing Re-Offending Delivery Network action for 2013/14 has a specific focus on improving outcomes related to offender accommodation, health and well-being, Integrated Offender Management, and prioritising the needs of women offenders.
- Accommodation – the scrutiny recommendations are being responded to which includes supporting People Directorate to manage the closure of Camrex House; improve relationships with private landlords; work in partnership with the ‘Through the Gate’ project; and ensure offender needs inform future commissioning intentions.
 - Integrated Offender Management – there has been continued investment in IOM approaches and prioritising the links between Police, Youth Offending Service and Prisons. The YOS transitions project has been completed and learning identified from this will need to be included in the partnership delivery plan for 2014/15.
 - Women Offenders – Support is also available to women via the Probation Women’s Hub, which runs twice weekly where women can explore issues related to their offending in a safe women only environment.
- 2.5.5 Employment, training and education case review workshops are now established between treatment services, Job Centre Plus and Probation to enhance the understanding and management of complex cases.
- 2.5.6 Welfare reform, finance, benefits and debt training was delivered to the IOM team to equip practitioners with basic knowledge and awareness of where to sign post offenders for help and support.
- 2.5.7 The creation and embedding of referral routes with the Community Support Team has taken place in order to better support and assess the needs of children on the edge of care. There is a strengthened partnership with the

¹This is a particularly strong achievement given the following context: the North East has the highest re-offending rates nationally due to number of factors including; entrenched offenders with longer criminal histories, a low immediate custody rate (which means offenders are more likely to be in the community than in prison) and a high level of sanctioned detections (i.e. high levels of police activity) which all contribute towards a higher predicted rate of reoffending that is beyond that experienced in other parts of England and Wales

new South of Tyne Children and Young People's Service for Mental Health (CYPS) and a strengthening of the role of the public health nurse within the Youth Offending Service ensuring children's health needs are assessed early. There has been the establishment of links with the Adult Diversion pilot in Sunderland in order that service developments can be shared and effective transition plans agreed for young people on the cusp of 18.

- 2.5.8 The on-going success of the Youth Offending Service's Restorative Justice (RJ) approach is being developed into a traded business model, thereby offering local partners and organisations the opportunity to deliver RJ and victim best practice.
- 2.5.9 Funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner has been used to support the Youth Drug and Alcohol Project service where staff provide Tier 2 and 3 (targeted and specialist) substance misuse interventions to young people referred from Youth Offending Service. These include psycho-social and family work as well as drugs-testing and prescribing services if necessary. They directly input relevant information and records onto the YOIS information system. In addition, YDAP staff (Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Project) provide training and consultation services to Youth Offending Service staff in relation to drugs and alcohol issues.

2.6 Improving cohesion

- 2.6.1 Systems have been put in place to improve the collection, analysis and escalation routes for Sunderland's tension monitoring information. A Civic Mediation Group meets on a monthly basis comprising reps from community, police, faith, Sunderland Partnership, council and school. Any tensions or issues are fed into the issues log and remedial/mitigation action taken as required.
- 2.6.2 Between April-August 2013, there were 95 incidents reported to ARCH of which 76 involved racism; 4 were religious; 5 were homophobic; 2 were transphobic; 5 were linked to a disability and 5 involved bullying. There has been an increase in reporting, particularly from schools, following the training and awareness raising that was carried out over the last year.
- 2.6.3 Sunderland University is helping to improve the analysis of hate crime/incident data in order to identify any significant patterns, particularly in relation to disability hate crime which is under-reported. This work will continue throughout 2013/14.
- 2.6.4 5 secondary schools have now booked in to work with the Anne Frank Trust to train young people to be peer guides to help tackle prejudice and discrimination.

2.7 Organised crime

- 2.7.1 As yet there is no progress on the actions in the delivery plan for this work area as guidance on local rollout of a national approach is awaited.

2.8 Safeguarding

- 2.8.1 Work has begun to scope out the key messages for a campaign aimed at raising awareness of financial abuse for vulnerable adults.

2.8.2 329 members of staff from 59 agencies have received WRAP training to improve front-line staffs' understanding of the warning signs around radicalisation, raising awareness of Prevent and how to refer people to appropriate support within a safeguarding context². Work is still to do to identify the impact this training has had on staffs' retained awareness of warning signs and referral processes.

