

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee (Special Meeting)

Thursday 12 February 2015 at 2.00 pm

**To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone
Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Chris Weldon (Chair), Steve Ayris (Deputy Chair), David Barker, Simon Clement-Jones, Sheila Constance, Richard Crowther, George Lindars-Hammond, Roy Munn, Josie Paszek, Sioned-Mair Richards, Lynn Rooney, Richard Shaw and Sarah Jane Smalley

Substitute Members

In accordance with the Constitution, Substitute Members may be provided for the above Committee Members as and when required.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, development and monitoring of performance and delivery of services which aim to make Sheffield a safer, stronger and more sustainable city for all of its residents.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Scrutiny Committee meetings and recording is allowed under the direction of the Chair. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for further information regarding public questions and petitions and details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer, on 0114 2735065 or email matthew.borland@sheffield.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY AND POLICY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AGENDA
12 FEBRUARY 2015**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 November 2014
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public
- 7. Responding to Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Sheffield**
Report of the Director of Commissioning
- 8. Community Safety Update 2015**
Maxine Stavrianakos, Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenancy Support, to present
- 9. Police and Crime Panel Update**
Councillor Roy Munn to report
- 10. Written Responses to Public Questions**
Report of the Policy and Improvement Officer
- 11. Work Programme 2014/15**
Report of the Policy and Improvement Officer
- 12. Right to Buy Update Report**
Briefing Note for Information
- 13. Welfare Reform - January 2015 Update**
Briefing Note for Information
- 14. Land Management Arrangements Within the Housing Revenue Account**

Briefing Note for Information

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday 26 March at 2.00pm in the Town Hall

ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Interim Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

Meeting held 27 November 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Weldon (Chair), Steve Ayris (Deputy Chair), David Barker, Simon Clement-Jones, Sheila Constance, Richard Crowther, George Lindars-Hammond, Roy Munn, Josie Paszek, Lynn Rooney, Richard Shaw and Sarah Jane Smalley

.....

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sioned-Mair Richards.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25th September 2014, were approved as a correct record and, arising from their consideration, it was requested that a briefing note on the newly introduced anti-social behaviour legislation be prepared and circulated to Committee Members.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Responses to questions from the Sheffield for Democracy representatives were provided as follows:-

Local Area Partnerships

The Chair, Councillor Chris Weldon, indicated that Members would be able to comment on the operation of the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) when agenda item 11 was considered. He added that a review of their operating arrangements was taking place and that the Committee would receive a report on the outcome of this when it had concluded. It was emphasised that the Committee had always taken an interest in community engagement and had received reports on this where appropriate. At the present time, it was important for the Committee to ensure that communications were taking place and that best practice was supported.

Public Questions

The Chair apologised for the lateness of the response provided to the public questions received at the meeting held on 25th September 2014, which he considered to be unacceptable. He understood that the Council guidelines for responding to public questions was 10 working days and these would be followed in so far as it was possible. The Policy and Improvement Officer was asked to explore the possibility of having the written responses to public questions published for the public record.

5.2 In conclusion, the Chair informed the questioners that they would receive a full written response to these questions within the guideline response time.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE 2015/16

6.1 The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Communities, which provided an overview of some of the recent developments affecting the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and some of the considerations for the Business Plan Update 2015/16. The report was presented by Liam Duggan, HRA Business Plan Team Manager. Tenant representatives, Mick Daniels and Tony Watson were also present for this item.

6.2 Members and the tenant representatives made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- Following feedback from tenants about the Going Local proposals, the allocation of Going Local funding was now being described at a City-wide level. In 2012/13, some of this funding had been transferred to heating budgets, as there was a heating backlog. There was a large Going Local budget of £800,000 and tenants felt that this was the right thing to do. It was emphasised that money had not been taken away from tenants.
- It would be necessary to review the consultative budget as the guidance was old and it was administered differently in different housing areas.
- In relation to the Government relaxing its expectations on local authorities with regard to charging a social rent for high earners, part of the problem was that the Council had no data on tenants' income and the administrative burden of charging a market rate was not felt to be worth any potential benefits. It was also felt that this could lead to disincentivising mixed communities.
- Officers were not aware of any proposals for the Council to be empowered by Government to suspend Right to Buy policy locally.
- The final Business Plan Report would include reference to vacancy management, with there being a slight deterioration in performance last year due to issues such as the bedroom tax and changes to temporary accommodation, but with measures in place on some estates, the position was improving this year.
- There was a shortage of 4-bed Council properties, with less than 1% of

Council housing being of that type. However, it was not generally affordable for the Council to purchase these larger properties and then charge a social rent. Affordable rent might have to be considered in such situations. In addition, the benefit cap was more of an issue for large families.

- A strategy had been developed for buying properties on the open market and the policy was to charge a social rent where possible. Consideration was also being given to buying former Right to Buy properties.
- The model for photovoltaics was to install the panels as part of the roofing contract on new roofs. This avoided having to use further scaffolding and was of benefit to the householder in terms of the free energy. The feed-in tariff from the energy companies was money which the HRA would seek to recover. There were sensitivities around issues such as the amount of sunlight and maintenance, but the Council would be looking to recover the cost over a 25 year period.
- Officers were aware of the success of the use of photovoltaics in Kirklees and some had visited authorities which had installed them to assess how schemes operated.
- It was emphasised that the submitted report was part of pulling together the Business Plan and that the issue of vacant properties was not on the frontline of issues to be covered. At the consultation meetings, it was suggested that residents could identify such properties for officers' consideration but nothing had been heard further on this.
- There was a team in place which was leading on the issue of photovoltaics and building up a network of contacts, with updates being obtained from other authorities. In relation to the process for decision making, there had been consultation and discussion with tenants and Members, following which recommendations would be made by Cabinet, which would ultimately be considered by Council.
- The setting of the Going Local budget and principles would be covered as part of the Business Plan process, with the Housing and Neighbourhoods Service then drafting more detailed guidelines once the budgets and principles had been approved.
- Consultation feedback from tenants had included advice that external works needed attention in the communal areas in Gleadless Valley. The Business Plan contained a commitment to carry out work on entry doors, stair wells, safety and general repairs. In addition, consideration needed to be given in future to wider issues, such as linking the Streets Ahead programme with the external environment.
- There had been positive feedback from the Education and Enforcement pilot on the Lansdowne estate and permanent posts were being looked at in this regard.

- The purpose of the report was to pick out the big headings involved. It was in this format as the Committee had asked to see it at this stage, so that Members could comment prior to seeing the finished article.
- From a Business Plan perspective, it was important to look at financial performance and procurement savings in relation to repairs and ensure that this came through, but there was not so much on quality and performance in relation to the customer experience in this respect.
- In relation to the installation of photovoltaic panels, issues such as the economic situation, changes to feed-in tariffs and economies of scale would need to be seriously considered.

6.3 In conclusion, the tenant representatives commented on the new charging structure for Sheltered Accommodation, the Going Local budget, the residual levy, vacant properties, Bring Out Your Rubbish Days and the new Kier repairs contract.

6.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) thanks Liam Duggan, Mick Daniels and Tony Watson for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the report and responses to questions; and
- (c) requests that:-
 - (i) further work be undertaken with tenant representatives to ensure that the final Business Plan proposals reflect tenants' views and that steps be taken to ensure that tenants' questions were answered and that they were kept informed of developments;
 - (ii) officers provide statistics for vacant properties at local meetings; and
 - (iii) further consideration be given to the Sheltered Housing Service Charge to see if anything more could be done to soften the impact on tenants who would lose their transitional protection and, if nothing could be done, that an explanation of this be included in the Cabinet report; and
- (d) welcomes the proposals regarding photovoltaics, but recognises the affordability issues involved and seeks reassurance that this would not be detrimental to the Business Plan in future.

7. CHALLENGE FOR CHANGE: GRASS CUTTING

7.1 The Committee received a report of the Interim Head of Housing Investment and Repairs which provided an update on progress on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Challenge for Change Grass Cutting report.

The report was presented by Jayne Foulds, Manager, Estates and Environmental Services Team. Also present for this item were Councillor Jayne Dunn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene, David Hargate, Head of Parks and Public Realm, and tenant representatives, Mick Daniels and Tony Watson.

