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All Members of the Council

My Ref: LCS-DLDS-DS-C-022
Your Ref:

Contact: Karen Robson
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Date: 16 September 2015

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

You are summoned to attend a meeting of Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, at **2.30 pm** on **Thursday, 24 September 2015** to transact the following business:-

- 1. To Confirm the Minutes of the meeting held 16 July 2015** (Pages 1 - 6)
- 2. Official Announcements**
(announcements may be made by the Mayor, Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive)
- 3. Petitions**
(to receive any petitions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10)
- 4. Questions from Members of the Public**
(to consider any questions submitted under Council Procedure Rule 7)

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET

- 5. Equal Opportunities Policy** (Pages 7 - 16)
- 6. Annual Youth Justice Board Strategic Plan for 2015/16** (Pages 17 - 54)
- 7. Changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy under the Deregulation Act 2015** (Pages 55 - 64)

8. **Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2014/15** (Pages 65 - 74)
9. **Organisation Changes - Communities and Environment** (Pages 75 - 76)
10. **Extension of the District Energy Scheme to Gateshead Stadium area and Nest Road, Felling** (Pages 77 - 78)
11. **Report from the Cabinet** (Pages 79 - 84)
12. **Notice of Motion** (Pages 85 - 94)
(to consider any notices of motion submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

MOTIONS AND QUESTIONS

13. **Questions**
(to deal with any questions submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.1)



Jane Robinson
Chief Executive



**COUNCIL MEETING
24 SEPTEMBER 2015**

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING – 16 JULY 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR A GEDDES) IN THE CHAIR

COUNCILLORS: R Beadle, C Bradley, M Brain, M Charlton, B Coates, D Davidson, W Dick, S Dickie, P Dillon, C Donovan, A Douglas, K Ferdinand, M Foy, M Gannon, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, J Graham, M Graham, JS Green, L Green, J Hamilton, S Hawkins, M Henry, F Hindle, M Hood, H Hughes, J Lee, P Maughan, K McCartney, J McClurey, J McElroy, C McHatton, C McHugh, E McMaster, P McNally, M McNestry, P Mole, C Ord, M Ord, C Simcox, J Turnbull, A Thompson, L Twist, J Wallace and A Wheeler

APOLOGIES COUNCILLORS:

J Adams, L Caffrey, B Clelland, P Craig, S Craig, K Dodds, J Eagle, P Foy, T Graham, J Green, L Holmes, B Oliphant, D Robson, P Ronan, S Ronchetti, J Simpson, N Weatherley and K Wood

Mohammed Bilal from the Muslim Society gave the opening address

A minute's silence was observed following the death of Alderman Evelyn Henry.

CL/20 MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 June 2015 be approved

CL/21 PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted

CL/22 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions submitted.

CL/23 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the current members' allowances scheme and proposed that the Independent Remuneration Panel reconvenes in September to review the scheme.

COUNCIL RESOLVED – That the Independent Remuneration Panel reconvenes in September to review the members' allowance scheme

CL/24 PARENT GOVERNOR REPRESENTATIVES ON COUNCIL BODIES DEALING WITH EDUCATION

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the appointment of a parent governor representative to the Council's Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the appointment of Mrs Jill Steer, Whickham Parochial Primary School, as a Parent Governor Representative to the Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved

CL/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2014/15 – YEAR END OUTTURN

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of variations to the 2014/15 capital programme.

COUNCIL RESOLVED -

- i) That all variations to the 2014/15 capital programme as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved
- ii) That the financing of the 2014/15 capital programme be approved
- iii) That it be confirmed that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2014/15 have been breached

CL/26 REVENUE OUTTURN

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the revenue outturn position for the financial year 2014/15.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- i) That the 2014/15 revenue outturn position of the Council, subject to audit, be noted
 - ii) That the appropriations to/from earmarked reserves outlined in paragraph 8 of the report be approved

CL/27 THE COUNCIL PLAN 2015-2020

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Council Plan 2015-2020.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Council Plan 2015-2020 be approved

CL/28 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015/16 – 2020/21

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Councillor R Beadle moved the following amendment:

Recommendation 5 i)

Add: 'subject to the following amendment to section 4.1 of the Strategy at subsection 2):

- (a) Add: 'for cabinet' after 'plans should be prepared'
- (b) Add at end: 'If service budgets are projected to underspend by more than 2% of original estimates a report should be prepared for Cabinet'.