2.9 Partnership improvement and development

2.9.1 Long term tactics have been implemented in relation to tackling issues at Sulgrave and Concord areas of Washington and a neighbourhood management pilot went live on 7th October. This involves: working with the management committee and private landlords to help enforce breaches of tenancies; bring empty properties back into use; support victims of domestic violence; engage high crime causers with the Integrated Offender Management team; provide outreach support for substance misusers; and provide an on-site reassuring presence to residents.

2.9.2 The Safer Communities Survey continues to be delivered. During the first half of the year (April-September), 1083 residents were surveyed in Sunderland; of these, 336 (31%) identified at least one problem in their neighbourhood. All of those who felt the problem wasn't being tackled effectively had their concern escalated to the relevant neighbourhood police team and/or council and service recovery was carried out.

2.9.3 Developments in the draft Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill have been monitored and following the recent successful passage of the Bill into legislation, joint working across Northumbria is now taking place in preparing for the Community Remedy and Community Trigger tools.

2.9.4 The new LMAPS meeting structure has been implemented which includes a new funding proposal process, a revised agenda format and a forward plan to help action to tackle seasonal issues is planned for well in advance.

2.9.5 Work to improve the Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership has taken place by including the voice of survivors and victims.

² Work is still needed to identify what type of information can be shared from the WRAP key messages which could be targeted to the public to raise awareness of the warning signs around radicalisation and how to refer people to appropriate support through Safeguarding procedures

ANNOUNCED INSPECTION ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF CHILDREN’S SAFEGUARDING, PEOPLE DIRECTORATE

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with a further progress update on the implementation of the action plan arising from the announced inspection of safeguarding and looked after children services which took place in February / March 2012.
- 1.2. The report also provides Scrutiny Committee with information on the new Inspection Process introduced by Ofsted in November 2013.

2. Introduction and background

- 2.1 The announced inspection report published on the Ofsted website on 10 April 2012 graded Sunderland as being ‘good’ against each of the four headline inspection judgements (i.e. the ‘overall effectiveness’ and ‘capacity for improvement’ of both safeguarding and looked after children services). 17 of the 18 supporting judgements were ‘good’, with the remaining judgement being ‘adequate’.

Table 1: Ofsted Judgements

JUDGEMENT	SCORE
Safeguarding services	
Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for improvement	Good
Safeguarding outcomes for children and young people	
Children and young people are safe and feel safe	Good
Quality of provision	Adequate
The contribution of health agencies to keeping children and young people safe	Good
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Good
Partnership working	Good
Equality and diversity	Good
Services for looked after children	
Overall effectiveness	Good
Capacity for improvement	Good
How good are outcomes for looked after children and care leavers?	
Being healthy	Good
Staying safe	Good
Enjoying and achieving	Good
Making a positive contribution, including user engagement	Good
Economic well-being	Good
Quality of provision	Good
Ambition and prioritisation	Good
Leadership and management	Good
Performance management and quality assurance	Good

- 2.1 An action plan was developed by the council and its partners to address the 13 'formal' areas for improvement specifically identified within the Ofsted report. Additional actions were added to address the 'softer' areas for improvement which were referenced throughout the main body of the Ofsted report and the subsequent CQC report
- 2.2 The original action plan contained multi-agency and single agency improvements including items for immediate attention and those to be addressed within three months and six months respectively.
- 2.3 It was agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to the Council's Scrutiny Committee, the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Board and the Children's Trust. This is the first update for 2014.

3. Progress to date

- 3.1 All areas of the formal action plan have been implemented or are in progress, with all actions RAG rated as either Amber or Green. Of the 13 formal areas for improvement, eight are Green and five are Amber. A summary of the progress is provided within the table below.

Table 2: Formal areas for improvement

Formal area for improvement	RAG rating	Plan ref no	Progress summary
Safeguarding services			
Immediately			
Ensure that all assessments clearly identify risk and protective factors and include contributions from partner agencies who are involved with the family	Amber	A1 & A2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis workshops held. Forms amended and managers / staff reminded of their responsibilities. New Case file audit process piloted
Ensure that all assessments take into full account the views of children and families and that children are seen alone, when appropriate	Amber	A14 & A15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Views of children and families added as a drop down flag on CCM. Managers have reminded staff of their responsibilities. Case file audits will monitor translation into practice.
Within 3 months			
Ensure that all child protection plans are specific and measurable including clear timescales for action and that all core group discussions are effectively minuted so that progress can be monitored more effectively	Amber	A4 & A5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Format for Child Protection Plan revised and updated Monitoring of practice through audit process. Administrative support to Reviewing Unit reviewed and improved Format for Core Group meeting record being further reviewed
Review the chairing of conferences to ensure that they are chaired by professionals who have the requisite experience and expertise to undertake this role	Green	D2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review took place in 2012 and SSCB agreed not to pursue the use of partner agency chairs.
NTWNHSFT to ensure that revised pathways of care are effectively	Amber	C1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways have been developed and are being monitored.