7.2 Members and the tenant representatives made various comments and asked a number of questions, to which responses were provided as follows:-

- It was not necessary for the tenant inspectors to be technically qualified and an information booklet was available to provide guidance on what was an acceptable grass cutting standard.
- The rate of charge for grass cutting was based on the best endeavours to keep the grass at a certain height, it was not based on terrain or the type of machine used.
- Operatives selected which grass cutting machine to use for a particular job, and endeavoured to use one machine for each piece of work, where possible, to maximise efficiency. This could be looked at if it was causing problems.
- The removal of grass clippings from the cut areas presented very significant operational and environmental challenges and was expensive.
- Litter picking was arranged between the Parks and Public Realm Service and Housing Services, in advance of cutting.
- As part of the North East pilot, Housing Estate staff had worked jointly alongside staff from the Parks Service to undertake improvement work on Housing land, such as small scale grass cutting, hedge cutting and managing shrubs. The pilot had revealed that efficiencies were possible if service operational constraints could be overcome. It had now finished, but it should be noted that some practices had continued across the boundaries between the Northern and North East areas of the City. As a result of open service delivery, the grounds maintenance service aimed to achieve the same standard for all of the City as from April 2015.
- The Parks Service held the information as to which Council service maintained which piece of grass and it had been the case that some Housing staff had worked as part of the Parks Team on grass cutting. There was no one person in Housing who could be contacted to find out who maintained which piece of grass, but it was pointed out that Amey was responsible for the grass verges.
- With effect from April 2015, responsibility for grass cutting would be with either the Parks Service or Amey.
- Officers worked closely with the Amey Client Team in relation to grass cutting, with problems caused by their equipment being left on grassed areas being

identified as an issue. At present, flytipping was being prioritised but was being linked with grass cutting. It was hoped to meet with representatives of Amey to discuss their regime.

- The grassed areas on estates should, in future, be maintained to their present level as specified by the Service Level Agreement.
- A work plan was in place so that the asset mapping system could be updated as information was reported in.
- The Council had data on who managed what piece of land, but it had not been possible to provide this in a paper format without the need to print large size maps that would be needed to provide the required level of detail.
- The recycling of grass cuttings was undertaken as much as possible, but there were transportation issues if cuttings were to be collected. This would be economical on a small scale, but charges would have to be made if all cuttings were collected.
- The issue of litter picking prior to grass being cut would be addressed.

7.3 RESOLVED: That the Committee:

- (a) thanks Jayne Foulds, David Hargate, Mick Daniels and Tony Watson for their contribution to the meeting;
- (b) notes the contents of the report and responses to questions; and
- (c) requests that:-
 - (i) consideration be given to the provision of training for the Tenant Inspectors so it could be reassured that they were properly prepared for their duties; and
 - (ii) Councillors Harry Harpham, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods, and Isobel Bowler, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure, be asked to consider:-
 - (A) the way in which the Service Level Agreement operates, particularly in relation to charges and value for money; and
 - (B) the different specifications for grass cutting so that, where possible, some uniformity could be provided.

8. POLICE AND CRIME PANEL UPDATE

- 8.1 Councillor Roy Munn, who was a member of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, provided the Committee with an update on recent events, particularly his attendance at the national conference for Police and Crime Panels,

the appointment locally of a Chief Finance and Commissioning Officer in the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel meeting which was held on 19th November 2014. At that meeting, the new Police and Crime Commissioner, Alan Billings, outlined his priorities and identified Orgreave, Hillsborough and Child Sexual Exploitation as critical issues. Councillor Munn additionally reported that the Panel was to meet more frequently and that the Home Affairs Select Committee was considering ways in which Police and Crime Commissioners could be recalled.

- 8.2 In response to a Member's question, Councillor Munn indicated that the Panel was concerned about the performance of South Yorkshire Police in relation to events at Orgreave and Hillsborough and in connection with Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham, and that there was a need to get to the bottom of these issues. Councillor Munn also indicated that the Panel would like more operational information, but its remit was quite narrow, and that the Panel's Task and Finish Group on Domestic Abuse was off the agenda for the moment due to priority being given to the three aforementioned issues.
- 8.3 In conclusion, the Chair, Councillor Chris Weldon, commented that the Sheffield First Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board did receive some operational information and that Members of this Committee, Councillors Steve Ayris and Sioned-Mair Richards, were Members of that Board.
- 8.4 RESOLVED: That the Committee thanks Councillor Roy Munn for his contribution and notes the information reported.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

- 9.1 The Committee received a report of the Policy and Improvement Officer which provided details of the Committee's Work Programme for the 2014/15 Municipal Year.
- 9.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-
- (a) approves the Work Programme 2014/15 as detailed in the report; and
 - (b) notes that:-
 - (i) the proposed date for the special meeting on Community Safety Issues was Thursday, 12th February 2015, and Members would be informed when this had been confirmed;
 - (ii) items on domestic abuse and the correlation between economic sanctions and food banks had been requested for consideration at future meetings; and
 - (iii) the Policy and Improvement Officer would circulate details to Members regarding the Task and Finish Group on House Building which had been set up by the Economic and Environmental Wellbeing

Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee.

10. LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

10.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the contents of the Local Area Partnerships and Community Engagement report; and
- (b) requests that when the review into this subject is completed, a report be presented to the Committee, with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer being invited to attend the meeting.

11. REVIEW OF THE PARTNER RESOURCE ALLOCATION MEETING (PRAM)

11.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the Review of the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM) report.

12. RIGHT TO BUY UPDATE NOVEMBER 2014

12.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes the content of the Right to Buy November 2014 Update report; and
- (b) requests that future reports be set out in an appropriate table, which includes comparative figures, so that trends could be identified.

13. WELFARE REFORM - NOVEMBER 2014 UPDATE

13.1 RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

- (a) notes:-
 - (i) the contents of the Welfare Reform November 2014 Update report; and
 - (ii) that the Policy and Improvement Officer would check on the provision of answers to requests for information previously made by the Committee; and
- (b) requests that future reports be set out to include comparative figures, so that trends could be identified.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Thursday, 22nd January 2015, at 2.00 pm, in the Town Hall.



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Joe Fowler, Director of Commissioning

Subject: Responding to Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Sheffield

Author of Report: Jo Daykin Goodall
 Director of Substance Misuse Strategy / Head of Drug and Alcohol/ Domestic Abuse Coordination Team
jo.daykin-goodall@sheffield.gov.uk 27 36985

Summary:

At the request of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee, this report describes what we know of the prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse in Sheffield (in relation people aged 16 years and over), sets out the city's current response in relation to domestic and sexual abuse for adults, and outlines recent developments and issues.

It illustrates that demand is rising for support services but that this should be viewed in the context of national estimates that only 40% of domestic abuse is reported. Support services in Sheffield have more capacity than ever before but there are still pressures in responding to increasing levels of referrals particularly in the services offering early intervention and prevention.

Agencies across the city are also under pressure as a result of high caseloads at the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and as a result of the work associated with Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	✓
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report, comment generally, and comment on the current pressures.

Background Papers:

Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse Structures and Services
Sheffield Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2014-7
Supporting Document for Domestic Abuse Commissioning 2013

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the Director of Commissioning Responding to Domestic and Sexual Abuse in Sheffield

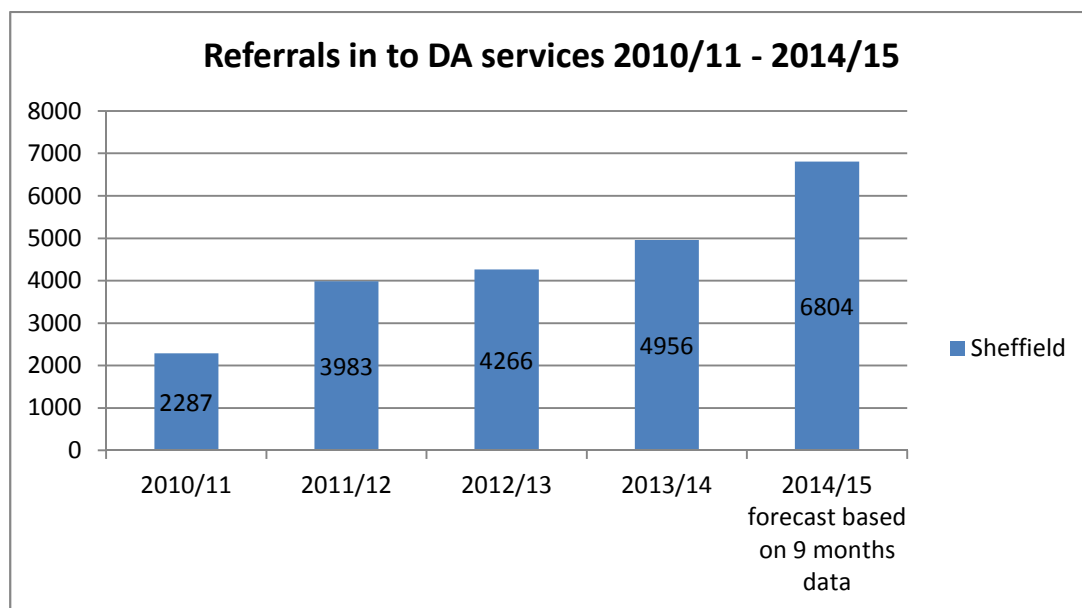
1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 At the request of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee, this report describes what we know of the prevalence of domestic and sexual abuse in Sheffield (in relation people aged 16 years and over), sets out the city's current response in relation to domestic and sexual abuse for adults, and outlines recent developments and issues.
- 1.2 Domestic Abuse is defined by the government as follows:
'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members¹ regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:
- *psychological*
 - *physical*
 - *sexual*
 - *financial*
 - *emotional*
- 'Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*
- Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.'*¹
- 1.3 Reports of domestic abuse are rising in Sheffield. Reports to the Police have risen from 9,208 in 2011/12 to 11,639 in 2013/14 and this figure is expected to reach 12,200 by the end of 2014/15. However national estimates are that only around 40% of domestic abuse is reported.²
- 1.4 Demand for support in Sheffield is increasing as people are increasingly confident about coming forward and agencies are getting better at identifying people affected by domestic abuse. This is a good thing: it