On the amendment being put it was defeated.

The original recommendation was put as the substantive motion.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- i) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21 be approved
 - ii) That it be noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21 and the estimated funding gap will be updated following the Autumn Statement 2015
 - iii) That it be noted that the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, following consultation with the Chief Executive, will continue to produce and monitor on an annual basis, a rolling programme of five-year budget forecasts taking account of the key issues facing the Council

CL/28 TREASURY ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Treasury Annual Report for 2014/15.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Treasury Annual Report for 2014/15 be approved

CL/29 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2015/16 – FIRST QUARTER REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report informing of the latest position on the 2015/16 capital programme and Prudential Indicators at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2015.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- i) That all variations to the 2015/16 Capital Programme as detailed in Appendix 2 of the attached report be approved as the revised programme
 - ii) That the financing of the revised programme be approved
 - iii) That it be confirmed that the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators have been revised in line with the revised budget and that none of the approved Prudential Indicators set for 2015/16 have been breached

CL/30 REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report that informed of the latest position on the 2015/16 revenue budget at the end of the first quarter to 30 June 2015 and sought approval of a revision to the net revenue budget for 2015/16.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- i) That the revenue position at 30 June 2015 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be noted
 - ii) That an amendment to the net revenue budget for 2015/16 from £215.270m to £205.400m to reflect the element of the Better Care Fund, included in the Council's revenue spending power for 2015/16 that has been paid to the Clinical Commissioning Group be approved

CL/30 WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report requesting approval of a revised Workforce Strategy 2015-2020.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the Workforce Strategy 2015 – 2020 be approved, subject to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, being authorised to amend the Workforce Strategy, by strengthening

references to the Council's approach to equality and diversity within the workforce to convey an even more positive statement of the Council's values and aspirations

CL/31 CORPORATE ASSET STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015 – 2020

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020.

- COUNCIL RESOLVED -
- i) That the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 2020 as set out in Appendix 3 of the report be approved
 - ii) That delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, authority to make amendments to the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2015 – 220 to reflect changes to the Council Plan
 - iii) That progress made in the previous twelve months covered by the Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan 2012 – 2015 as highlighted in the new Corporate Asset Strategy and Management Plan be noted
 - iv) That the property strategies to be implemented over the course of the next twelve months be approved

CL/32 ORGANISATION CHANGES – COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Consideration was given to a report seeking approval of proposals to change the operational service arrangements within the Communities and Environment Group.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the service changes be approved

CL/33 REPORT FROM THE CABINET

The Leader of the Council reported on a number of key issues currently affecting the Council.

COUNCIL RESOLVED - That the report be noted

CL/34 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor J McClurey moved the following motion:

“This Council requests the Chief Executive to investigate the opportunities for raising revenue from the advertising on the bridges over the Tyne of significant regional events”

Councillor M Henry moved the following amendment:

Delete 'the advertising' and insert 'advertising on Council assets and buildings generally, and also on....'

The motion will then read:

"This Council requests the Chief Executive to investigate the opportunities for raising revenue from advertising on Council assets and buildings generally, and also on the bridges over the Tyne of significant regional events".

The amendment was accepted by the mover of the original motion and therefore put as the substantive motion and duly carried.

COUNCIL RESOLVED – This Council requests the Chief Executive to investigate the opportunities for raising revenue from advertising on Council assets and buildings generally, and also on the bridges over the Tyne of significant regional events

CL/35 QUESTIONS

There were no questions received

(NB: Copies of all reports referred to in these Minutes are available from the Minute File)

Mayor



COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of a new Equal Opportunities Policy.
2. The Council has had an equal opportunities policy in place since 2000, which has been continually reviewed since then.
3. The Equal Opportunities Policy has been rewritten to ensure the Council is meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and deliver on our Public Sector Equality Duty. It also has been updated to reflect the priorities of the Council's Workforce Strategy 2015-2020.
4. This policy sets out the Council's commitment to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity between different groups, providing fair access in employment and when delivering services, and promoting good relations.
5. Councillors, as decision makers, are accountable to the people of Gateshead for delivering equality of opportunity and for discharging the Council's public sector equality duty. The current Code of Conduct for Members of Gateshead Council does not specifically deal with the equalities duty. It is therefore considered appropriate to ask Council to add this policy to the "Associated Protocols" in the Code of Conduct, so that a failure to comply with the policy could be seen as a breach of the Code.
6. This policy has been designed to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the Council to all areas of equalities work, and will be reviewed on an annual basis.
7. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. It is recommended that Council approves:
 - (i) the new Equal Opportunities Policy; and
 - (ii) annexing the Equal Opportunities Policy to the Code of Conduct for Members of Gateshead Council.