Formal area for improvement	RAG rating	Plan ref no	Progress summary
implemented for children and families who need specialist services from CAMHS			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waiting times have reduced but are still longer than service specification requires
Ensure, as far as is practically possible, that the ethnicity of all staff is known so that the local authority can evaluate accurately whether the workforce reflects the diversity of the local population	Green	G1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An on-line questionnaire was issued to all council staff in October 2012 to gather this information (as part of the wider council response to the new Public Sector Equality Duty). Remaining individuals approached individually in 2014
Within 6 months			
The LADO annual report should include more detailed analysis of activity to ensure senior managers and partner agencies have a good understanding of the effectiveness of the service	Green	D3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An outcome based report was presented to SSCB in October 2012. Regular 6 monthly reports from the LADO presented to SSCB
Reporting of private fostering arrangements should be more robust to ensure that senior managers are able to assure themselves that requirements are met	Green	D4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Private Fostering report presented to be SSCB in May 2013. Private fostering data now included in weekly performance monitoring reports.
Ensure that learning from complaints is identified more clearly and used to improve practice across safeguarding and looked after children's services	Green	B1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints Manager attends Safeguarding Managers Meeting quarterly Framework in place to demonstrate learning from complaints
Services for looked after children			
Immediately			
Ensure that all looked after children, according to their age and understanding, are seen alone when visited by their social worker	Green	A16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See A14 and A15 above.
Within 3 months			
STPCT to identify a designated doctor for children and young people to ensure that a health practitioner is in a position to have a strategic influence and overview on the health of looked after children	Green	C20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Specification agreed LAC Designated Doctor appointed. Designated Nurse's role outlined in service specification which accords with Statutory Guidance.
NTWNHSFT to monitor the effectiveness of the new pathways of care for looked after children and young people who need services from CAMHS	Amber	C21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathways developed and are being monitored. LAC Team understand how to get support for children and young people. Working Group on Care Pathways has been developed – led by Project Manager
Ensure that robust and transparent reporting arrangements about the outcomes of Regulation 33 visits are in place	Green	D9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New reporting format and governance arrangements agreed. Regulation 33 report presented to Corporate Parenting Board and MALAP 6 monthly Most recent reports submitted January 2014

4. The New Inspection Process; the effectiveness of local authority services and arrangements for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers.

- 4.1 The new inspection framework was published in October 2013. As Sunderland has not had a Safeguarding inspection since February 2012, it is likely that there will be an inspection under the new framework within the next 12 months.
- 4.2 When the inspection arrives, Ofsted will judge the Council on:-
- how it helps and protects children
 - the experiences and progress of children who are looked after, including fostering, adoption, the use of residential care and children who return home
 - the arrangements for permanence for children who are looked after
 - the experiences and progress of care leavers
 - the effectiveness of leaders and managers and the impact they have on the lives of children and young people and the quality of professional practice locally.
- 4.3 The central focus of the inspection will be the experiences of the children and young people with whom the service works, and the difference that services make to their lives and those of their families. The inspectors will accompany social workers undertaking direct work with families, and will observe a range of meetings held with family members and professionals.
- 4.4 There is an Inspection preparation group meeting weekly to co-ordinate plans to prepare for the inspection, which could take place at any time. A detailed self assessment is being completed so that the service can evaluate itself against the grade descriptors Ofsted describe in the Inspection handbook.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committee is requested to receive this report on the progress made on implementing the recommendations of the last Ofsted inspection and the preparation for the next inspection.
- 5.2 Scrutiny Committee is requested to advise on the frequency with which these reports are required in future.

HEALTH, HOUSING & ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REFERRAL: DRAFT HOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY APRIL 2014 – MARCH 2017**REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER FOR HEALTH, HOUSING AND ADULT SERVICES****1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations in relation to the commissioned item from the committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on Thursday 5 December 2013 the Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the proposed changes to the Housing Financial Assistance Policy. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would commission the Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel to act as the consultative group to gather views and comments to contribute to the consultation on the policy.
- 2.2 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on 20 February 2014 to discuss the changes to the policy.