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse>

² British Crime Survey

means we can get support to people as early as possible and to those that need it most. Support services that were receiving around 2,300 referrals in 2010/11, received nearly 5000 in 2013/14 and are likely to have received 6804 referrals by the end of 2014/15 – see diagram below.



1.5 Referrals from people from BME backgrounds are on average 26% of the total which is higher than the BME proportion of the Sheffield population i.e. 19%.

1.6 There is no national data set in relation to Domestic Abuse – the only national comparator other than police statistics is the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) data considered on a national basis by specialist charity CAADA³. This tells us that Sheffield is in line with the recommended rate of 40 per 10,000 adult female population identified as high risk cases and discussed at MARAC.

1.7 High Risk domestic abuse cases are those that have been assessed as being at high risk of serious harm or homicide. In Sheffield, since 2009, agencies have used the ACPO⁴ DASH⁵ risk assessment model in order to determine the risk that people are facing as a result of domestic abuse e.g.:

- Standard risk
- Medium Risk
- High Risk

of serious harm or homicide.

This assessment helps to determine the support they are offered and whether or not their case is referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC – which meets to address and manage the risks to High Risk victims and their dependents). This process reviewed 867 victims last year (13/14) and is likely to receive

³ Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse www.caada.org.uk

⁴ Association of Chief Police Officers

⁵ Domestic Abuse, Stalking and 'Honour' Based Violence risk model
<http://www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk/>

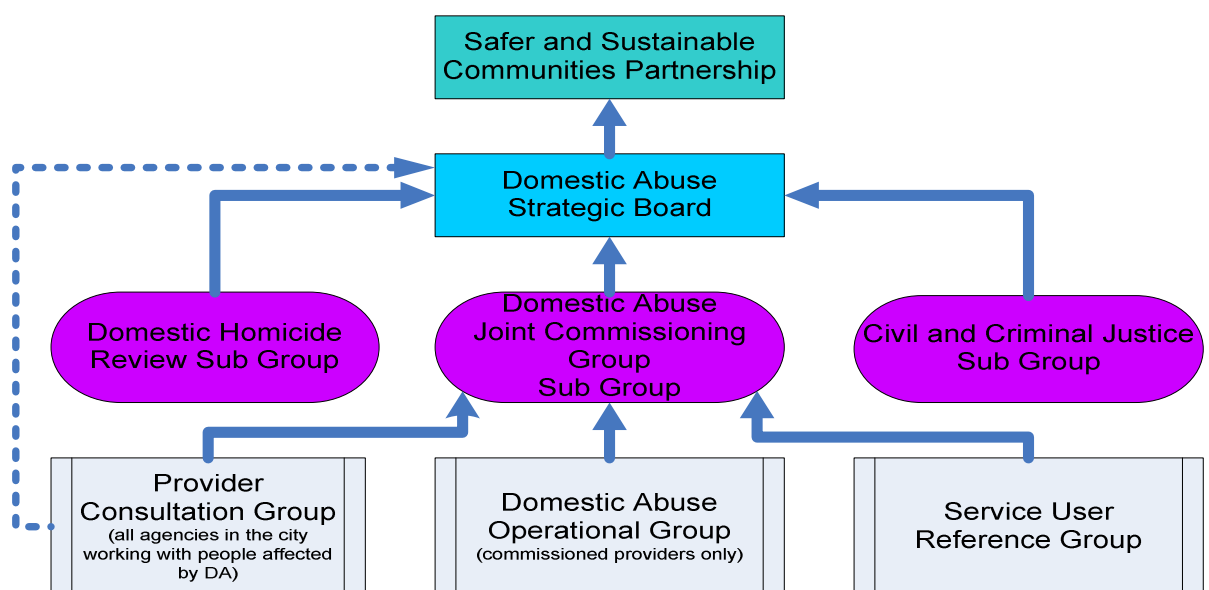
1000 referrals by the end of this year. The increasing caseload at MARAC has put pressure on many participating agencies e.g. the Children's Safeguarding Service is having to consider the level of support they can provide for the process.

- 1.7 Since 2011, there has been a statutory duty to conduct Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) into deaths as a result of domestic abuse. Sheffield has completed 4 DHRs and 3 others are in progress. Unfortunately, our data tells us to expect an average of 2 deaths a year as a result of domestic abuse in Sheffield.

2. Main body of report

- 2.1 In 2012 a Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse Structures and Services was undertaken, which was approved by Cllr Mary Lea in November 2012, and the resulting action plan was implemented in 2013/14.
- 2.2 This led to a new governance structure being put in place with clear roles and responsibilities and accountability for different bodies in the structure (see diagram below).

Sheffield Domestic Abuse ORGANISATION STRUCTURE DIAGRAM OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



- 2.3 Following the Review, Sheffield Drug and Alcohol Action Team took on the responsibility for leading on domestic abuse for the authority and became the Drug and Alcohol / Domestic Abuse Coordination Team. Jo Daykin Goodall, Head of DACT, Chairs the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board which meets quarterly and includes representatives from CYPF, Housing, Police, Health and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2.4 The Joint Commissioning Group is responsible for the commissioning and performance management of all domestic and sexual abuse services in the city.
- 2.5 The Domestic Homicide Review Sub Group oversees the progress of DHRs and the implementation of DHR action plans.

