



## **Newcastle Partnership Delivery Board**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 3-5pm**

**Meeting to be held at Newcastle Partnership Office, Anderson House, Market Street (East), Newcastle upon Tyne**

Contact Officer:

**Jill Davison Tel: (0191) 2771656**

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## **AGENDA**

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	<b>Time</b>
1. <b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>
2. <b>Apologies for Absence</b>	<b>3.02 pm</b>
3. <b>Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2009</b>	<b>3.05 pm</b>
4. <b>Matters Arising</b>	<b>3.10 pm</b>
5. <b>Appointment of Vice Chair(s)</b>	<b>3.15 pm</b>
6. <b>Contest 2 Prevent, Pursue Protect presentation. Inspector Steve Baker (Police and Special Branch)</b>	<b>3.20 pm</b>
7. <b>Safe Newcastle Delivery Partnership Presentation - Robyn Thomas</b>	<b>4.00pm</b>
8. <b>Housing Targets and Action Plans George Mansbridge – verbal</b>	<b>4.20 pm</b>
9. <b>Regular Update</b>	<b>4.40 pm</b>
<b>9.1 Comprehensive area Assesment Richard Elliot – to follow</b>	
<b>9.2 Sustainable Community Strategy Phil Hunter - verbal</b>	
	<b>4.55 pm</b>
10. <b>Any Other Business</b>	
11. <b>Date and Time of Next Meeting – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2009 9-11am</b>	<b>5.00 pm</b>
Please note: <b>Change of date for December meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009 1.30-3.30pm</b>	

**Newcastle Partnership Delivery Board**  
**20 July 2009**  
**(10.00 am – 12 noon)**



## SUMMARY SHEET

### Present:

Maurice Condie	- Third Sector (in the Chair)
Paul Rubinstein	- Assistant Chief Executive, Newcastle City Council
Brenda Gray	- Job Centre Plus
Alex Craig	- Newcastle College
Sue Pearson	- Third Sector
Chris Reed	- PCT
Graham Smith	- Northumbria Police
Kevin Gardner	- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Guy Saxton	- LSC
Tobyn Hughes	- Nexus

### Also Present:

David Jennings	- Audit Commission
Ian Hickman	- Audit Commission

### In Attendance:

Kehri Ellis	- Newcastle Partnership Co-Director
Richard Elliott	- Newcastle City Council, Chief Executive's Office
Richard Beedle	- Newcastle City Council
Phil Hunter	- Newcastle City Council
Paul Whiston	- Newcastle City Council, Regeneration Team
Roger Mould	- NCVS
Elaine Campbell	- Democratic Services (minutes)

Report	Discussion/Decision	Responsible Officer
1. <b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies for absence were received from Barry Rowland, Jill Crozier and Beverley Robinson.  Those present at the meeting introduced themselves.	
2. <b>Summary of Meeting of 9 June 2009</b>	<b>AGREED.</b>  <b>Matter Arising:</b>  (i) <b>LSPA2 Reward Grant Update Report</b>  The receipt of reward grant to partners was complete.	

Report	Discussion/Decision	Responsible Officer
	<p>(ii) <b>Children and Young People – Progress Report</b></p> <p>In response to the query raised at the last meeting it was understood that the schools which had not joined the National Healthy Schools Programme were primarily non-local authority schools.</p> <p>(iii) <b>An Overweight and Obese Strategy for Newcastle</b></p> <p>The Assistant Chief Executive advised that the Health and Well Being Partnership was currently discussing arrangements for a Health Summit in the Autumn but there was no date as yet.</p> <p>(iv) <b>LAA 2008/09 – Quarter 4</b></p> <p>The Chair indicated that a discussion on housing targets and action plans would take place at the September meeting.</p> <p>(vi) <b>Place Survey</b></p> <p>An event is arranged for 8 September prior to the meeting of the Strategic Board. Simon Atkinson of IPSO MORI would give a presentation placing Newcastle in the context of both regional and national results. All members (or their representative) are encouraged to attend.</p>	<b>All Partners</b>
	<p>(vii) <b>Representation on the Delivery Board</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Graham Smith to his first meeting of the Board.</p>	
<p>3. <b>Economy Delivery Partnership Presentation</b></p>	<p>Paul Rubinstein introduced the report and highlighted two key issues:-</p> <p>(i)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future Jobs Fund – A major Government initiative with the City Region’s bid being co-ordinated by North Tyneside Council but delivered by individual Local Authorities.</li> <li>▪ It was noted that approximately 50 voluntary sector organisations had expressed an interest and it was hoped that the Sector would be able to provide up to 100 placements over the period. Partners to contact Rob Hamilton if interested in participating.</li> <li>▪ The six month employment period would allow individuals to consolidate skills and acquire new</li> </ul>	

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(ii)	<p>transferable skills. It was agreed that this was an ideal opportunity for the Care Sector, and Age Concern are keen to participate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The second issue related to performance with particular reference to target NI 116 which was showing red. The position does not reflect the amount of work which was taking place around child poverty, but is a reflection of current economic situation.</li> <li>▪ Paul Rubinstein tabled a paper on mitigating the impact of the economic downturn in Newcastle focussing on activity by the City Council, Newcastle College, Newcastle University and Northumbria University and Jobcentre Plus.</li> <li>▪ Members are encouraged to submit any comments direct to Rob Hamilton.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED</b> the report be received</p>	All Partners
4. <b>Economic Masterplan Presentation</b>	<p>Presentation by Paul Rubinstein (Assistant Chief Executive) key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ NewcastleGateshead is considered to be the core of the conurbation. The Masterplan is intended to bring together the physical environment and the economy .</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contains three major proposals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) growing the knowledge economy,</li> <li>2) investing in the urban core and</li> <li>3) achieving sustainable growth.</li> </ol> </li> <li>▪ What happens next? – detailed discussion with a range of partners during September to sign off in October with the 1NG Delivery Plan in place by the end of the year. This would be the basis of a bid for public resources to move forward on many of the proposals.</li> </ul> <p>During the discussion a number of issues were raised as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognition of the need to reflect and plan for an ageing population was welcomed. However the difficulties and problems surrounding the Newcastle General Hospital site must be resolved in order to</li> </ul>	

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	<p>allow the Campus for Ageing and Vitality to develop and progress with what was a world class programme. The Board were advised that the Acting Chief Executive had undertaken to bring all the major stakeholders round the table to resolve the issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In relation to Science City in general reference was made to the three year Community Engagement proposals around raising aspirations in the West End of the City and involving local communities in science.</li> <li>▪ A member commenting specifically on transport made the point that there was a need to reflect involvement with other parts of the City Region referring particularly to Sunderland. The Assistant Chief Executive acknowledged that there was a need to develop a synergy eg in his view there were some linkages with Sunderland as a Software City under exposed.</li> </ul>	
	<p>There was also the need for debate on the wider economic assessment particularly in relation to the A19 Corridor in North Tyneside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Chair referred specifically to the Ouseburn area and suggested that it was very difficult to redevelop in the Ouseburn as there were five separate strategies in place for the area.</li> <li>▪ Another member (as member of the Ouseburn Trust) indicated that the Trust had received a number of presentations on proposals which whilst very ambitious were realistic albeit they focussed on one particular part of the Ouseburn Valley however they would inevitably bring energy to the remainder of the area.</li> <li>▪ Overall the Board welcome the proposals and were largely supportive.</li> <li>▪ The Audit Commission also welcomed the report noting the reference to Sunderland and the need to continue the mapping and developing synergies with other areas of the City Region. One other issue was around the quality of post-16 education.</li> <li>▪ The reference to cohesion was also welcomed thus avoiding potential dangers around certain sections of the community feeling they were disengaged from the process.</li> </ul>	