3. Feedback from the Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 The council's approach to meeting the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England and Wales) Order 2002 (RRO HA 2002), is contained within the Financial Assistance Policy. This policy ends in March 2014 and there is the need to review and establish a new policy that reflects current housing policy and the financial position in relation to housing assistance.
- 3.2 Members enquired around the target hardening initiative and the high standard of crime reduction measures that had been carried out on properties. However some properties have had little or no such measures implemented and criminals are aware of these areas which ultimately makes them vulnerable to break-ins and theft. It was acknowledged as important that in going forward consideration is given as to how this can be funded in the future.
- 3.3 Members also highlighted the wider issue of combining the various FAPs relating to information, advice or guidance (IAG) and how this would be carried out in the future. AC reported that in future IAG delivery would be at the local level and using representative groups and organisations to develop networks. By developing networks we will create the ability to gather intelligence to target IAG at potential 'hotspots' or customise the IAG to suit the needs of a specific area. It will also allow communities to develop their own support mechanisms through communities, groups and individuals providing and managing demand of their own intelligence.
- 3.4 Finally Members acknowledged that with approximately £1.1million of assets on the mortgage loan book there was the potential to explore how to be more creative with this asset in the future e.g. scoping out the potential of seeking funding using the

value of the loans book, this could increase the options for funding in the future for Decent Homes work.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Members recognised the Housing Financial Assistance Policy as an important document to fulfil statutory obligations in relation to housing assistance as well as providing the opportunity to set out clear objectives around more discretionary issues. Members also acknowledged the policy changes reflected current housing policy as well as the financial position of the Council around housing assistance.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel would recommend to the Scrutiny Committee that the following comments are made in relation to the Draft Housing Financial Assistance Policy April 2014 – March 2017:

- (a) That the Scrutiny Committee supports the Draft Housing Financial Assistance Policy recognising the need to make revisions in light of current housing practice and financial considerations;
- (b) That in agreeing the policy the Scrutiny Committee also acknowledges the significance within the policy of developing information, advice and guidance within local communities, including enabling local communities to gather and manage their own intelligence, to ensure that areas receive advice which is relevant to the needs and demands of that area;
- (c) That recognition is given to the importance of crime reduction measures including specialist advice and guidance within potentially vulnerable areas as a way of increasing an areas resilience against crime; and
- (d) That consideration is given to scoping potential funding options for future Decent Homes work including exploring the use of the value of the loans book within the regulatory framework of the policy.

6. Glossary of Terms

FAP	Financial Assistance Policy
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance

Background Papers

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CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL REFERRAL: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN REFRESH

REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Scrutiny Committee with the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel's findings and recommendations in relation to the commissioned item from the Committee.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 16 January 2014 the Scrutiny Committee received a report outlining the work being undertaken to refresh the Children and young People's Plan. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would commission the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel to act as the consultative group to gather views and comments to contribute to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).
- 2.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held a meeting on 11 February 2014 to discuss the refresh of the strategy and delivery plan.

3. Feedback from the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 The changing economic landscape has required that the refresh of the CYPP Plan produces a more streamlined and concise document. The four key focus areas for the Children's Trust over the next three years were identified as:
- Child and Family Poverty
 - Children and Young People have the best start in life
 - Childhood Obesity
 - Sexual Health.
- 3.2 Members highlighted the importance of the Child Poverty Strategy and it was noted that this had now been incorporated into the CYPP Plan and responsibility around it sat with the Children's Trust. It was further reported that the Southwick pilot that had been undertaken around the Child Poverty Strategy would help to inform and develop actions with the CYPP Plan and that the Children's Trust would move this forward.
- 3.3 The CYPP Plan refresh will differ from recent plans that considered everything that was important to children. Now it is a case of looking at where the Children's Trust can make a difference.
- 3.4 Members of the Panel noted that throughout the plan there were no specific references to the work of area committees and the community projects they have contributed to or initiated. Members felt that it was important that the CYPP Plan

recognised this and also contained reference to the potential for community involvement through the work of area committees, boards and frontline councillors.

- 3.5 It was noted that there was no specific priority relating to looked after children (LAC) within the CYPP refresh. However it was recognised that there are other mechanisms and strategies that deal specifically with LAC including the Corporate Parenting Board.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Members recognised the importance of the strategic objectives and the key focus areas for the CYPP Plan refresh and highlighted the key importance of tackling child and family poverty.
- 4.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel also commented on the development of the plan around the acknowledgement and recognition of governance arrangements and the potential impact and influence they can have around some of the key focus areas for the Children's Trust in the coming years.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel would recommend to the Scrutiny Committee that the CYPP Plan refresh makes reference to the work of area committees, People and Place Boards and frontline councillors in communities and acknowledges the potential influence and involvement that these groups can have in delivering on the key objectives of the CYPP Plan.