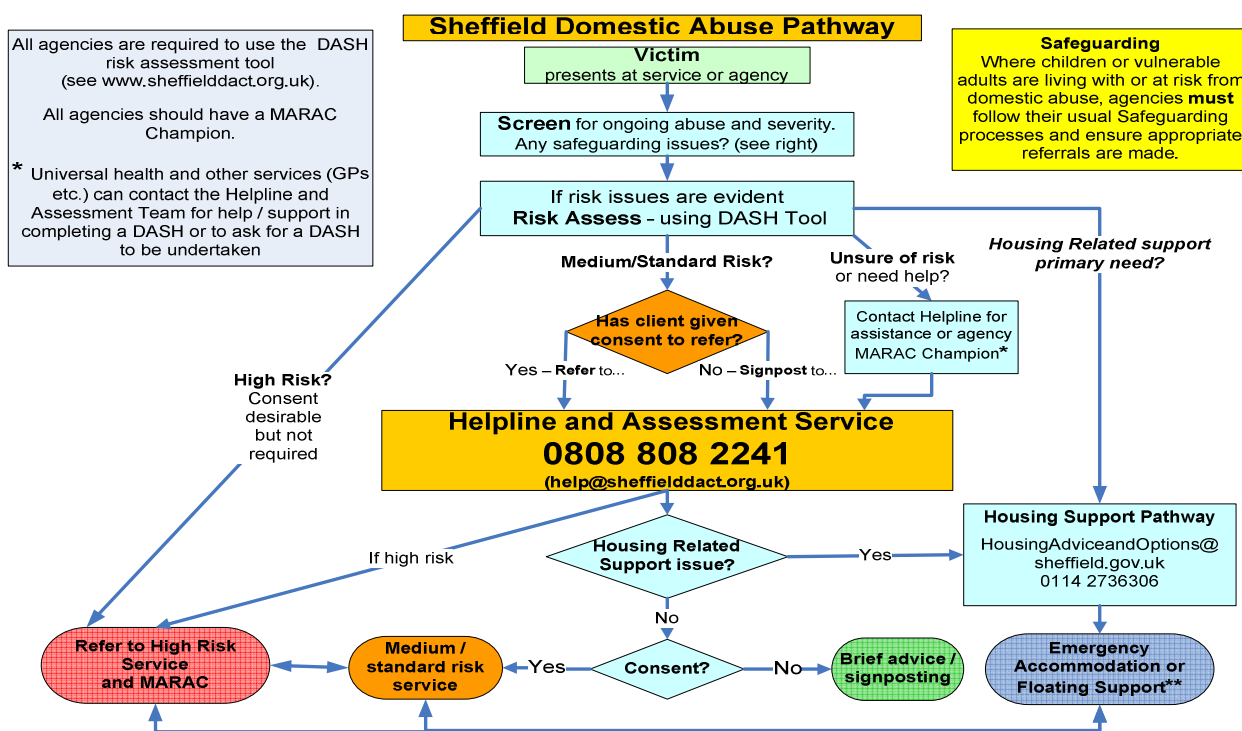
- 2.6 The Civil and Criminal Justice Sub Group oversees the MARAC process and monitors the effectiveness of criminal and civil justice responses to domestic abuse in the city.
- 2.7 The Provider Consultation Group has representation from all agencies in the city who work with people affected by domestic abuse including specialist providers and local agencies such as Roshni Asian Women's Resource Centre. This group considers policy, strategy, new developments etc. and provides expert views for consideration by the Strategic Board.
- 2.8 The Operational Group is comprised of representatives from commissioned providers who also attend the Provider Consultation Group however this group is focussed on service delivery, pathways and performance.
- 2.9 The Service User Reference Group brings the voice of service users into the decision making process – on issues ranging from the content of the domestic abuse website to the content of service specifications.
- 2.10 The new governance structure allows for clear communication and consultation which has been a significant improvement compared to the structures in operation up to 2012, and has enabled work to progress in a timely manner e.g. the development of the new Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy (see point 2.22 below).

Services

- 2.11 The Review also led to community based support services being re-aligned on the basis of risk. Current commissioned services for adults are as follows:
 - **High Risk Domestic Abuse Service** - which provides Independent Domestic Violence Advocates to support high risk victims (men and women) plus specialist workforce training (e.g. risk assessment, lessons from Domestic Homicide Reviews). This service was recently tendered and has been awarded to Action Housing and Support to deliver from April 1st 2015.
 - **Medium and Standard Risk Domestic Abuse Service** - which provides the free to phone Domestic Abuse Helpline, one to one Outreach Support and structured group work programmes (to men and women) plus workforce briefings (e.g. domestic abuse awareness, and referral pathways). The current provider's contract has been extended to the end of September in order that a tender process can be conducted and a new provider to be in place in October.
 - **Women's Refuges** - a one provider refuge model (provided by Sheffield Area Refuge and Support) was put in place in April 2014 and a state of the art replacement refuge building for 20 families, with provision comprised of self-contained flats plus communal areas, was opened in the autumn of 2014. Self-contained facilities are important to all users but are particularly important for BME women who may have specific cultural needs and for whom shared facilities, as per the old model, are therefore a barrier to moving to a refuge to escape abuse.

- **Domestic Abuse Floating Support Service** – which provides housing related support to people (men and women) affected by domestic abuse, to enable them to continue living independently in the community. Contract held by Action Housing and Support.
- **Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre** – which provides counselling and a helpline for women who have experienced sexual violence or abuse in their past or more recently. Grant aided until end of March and then to be contracted from April 2015.
- The budget for these services for 2015/16 is **£1,361,641**. Domestic Abuse services have been prioritised in the budget setting process. The overall figure is similar to spending in 2014/15 however efficiency savings have been found in the accommodation based services while the community based services have received extra investment. The net result is that there will be increased capacity in support services next year.

2.12 Realigning the services based on risk enabled a clear pathway to support to be developed. This now incorporates the new Housing Support Pathway as the route for referrals to the women’s refuges and the specialist floating support provision for people affected by domestic abuse (see diagram below).



2.13 Multi Agency Working

DACT works closely with the Police to facilitate the operation of the MARAC process. MARAC meets three times a month and all agencies (statutory and voluntary) that have knowledge of a high risk victim’s situation share relevant information in order that a multi-agency safety plan can be put in place to manage risk and prevent serious harm or homicide. Officers from the DACT provide the administrative and monitoring support for MARAC and Chair the meetings around once a month.

- 2.14 In 2011, section 9 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act was implemented, and the DACT has coordinated Domestic Homicide Reviews on behalf of the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership Board. These reviews are similar to Serious Case Reviews conducted in relation to children – the intention being to learn lessons from a death related to domestic abuse in order to help prevent such deaths in the future.
- 2.15 4 DHRs have been completed and quality assured by the Home Office (three of which were commended for their quality and victim focus) and 3 DHRs are still in progress. An independent Chair / Author is appointed to write the Overview Report. Each agency involved appoints an author to write an Individual Management Report regarding their involvement and develops an action plan to implement. These are monitored and ‘stuck’ actions and issues are considered by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board. The completed DHRs are published on the SSCP website and learning is disseminated through ‘update and refresher events’ and written briefings. The city has also undertaken 2 Serious Incident Review (Chaired by the Head of the DACT) – one for a ‘near miss’ case of attempted murder, one relating to a suicide of a woman who had been assessed as being at high risk of serious harm or homicide.
- 2.16 **Emerging themes - Refugees, new arrivals and vulnerable women**
4 of the DHRs in the city out of 7 (2 completed and 2 still in progress) have involved people who were recent arrivals in the city and / or were from BME backgrounds. 2 victims and 2 perpetrators were recent arrivals. 3 victims did not speak English as a first language.
- 2.17 This has led to Domestic Homicide Review Chairs seeking to understand more about how recent arrivals to the city, and those who do not speak English, are given information in relation to issues such as domestic abuse and how to seek help. It has also led to consideration being given as to how ‘routine enquiry’ is undertaken in settings such as maternity and health visiting in order to ensure that the person being asked understands the question and feels comfortable and safe enough to respond. Initial findings have also been that people in these groups experiencing domestic abuse may choose to disclose to an agency that is not a specialist in domestic abuse e.g. a voluntary sector agency supporting new arrivals, and therefore these organisations need support with developing policies and procedures to enable them to respond appropriately.
- 2.18 The issue of neighbours failing to report domestic abuse that they are aware of, despite it being of a serious nature, has also been considered as a result of DHRs, with Neighbourhood Watch working with us to develop a leaflet to encourage third party reporting which can be done anonymously via Crimestoppers.
- 2.19 **Strategic Direction**
Domestic and sexual abuse are areas that are recognised as priorities and areas of rising demand in the city’s Joint Strategic Needs

Assessment⁶ and Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. 'Domestic abuse related reported incidents continue to increase year on year, with over 10,000 incidents in 2012/13. [NB 2013/14's total incidents had risen to 11,639] This should not necessarily be interpreted negatively as we know a significant number of incidents go unreported and the rise may be a reflection of increasing public awareness following national and local campaigns alongside improved police domestic abuse processes'.

- 2.20 The rise in reporting can also be attributed to the development of a more robust governance structure following the Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse in 2012. This enabled focussed workforce training and briefings, in the context of the clear pathway to support, on supporting agencies to identify, risk assess and refer people affected by domestic abuse. There has also been greater agency awareness of the issues as a result of domestic homicide reviews. However Sheffield is still in a phase of identifying the level of domestic abuse and actively seeking cases for intervention particularly in certain communities or groups that we know are underrepresented in terms of reporting - such as new arrivals to the city. Data collection has been problematic in the past but is improving so we are becoming more confident in our estimation of the size of the problem in the city. The rise in demand led to increased investment by the Council in the community based services this year of £69,000. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has also agreed to invest £86,250 this year in the High Risk Service. However demand pressures still remain in the Medium and Standard Risk Service.
- 2.21 The first needs assessment in relation to domestic and sexual abuse was published in 2013 and can be found at <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/domestic-abuse-needs-analysis-2013/>. DACT officers are currently working to refresh this document with the aim of signing off an updated version by April 2015.
- 2.22 The first Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy since 2007 was produced in 2014 and approved by Cllr Mary Lea. It has been published at: <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/resources/local-strategies/>. The implementation of the multi-agency action plan will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Board. Some of the priorities and ongoing work are outlined below.
- 2.23 **Areas of development:**
Sexual Violence and Abuse Counselling Service (Rape Crisis Centre) – this is the only service funded by the council to respond specifically to sexual abuse and violence in relation to adults (although the service works with women and girls only from aged 13 up). As part of the recent Grant Aid review it was agreed that the grant aid for this service would transfer to the DACT from April 2015 and a commissioning process based on a needs assessment currently underway will be undertaken so that a newly commissioned service will be in place by April 2016. A sexual violence and abuse pathway to support will also be developed.