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	<p>It was also confirmed that the Tyne and Wear Chief Executives and Leaders had agreed to commission research around the interaction between various areas.</p> <p><b>AGREED</b> – That the presentation be received.</p>	
<p>5. <b>Cowgate Strategy</b></p>	<p>Paul Whiston made a presentation on the Cowgate Strategy.</p> <p>During the discussion a number of issues were highlighted as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ R Mould indicated that he would raise the issue/request for the Voluntary Sector to support groups in Cowgate at the next meeting of the Regen Steering Group.</li> <li>▪ A member referred to the number of failed initiatives which had taken place on the Cowgate Estate and welcomed what seemed to be a long-term plan for improvement – she stressed that it very much had to be a higher and permanent level of response than it had in the past if the community involvement was to be supported effectively. The community must see an outcome for their efforts.</li> <li>▪ There was also concern that the initial activists who may be involved in the initiative would benefit from the work taking place which often meant that their aim and aspiration was to move on from the estate. A high level of support was also necessary for those activists who took their place.</li> <li>▪ The member (as the Chief Executive of Age Concern) commented that the organisation would be more than happy to support the estate however she did refer to the fact that a lunch club in the area had been relocated because of the environment surrounding its original location.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A member referred to the 'Total Place' pilot which was an initiative looking to map all resources spent by the public sector in one area, and queried whether it was worth undertaking a similar exercise in Cowgate to decide whether the existing resources could be used more efficiently and effectively. P Whiston indicated that some work had already been undertaken but it was an ongoing piece of work.</li> <li>▪ The Assistant Chief Executive indicated that he had discussed the 'Total Place' initiative with the Co-</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Director and would submit a report in due course as to how Newcastle could benefit from this approach looking at either a citywide or neighbourhood basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A member endorsed the early comment around the number of failed initiatives on Cowgate. There was no easy solution to the difficulties however the main outcome must be to provide residents with hope albeit she acknowledged that hope may be moving on from the estate. P Whiston stressed that the evidence to date seemed to indicate that the community were not 'looking to escape'. He referred to a number of events which had taken place over the last few weeks and which were attracting more and more local residents. As an example he referred to the 'Big Lunch' which had attracted over 200 local residents. He stressed that there was a positive community spirit underlying all the problems on the estate and this was a real opportunity for long-term improvement.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ As a final point he would encourage all partners to consider how they might contribute to the success of the initiative and to contact him direct for further discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED</b> that the report be received and all Partners be invited to consider how they might contribute to the initiative</p>	<b>All Partners</b>
<p><b>8. Strategic Risk Discussions Update</b></p>	<p>Richard Elliott gave an update on progress with the Strategic Risk Register. Primarily outlining the emerging risks from discussions so far (noting that there were a number yet to complete) and asking the Board whether these were the risks they expected and whether there were any gaps.</p> <p>The other issue was how the Board wished to take this forward and how they would manage the risk. One idea was that a 'Risk Workshop' was the way forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The consensus was that the discussions should take place on a one to one basis with partnerships. The view was that risks should be presented to the Delivery Board on an exception basis and the detailed discussion should take place with those partnerships or individual agencies best placed to influence or mitigate the risks.</li> <li>▪ Risks reported to the Delivery Board should also include reference to actions which were being taken to mitigate the risk.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It was noted that some delivery partnerships in their regular update report to the Board had taken the opportunity to identify a number of risks, and the template was being modified to include a section on risk monitoring.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>AGREED</b> – that work continue to finalise the Strategic Risk Register and a further report be presented to Delivery Board on progress.</p>	
<p>9. <b>Regular Update</b></p>	<p>(i) <b>Comprehensive Area Assessment</b></p> <p>Richard Elliott updated the Board on progress proposing that a more detailed discussion take place in September when some initial findings were emerging from the work which had taken place to date.</p> <p>The process in general was working as anticipated and proving less onerous and more accurate than the previous regimes.</p> <p>There were one or two changes to the timeline with the deadline for reporting moving to 10 December and the deadline for submission of specific evidence to 25 September. It was anticipated that the first annual report would be signed off in October.</p> <p>It was also noted that whilst formal input from Audit Commission colleagues (various inspection regimes) would not be available until early September informal dialogue had taken place.</p> <p><b>Noted.</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Updating the Sustainable Community Strategy</b></p> <p>Phil Hunter presented the report highlighting the reasons for updating the SCS and the intention to present a report to a future meeting but at this stage inviting the Board to highlight any specific issues they considered ought to be revisited.</p> <p>Linking with thematic governance and the delivery of area regeneration was extremely important but would be difficult to achieve within the timescales. The Assistant Chief Executive indicated there were significant changes taking place to the regeneration governance arrangements at a local level and there was a need to ensure there was clarity around those linkages.</p> <p>It was also noted that since the initial SCS was compiled</p>	

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	<p>an empowerment framework had been agreed and there were discussions ongoing around how that should be rolled out – this would also form a significant part of the redrafting.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>	
	<p>(iii) <b>Area Based Grant</b></p> <p>Richard Beedle introduced the report focussing on the Working Neighbourhoods Fund Programme for 2009/11 and the four primary themes together with the opportunity to identify flexible funding within the 2009/10 ABG allocation( together with options as to how this might be allocated with approximately £¼m set aside for new policy priorities.)</p> <p>During the discussion a number of issues were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Health and Well Being Partnership were working on the Alcohol Strategy and suggested they be invited to a future meeting to present proposals and highlight where additional resources might be required – this was agreed.</li> <li>▪ It was confirmed that efforts had been made to ensure that Area Based Grant was used flexibly to both assist and influence partners in how they allocated their mainstream resources</li> <li>▪ All projects had been subject to an appraisal with one of the key questions being around mainstream funding and what added value the Working Neighbourhoods Fund provided in meeting LAA targets/priorities</li> <li>▪ A member pointed out that a lot of partner mainstream funding was targeted at a City Region level and stressed the need for a mechanism to ensure that there was a voice at that level when resources were allocated – this was noted by the Assistant Chief Executive.</li> </ul> <p><b>AGREED -</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The development of the WNF Programme as set out in Section 5 be noted;</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kehri Ellis</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The progress made in securing additional matched funding to expand the programme and maximise impact be noted;</li> <li>▪ The progress made in submitting a funding</li> </ul>	

<b>Report</b>	<b>Discussion/Decision</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>
	<p>application for the future Jobs Fund be noted;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A further report back from the ABG Working Group on its Workplan be noted.</li> </ul>	<b>Richard Beedle</b>
<b>10. Any Other Business</b>	Chris Reed (PCT) updated on the recent projections around Swine Flu and recommended that all partners ensure that their management teams were aware of the implications and steps taken to mitigate any impact on their workforce.	
<b>11. Date and Time of Next Meeting</b>	<p>Monday 7 September 2009 at 3.00 pm.</p> <p>A member noted that many of the officers who regularly supported the Delivery Board were leaving the employment of the City Council and asked that the Board be advised of succession arrangements.</p>	<b>Assistant Chief Executive</b>