6. Glossary of Terms

CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan
LAC	Looked After Children

Background Papers

Draft Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2025

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NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY AND AREA ARRANGEMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an opportunity to consider the items on the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 11 February 2014. Members should note that a further Notice will be issued on 18 March 2014.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Notice of Key Decisions) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 To this end, the most recent version of the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions is included on the agenda of this Committee. The Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 11 February 2014 is attached marked **Appendix 1**.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In considering the Notice of Key Decisions, Members are asked to consider only those issues where the Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel could make a contribution which would add value prior to the decision being taken.
- 3.2 In the event of Members having any queries that cannot be dealt with directly in the meeting, a response will be sought from the relevant Directorate.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To consider the Executive's Notice of Key Decisions for the 28 day period from 11 February 2014.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Cabinet Agenda

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The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice is given of the following proposed Key Decisions (whether proposed to be taken in public or in private) and of Executive Decisions (including key decisions) intended to be considered in a private meeting:-

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
121218/12	To approve a policy to deal with horses tethered on Council land	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 February 2014 – 12 March 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131217/13	To approve policy to implement the Community Right to Bid provisions contained in the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Value (England) Regs 2012	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 February 2014 – 12 March 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
131217/16	To seek approval to the transfer of land along the Riverside at Stadium Park from Homes and Communities Agency	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 February 2014 – 12 March 2014	Y	The report is one which relates to an item during the consideration of which by Cabinet the public are likely to be excluded	Cabinet report – transfer of land along the Riverside at Stadium Park from the Homes and	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
						under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, as the report will contain information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.	Communities Agency	committees@sunderland.gov.uk
140114/02	To seek approval for the proposed school admission arrangements for September 2015	Cabinet	Y	12 March 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
140211/01	To agree to progress the delivery of the Low Carbon Social Housing Pilot Scheme, approve the funding package and agree project management partnership and procurement arrangements	Cabinet	Y	12 March 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
140211/02	To approve the Adult Social Care Grant Assistance process	Cabinet	Y	12 March 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk
140211/03	To approve the Council's inclusion in the Collective Energy Scheme as part of the wider Affordable Warmth Strategy and that any income received be used for future fuel poverty initiatives.	Cabinet	Y	During the period 12 March 2014 and 16 April 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Item no.	Matter in respect of which a decision is to be made	Decision-maker (if individual, name and title, if body, its name and see below for list of members)	Key Decision Y/N	Anticipated date of decision/ period in which the decision is to be taken	Private meeting Y/N	Reasons for the meeting to be held in private	Documents submitted to the decision-maker in relation to the matter	Address to obtain further information
130910/10	To consider and approve the Housing Financial Assistance Policy	Cabinet	Yes	16 April 2014	N	N/A	Cabinet Report	Governance Services Civic Centre PO Box 100 Civic Centre Sunderland SR2 7DN committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Note; Some of the documents listed may not be available if they are subject to an exemption, prohibition or restriction on disclosure. Further documents relevant to the matters to be decided can be submitted to the decision-maker. If you wish to request details of those documents (if any) as they become available, or to submit representations about a proposal to hold a meeting in private, you should contact Governance Services at the address below. Subject to any prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, copies of documents submitted to the decision-maker can also be obtained from the Governance Services team PO Box 100, Civic Centre, Sunderland, or by email to committees@sunderland.gov.uk

Who will decide;
Cabinet; Councillor Paul Watson; Councillor Henry Trueman; Councillor Mel Speding; Councillor Pat Smith; Councillor Graeme Miller; Councillor John Kelly; Councillor James Blackburn; Councillor Celia Gofton

Elaine Waugh
Head of Law and Governance
11 February 2014

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF SCRUTINY AND AREA ARRANGEMENTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report attaches, the work programme for the Committee’s work during the 2013/14 council year.
- 1.2 In delivering its work programme, the Scrutiny Committee will support the council in achieving its Corporate Outcomes.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which the Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.
- 2.2 The policy review topics commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee to the Scrutiny Panels are underway as follows:-

Remit	Policy Review Topic
Public Health, Wellness and Culture	Patient Engagement
Responsive Services and Customer Care	Volunteering: Increasing Community Capacity
Skills, Economy and Regeneration	The Growth and Diversification of the Local Economy