⁶ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/health/health-wellbeing-board/JSNA/positionstatement.html>

2.24 **Children and Young People**

Children and young people affected by domestic abuse are generally supported through universal services and / or Multi Agency Support Teams (MAST), Community Youth Teams or Social Care services including support for parents. However, it is recognised that specialist support is necessary for some children who have had traumatic experiences and this is impacting on their educational attainment, putting them at risk of becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and / or affecting their relationships in the family or with their peers.

2.25 A post, specialising in children and young people affected by domestic abuse, is based within the Multi Agency Support Teams offering consultations to staff members working with families where domestic abuse is an issue. However demand for this support is greater than the current post holder can meet and there is also a need to consider a similar resource in Children's Social Care.

2.26 The definition of domestic abuse changed in March 2013 to include 16 and 17 year olds both as victims and perpetrators. This has meant that the MARAC has heard referrals from this age group during the past two years. DACT is working closely with colleagues in CYPF to develop a pathway for young people affected by domestic abuse alongside training for the Sheffield workforce on the particular issues and vulnerabilities facing this group.

2.27 The Building Successful Families programme has been expanded by the government to include families affected by domestic abuse and the DACT is working with CYPF to ensure that appropriate interventions are in place to meet the needs identified and enable sustained successful outcomes to be achieved. A gap that has been identified is for targeted specialist support for children and young people who have been traumatised by parental domestic abuse and / or are under 16 and experiencing domestic abuse in their own relationships.

2.28 **Perpetrators**

Programmes for perpetrators of domestic abuse were provided by Probation on a court mandated basis and will now be provided by the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC). A recognised gap is that there is no commissioned voluntary programme for adult perpetrators at present in the city and this is one of the areas for development identified in the strategy. A recent positive development however, is the inclusion of serial perpetrators of domestic abuse in the Integrated Offender Management Programme (led by the Police and the CRC) which should enable improved multi agency management and diversion of some of the more serious offenders in this area in the city.

2.29 Another area of work that is starting this year is the mapping of work around prevention with young people both in terms of those who may be vulnerable to being victimised in their own relationships and those who may be at risk of becoming abusive in their behaviour, consideration of gaps and agreement of key messages. Proposals are under consideration re. the setting up of a task and finish group to begin this work.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

3.1 Demand is increasing (national estimates are that only around 40% of domestic abuse is reported - British Crime Survey) as people are increasingly confident about coming forward and agencies are getting better at identifying people affected by domestic abuse. This is a good thing: it means we can get support to people as early as possible and to those that need it most.

3.2 The updated needs assessment will estimate that 19,406 people between the ages of 16-59 will have been a victim of domestic abuse in the past year. Around 12,000 of these will have been women. Approximately, 12,000 children and young people will have been living with a parent experiencing domestic abuse during that time. Another area of development is to ensure that services are accessible to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people who are currently underrepresented in those seeking support.

3.3 Ethnicity

An average of 26% of referrals to services are from BME backgrounds. We are aware however that BME people may face additional barriers to reporting abuse and asking for support. The DACT encourages the involvement of specialist BME organisations in the DA Provider Consultation Group, is making specific attempts to link to community groups working with ethnic groups that are underrepresented in services e.g. the Chinese Community Centre, is working with providers to develop accredited training on issues such as Forced marriage, 'Honour' Based Violence and Female Genital Mutilation and requires commissioned providers to ensure they have skilled staff able to respond appropriately to the specific dynamics of domestic and sexual abuse in BME communities. A community event is being planned for the NE of the city in March in partnership with Public Health to promote awareness of domestic violence services and how to access support as there were 2 domestic homicides in this area last year.

3.4 **Conclusions:** Sheffield has more capacity in its commissioned domestic abuse services than ever before but there is still more demand than supply. Efforts are continuing to ensure that these services are accessible to all sections of our communities. However there is more work to be done, and agencies that are already stretched also have to respond to the pressures arising from agendas of 30 high risk cases per MARAC, and writing IMR reports and attending meetings for Domestic Homicide Reviews.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That the Committee notes the report, comments generally, and comments on the current pressures.



Community Safety Update 2015

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee
12 February 2015

Maxine Stavrianakos
Neighbourhood Intervention and Tenancy Support
Housing & Neighbourhoods

Sheffield First
SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
PARTNERSHIP



Background

- The Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership is responsible for tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse, and promoting community cohesion, community involvement and volunteering
- The SSCP provides an environment for public, voluntary and private sector partners to work together to build safe and sustainable communities



Police and Crime Commissioner

- New PCC elected October 2014
- Dr Alan Billings
- New PCC plan due early 2015
- Priorities to support visible policing and restore public confidence in the police



Police and Crime Panels (PCP)

- Established in each force area to provide regular public scrutiny of the PCC
- PCP is formed by all local authorities in a force area
- The Members for Sheffield are: Cllr Harry Harpham, Cllr Roger Davison, Cllr Talib Hussain, Cllr Roy Munn



Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA)

- An overview of crime, disorder and substance misuse in Sheffield
- Looks at current, new and long-term issues
- Produced annually
- Informs the priorities for the Partnership which are contained in the Partnership Plan 2014-17
- All partners contribute data and other relevant information to the process





JSIA 2014

- Priority areas identified:
- Engaging with a changing cohort of drug users
- A growing private housing sector, including private rented housing
- Continued effects of the economic situation



Partnership Plan Priorities 2014/15

- Will be refreshed Spring 2015
- Informed by the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities and the findings from the JSIA
 - Victims
 - Vulnerable People
 - Re-offending
 - Cohesion
 - Crime and ASB



Performance

- Quarterly reports to 2 Performance Managements Frameworks
 - SSCP's
 - Community Services Service Plan
- Both cover headline indicators on main priority themes measured against a baseline
- Partnership activity refocused when performance declines



Performance

2014 headlines

- Overall numbers of incidents of ASB remain static compared to previous years
- 4% reduction in the number of households that have been affected by anti-social behaviour at least once in a 12 month period
- Good performance for drug and alcohol users in treatment



Performance

- Performance challenges around historically underreported issues:
- Hate crime
- Domestic abuse
- Anti-social behaviour affecting repeat or vulnerable victims



Achievements

- Successful Dark Nights operation in Darnall; very few public order offences, ASB prevented
- Information sharing and partnership working through NAGs and PRAM
- Partnership working to address issues in specific locations e.g. Page Hall, Abbeydale Corridor
- Community Justice Panels (CJPs)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE





Achievements

Partnership Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)

- provides a forum for ensuring that the most vulnerable people experiencing ASB are identified and receive appropriate support;
- provides a means for concentrating agency resources on risk and vulnerability as well as focussing agencies on working together following the Pilkington case;
- provides an evidence based link into Vulnerable Adults Panel





Achievements

Community Justice Panels (CJPs)

- Currently 42 Volunteer Case-Workers, aged from 18yrs to 72yrs, from all backgrounds and areas of Sheffield and representative of the diverse population
- South Yorkshire Police, Sheffield City Council Housing and other registered social landlords refer to The Community Justice Team
- To date nearly 1000 referrals ranging from; noise nuisance, boundary and access disputes, theft, assault, hate-crime and criminal damage
- 2012 study found 98.8% of all participants referred said they were “highly satisfied” with the service they received



Challenges

- Internal SCC organisational changes, working with the Housing+ model
- External (partners) organisational changes
- Increasing pressure on ambulance service and A&E
- Managing tensions in the city appropriately



Budget

- Most community safety work takes place through mainstream budgets of all partners
- The Council and Police and Crime Commissioner contribute to a discretionary budget for the Partnership to allocate
- Supporting cohesion, vulnerable people and victims





Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014

- New powers such as Community Trigger, Community Remedy
- Replacement powers to bring varied 'old' powers together to tackle individuals, environmental ASB and dispersal powers



Community Trigger

- Trigger:
 - individual has reported three separate incidents of the same ASB issue within 6 months
 - 5 different households have reported the same ASB issue within 6 months
- Right to request a review of the case and for agencies to take a problem solving approach to find a solution