TITLE OF REPORT: Equal Opportunities Policy

REPORT OF: Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to endorse and recommend the Council to approve a new Equal Opportunities Policy.

Background

2. The Council has had an equal opportunities policy in place since 2000, which has been continually reviewed since then.
3. The Equal Opportunities Policy has been rewritten to ensure the Council is meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and deliver on our Public Sector Equality Duty. It also has been updated to reflect the priorities of the Council's Workforce Strategy 2015-2020.

Proposal

4. This policy sets out the Council's commitment to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity between different groups, providing fair access in employment and when delivering services, and promoting good relations.
5. Councillors, as decision makers, are accountable to the people of Gateshead for delivering equality of opportunity and for discharging the Council's public sector equality duty. The current Code of Conduct for Members of Gateshead Council does not specifically deal with the equalities duty. It is therefore considered appropriate to ask Council to add this policy to the "Associated Protocols" in the Code of Conduct, so that a failure to comply with the policy could be seen as a breach of the Code.
6. This policy has been designed to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the Council to all areas of equalities work, and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Recommendations

7. Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:
 - (i) the Equal Opportunities Policy attached at Appendix 2;
 - (ii) to annex the Equal Opportunities Policy to the Code of Conduct for Members of Gateshead Council

For the following reason:

To ensure that the Council continues to meet its legislative requirements and advance equality of opportunity for all.

CONTACT: Sheila Johnston extension: 2063

Policy Context

1. The Council recognises that it has a moral and legal responsibility to promote equal opportunities. In addition, the Council recognises that the pursuit of equality of opportunity is essential for a productive and professional working environment.

Background

2. The Council has had an equal opportunities policy in place since 2000, which has been continually reviewed since then.
3. The Equal Opportunities Policy has been rewritten to ensure the Council is meeting the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and deliver on our Public Sector Equality Duty. It also has been updated to reflect the priorities of the Council's Workforce Strategy 2015-2020.
4. The main elements of this policy are to:
 - outline the Council's commitment to equality and diversity
 - describe the purpose of the policy and the outcomes the Council wishes to achieve
 - make clear the contributions and responsibilities of managers, employees, elected members and service providers towards the implementation of the policy.

Consultation

5. In preparing the Equal Opportunities Policy, consultation has taken place with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, as well as the Support Cabinet Member for Diversities and Equalities.

Alternative Options

6. No alternative option has been proposed.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. **Resources:**
 - a) **Financial Implications** – the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.
 - b) **Human Resources Implications** – the Equal Opportunities Policy sets out how the Council will proactively manage and monitor employment related matters.
 - c) **Property Implications** - there are no property implications arising from this report.

8. **Risk Management Implication** - the risks and controls associated with failure to adhere to equalities legislation are identified in the Council's strategic risk register, monitored quarterly by the Audit and Standards Committee.
9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - the Equal Opportunities Policy seeks to protect all those who work for Gateshead Council, who use its services or the services provided by a third party on the Council's behalf.
10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – there are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.
11. **Health Implications** – there are no health implications arising from this report.
12. **Sustainability Implications** - there are no sustainability implications arising from this report.
13. **Human Rights Implications** - there are no human rights implications arising from this report.
14. **Area and Ward Implications** - there are no area and ward implications arising from this report.

Background Information

15. None.

GATESHEAD COUNCIL
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

Policy Statement

At Gateshead Council we recognise and value a society that consists of many diverse groups and individuals, and consider that this diversity is a strength of the borough.

We aim to ensure that all groups and individuals within our community and our workforce have equal opportunity to benefit from the services and employment opportunities that we provide.

We will take every reasonable and practical step to ensure that no person using the council's premises or services will receive less favourable treatment or will be disadvantaged by requirements or conditions that cannot be shown to be justifiable. because of; are perceived to be, or are associated to any of the protected characteristics.