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY BOARD</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 SEPTEMBER 2009</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR(S)</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIP DIRECTOR</b>
<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>FOR DECISION</b>

## **1 OVERVIEW**

- 1.1.** Newcastle Partnership Delivery Board is currently chaired by Barry Rowland, Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council and Public Sector member of Newcastle Partnership. Given the role of the Delivery Board in ensuring the effective delivery and performance management of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) and the specific responsibility of the City Council in negotiating and agreeing the LAA, the local authority CEO would appear to be the most appropriate member of Delivery Board to Chair this Group.
- 1.2** Where the Chair is unavailable for a Delivery Board meeting the nominated deputy is the Director of Policy Planning and Communication, who may attend Delivery Board with full voting rights. It may not be appropriate however, for the nominated deputy to take on the responsibility of Chairing Delivery Board in the absence of the Chair as continuity would be lost (the Deputy not having attended previous meetings). One way of overcoming this issue would be to formally appoint a Vice Chair(s).
- 1.3** Newcastle Partnership has cross sector representation throughout its structures and strives to ensure that all sectors are actively engaged in a meaningful way. The Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process has however highlighted the apparent dominance of the City Council within the partnership through its chairing of all Boards and Delivery Partnerships. In an effort to achieve greater sector balance in leadership roles within the Board it is proposed that Third Sector representatives be encouraged to take up Vice Chair appointments on Delivery Board.

- 1.4** Members will recall that in the absence of the Chair the last meeting of Delivery Board was chaired by Third Sector representative Maurice Condie. Maurice has experience of the role having previously served as Vice Chair of Strategic Board. The other Third Sector representative on the Board, Sue Pearson, Chief Executive of Age Concern also has the necessary skills and abilities to take on the role of Vice Chair and has indicated a willingness to do so.
- 1.5** A review of the Newcastle Partnership structure will be undertaken in the autumn. The review might well introduce changes to the current structure, function and membership of Delivery Board. It is therefore suggested that appointments to the Vice Chair roles be made for a period of up to 12 months in order to accommodate any changes brought about by the review.

## **2 CONCLUSION**

- 2.1** Appointing Third Sector Vice Chairs for Delivery Board would help to create and achieve greater sector balance in leadership roles across Newcastle Partnership.

## **3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1** The Board are requested to consider and agree the appointment of Maurice Condie and Sue Pearson as Vice Chairs of Delivery Board for a period of up to 12 months

## NEWCASTLE PARTNERSHIP DELIVERY BOARD

### DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP PROGRESS REPORT

**DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP NAME:** Safe Newcastle  
**DATE OF REPORT:** 7 September 2009  
**CONTACT:** Robyn Thomas

### LAA INDICATORS AND TARGETS

- NI 15 – Reduce most serious violent crime rate by 3.5%
- NI 16 – Reduce serious acquisitive crime rate by 2.5%
- NI 20 – Reduce assault with injury crime rate by 4%
- NI 21 – Increase perceptions that the local council and police are dealing with local concerns about crime & ASB by 3.5%
- NI 38 – Reduce the drug related (class A) offending rate to an average of 14.5% below the baseline across cohort
- NI 40 – Increase the number of drug users who are in effective treatment by 9% from baseline

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE THEME:

- Reduce criminal damage, domestic burglary, business and vehicle crime
- Reduce violent crime including domestic violence and alcohol related violence
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Reduce the harm caused by alcohol, drugs and other substances

### KEY INITIATIVES/SERVICES DELIVERED

#### **Domestic Violence**

- All staff from Children's Social Care were trained during July on the role that they can play in safeguarding young people from forced marriage. Over 600 staff attended the presentations, and the remainder of staff received email copies of the relevant documents. The response was overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. All Head Teachers at Newcastle schools have been reminded of some of the warning signs of forced marriage and to reinforce the need for teachers and staff to be vigilant around the summer holidays,
- The new directory of domestic violence services has now been published and distributed.
- For the period April 2008 – March 2009, 257 cases were dealt with through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference system (MARAC). There were 62 instances of repeat victimisation.

- During the period December 2006 – April 2008, 300 target hardening interventions were installed as part of the Sanctuary scheme. Although development is required throughout the Newcastle Partnership to measure customer satisfaction, Safe Newcastle currently measure satisfaction levels of domestic violence intervention. 98% of those who had their homes target hardened through the Sanctuary Scheme have expressed satisfaction with the Scheme and reported increased confidence.

### **Hate Crime and Conflict Management**

- ARCH continues to co-ordinate delivery of the Hate Crime Action Plan 2009-10 and work with Gateshead, North Tyneside and South Tyneside to implement the Hate Crime reporting, recording and Case Management System in their areas. ARCH has provided support and advice to these authorities on how to roll out the reporting system.
- ARCH continues to assist Safe Newcastle partners in identifying and managing areas with increased levels of community tensions.
- Work has been commissioned by GONE to map areas susceptible to community tensions progresses well.

### **CONTEST**

- Representatives from Northumbria Police continue to deliver a series of presentations to the local authority and partner organisations with the aim of moving forward on intelligence gathering and awareness of the PREVENT theme of the CONTEST Strategy.
- A report will be presented to the Safe Newcastle Board on 10 September setting out the proposed governance structure for Contest.

### **Alcohol**

- Best Bar None 2009 was extremely successful with 72 premises gaining accredited status who have demonstrated good policies and procedures in place to reduce alcohol-related disorder and promotion of sensible drinking.
- Alcoholwatch continues to be successful in the city centre. A more targeted approach is now being developed. This will entail working on a more intelligence led basis to tackle issues of proxy sales and alcohol related anti-social behaviour.
- Funding has been secured to continue the Marshalled Taxi scheme throughout 2009/10. The scheme continues to be very well received by the public with positive feedback from officers working at the ranks. More sustainable sources of funding are being explored with the BID and Newcastle City Council and the ABG Alcohol strategy funding.

### **Drugs**

- Both Safe Newcastle's Drug Support Unit (DSU) and Newcastle's Drug Treatment system have undergone changes over the past year around the system modernisation agenda. Significant work is ongoing to develop Service Level Agreements (SLAs) and contracts that reflect the outcomes of the modernisation agenda. Work will focus on ensuring robust SLAs are in place and that progress is made on the actions from the 2009/10 Adult Drug Treatment Plan.
- Meetings are being held with all commissioned service managers to discuss and agree contracts and SLAs. Built into the contracts is a performance monitoring

framework, to ensure service delivery on key targets and aims and objectives of the LAA indicators and the actions from the Adult Drug Treatment Plan.