Community Remedy

- Enables the Police to give victims of crime a say in how the perpetrator is dealt with as alternative to prosecution
- PCC produced list of actions available
- Person must admit guilt and agree to participate



Absolute Ground for Possession

- New ground for possession where ASB or criminality has been proved by another court and for use in the most serious of cases
 - Conviction of a serious offence
 - Breach of civil injunction (found by court)
 - Breach of criminal behaviour order (conviction)
 - Breach of noise abatement notice (conviction)
 - Use of closure order for ASB (over 48 hours)





Civil Injunction

- Quickly stop individuals engaging in ASB
- “Conduct capable of causing nuisance or annoyance” (housing)
- “Behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress” (non-housing)
- Anyone over 10 years old
- Includes prohibitions and positive requirements where practical



Criminal Behaviour Order

- Tackle the most persistently anti-social individuals who are also engaged in criminal behaviour
- Includes prohibitions and positive requirements to address underlying causes of behaviour
- Breach is a criminal offence



Dispersal Power

- Requirement for a person who is committing or likely to commit ASB, crime or disorder to leave an area for up to 48 hours
- Used in a specified area and must be authorised by police Inspector or above
- Officer giving the direction must consider it necessary for the purpose of removing or reducing the likelihood of further ASB, crime or disorder
- Failure to comply is criminal offence
- Breach is a criminal offence



Community Protection Notice

- Requires person or business/organisation to stop committing ASB which spoils the community's quality of life
- Conduct must have a detrimental effect of a persistent, continuing nature on the quality of life of those in the locality
- Warning must be issued before notice served
- Breach is criminal offence



Closure Power

- Quickly close residential and commercial premises which are being used to commit nuisance or disorder
- Closure Notice for nuisance near the premises (48 hours)
- Closure Order for disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour near the premises (up to 6 months)
- Notice served at the same time as making an application to the Mag Ct for Closure Order
- Breach is criminal offence



Public Space Protection Order

- Order to stop individuals or groups committing ASB in a public place
- Must be consultation between Police and PCC and other relevant bodies
- Places restrictions and/or requirements on people using the area
- Breach is criminal offence



What do the powers mean for Sheffield?

- Council and Police have more effective powers to tackle ASB
- Quicker response
- Better outcomes for victims
- Builds on existing strong partnership working and good practice



Any questions?

- For further information,
- Housing & Neighbourhoods Service
 - Community Safety Team
 - Tenancy Management and Enforcement Team

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 12th February 2015

Report of: Janet Sharpe (Interim Director of Council Housing)

Subject: Review of the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)

Author of Report: Bethan Williams, Acting Safer Neighbourhood Manager.

Summary:

Following a presentation on 26th September 2013, the Committee requested a quarterly progress report regarding Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM), with a particular focus on:

- Improving the relationship between PRAM and the Neighbourhood Action Groups; and
- The development of a citywide PRAM.

This is the third of the quarterly reports.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to note progress and provide views, comments and recommendations.

Background Papers:

Previous Scrutiny Committee minutes

Category of Report: OPEN

Quarterly Report of the Interim Head of Council Housing Review of the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting

1. Introduction/Context

1.1 In August 2012, the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM) was introduced to the East of the city in order to:

- Improve the way in which we identify and support vulnerable people experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) ;
- Provide leadership and accountability; and
- Better link ASB resources with Health and Social Care colleagues.

1.2 Following a presentation on 26th September 2013, the Committee requested a quarterly progress report regarding Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM), with a particular focus on:

- Improving the relationship between PRAM and the Neighbourhood Action Groups; and
- The development of a citywide PRAM.

1.3 This is the fourth update report submitted.

2. Improving the relationship between PRAM and the Neighbourhood Action Group,(NAGs)

2.1 The PRAM is continuing to be regularly reviewed, and streamlined to ensure that no duplication is taking place. I am currently working with safeguarding adults to ensure that the right partners are involved in the problem solving around vulnerable victims.

2.2 The PRAM continues to offer an important touchstone for officers and partners involved in 'by-exception' cases where local level problem solving has hit a blockage, the primary focus remains on people experiencing ASB and strengthening the link with colleagues in Health and Social Care.

2.3 South Yorkshire Police have recently introduced a new procedure for identifying and addressing repeat vulnerable victims, I am currently working with them and partners to ensure that those identified are addressed in line with the currently City Wide processes.

2.4 I am currently working alongside South Yorkshire Police and analysts to ensure the data and information provided regarding repeat and vulnerable victims is addresses locally through the NAG process.

2.5 As previously emphasised, it is important that the NAGs are not viewed as the first port of call for ASB cases where a multi-agency response is required. With this in mind, Safer Neighbourhood Officers continue to utilise the NAGs for more challenging cases, this has enabled them to

provide a greater focus on vulnerable people experiencing ASB; improving the level of support; and speeding up resolution.

- 2.6 The primary focus of the NAGs continues to support vulnerable people experiencing ASB and manage those committing ASB. This work continues to be best addressed with by specialist agencies and pre-existing structures to ensure that local level information sharing and local level problem solving is addressed.
- 2.7 With the introduction of new ASB legislation from the 20th October the NAG also provides a platform for agencies to share information relating to the management of those who have committed ASB
- 2.8 The Acting Safer Neighbourhood Manager will, with partners continue to review and monitor the Citywide role out over the next quarter and report back to the committee in the next quarterly report.



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 12th February 2015

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Written responses to public questions

Author of Report: Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer
matthew.borland@sheffield.gov.uk
 0114 273 5065

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with copies of written responses to public questions asked at the Committee’s meeting on 27th November 2014.

The written responses are included as part of the Committee’s meeting papers as the way of placing the responses on the public record.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Note the report

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

This page is intentionally blank

**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee 27th November 2014**

Written response to public questions from Mr Alan Kewley

Question 1 a

Public Questions were submitted to this Committee on 25th September, and brief verbal responses were provided as minuted in 5.1 A full written response was promised by the Chair – When can we expect to receive this?

A response was provided on 27th November 2014. At the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee meeting on 27th November 2014 Cllr Chris Weldon, the Chair of Committee stated that the timescale for the response was unacceptable.

Question 1 b

Council guidelines include response time to public questions. Please confirm what these are?

The Council Procedure rules state in relation to meetings of the Council that where a submitted question cannot be answered because time does not allow, or where a Cabinet Member undertakes to provide a written answer, the written answer will be provided within ten working days of the Council meeting.

The Constitution does not state a response time for a written answer to questions asked at Scrutiny Committees.

At the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee meeting on 27th November 2014 the Chair of the Committee stated that he would expect written responses to questions raised at that Committee to be provided within 10 days, in line with the timescale for Council meetings.

Question 1 c

Why were these written Questions not minuted for the public record?

The minutes of Committee meetings reflect the proceedings of the meeting and therefore record the response provided at the meeting to public questions.

The Chair of the Committee has asked Matthew Borland, the Policy and Improvement Officer to look at the most appropriate way of making sure that future public questions and the written responses to questions are put on the public record.

Question 2 a)

Item 11 on today's agenda contains a management report on Community Engagement since a new Locality Management model was introduced over a year ago, and refers to a Review over the next few months. Please confirm how and when local communities will be consulted to provide a more balanced assessment of its effectiveness?

As part of a 18 month review we will be seeking the views of Councillors, selected council services, partners, VCF organisations and local residents.

However, given the limited resources at our disposal this will have to be proportionate in terms of budget and officer time.

Question 2 b)

A key part of this new model was a detailed Ward Plan, to be updated annually following local public consultation. This report doesn't mention these, but rumours suggest they've been abandoned in favour of a brief summary of Ward Priorities. Original Ward Plans haven't been updated since Sept 2013 - Please confirm their present status ?

At the initial launch of this new model in September 2013, we did suggest that each ward would have an action plan with a series of priorities and actions needed to address these. Over the last 12 months councillors, officers and partners have felt that the ward priorities identified were best tackled at an Area wide level as it allowed service deliverers from the VCF, public and private sector to respond more effectively and efficiently, and avoided duplication. Therefore, the focus has been on the development of deliverable Action Plans tackling area wide priorities with tangible outputs and outcomes through the Local Area Partnerships. Each area is currently working on 2 or 3 key priorities. Details of these priorities are on the website and blogs, or can be provided on request. However, Councillors still felt it was important to illustrate and promote the local ward priorities as it indicates what ward councillors are focusing on over the next 12 months, through a variety of channels. These have recently been refreshed and promoted via the website, blogs and public meetings. etc.