We are committed to ensuring that:

- There is equality of opportunity in terms of access to the council's services and that the provision of services reflects, and is appropriate to, the needs of all sections of our community.
- Prospective and present employees are afforded equal and fair treatment in relation to recruitment, selection, terms and conditions of employment, training and promotion.

The policies and practices of the Council aim to promote an environment that is free from all forms of unlawful discrimination and values the diversity of all people. We aim to seek to treat people equally, fairly and with dignity and respect.

Scope

This policy applies to all Gateshead Council's elected members, employees and services, and services delivered by third parties on behalf of the council. We will take proactive steps to ensure that the policy is known to all councillors, employees, potential employees and organisations that we work with.

It describes how we aim to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and deliver our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between groups in Gateshead

The policy also demonstrates our commitment to actively combating discrimination and ensuring that prospective or existing employees, and those who wish to use the

Council's services, are not treated less favourably on the grounds of the protected characteristics outlined within the Equality Act 2010, namely of:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or religious belief
- Sexual orientation
- Sex (formerly gender)

Equality in Service Delivery

We will ensure that:

- councillors and employees receive training so that they do not discriminate against service users unlawfully
- our services are designed, reviewed and monitored to deliver appropriate, accessible services and that they avoid discrimination against anyone, identify barriers to access, and implement improvement as necessary
- contractors, suppliers and funded service providers abide by the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty, and provide an effective and appropriate service to communities
- when seeking views and engaging in consultation, that we are inclusive and encourage participation from all sectors of our community, including our employees, to ensure robust and informative decisions are reached by the Council
- we provide clear information about our services, in accessible formats where required.
- equal opportunity is embedded in all our policies, procedures, day to day practices and external relationships.

Equality in Employment

We will ensure that:

- our employment practices and policies provide equality of opportunity in employment and do not unfairly discriminate against any group or individual
- managers are responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and that employees are aware of its content
- all employees are responsible for ensuring they conduct themselves professionally and treat colleagues, councillors and customers in a fair and equitable manner at all times
- managers involved in recruitment and selection processes are appropriately trained to ensure we operate fair employment practices
- access to training and development opportunities are provided to all councillors and employees so that we retain a suitably skilled and knowledgeable workforce

- regular monitoring, data collection and analysis of job applicants is undertaken to identify any barriers to access
- where appropriate, positive action is taken to encourage under-represented groups to apply for posts or specific training
- our commitment to equal opportunities is incorporated into the council's induction process
- any form of unfair treatment, discrimination or harassment of any, or by any, of our employees is properly dealt with by applying the appropriate council policies and procedures.

Responsibility for implementation

All councillors and employees have responsibility for ensuring that the Equal Opportunities policy is implemented and adhered to.

The Leader of the Council has overall strategic responsibility for Inclusion and Equalities within their portfolio. Management responsibility is with the Council's leadership team who are required to ensure that this policy is embedded at all levels of the organisation.

All council employees should act in line with this policy and ensure they treat colleagues and customers fairly and with respect.

Breaches of this policy

Should breaches of this policy occur, the Council will take action to correct behaviour and reinforce its expectations of employees, service users, contractors, suppliers and partners in supporting the policy.

This policy is incorporated into the Code of Conduct for Members of Gateshead Council so that a breach of the policy by a councillor can be construed as a breach of the Code.

Discrimination on grounds of the protected characteristics listed above is unlawful. Where an employee knowingly discriminates against another employee or service user for reasons relating to that characteristic it may lead to action being taken under the Council's disciplinary policy.

Review of this policy

Gateshead Council's equal opportunities policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it meets legislative requirements.

15 September 2015

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2014

ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2016

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the draft Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-2016
2. It is a requirement for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan which is one of the grant conditions for local authorities.
3. The Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan has been updated following a Capacity and Capability self-assessment undertaken by the YOT. It reports on performance and the work of the YOT during the previous year and identifies recommendations and priorities for the service in the coming year.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is recommended that Council approves the draft Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015 - 2016

REPORT OF: David Bunce, Strategic Director, Care, Wellbeing and Learning

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015 – 2016.