- A process mapping event recently took place with the Adult Treatment Group to look at service provision within the city. The purpose of the exercise was to identify good practice, duplications and gaps in service provision. The event also looked at care pathways and highlighted that this is an ongoing piece of work that will be picked up under the system modernisation agenda.
- Work is underway in partnership with PROPS (Positive Response to Overcome Problematic Substance misuse – carer organisation) and the North East Ambulance Service to deliver a pilot for Naloxone (NARCAN) training for Carers, which has been awarded by the National Treatment Agency (NTA). This will see carer's of opiate users trained to deliver what could be a life saving injection to someone who has overdosed on opiates and thereby buying valuable time for the emergency services to attend. The pilot is due to start on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- The Workforce Development Training officer in partnership with the North East Ambulance Service is currently delivering Overdose Prevention training with Service Users and staff in line with the Drug Related Death Agenda and the Harm Reduction Strategy.
- A Workforce Strategy has been developed by the DSU Workforce Development Officer. Staff across the Drug Treatment System are currently completing portfolios and evidencing practice to help identify new training needs within the drug treatment system and ensure that they have the right skills and knowledge to deliver effective services.
- Representatives from Newcastle's User Forum, accompanied by the Service User Development Officer have recently represented Newcastle and the North East at the 'World Narcotics Anonymous Conference' (WCNA).

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- Newcastle is rolling out a young people's mobile service. Two mobile units, based in specially-kitted out buses will give young people safe and fun places to socialise, get advice on their futures and try out entertaining activities. Both buses have dedicated youth workers permanently on board, acting as a source of information, advice and guidance for young people.
- As part of the Student Initiatives, students will also be made aware of the consequences of anti-social behaviour. In households where this begins to develop into a persistent problem the student will be dealt with as part of the ASB graded response protocol.
- Newcastle is committed to the Youth Crime Action Plan triple track approach of prevention, non-negotiable support and tough enforcement to tackling and preventing youth crime. Newcastle's delivery of the 7 elements will support the following aims:
  - Young people and families receive support and challenge early to stay or get back on track;
  - Young people who break the law are held to account for what they have done in such a way that prevents re-offending; and
  - The public is protected from the harm caused by crime
- The 7 elements of Newcastle's Youth Crime Action Plan are:
  - Using child protection legislation to remove young people from the streets at night and take them to a safe place, building on lessons from

- initiatives such as Operation Staysafe;
  - Using street-based teams of workers to tackle groups of young people involved in crime and disorder
  - Tackling anti-social behaviour and disorder at school closing time by increasing after-school police patrols where needed.
  - Placing Youth Offending Team workers in police custody suites so that young offenders can be assessed and directed to appropriate services at the earliest opportunity;
  - Making young offenders feel the consequences of their actions by expanding YOT reparation schemes during their leisure time, including on Friday and Saturday nights;
  - Developing Family Intervention Projects to work with the most vulnerable and problematic families with children at risk of offending, with non-negotiable elements and sanctions for a failure to engage;
  - Implementation of the 'think family' reforms to provide an integrated and appropriate service response to all families at risk by the end of the funding period.
- Safe Newcastle has led on the development of a Memorandum of Agreement which outlines the multi-agency arrangements between Northumbria Police, the Council and Your Homes Newcastle in relation to Anti Social Behaviour Orders (“ASBOs”) under section 1 Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The arrangements are intended to assist the parties in the proper and effective exercise of their respective powers to apply for ASBOs and in particular establishes an agreed process for statutory consultation and issuing ASBO applications.

### **Safe Neighbourhoods**

- The Safe Neighbourhoods Board has chosen ‘Darker Nights’ as their first citywide problem solving activity. Darker Nights will look to put in a series of action plans to tackle those actual, perceived, potential and emerging problems that can take place between the end of September to the mid-November around ‘Damage’ and ‘Disorder’. This will encompass seasonal events such as Halloween and Bonfire night.
- Match funding is being sought to support a pilot to design, distribute and evaluate a community safety booklet, bespoke to each ward, to every household in the city (84,500 homes).
- ‘Not in my Neighbourhood Week’ 2009 will be in November. Five wards have been selected to take part in this year’s event which will focus on the local policing pledge, criminal damage and disorder. A number of activities will be planned to increase awareness of what the police and local agencies are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, increase public confidence and encourage the public to engage with all agencies and play their part in making their communities safer. The five wards that have been selected for this year’s activities are Byker, Benwell and Scotswood, Kenton, Elswick and Walker. These wards were selected based on deprivation levels as we know that there is where fear of crime is highest and confidence in the criminal justice system is lowest.
- Safe Newcastle, primarily through Safe Neighbourhoods, will be actively supporting and engaging with the ward planning process. A report will be taken to Safe Newcastle Board in September to approve the support for the ward planning process and requirements of the policing pledge. The report will also evidence compliance with the Hallmarks of Effective Partnership Practice (a statutory requirement for CDRPs).

## **Neighbourhood Crime and Justice**

- Newcastle is set to host a Home Office Community Crime Fighter training event in November. The training is for members of the public who are actively involved in their communities and want to do or know more to make their communities safer. The training equips them with greater information on the policing pledge, council powers to tackle anti-social behaviour, what help and support there is for victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour and how to get more involved and work closer with neighbourhood policing teams, the council and criminal justice agencies.
- The use of community payback to support priorities of SNAPS groups has been developed across Newcastle. Areas include Fawdon Park which has seen a major clean up after winning a public vote; Byker where community payback was part of a multi-agency street clean up and Walker Riverside where fencing was painted. Future work for community payback includes North Kenton Park, Castlegate and supporting Rapid Response teams during the run up to bonfire night to remove illegal bonfires.
- Denton SNAPS was awarded Exemplar status by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) earlier this year in recognition of partnership working. This means that Denton SNAPS must act as a mentor to other areas throughout the country who approach us for guidance. NPIA will join us in November for a training event for SNAPS members. The aim of the full day training is to create a multi-agency action plan. Safe Newcastle hope to be able to replicate this training to other SNAPS groups later in the year.

## **Acquisitive and Opportunistic Crime**

- Amendments are being made to the Designing for Community Safety SPD to incorporate guidance from the Safer Places document; this document will be adopted and published in November.
- Newcastle will benefit from a new Small Retailers Capital Grants Fund (SMRF) which was launched by Home Office Minister Alan Campbell on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2009, hosted by Safe Newcastle. The fund aims to reducing the risk of crime against businesses in the priority areas, supporting small retailers who have been affected adversely by crime, assisting small retailers in priority areas impacted adversely by the current economic downturn including those in rural locations and strengthening local retail partnerships to work collectively to reduce crime and disorder. Individual small retailers can receive a grant of up to £3,000 with project grants for a group of retailers (e.g. a parade of shops) can receive a grant of up to £50,000.
- Work is underway to prepare for the start of the new academic year. There is a programme of crime prevention activity targeted at students that encompasses campus, halls of accommodation and houses in student communities and focuses on forensic property marking, burglary awareness and bike marking.

## **Reducing Re-offending and Integrated Offender Management (IOM).**

- The Reducing Re-offending Group is developing a new approach to Integrated Offender Management for Newcastle. This will tackle the issues highlighted by the review of NI38 and Newcastle's performance in regards to persistent re-offenders. An implementation plan is being worked on. A key Safe Newcastle post to lead this process will be the Reducing Re-offending Co-ordinator who should be in place this year. The City Council has committed an additional £35,000 to support the IOM work, additional funding is being sought through the Northumbria Police Grant Pool.

## PROGRESS AGAINST PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The table below provides the most up to date performance against the National Indicators in the Local Area Agreement that Safe Newcastle has direct responsibility for.