**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development
Committee 27th November 2014**

Written response to public question from Mr Nigel Slack

Q1 Sheffield for Democracy was invited, by Cllr Iqbal, to attend the Local Area Partnership Chairs Meeting on 4th November. We had hoped to discuss with them the shortcomings of the new arrangements and be able to consider ways forward. This didn't happen but it seems that the best that can be said of the working of these new engagement arrangements is that it's a very mixed picture. From what we've heard, via some councillors, there is no consensus about its validity across the political spectrum and that leaves many wards and communities with reduced opportunities for effective public engagement and the report to tomorrow's Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny panel confirms this.

We have undertaken to commit to writing our concerns and suggestions for Cllr Iqbal and the Chairs Meeting and will do so shortly.

We are, however, having attended a previous meeting and in light of one Councillor's comments at that meeting, concerned about the potential for the excess of work for the aforementioned Safer & Stronger Communities panel.

There is a significant amount of work expected of the Lead Ward Councillors and LAPs and, to be fair, very low levels of support. Considering this, we would like to ask whether this matter could be considered by this scrutiny management panel, with thought being given to a separate line of scrutiny for these arrangements?

The report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee's 27th November meeting informed the Committee that a review of the locality based working model is planned. The report states:
"A review of the model will be taking place over the next few months and presented to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health at the end of the financial year."

The full report is available on the Council's website.¹

At its meeting on 27th November the Committee agreed to ask the Cabinet Member and the Lead Officers to report to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee following the completion of the review.

¹ The link to the report is:

<http://sheffielddemocracy.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s16169/Community%20Engagement%20LAPs.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank



Agenda Item 11

Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 12th February 2015

Report of: Matthew Borland, Policy and Improvement Officer
Tel: 2735065
Email: matthew.borland@sheffield.gov.uk

Subject: Work Programme 2014/15

Summary:

This report provides the Work Programme for the Committee for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

1. Comment on the work programme
 2. Agree the work programme
-

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Work Programme 2014/15

- 1.1 This report sets out the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the 2014/15 municipal year.
- 1.2 The work programme is a live document and based on the Committee's discussion at previous meetings and discussions with the Chair of the Committee.
- 1.3 It is proposed to take the two items that were scheduled for the cancelled January meeting to the March meeting. Specifically that the 'Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract (Kier Contract)' item has officers attending and that the 'Private Sector Landlords' item is taken as a written briefing without officers attending.
- 1.4 In order to accommodate these changes it is proposed that the 'Implementation of the Allocations Policy' item becomes a written briefing without officers attending at the March meeting, and that the 'Challenge for Change – Community Engagement' moves to the 'to schedule' list of items.
- 1.5 It is proposed that the Housing+ walkabout takes place in the summer. This would be one year on from when the implementation phase began with a 'test phase' in the South East of the city in June 2014, and the summer also has the benefit that the weather should be better for a walkabout.
- 1.6 The Work Programme as proposed would be:

Topic	Reasons for selecting topic
Meeting: 26th March 2015 Papers deadline Monday 16th March	
Welfare Reform	July 2014 Committee requested: "A further report on the Impact of Welfare Reform on Sheffield's Residents, be presented to the Committee in six months' time." "Officers continue to look at best practice and highlight this in any future reports to it" Additional request from Committee Members that the Welfare Reform report has a breakdown of the data to ward level where ever this is possible.
Social Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contract (Kier Contract)	This item is to look at the repairs and maintenance services to tenants' homes provided by Kier Services which started on 1 April 2014 and runs for 3 years. The Committee last looked at this in March 2014. The purpose is to enable the Committee to provide views and comments on progress to date.
Police and Crime Panel Update	A verbal update on the work of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel from Cllr Roy Munn

Public Questions Report	
Written Briefings (Circulated with meeting papers but officers do NOT attend the meeting)	
Implementation of the Allocations Policy	At its March 2014 meeting the Committee requested "(i) an update report on the Implementation of the Allocations Policy be presented to the Committee in 6 months' time, to include examples of how the associated risks had been managed; and (ii) local tenant representatives, who had been involved in the consultation process, be invited to the Committee meeting at which the above update report was to be presented."
Private Sector Landlords	- The Committee's January 2014 meeting "requests that a report on the introduction of Selective Licensing in the Private Rented Sector be presented to the Committee in December 2014." - July 2014 meeting Committee added: "the item scheduled for the Committee's January 2015 meeting on the Private Rented Sector includes reference to the changing nature of that sector" - September 2014 meeting Committee agreed to "include the Page Hall Multi Agency Team and how that it progressing"
Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM)	September 2013 Committee requested "a quarterly written report on actions relating to the development of the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting in other parts of the City be provided to the Committee."
Right to Buy Update	- The Committee have received a bi-monthly update on Right to Buy since November 2013. - November 2014 Committee requested "that future reports be set out in an appropriate table, which includes comparative figures, so that trends could be identified"
To Schedule	
Local Area Partnerships	November 2014 Committee requested "that when the review into this subject is completed, a report be presented to the Committee, with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer being invited to attend the meeting"
Challenge for Change - Community Engagement	September 2014 Committee requested: "a further report, focusing on progress made in relation to the twelve issues identified in the report, be presented to the Committee in six months' time, with the appropriate officers and tenants' representatives being invited to attend the meeting."
Other Committee activity	
Housing Plus - Walkabout	25th September 2014 Committee requested "that arrangements be made for the Committee to visit the South East of the City, that being the area operating the 'test phase' of the model, no later than March 2015, to meet tenants and assess the implementation of the Housing+ model."

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

29th January 2015

Report of: Janet Sharpe – Interim Director of Housing Services

Subject: Right to buy update report

Author of Report: Andrew Routley – Home Ownership Team Leader
(2736338)

Summary:

The attached report is the bi-monthly update of the position right to buy position including the total sales, average selling price and previous years information.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

The Committee is asked to note the update.

Background Papers: Not applicable

Category of Report: OPEN

Right to buy update report

1. Introduction

1.1 The following report is an update of the current position of right to buy. There are four main statistical tables showing the following information

Table 1 – Number of applications in the current year and previous 3 years comparison.

Table 2 – Number of sales in current year, the forecast for the year and the variance from the forecast. It also provides the previous 3 years sales information for comparison

Table 3 – The sales receipt generated. It also provides the previous 3 years information for comparison

Table 4 - Average sale price in current year. It also provides the previous 3 years information

1.2 The second part of the report is an update of any planned changes to right to buy legislation or issues that may affect the right to buy.

2.0 Right to buy statistical information

Table 1 Applications

Applications	2014/15	2014/15 total	2013/14 cumulative	2012/13 cumulative	2011/12 cumulative
April	51	51	56	52	30
May	39	90	106	115	56
June	63	153	147	151	96
July	47	200	191	191	125
August	58	258	249	235	149
September	53	311	294	290	186
October	47	358	348	339	212
November	39	397	395	389	240
December	29	426	421	423	247
January			475	456	273
February			540	515	299
March			605	572	337
total	426	426	605	572	337
Average per month	47.3		50.4	47.7	28.1

The number RTB applications over the last 3 years have remained fairly constant at around the 600 level. This followed a 70% increase of in 2012/13 from the previous year. This was the result of the government bringing in more generous discounts to make RTB more attractive (i.e. the maximum discount level increase from £24,000 to £75,000 in April 2012)

Table 2 - Sales

Sales total	2014/15	2014/15 cumulative	2014 /15 cumulative forecast	Variance	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
April	20	20	24	-4	27	6	12
May	12	32	48	-16	32	15	21
June	29	61	72	-11	49	19	30
July	22	83	96	-13	79	31	32
August	19	102	120	-18	94	36	39
September	33	135	144	-9	124	49	46
October	30	165	168	-3	142	58	60
November	23	188	192	-4	163	75	67
December	29	217	216	1	181	87	73
January			240		205	101	81
February			264		225	134	92
March			288		255	149	104
Total	217		288		255	1493	104
Average per month	24.1		24		21.3	12.4	8.7

Despite the fairly constant level of application over the last 3 years the number of sales have increased steadily. This is because 1) the sale usually occurs around 5 months after the application so there is a time lag 2) The dropout rate has reduced significantly and a much higher proportion of applicants now go on to complete the sale than before. Again the more generous discounts making homeownership more affordable for tenants has been a significant factor here.