Background

2. There is a requirement for Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to produce an Annual Youth Justice Plan which is one of the grant conditions for Local Authorities. The Plan should cover:
 - the National and local context
 - resourcing and value for money
 - structure and governance
 - partnership arrangements
 - priorities for 2015/16
 - performance data
 - risk to future delivery
3. The plan should be endorsed by the YOT Board and requires signatories from Northumbria Police, Northumbria Probation Service, Public Health and the Strategic Director for Care, Wellbeing and Learning.

Proposal

4. The Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan has been updated following a Capacity and Capability self assessment undertaken by the YOT. The annual plan reports on performance and the work of the YOT during the previous year and identifies recommendations and priorities for the service in the coming year.

Key priorities for 2015/16 are:

- Implement Asset Plus which will require a cultural case management change across both Prevention and Statutory areas of business.
- Further develop unpaid work and develop trading opportunities within and external to Gateshead for delivery of community reparative activity.
- Maintain a low level of first time entrants by reviewing our relationship and data collection structures with Northumbria Police to ensure children are referred to Gateshead Youth Crime Prevention Services at the earliest opportunity.

- Ensure all service delivery is aligned to the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- Further develop consistent health provision for young people within YOT with a specific focus upon improving assessment of speech, language and communication needs.
- Increase the number of Families Gateshead cases where crime is a contributing factor to eligibility.
- Further development of the re-offending live tracker in order that Gateshead can track more up-to-date performance than is yet available from the Police National Computer. Allowing for more swift action to be taken to monitor and manage re-offending trends in line with the findings of the HMIP Joint Thematic Inspection of Resettlement Services to children by Youth Offending Teams and Partner Agencies.
- To be at the forefront of safeguarding those adolescents whose offending behaviour is heavily influenced by exploitation and abuse by others, for example those experiencing child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, child to adult abuse and those affected by cyber-enabled crimes.
- As a result of the findings of the HMIP Thematic Inspection of Girls in the Criminal Justice System Gateshead YOT is committed to further developing more specialist skills and resources when working with girls in order to improve outcomes, increase resilience, protect the public and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- Review the membership and attendance levels of the YOT Management Board.

5. Risks to future delivery include:

- The current review of Council Services within Gateshead to ensure we can meet the £60 million pound funding gap will provide Gateshead YOT with significant challenges in 2016/17 and the preparation for these cuts in 2015 will impact upon the current delivery model. There will be reductions to funding and this will impact upon services to young people, partners and communities. In order to mitigate this risk, during 2015, Gateshead YOT management team will be exploring any new opportunities and new ways of working to determine which model of delivery will be the most cost effective to ensure we can deliver more with less.
- Remands to the Local Authority provide a significant risk to the council budget. Actions to mitigate the risks will include robust monitoring and management oversight, dedicated weekend and bank holiday management cover whilst maintaining regular communication with the Youth Court Bench to ensure confidence in bail supervision and support programmes remains strong.
- Maintaining and improving our performance alongside delivering consistent and high quality interventions whilst facing challenging reductions in budgets will require Gateshead YOT to further develop performance monitoring systems that

will give more detailed local data. This is especially difficult in the context of reducing our re-offending rates as the relevant cohort of young people has reduced but the levels of complexity within their lives has not. With the development of Asset Plus alongside the re-offending toolkit we will continue to robustly audit ourselves using the HMIP Inspection Framework and investigate all possible new and innovative ways of working.

- Implementing new measures such as the Anti-Social Behaviour Tools and Powers and the new requirements of Anti-Terrorism for YOT Boards against a backdrop of efficiencies and loss of resources will require Gateshead YOT to maintain strong links with the Community Safety Partnership. Active inclusion within the joint agency Anti-Social Behaviour Panels and working within the Gateshead Community Tensions framework will give wider partnership opportunities to ensure we deliver against statutory requirements within a robust governance structure.
- There is a risk to the service linked to loss of expertise and skills due to potential redundancies. Recent resignations, including those of the management team, have resulted in staff vacancies being left unfilled. As well as losing skilled staff, Gateshead YOT is aware of the impact these gaps in service can have upon the staff that remain.
- There is a statutory requirement for YOT's to have a skilled volunteer workforce. Due to diminishing resources there is no longer the capacity to offer the volunteers a volunteer co-ordinator and this role has been absorbed into the YOT Management Team. Gateshead YOT will continue to monitor the impact of this change.
- Gateshead Local Authority Transformation Team is currently in discussions with staff across all areas of business to make informed decisions during September to December 2015 on how the authority will deliver services in the future. Depending upon the decisions made, it is envisaged that some of the specialist services the YOT currently delivers would no longer be viable beyond April 2016.