National Indicator (NI)	NI No.	April-July 2008	April-July 2009	Change	% Variance	Direction
Serious violent crime	15	35	46	+11	+31%	↓
Assault with injury	20	837	740	-97	-12%	↑
Serious acquisitive crime	16	1557	1342	-215	-14%	↑
Drug related (Class A) offending	38	Recorded Class A drug offences within the financial year so far are running at a similar rate as the same period of last year.  This will be a very difficult target to achieve with many of the individuals outside of the DIP target group e.g. ex Drug users who are still offending. The measure is to be reported on by the Home Office centrally as all of the required information is not available at a local level.				
Drug users in effective treatment	40	07/08 1510	to March 1708	+198	+13%	↑
Dealing with local concerns about ASB and Crime	21	30%	Annual target measured through Residents Survey			
↑ = Performance improving      → = no change in performance      ↓ = performance worsening						

### **NI 15 – Serious Violent Crime (SVC)**

NI 15 is the only indicator which is not currently achieving its target. The increase in SVC has been reflected nationally. Whilst levels have increased in Newcastle, they have not increased as sharply as many other areas, performance has also started improving over the last two months.

The city centre is the hot spot for rises in SVC and sexual offences. The numbers are still low and hence show as large percentage increases. The police are proactively addressing sexual violence by following up all potential incidents. This is a positive development which will increase reports, having a negative impact on performance.

Alcohol related violence is also showing an increase. There are a number of possible factors that may have contributed to the increase ranging from the fine weather in May to people drinking more at home for part of the evening then going to city centre already drunk. The police's night time economy plan is also leading to more arrests for alcohol related violence offences at weekends.

Whilst further analysis is taking place on SVC, a range of interventions are in place to

reduce SVC. These include Newcastle area command developing actions plans in line with the Home Office *Tackling Violence Action Plan (TVAP)*, Marshalled Taxi Ranks, Best Bar None, Student Community Safety Initiatives and Domestic Violence perpetrator and protection programmes.

The table below provides Newcastle's position within the core cities and the group of most similar Crime and reduction Partnerships (lower number indicates a better position).

NI No.		Newcastle	Birmingham	Bristol	Leeds	Liverpool	Manchester	Nottingham	Sheffield	MSCDRP Ranking (15)
15	Rate	<b>0.144</b>	0.185	0.159	0.101	0.317	0.316	0.225	0.202	<b>6</b>
	Position	<b>2</b>	4	3	1	8	7	6	5	
20	Rate	<b>2.018</b>	2.961	2.656	1.843	1.667	2.689	4.389	1.718	<b>9</b>
	Position	<b>4</b>	7	5	3	1	6	8	2	
16	Rate	<b>3.501</b>	5.186	6.739	6.714	5.787	9.349	7.372	4.961	<b>5</b>
	Position	<b>1</b>	3	6	5	4	8	7	2	
21	Rate	<b>30%</b>	26.4%	24.9%	?	27.4%	?	29.8%	28.8%	<b>n/a</b>
	Position	<b>1</b>	5	6	?	4	?	2	3	

### ISSUES/COMMENTS FOR THE ATTENTION OF DELIVERY BOARD (Including barriers to delivery)

- Safe Newcastle is holding an 'Open Day' on October 3<sup>rd</sup> for partners, residents and visitors to Newcastle. The open day will take place in the city centre at Brunswick Church with feeder activities planned at the Monument and Northumberland Street.
- Safe Newcastle is about to begin development of the third strategic assessment to inform the 2010-13 strategy. This will be a joint Strategic Assessment to be used by both Safe Newcastle and the police to support business planning processes.
- CAA feedback on the community safety elements of the safe, inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities theme is generally very positive. We are delighted to note that the work around domestic violence has been recognised and given a green tag. A red tag relating to drug users in effective treatment was however raised. A final response to the Audit Commission is currently being prepared and we will hold separate meetings with the Audit Commission to give further clarification on this complex point and correct any potential inaccuracies as well as a meeting to clarify the role of ARCH in promoting community cohesion

## SHARING BEST PRACTICE

- A Tyne and Wear ARCH roll out group has been set up and consists of staff from Newcastle, South Tyneside, North Tyneside, Gateshead and Sunderland. The intention is to run these meetings quarterly to ensure consistent and best practice approaches to tackling Hate Crime. We are also working with the Regional Hate incident Group to look how the region can best work together and tackle hate crime. This work will generate approximately £60,000 for ARCH Newcastle.

## **Newcastle Partnership - August 2009 Update**

### **Newcastle**

Newcastle is one of the five areas which make up Tyne & Wear. Its population is 270,500 with a further 90,000 people travelling into the City each day to work. Population reduced between 1991 and 2001, but since 2001 has started to rise again, partly due to international immigration. It is also likely there will be a big increase in the numbers of older people by 2031. People from a black and minority ethnic (BME) community made up 1 in 10 of the population in 2006. Newcastle city centre is a major regional centre for employment, services, shopping and night life. The City is also home to two universities; a college of higher/further education and is an international centre for a number of specialist health services, including the Centre for Life. In the inner areas of the city there is significant deprivation. According to certain figures – the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) - Newcastle has improved from being the 20th most deprived area in 2004 to 37th in 2007 (out of 354). The main problems are around Health inequalities, poor life expectancy, low educational attainment, and levels of skills. The housing market in Newcastle has both areas of high house prices to the north of the city, and areas of low demand and abandonment in the inner city. The economy is being strengthened through a range of initiatives, but is being affected by the recession. The City is also closely linked with Gateshead through the Housing Market Renewal pathfinder, the City Development Company – oneNewcastleGateshead or 1NG - and the Newcastle Gateshead Initiative.

### **How well do priorities for Newcastle express community needs and aspirations?**

The Newcastle Partnership has a good understanding of the area it serves. All major bodies in the City are represented. There is broad representation of the wider community through Newcastle Community and Voluntary Sector, with many organisations sitting on either delivery partnerships or themed groups. The needs of local people are understood. Those things local people have said are important which are not in the Sustainable Community Strategy are tackled in the plans of individual organisations. An example of this is the need to improve footpaths and roads - which is undertaken by the Council.

The Community & Voluntary Sector has been able to have a strong voice in the way in which plans have been developed and local priorities have been agreed. The Newcastle CVS is effective in co-ordinating the involvement of its members on the various theme groups. Participation by children and young people in deciding priorities is strong. A revised Community Empowerment Framework (CEF) has been agreed by the partnership, but there is more to be done. For example, the Citizens' Assembly and Reference Groups are under development but have not yet made a difference. The plans for better engaging with local people have potential, but are not yet finished, and are untried and untested.

Partners have worked well to make sure their major plans, like the Council's Corporate Plan, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and various others

plans; all link up. These plans include important issues for the City, but need to say more about reducing inequalities within Newcastle. The plans ambitions for Newcastle are based on broad consultation and reflect the important issues for the area.

## Newcastle's Priorities

The six priorities for Newcastle, agreed by the Newcastle Partnership are:

Strengthening the economy

Improving wellbeing, health and independence

Managing environmental impact

Creating and sustaining quality places to live

Creating safe, inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities

Improving outcomes for children and young people

## Strengthening the economy

Progress is being made to make the local economy stronger. All partners are responding well to the recession, which is sustaining and creating jobs. This is likely to continue. The Council needs to improve its benefits service quickly.

Unemployment in Newcastle has risen to almost 6 per cent. This is high compared to the national average. Residents earn about the same as the rest of the North East - about £400 per week – although this is itself low compared to the rest of England. The number of people claiming benefits is a quarter higher than nationally. One in three people from the deprived areas of the City claim benefit, which is the highest in Tyne and Wear. People in Newcastle are most likely to work in service industries or the public sector and the City has a large numbers of low-skilled jobs in comparison to similar areas.