- 2.3 The Health Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel is now in the process of finalising its review into supporting carers in the city. This report will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee for endorsement at this meeting.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that took place at the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 February 2014. The current work programme is attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.2 To date, in 2013/14 the Committee has commissioned the following issues to the Scrutiny Panels:-

Item	Description	Date	Panel	Date of panel meeting(s)	Consideration by Scrutiny Committee	Progress
Integrated Wellness Model	Consultation on the redesign and re-commissioning of wellness services	7 November 2013	PHWC	23 January 2014	To be determined	First meeting held, further meeting to be scheduled
Housing Financial Assistance Policy	Consultation prior to approval by Cabinet on the revised Policy and implications	16 January 2014	HHAS	20 February 2014	13 March 2014	None to date
Children and Young People's Plan Refresh	Consultation on the streamlined CYPP	16 January 2014	Children's Services	11 February 2014	13 March 2014	Findings to Scrutiny Committee 13 March 2014
Building Participation in Physical Activity, Leisure and Sport	Consultation on the development of a policy position for the city.	13 February 2014	PHWC	6 March 2014	17 April 2014	Findings to Scrutiny Committee 17 April 2014

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2013/14.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That the Committee notes the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of any proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

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REASON FOR INCLUSION	13 JUNE D/L 04.06.13	11 JULY D/L 02.07.13	12 SEPTEMBER D/L 03.09.13	10 OCTOBER D/L 01.10.13	7 NOVEMBER D/L 29.10.13	5 DECEMBER D/L 26.11.13	16 JANUARY D/L 07.01.14	13 FEBRUARY D/L 04.02.14	13 MARCH D/L 04.03.14	17 APRIL D/L 11.04.14
Cabinet Referrals and Responses		Portfolio Holder Response to Policy Reviews 2012/13 Revenue Budget Outturn for 2012/2013 and First Revenue Review 2013/2014 Capital Programme Outturn 2012/2013 and First Capital Review 2013/2014 including Treasury Management	Portfolio Holder Response to Policy Reviews 2012/13 Youth Justice Plan 2013/14	Proposal for Budget Consultation 2014/15 Budget Planning Framework 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 – 2016/2017 Capital Programme Second Review 2013/14 Revenue Budget Second Review 2013/2014 Feed and Food Controls Service Plan 2013/14			Revenue Budget 2014/15 Proposals Revenue Budget Third Review 2013/14 Capital Programme - Third Capital Review 2013/2014, Provisional Resources 2014/2015 And Treasury Management Review 2013/2014	Collection Fund 2013/14 Capital Programme 2014/2015 and Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2014/2015 Revenue Budget and Proposed Council Tax for 2014/2015 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017		
Scrutiny Business	Future Library Services Children's Services Scrutiny Panel: CAMHS Update Membership of Scrutiny Panels Commissioning the Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14 Notice of Key Decisions	Final Draft of the Health Protocol Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Clinical Commissioning Group 'Better Health for Sunderland' Urgent Care Service Reform – Update on Progress Corporate Parenting Annual Report Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Sunderland Healthwatch Annual Audit Letter Integrated Wellness Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Local Authority Trading Company 20mph Zones Housing Financial Assistance Policy CfPS Parliamentary Series Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Children and Young People Plan Refresh Council Annual Complaints Report Children's Services Scrutiny Panel: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Effective Health Scrutiny Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Schools Performance Building Participation in Physical Activity, Leisure and Sport Draft Final Policy Review Reports Scrutiny Member Development Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Safer Sunderland Partnership Children's Safeguarding Update HHAS Scrutiny Panel: Financial Assistance Policy Children's Services Scrutiny Panel: CYP Refresh Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy / Integration of Health and Adult Social Care Outcome of the Peer Challenge – Adult Social Care South Tyneside Foundation Trust Quality Account Children's Safeguarding Inspection Self-Assessment Annual Monitoring the Delivery of Agreed Scrutiny Recommendations Draft Final Policy Review Reports Scrutiny Annual Report Public Health Wellness and Culture Panel: Integrated

										Wellness and Building Participation in Physical Activity... Notice of Key Decisions Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14
Lead Scrutiny Member Update		Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update	Lead Scrutiny Member Update
Substantial Variations to Service - Health										
CCFA/Members items/Petitions					Veterans – Health Inequalities			Sea View Rd West Respite Centre		

LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBER UPDATE: MARCH 2014

JOINT REPORT OF THE LEAD SCRUTINY MEMBERS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Committee regarding the work of each of the six Lead Scrutiny Members and supporting Panels.

2. SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBER UPDATE

Scrutiny Chair and Vice Chair (Cllrs David Tate and Norma Wright)

- 2.1 On 24 January I chaired the Joint Regional Scrutiny Network meeting. The CQC discussed its revised approach to the inspection of health and adult social care services and the organisations relationship with scrutiny and the Equalities Commission discussed its findings into home care support.
- 2.2 On 5 March myself, the Vice Chair and the Lead Member for HHAS met with Meg Boustead, Head of Safeguarding to discuss an issue related to Sea View Rd West, a short breaks respite centre for children with disabilities. As a result of this meeting the issue was discussed at the Scrutiny Committee on 13 February 2014.

Children's Services (Cllr Debra Waller)

- 2.3 The Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has completed its policy review into Child Obesity and I am pleased that the Scrutiny Committee have received and agreed its content. As Lead Member I look forward to presenting the report to Cabinet in April and receiving the feedback from Cabinet Members.
- 2.4 The Panel have also submitted a report on the commissioned item – The Children and Young People's Plan refresh. A full report outlining the Panel's comments is contained elsewhere in the agenda.
- 2.5 The next meetings of the Panel take place in March and April and will be looking to agree the Children's Services section of the Annual Report as well as looking at another potential policy review in sexual exploitation. This had been considered as a topic at the beginning of the Municipal Year and the Panel will look at a brief overview of the Council's strategies and procedures and it may well come under consideration for a fuller investigation in the next year.

City Services (Cllr Stephen Bonallie)

- 2.6 The Panel's draft policy review report into alcohol misuse and licensing was considered and approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 13 February.
- 2.7 In December, the Panel began its review into the approach being taken to flood risk management in the city. The Panel were informed of the main causes flooding; including

coastal, river, surface water and failure of infrastructure (e.g. sewer system). It was noted that historically flooding in the city has been a mix of coastal, surface water and sewer capacity issues. The Panel was also informed about the respective roles of the key players; including the Council, Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.

- 2.8 On 20 February, the Panel heard more in more detail about the roles of the planning and highways management functions in preventing and mitigating the risk of flooding. The Panel discussed the effects of 'Urban Creep' where large parts of developed land is being paved over through drives, pavements and extensions causing the problem that water no longer has anywhere to drain.
- 2.9 On 6 March, the Panel will be meeting with representatives from Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency in order to discuss their role in flood management and the work going on in the city to deal with flood risk.

Health, Housing and Adult Services (Cllr Christine Shattock)

- 2.10 The HHAS Scrutiny Panel has concluded its evidence gathering and is meeting on Wednesday 5 March to consider the draft report as well as preparing conclusions and recommendations. The final report will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in April.
- 2.11 The Panel have also submitted a full report on the draft Housing Financial Assistance Policy Plan following the commissioning of the item by the Scrutiny Committee. A full report outlining the comments and recommendations is contained elsewhere in the agenda. All Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussions.

Public Health, Wellness and Culture (Cllr George Howe)

- 2.12 The Panel met to consider a proposed policy for raising participation in physical activity and sport. The policy proposes a new strategic direction and one which involves partners in achieving shared priority outcomes for the people of Sunderland.
- 2.13 The Panel was informed that the challenge now facing the council is to create the conditions for more people to become more active on a more regular basis, whether through informal activity such as going for a walk, cycling, swimming, or in more formal activity such as joining a sports club or gym. Adopting a strategic approach to improving participation levels will enable the council to maximise the impact that sport and physical activity has in Sunderland.
- 2.14 The Panel considered whether the proposed vision statement is appropriate, whether it is sufficiently aspirational, or alternatively whether it is unachievable. We considered the scale of the consultation to be carried out and the proposed objectives.
- 2.15 The Panel is also continuing to review public and patient engagement in the health service and will be producing conclusions in the near future.

Skills, Economy and Regeneration (Cllr Tom Martin)

- 2.16 At its last meeting met with Jill Laverick, Corporate Affairs Manager on "Make it Sunderland" and its contribution to the diversification of the local economy.

- 2.17 Make It Sunderland aims to raise the profile of Sunderland both nationally and internationally and help to create jobs and drive investment. Its work is focused on a number of key economic sectors; including automotive, manufacturing, software and offshore. The Panel commented on the extensive work being undertaken to raise the economic profile of the city both nationally and internationally.
- 2.18 On 14 March, the Panel will be undertaking a tour of regeneration sites within the city such as St Mary's Way and the Vaux site. The visit will provide an opportunity to meet representatives from the Sunderland City Centre Trading Association and discuss the implications of the Business Improvement District with Andy Bradley the Chair of the BID.
- 2.19 On 18 March, the Panel will also be visiting and meeting representatives from Nissan in order to discuss the contribution they can make to developing and diversifying the local economy.