Recommendations

6. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to endorse the Annual Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015/16 as set out in appendix 2.

For the following reason:

To allow the Youth Offending Team to fulfil its strategic and operational responsibilities.

CONTACT: Susan Butler

extension: 4596

Policy Context

1. It is a requirement of grant funding from the Youth Justice Board that an annual strategic plan is produced for all Youth Offending Teams/Services. The annual plan contributes to the strategic priority of 'Safety' in the Council Plan 2012-17 and to the 'Reducing risk and promoting resilience' priority in Children Gateshead, the plan for children young people and families in Gateshead.

Background

2. The Annual Strategic Plan was discussed at the YOT Board on 11 August 2015 and Board members had the opportunity to discuss and agree the content. The Strategic Plan covers the following sections:

National and local context
Resourcing and Value for Money
Structure and Governance
Partnership Arrangements
Key Priorities for 2015/16
Performance Data
Risks to Future Delivery.

3. There has been an additional two sections created in this plan as follows:

What do People say about us?
Contact us

4. Once approved by Cabinet, the Plan will be submitted to the Youth Justice Board (YJB). The YJB will forward the Plan to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Ministers.
5. The Plan will be used by HMIP along with performance data and information from the YJB to determine whether or not Gateshead YOT will be subject to either a Short Quality Screening or Full Joint Inspection – both are unannounced.
6. First-Time Entrants (FTE) – This indicator has shown a consistent reduction since 2008, and has generally achieved target. The large reduction in numbers of first-time entrants over recent years has been as a result of evidence-based early intervention and diversion, delivered through multi-agency partnerships.
7. Gateshead reported 67 FTE's during 2014/15, 13.0% reduction from the previous year's FTE of 77, continuing the downward trend experienced locally and nationally since 2010. The YJB data for this target is gathered from the Police National Computer, as well as reported by YOT's to the YJB, and stated per 100,000 of 10- 17 year old population.
8. The latest YJB published data for January 2014-December 2014 shows the rate of FTE's for Gateshead at 464, below the regional average (472), demonstrating the

effectiveness of the local initiatives in reducing the number of young people becoming FTE's.

9. Gateshead YOT have delivered a significant number of triage and prevention interventions since the re-organisation of the team, which was to promote joined-up youth crime prevention and work with partners, due to the introduction of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act, both of which will have a significant and on-going impact on the number of FTE's in Gateshead. During April 2014 and March 2015 there were 59 prevention interventions, and 109 triage Interventions delivered in the period. The reoffending rate for triage to date is 8.25%, and the current rate for prevention interventions is 8.47%, demonstrating the effectiveness of both these referral processes.
10. Use of Custody – Reducing the use of custodial sentences has been a focus for the YOT. Gateshead introduced compliance panels in 2013 alongside robust community interventions to manage offenders in the community, which have provided good results overall.
11. The latest YJB published data for April 2014-March 2015 shows the rate of custody for Gateshead at 0.28 (per 1,000 of 10-17 population) this represents 5 custodial sentences during the period which is a decrease of -0.34 year on year. This is lower than the regional average (0.46) and the national average (0.42) for the period.
12. Rate of Reoffending – Reducing reoffending has been highlighted as a priority by the YJB Board and the Secretary of State for Justice. Gateshead committed last year to undertake targeted work to reduce reoffending, improve outcomes in the team, and developed local reporting to highlight prolific offenders for targeted work. The frequency of reoffending by some young people in the service is not reducing, and this reflects the national picture and the complexity of the young people we are working with.
13. The latest YJB published data from PNC for the rate of re-offending is for the period, July 2012 – June 2013. The percentage rate of re-offending is 37.4% - this is the number of young people who go on to re-offend in the year, which is a 0.1% increase year on year. The frequency rate of re-offending is 0.99 – this is the number of offences committed by those who re-offend, this is a -0.09 decrease year on year.
14. Gateshead YOT have developed a local re-offending report which looks at live data and through the use of the re-offending Live Tracker Toolkit, which was provided by the Youth Justice Board, we measure current reoffending rates, and analyse the re-offending data on current cohorts as they go through the year, which helps to develop bespoke plans for young people. This tracking tool can help to inform any required remedial action to be taken by the YOT during the 12 month tracking period.
15. The current Live Tracker re-offending cohort takes the 160 young people who were in the service during Jan-Dec 2014 and measures their re-offending rates for 12 months. To date we know that of the 160 offenders within the cohort only 48 offenders have so far gone on to re-offend, committing 133 offences. This gives a percentage rate of re-offending for the group at 30%, and the frequency rate of reoffending currently as 0.83.