To tackle worklessness, a good Employability Action Plan is in place.

Newcastle Futures, a partnership project which helps people to get back into work, is taking the lead in responding to problems of unemployment. It has been successful in reducing the numbers of those looking for work. Three new Centres have been set up within the City to help people find work. They also offer help people who may have developed mental health problems as a result of not having a job. The 'New Beginnings' programme offers a £200 grant to help people back into work. Two out of three of the people that are helped to get a job by Newcastle Futures, have still got that job after 26 weeks. Less lone parents are without a job, following good work by Newcastle Futures, with almost 600 lone parents registering with Newcastle Futures from April 2007 to December 2008 getting a job.

Comment [d1]: Data – numbers / how many?

Comment [d2]: How many grants given?

There are different measures of people's skills, but on a number of those measures, Newcastle people have fewer skills than the national average. This means their ability to take up higher paying jobs is reduced, and could mean that new employers may not move to this area. Actions to change this are making a difference. Almost 3 out of 4 people have gained a GCSE equivalent qualification. More 19 year olds are achieving Level 3 qualifications and numbers now compare better nationally.

Comment [d3]: Quantify.

Comment [d4]: Need to look at both issue and phrasing around L2 / L3

Newcastle and Gateshead have recognised it is important to work together to develop new jobs and the economy in the longer term. They are preparing a joint economic master plan and have set up two partnerships; the Newcastle-Gateshead Initiative (NGI) and One Newcastle-Gateshead (1NG). NGI has been very successful in increasing the profile of Newcastle-Gateshead as a tourist destination and cultural centre. This means more hotel beds have been created – 42% more since 2002. Visitor numbers have increased despite the recession, leading to more jobs for local people. 1NG is a relatively new organisation. It is concentrating on completing a small number of big projects, including Science Central, which will impact on jobs in the future.

Comment [d5]: Quantify?

The response to the recession in Newcastle has been good. The Council has purchased the Northern Rock Tower, which has saved jobs. Extra spending has been made on roads and pavements, and the homes of people with disabilities have been improved – all of which creates work. Small local businesses are having their business rates reduced, and are also having their bills paid more quickly by the Council. The Council and Newcastle College have agreed to increase the number of new apprentices this year from 34 to 115. Both universities are spending more on big projects, as well as supporting unemployed people with job search, skills assessments and debt advice. The Future Jobs Fund, starting in October 2009, will provide 400 people with placements within Newcastle. Large scale projects such as the Central Library and Eldon Square extension have created, or kept going, peoples' jobs.

Comment [d6]: How many?

Extra staff have been used within the Council to help more people affected by the recession to receive additional advice and benefits. Performance of the Council's benefits service is poor, and needs to improve. The time to pay peoples' claims takes too long.

Green Tags	Red Tags
Tackling worklessness	Skill levels
Responding to the recession	Access to a high quality benefits service

### Improving wellbeing, health and independence

Problems with health are well known in Newcastle. There needs to be greater clarity about where the money will come from to fund the projects to reduce health problems. Until this happens, it is unclear whether improvement will occur in the future. Some of the City's GPs also need to improve so the services they offer are as good as those offered by the best GPs in the City.

Too many people in Newcastle suffer from poor health. Early deaths from heart disease, stroke and cancer are worse than the England average. Life expectancy is also worse, with men from the most wealthy areas living about ten years longer than those from the most deprived areas; and for women it is nearly seven years longer. Newcastle has the highest rate of binge drinking in England, and hospital stays due to alcohol are much higher than in the rest of England.

A wide ranging plan to improve health – the Health Improvement Strategy - has been in place since 2007. The health of people from different ethnic backgrounds is generally the same as for white people, but where there are particular issues, specific actions have been taken. For example, health trainers are in place who work with minority groups. People in Newcastle can get to see their GPs easily, and they trust them, have confidence in them, and think they get the time they need to talk to them. But GPs across the City don't always give good advice on weight problems, healthy eating or alcohol intake. Bringing the worst performing GPs up to the level of the best in the way they treat blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetic blood sugar control, breast screening, cervical cancer screening and childhood immunisations is the single most important action the PCT could take in tackling health inequalities quickly.

Over the next few years, there is more that must be done to reduce obesity, including making clear how the Partners plans for obesity – the Obesity Strategy – will be funded. Progress has been much slower on certain recommendations made about health inequalities by a National Support Team, and again being clear where the money is coming from for certain critical programmes is currently unclear.

A plan to deal with the problems Alcohol causes is in place. It is beginning to change the amount of binge drinking and alcohol misuse. Training is being offered to over 500 people a year on how to recognise problems that are linked to alcohol. Alcohol Community Treatment teams are a group of specialists who help people with alcohol problems - 50% of staff are currently in place. All school pupils dealt with by Accident and Emergency are referred to the school health advisor and links made to social care services where appropriate.

There is a problem with the numbers of drug users who are not using treatment to help them off drugs. The Local Area Agreement - the LAA – has a target for people getting effective treatment for at least 12 weeks, but this is currently being missed. 1600 drug users were hoped to be getting treatment by March 2009, but by February 2009 only 1348 were. A number of actions are being taken to change this in the future, but in the meantime the problem remains.

Less people are smoking. The number of people smoking in adults is down from one in four to one in five, but smoking in pregnancy and deaths from smoking remain much higher than the national average. The target for 'smoking quitters' has been missed, though it is suggested this is because Newcastle has helped many people to stop, and those that remain smokers are unwilling to change.

The Council provides good services for adults and older people. These services work well in partnership with the PCT, C&VS and others. More vulnerable people are being helped to live independently and almost all supported to maintain their independence. More people are on self directed support through direct payments, while those in residential care have

Comment [d7]: Quantify?

Comment [d8]: Quantify?

benefited from the introduction of more easily understood standards of care. Further improvements are most noticeable in better services to carers, a reduction in waiting time for those needing equipment within 7 days and those waiting for care packages are waiting less time. The Fire and Rescue service undertook 9,300 home safety checks in the last year which helped people to stay living in their own home. Home care staff in the Council have been trained to undertake home safety checks, with 6,500 assessments completed.

There are better opportunities for adults to say if they are worried about their safety. A specialist safeguarding unit has been set-up by the Council and referrals have trebled as a result. People with a learning disability are being helped to deal with discrimination through a series of workshops and by producing a DVD which highlights day to day problems they face. An Elders Council is well established and this enables older people to express their views on housing and what needs to be done to make Newcastle a better place to live.

Green Tags	Red Tags
Vulnerable people helped to live independently Work with people with a learning disability	The effectiveness of GPs in offering health promotion advice The numbers of drug users accessing treatment

### Managing environmental impact

A good start has been made by the Council and partners to reducing their environmental impact. This is likely to continue. More needs to be done to be precise about how much CO<sup>2</sup> is produced from all activities within Newcastle, before comprehensive plans can be made to reduce that amount.

Newcastle, like all other major cities, has to both create new jobs and homes for people, and also reduce the environmental impact of what it does, by lowering carbon emissions.