Table 3 Sales receipt

Sales receipt	Actual	2014/15 cumulative	2013/14 cumulative	2012/13 cumulative	2011/12 cumulative
April	£837,390	£837,390	£1,040,765	£229,860	£474,700
May	£523,067	£1,360,457	£1,201,265	£491,415	£868,675
June	£1,090,931	£2,451,388	£1,808,954	£641,140	£1,299,675
July	£708,349	£3,159,737	£2,937,732	£1,032,500	£1,466,875
August	£633,926	£3,793,663	£3,550,397	£1,290,420	£1,830,275
September	£1,317,606	£5,111,269	£4,709,689	£1,759,220	£2,103,825
October	£1,094,666	£6,205,935	£5,458,059	£2,144,180	£2,639,760
November	£957,542	£7,163,477	£6,259,377	£2,867,820	£2,940,380
December	£1,002,832	£8,166,309	£7,062,964	£3,283,680	£3,151,020
January			£7,974,774	£3,800,580	£3,535,145
February			£8,759,209	£4,980,355	£3,988,560
March			£10,035,935	£5,617,952	£4,480,210
Total		£10,921,536	£10,035,935	£5,617,952	£4,480,210

Figure in red is forecast year end position based on current average sale price

The total right to buy receipt is subject to pooling and does not represent cash retained by Sheffield City Council

Table 4 - Sale price

Average sale price	actual	2013/14	2012/13	2011/12
April	£41,900	£38,500	£38,300	£39,600
May	£43,600	£32,100	£29,100	£43,800
June	£37,600	£35,700	£37,400	£47,900
July	£32,200	£37,600	£32,600	£55,700
August	£33,400	£40,800	£51,600	£51,900
September	£39,900	£38,600	£36,100	£39,100
October	£36,500	£41,600	£42,800	£41,200
November	£41,600	£38,200	£42,600	£42,900
December	£34,600	£44,600	£34,700	£35,100
January		£38,000	£36,941	£48,000
February		£39,200	£35,743	£41,200
March		£42,600	£42,507	£41,000
Average for year	£37,922	£38,958	£38,366	£43,950

Average selling prices fell in 2012/13 by £5584 (around 13%) reflecting the more the introduction of more generous discounts in April 2012. There was a modest increase in 2013/14 reflecting the gradual improvement in the Housing Market. However following another uplift of maximum discounts in April 2014 bringing it to £77,000 there has been a small drop in average selling prices of just over £1,000. As at month 9 (2014/15) the actual average selling price was £37,922.

2.2 – Possible changes to the right to buy

The Government has started to do some initial fact findings with Local Authorities to gauge reaction to a possible cash incentive scheme to run alongside the right to buy.

The intention of the scheme is to help Council tenants who wish to buy properties on the open market rather than the property they are living in. The scheme would be targeted for;

- 1) older tenants – perhaps wishing to move closer to family
- (2) people in high demand property – e.g. larger properties
- (3) people who are unable to get a mortgage on their current property due to non-standard construction or high rise flats.

If this scheme was introduced tenants would be given a cash incentive in the form of a deposit to purchase a property on the open market The Government are still working on the detail of the scheme however it is envisaged the amount of the deposit will be either a fixed sum or an amount dependent on the number of years spent as a council tenant.

If introduced the scheme is unlikely to be compulsory. It is understood that it will be a Government funded scheme and local authorities will have to bid for funding to implement the scheme.

3. Recommendation

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the update.

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

29 January 2015

Report of: Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

Subject: Welfare Reform – January 2015 Update

Author of Report: Nicola Rees, Policy and Improvement Officer
0114 27 34529
nicola.rees@sheffield.gov.uk

Summary:

At the meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in July 2013, members requested that an update on welfare reform issues be provided to Committee Members bi-monthly. This update report for January 2015 presents the most recent data relating to Under-occupancy (Bedroom Tax), Council Tax Support, Benefit Cap and hardship schemes/discretionary payments.

Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee is asked to note the contents of the update report.

Category of Report: OPEN

Welfare Reform in Numbers – January 2015

3903

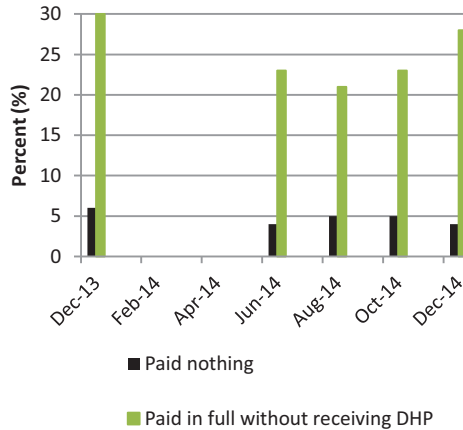
Sheffield council tenants are affected by under-occupancy rules ('**bedroom tax**') of a total of 39,878 council tenants

94 less than two months ago

28%

have paid in full the shortfall in their benefit resulting from **under-occupancy** without receiving a DHP* payment

up from 23% two months ago



4%

have paid nothing towards the shortfall in their benefit resulting from under-occupancy

down from 5% two months ago

31,552

working age tax payers in Sheffield receive council tax support



all of whom must now pay at least 23% of their Council Tax

compared to around **33,000** working age CTS customers this time last year

14,295

summonses have been issued to **Council Tax Support** customers since April 2014 for non payment of Council Tax



compared to **17,518** summonses issued to CTS customers during the financial year 2013/14 at end December 2013

£4.1m

= value of summonsed debt for Council Tax Support **customers** during 2014/2015

average amount of debt = £287**



compared to **£4.6m** summonsed debt for CTS customers during the financial year 2013/14 at end December 2013

£929,917

= value of Discretionary Housing Payment awards made since 1st April 2014



£493,697

= value of Council Tax Hardship Scheme awards made since 1st April 2014

All figures are to 31 December 2014

*DHP = Discretionary housing payment

** At this stage the full annual outstanding debt is summonsed, not the unpaid debt to that date

Welfare Reform: Further data updates

- At the end of December 2014, 151 households in Sheffield were subject to the Benefit Cap, the number of children within these households was 780.

This compares to 148 households subject to the Benefit Cap at the end of October 2014 (736 children).

- At the end of December 2014, 1153 LAS grants had been awarded since 1st April 2014.

This is an increase from 981 at the end of October 2014.

- At the end of December 2014, 485 LAS loans had been awarded since 1st April 2014.

This is an increase from 406 at the end of October 2014.

This page is intentionally left blank



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Janet Sharpe and Paul Billington

Subject: LAND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN HRA

Author of Report:

Summary

This report provides an update on the project to review green space land management arrangements presented to this committee in November 2013. The report was requested by the committee.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Note the progress made on this project to date
- Note the delay to the completion of this project.

Background Papers:

Management of HRA Land report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee, Thursday 28 November 2013

Category of Report: OPEN / CLOSED (please specify)

Report of:

Interim Director of Council Housing Services and Neighbourhoods
Director of Culture and Environment

Land management arrangements within the HRA

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been requested by the committee to update on progress on the land management arrangements within the HRA.

2. Main body of report

- 2.1 An initial study identified green space land both within the HRA and General Fund managed respectively by Council Housing Services and Parks and Public Realm Service. A desktop analysis of around 500 sites has been carried out reviewing proximity to council house properties.
- 2.2 Further investigation has identified that there are potential discrepancies between ownership of the land and the management responsibility. The original study assumed that identification of future land management responsibility would be relatively straightforward once information on current responsibility and proximity to council housing data had been analysed; this has proved not to be the case and each site will require a far more in depth analysis carried out.
- 2.3 This project is also directly linked to the integration of grounds maintenance project approved by Cabinet in November 2014. The creation of a single provider of grounds maintenance on Council Housing Land will provide savings to both the Housing Revenue account. Over the past 8 months, officers have focussed their attention on carrying out the review of maintenance and work on land ownership and management has been delayed.
- 2.4 The project also has links to a number of other projects reviewing management and maintenance of council owned land and asserting land so that new housing can be provided in the city. Membership of the project group requires review in order to ensure that the objectives of other projects are also considered as part of the review.
- 2.5 The maintenance project is now approaching completion, with the integration of Estate staff and Parks and Public Realm staff due to be completed on 1st April 2015. The principle focus of Officers working on both projects can then switch back to the work on land management responsibility.
- 2.6 It is anticipated that the project will be completed by the end of 2015/16

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 This section should summarise how the issue/subject/proposals covered in the report are important to the people of Sheffield.
- 3.2 Will ensure that land ownership sits within the correct portfolio and provides the opportunity to assemble land to make it easier to build new homes.

4. Recommendation

4.1 The committee is asked to:

- Note the progress made on this project to date

This page is intentionally left blank