Responsive Services and Customer Care (Cllr Iain Kay)

- 2.20 The Panel held a meeting to take evidence on reporting incidents of hate crime.
- 2.21 ARCH is a network of organisations working together across the city to support victims of hate incidents and where possible take action against the suspect. All organisations in the partnership have agreed to objectives and responsibilities. Each organisation lists what support they can offer to victims of hate incidents and what action they can take against suspects.
- 2.22 A new ARCH system is being developed to be in place by April. Members of the Panel will be meeting with the staff who receive and process the reports and will see for themselves the ARCH system in operation.
- 2.23 Improvements to the system include: developing a unified approach; better risk assessment; identifying trends; raising the profile, making it easier to report incidents and being less bureaucratic. All of this is intended to provide better support for the victim. Panel members will seek further information about the intended benefits of upgrading and improving the current system.
- 2.24 We heard that the under-reporting of incidents could stem from fear of reprisals but were informed that anyone can report an incident on behalf of someone else, for example, local councillors could log an incident if they are aware of it in their ward. We suggested that in light of this, elected members may benefit from a development session, either at city or area level, on how to use the system.
- 2.25 The Panel is also continuing to carry out a review of volunteering with a focus on unlocking capacity and will be presenting conclusions and findings to the next meeting.

3. CHANGES TO PANEL MEMBERSHIPS

- 3.1 Non-executive Members are allocated to a scrutiny panel; membership of the panels has been decided in accordance with current political arrangements.

- 3.2 Scrutiny Panels are informal; therefore there is flexibility within the arrangements to revise Panel memberships at any point in the municipal year to reflect changes to Member capacity and other commitments.
- 3.3 There are no changes to report; therefore the complete membership of the Scrutiny Panels is attached for information and consideration as **Appendix 1** of this report.

4. DEDICATED SCRUTINY BUDGET

- 4.1 A small budgetary provision of £15,000 per annum is available to the Scrutiny Committee and the supporting Panels to deliver the agreed Annual Scrutiny Committee Work Programme.
- 4.2 As of 3 March 2014 the breakdown of the budget stood as follows:-

Description	£
Scrutiny Development	5,154.74
Member Development	2,749.29
Policy Review Development	0.00
Total Expenditure to Date	7,904.03
Budget	15,000.00
Remaining Budget	7,095.97

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee notes and considers the update of the Lead Scrutiny Members.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Scrutiny Committee Agenda and Papers

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APPENDIX 1**SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

<p style="text-align: center;">City Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Stephen Bonallie</p> <p>Cllr Neville Padgett Cllr Michael Essl Cllr Stuart Porthouse Cllr Lynda Scanlan Cllr Steven Foster Cllr Amy Wilson Cllr Dianne Snowdon</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Health, Housing & Adult Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Christine Shattock</p> <p>Cllr Jill Fletcher Cllr Ronny Davison Cllr Alan Emerson Cllr Rosalind Copeland Cllr Darryl Dixon Cllr Barbara McLennan Cllr Dorothy Trueman Cllr Mary Turton Cllr Gemma Taylor</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Children's Services</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Debra Waller</p> <p>Cllr Florence Anderson Cllr Linda Williams Cllr Doris MacKnight Cllr Anthony Farr Cllr Philip Tye Cllr Robert Oliver Cllr Bob Francis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Skills, Economy & Regeneration</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Tom Martin</p> <p>Cllr Bob Price Cllr Christine Marshall Cllr David Snowdon Cllr Denny Wilson Cllr Len Lauchlan Cllr Tom Wright Cllr Peter Wood</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Public Health, Wellness & Culture</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr George Howe</p> <p>Cllr Debra Waller Cllr Louise Farthing Cllr Fiona Miller Cllr Julia Jackson Cllr Rebecca Atkinson Cllr David Errington Cllr Paul Maddison</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Responsive Services & Customer Care</p> <p>Scrutiny Lead Member: Cllr Iain Kay</p> <p>Cllr Bob Heron Cllr Betty Gibson Cllr Barry Curran Cllr Anne Lawson Cllr John Scott Cllr George Thompson Cllr John Wiper</p>