Led by the Council, the area is reducing its environmental impact. All partners are part of the Climate Change Partnership. A good Climate Change Strategy, covering all the City, is in place. Not all partners can measure their carbon emissions, and the amount of CO<sup>2</sup> - carbon dioxide – coming from traffic isn't known, although a national performance indicator shows there has been a reduction in traffic congestion. A Newcastle 'Carbon Routemap' is being developed to give partners more accurate information and help achieve targets. The current level of carbon emissions for the area has been calculated at 1.8 million tonnes of CO<sup>2</sup> - carbon dioxide. The aim is to reduce this to 380,000 tonnes by 2050 – a reduction of 60%. Examples of actions to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> include the Earth Hour, which involves turning off lighting in certain parts of the City at certain times where it is safe to do so.

The Council knows its own carbon footprint and is reducing it. Fewer miles are being travelled by council staff and the use of public transport and pool vehicles is increasing. More council vehicles are using bio-diesel and

Comment [d9]: Quantify?

buildings are more efficiently insulated. All new schools have biomass boilers installed and these are more environmentally friendly. The use of gas and water has fallen by 6%, but electricity use has increased slightly.

Comment [d10]: How many schools have bio-mass boilers?

Good work with schools is involving pupils and parents in keeping areas tidy. There is less litter inside schools, and in surrounding areas. Individual projects have led to local community litter-picks, increased recycling, bulb planting and tree planting. Dealing with flooding is picked up within the flood management plan which was successfully implemented recently in Ouseburn. Your Homes Newcastle has made many of its properties more energy efficient, but numbers are still low compared to the national average. The Warm Zone and Fuel Poverty initiative has undertaken 51,000 home assessments, leading to 30,000 insulation measures. People have been given 220,000 low energy light bulbs. A low carbon district heating scheme is being developed which will provide for heat for approximately 10,000 homes by 2012.

Other organisations are also beginning to tackle the environmental impact of their work. The Fire and Rescue Service, working closely with Your Homes Newcastle, has reduced the number of call-outs to false alarms by an average of 40 per month and this is reducing the number of vehicle miles being used. The police are using alternatives to cars where possible, using bicycles for neighbourhood policing and walking patrols in the city centre.

Less waste is being collected across Newcastle. The amount of household and commercial waste collected has fallen in each of the last five years. People are recycling and composting almost one third more than before, the highest rate in Tyne and Wear. But, public satisfaction with how waste is collected is below that for other local councils. Initiatives such as the 'Little Wasters' project in Cowgate are helping to contribute to improving local levels of recycling. The community and voluntary sector has recycled 600 tonnes of waste.

Neighbourhood Response Teams are improving the quality of local areas. Council information suggests there is less graffiti, littering and fly posting. This is valued by local people and their satisfaction with their areas as a place to live is improving. Resident satisfaction with parks and open spaces has increased in the last year.

Comment [d11]: Awaiting confirmation of performance data?

Green Tags	Red Tags
Establishing a carbon footprint and actively tackling carbon emissions	Public satisfaction with waste collection
Work with schools	

### Creating and sustaining quality places to live

Good progress is being made on creating quality places to live, and this is likely to continue. The recession is clearly having an impact, but Newcastle's response to the recession is such that it should still be possible to improve

where people live. It will be important to make sure that all areas in Newcastle benefit from future development.

In certain areas of the City – Scotswood, Benwell, and Walker - there is low demand for housing. In certain places there are lots of empty properties. There is still a problem with some people being able to afford to buy a house, even with house prices having dropped due to the recession.

The number of new homes built in 2008/09 was well below target and there has been a fall in the number of new affordable homes built. Plans like the 'Growth Point' programme are well researched and presented, but set a very ambitious and challenging target. This is to build an average of 1,500 homes a year. So far, only 738 (371) have been built over each of the last five years.

Comment [d12]: Partnership have provided figure of 738; but internal AC data suggest 371?

Only one in three people in social housing live in homes that are decent, although most houses have received some improvements. All homes will not meet the Government's Decent Homes Standard until 2012. Less people on income related benefits are living in homes with low energy efficiency as a result of planned actions by YHN and StayWarm. However, those living in private sector rented accommodation are likely to live in poorer conditions than those in social housing, with progress on improving the situation moving slowly.

A recent report says Your Homes Newcastle provides an excellent service. Customer needs are met effectively and satisfaction is increasing. It is working with the Council to increase the provision of affordable housing through projects at Throckley and Fenham. More vacant private sector houses are being brought back into use.

In areas where demand for housing is low, Bridging Newcastle-Gateshead (BNG) has been set up to try and make the housing market work properly. It is doing this by demolishing unwanted houses, and planning to build new, and affordable houses in attractive communities. BNG works well in partnership with YHN, the council and other social landlords to improve the number of new and affordable homes in areas of need. An example is in Walker, where YHN is improving existing homes to complement a BNG scheme to build new homes.

A comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness is in place which is resulting in levels of homelessness being low and improving. Bed and Breakfast accommodation has not been used for homeless people for over 30 months. But, as a result, most of those needing temporary accommodation are in hostels where the average length of stay is comparatively high.. The approach to dealing with 'rough sleeping' has been nationally recognised as good practice. Landlords and support agencies are working together, which has contributed to a one-third reduction in landlord's going to court to seek eviction orders. The In-line mediation service has prevented over 200 young people becoming homeless each year by helping tenants and landlords reach agreement over the payment of rent. People who own their home, and might be about to have it repossessed, are being helped by the Council, Citizen's

Advice Bureau, Newcastle Law Centre and YHN. People can see a debt management advisor within three working days, so the number of households becoming homeless due to threat of repossession remained consistent despite a 33% increase in the number of people asking for help.

There has been a continued fall in the number of vulnerable people evicted from supported accommodation. This has been due to improvements in the quality of accommodation, talking more to users, and strong partnership working with other agencies such as the Cyrenians, Crisis Skylight and Newcastle College. The improved stability in the lives of this group of has resulted in them committing fewer offences.

Not all communities in Newcastle have benefited the same from the Council's neighbourhood renewal plans. Development in some geographical areas – Scotswood, Benwell, Walker - has been slow and inequality gaps have not reduced. For example, no new houses have yet been built in Scotswood, no shops have been built in Walker and the development of community facilities has been limited.

Green Tags	Red Tags
The prevention of homelessness	New and affordable homes
Support for vulnerable people in accommodation	Progress on decent homes
	The use of hostels as temporary accommodation

### **Creating safe, inclusive, cohesive and empowered communities**

Progress is being made on crime, allowing people from different backgrounds equal chances, developing trust and respect between communities, and letting people have a say in how decisions are made. However, inequalities between communities must be reduced more in the future if this progress is to be sustained.

Local people say anti-social behaviour is one of their biggest concerns. The City is a major destination for economic migrants and asylum seekers and this, together with its large student population, means its diversity has increased. This in turn brings problems of respect between different communities – recent local elections have seen a rise in support for extreme political parties. Newcastle's reputation as a major weekend city break destination brings with it problems of anti social behaviour due to drink in the city centre. Inequalities across the city are not narrowing in many areas.

Newcastle is generally safer today than it was one year ago. Overall crime is down by almost 6 per cent. There has been a substantial fall in domestic burglary. Theft is down by almost a quarter. The only area to increase is drug related crime. The Police have targeted illegal cannabis growing, and this has

increased the number of drug crimes recorded. Violent crime is also falling, by one fifth, or 20%.

Anti Social Behaviour has reduced steadily since April 2008 with the number of reported incidents 14 per cent lower. Within the city centre anti-social behaviour has fallen by over one third. With a high concentration of bars, pubs and clubs, the city centre is the main location for alcohol related violence. In 2008/09 the city centre accounted for almost half of alcohol related violence. Northumbria Police now report that weekly totals of 'violence against the person' have fallen. This has been achieved through a more co-ordinated use of police resources and more officers on foot patrol.

Other projects are changing the way in which the city centre works at night. Partners have identified three 'saturation areas' and look closely at how they operate in those areas. There are regular meetings of organisations to co-ordinate their approach. The 'Best Bar None' programme is improving the way licensees behave. There is a deliberate move to change the culture of the city centre through the encouragement of more 'street cafes' and the provision of food and live music. Outside the city centre, SNAPS (Safer Newcastle Action Partnerships) are making areas safer. A two week initiative in Cowgate led to the removal of rubbish and a fall in malicious fires. The Denton Police Partnership uses residents' information and involvement to tackle emerging issues.

The Council and partners are successfully reducing domestic violence. This is raising the profile of the issue, and reducing repeat offending. Independent Domestic Violence Advocates have supported 2,580 women and children since 2006. The Domestic Violence Protection Project has worked with 77 violent males who wish to change their behaviour. Panah is a Black and Minority Ethnic women's refuge which also provides a drop-in service and goes out to places where people live. Newcastle is one of the first cities to develop a partnership approach to dealing with honour-based violence. In the last year, Safe Newcastle has helped 24 people affected by forced marriage and honour-based violence.

The Place Survey 2009 indicates that satisfaction with the area as a place to live is above average for similar areas. People feel they are treated with respect and consideration by local public services. Newcastle also performs well in terms of people from different backgrounds getting on well together. People value their ability to influence decisions, but the area is below average for the number of people who get involved in volunteering.

Less people in Newcastle are living in the most deprived areas. Only thirty thousand households live in the most deprived areas compared with thirty-seven thousand 2004. But, the gap between the most affluent and the poorest is not closing. Significant inequalities gaps, for example in health, jobs, and incomes, remain between the most deprived and the least deprived areas in the City.

The Council has plans to ensure people get on better together and respect and trust people who are different to them - a Cohesion Strategy. It has 59 actions, but does not yet show how their impact will be measured. These actions include a project run by Save the Children called Positive Press working in Byker Primary School to build understanding of the different cultures. Newcastle's annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration includes a linked programme of community events.

ARCH is a group for reporting racial and homophobic incidents and supporting victims. It is recognised as a national model of best practice. It helps people to complain about abuse, and increases the confidence of people from minority groups to report incidents. As a result the number of people reporting racial incidents has increased by over one quarter. But, there are still areas of the city where incidents are relatively high – in Walker, Byker and the City centre.

All partners help to improve how communities get along, and respect and trust each other. Your Homes Newcastle provides all asylum services in Newcastle and works closely with police in work on anti-social behaviour. NGI promotes local community festivals. The Fire and Rescue service have three people from ethnic backgrounds who work in local communities. In Cowgate, where the area is being improved, area forums and area programme boards are involving a range of local people in decisions, giving local people more influence.

The work of the Newcastle Unity Programme is beginning to improve how communities get along and trust each other, as well as preventing the growth of extremism. As well as general training to staff, projects include creating a Newcastle Mosques network. Work with a Muslim Women's group is supported by Community Development workers who are themselves Muslim women. A DVD and education programme is used in schools around to respond to Islamophobia.

The involvement of local people in decisions on how to spend money is very strong. The U-Decide programme was launched in 2006 with £280,000 from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and has been extended to five more wards. Children and young people across the City were involved deciding how to spend £2.25m from the Children's Fund. In South Heaton, children cast their votes to select £45,000 worth of play equipment. £40,000 has been spent on community safety work in Denton and Newburn. Almost all those involved thought this was a good way to spend public money and would do it again.

Green Tags	Red Tags
Work to tackle domestic violence	Closing the gap between the most affluent and most deprived
Participatory budgeting	

## **Improving outcomes for children and young people**

Children's lives are getting better. Progress is being made on addressing known problems of obesity, teenage pregnancy, keeping children safe, allowing them to grow up in families where there is enough money, and with the skills to allow them to prosper as adults. This is likely to continue.

Child poverty in Newcastle is 50% higher than the English average and the second highest of all the local authority areas in the North East. The general picture for many children and young people is one of low incomes, low aspirations, coupled with low attainment and achievement.

More children are living in households in receipt of out of work benefits due to the recession, meaning a key LAA target (NI116) has been missed. But there is progress against other measures in relation to tackling child poverty. More young people from deprived backgrounds are going into higher education. The number of young people classed as Not in Education, Employment or Training – NEET - is falling (although the number is still well above the national average). Newcastle has offered all young people a learning place. In 2007 more young people gained places in Higher Education, almost double the 2006 figure. In addition, less households suffer from fuel poverty and family intervention programmes are making a difference to the quality of life for children.

Childhood obesity is a problem, as it is for much of the North East. There has been a slowing in the rate of increase in obesity for 11 year olds. The Lean East project has been successful in reducing childhood obesity in the East of the City. Plans to expand it more widely are hampered by funding only being agreed with the PCT for one year. More children are being breastfed and infant mortality is falling. The Fusion Project gives 24,000 children and young people cheaper access to leisure, so more are now physically active than the England average. Work with 250 young people through the D'n'A project is helping to tackle drug and alcohol problems.

Although teenage conceptions have fallen, overall there are still too many compared to the national average. Conception rates have risen recently, though recent local information suggests a fall in the latter part of 2008/09. Over 4,000 Chlamydia screenings were completed in 2007/08 but this is only half of the national target.

Children and young people receive effective placements from fostering and adoption services - recently been rated as good by an Ofsted inspection. The Barnardos Young Carers Project provides effective direct help to young carers. All unaccompanied asylum seeker children are placed into approved foster accommodation. Particular problems that did occur about the arrival of un-accompanied children from China have been tackled. The Phoenix Project takes 13-17 year olds on a one week course, linked to fire safety, following referrals from the Youth Offending Team.

The Council arrangements for safeguarding children were criticised in 2008, but local information from the Council suggests this problem has been dealt with. In 2008/09, 79% of initial assessments and 72.7% of core assessments were completed to national standards. Children are safer on the roads, with a significant decrease in children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents, with 20mph traffic zones having a positive impact. But almost half of children still experience bullying while permanent exclusions from schools remain high. Persistent absence from school is high.

In general, levels of attainment are well below the national average, except for results in GCSE with 5+ grades A to C excluding English and Maths, which are average. Levels of academic achievement are improving and the gap with national figures is narrowing across many areas. Children from BME groups perform as well, if not better, than children in other groups locally and there are high levels of 'value added' for most ethnic groups at 11 and 14.

There are good opportunities for children and young people to have their views heard. Young people in Newcastle are significantly more likely than others to think their views are listened to in decisions about their local area and in the running of their school.

Green Tags	Red Tags
The overall approach to tackling child poverty	Teenage conceptions
Opportunities for children and young people to 'have their say'	Levels of attainment and achievement, including for BME groups
	Bullying and permanent exclusions