16. Gateshead has compared current re-offending performance taken from the Re-offending Live Tracker, against PNC data and it is encouraging to note that since 2008 there has been a 77% reduction in cohort size which equates to a reduction from 689 young people in the service to 160 young people. There is also a 78% reduction of re-offenders, which equates from 230 re-offenders to 48 re-offenders.

Consultation

17. The Cabinet Members for Children and Young People and the YOT Board have been consulted.

Alternative Options

18. There are no alternative options. An Annual Report and Business Plan is updated is a statutory requirement for YOT's.

Implications of Recommended Option

19. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** – The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report
- b) **Human Resources Implications** – There are no immediate implications arising from the report.
- c) **Property Implications** - There are no immediate implications arising from the report.

9. **Risk Management Implication** - The risks in future external funding has been identified on the Council's Corporate Risk Register for example Secure Remand costs.

10. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - The work of the YOT contributes to: the Families Gateshead Programme and the improved emotional health and well being for children, young people and their families.

11. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – The YOT includes professionals who specialise in parenting, drug and alcohol use, emotional mental health, education and offending behaviour work. The YOT supports multi agency interventions and will work with families where issues around anti social behaviour and those young people on the cusp of offending have been identified or where there is a potential risk that there may be in the future.

12. **Health Implications** – The YOT works to improve and minimise the potential for substance misuse and emotional mental health of all of the young people where this is identified as an issue.

13. **Sustainability Implications** - The YOT model delivers a responsive and flexible support to young people and their families to ensure that we provide effective interventions and intervene as early as possible.

14. **Human Rights Implications** - There are no human rights implications arising from this report.
15. **Area and Ward Implications** - Gateshead YOT covers all areas and wards within Gateshead and YOT staff regularly see young people and their families within their homes or local community settings. Reparation projects cover all areas and wards.

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Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2015-16

Foreword

I have pleasure in presenting Gateshead Youth Offending Team's Strategic Plan for 2015/16. This is part of our continuing commitment to keeping the Youth Justice Board, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, Board Members, partner agencies and employees up to date with the work of the team.

The report provides an update on the Key Priorities set for 2014/15 and progress and successes achieved during the last year. The strategic plan looks forward to how, with partners, the team will continue to deliver improved outcomes for some of our most vulnerable young people and help to steer them from offending behaviour into education and positive activities so that they can achieve their full potential.

The Youth Offending Team (YOT) continues to work within an environment of continuing significant change and, financial constraint and whilst youth crime has fallen nationally the statutory team within YOT has continued to work on reducing re-offending and custody levels within Gateshead. The managers and staff have been proactive in identifying training for staff in Speech, Language and Communication and autism which should help with assessing the needs of young people. The statutory team have developed lead roles within the team for: young people who are 'Looked After', bespoke work with 'young girls' known to the YOT and specialist work in relation to 'sexualised behaviour and domestic violence'. The YOT is using the YJB 'Live Tracking Tool' to identify themes in young people's behaviour to tailor specific targeted interventions for these high risk young people.

During this continuing period of financial constraint the YOT has continued to progress the prevention team by further expanding the Youth Crime Education Programme (YCEP), which has extended the programme of work to more schools in the Gateshead area and has increased referrals to the team from partner agencies. There has been development of key roles to address the 'Child to Parent' violence that was identified through in-depth analysis of the work of the team; and the development of a post to work with young people who are displaying 'worrying sexualised behaviour'. The YCEP team continues to play a key role in delivering on our Prevention and Early Intervention Strategy and continues to reduce the number of young people as first time entrants into the youth justice system.

The team continues to have a pivotal role in the development of Phase 2 of the Families Gateshead Programme ensuring that a whole family approach is taken in their work with young people. I would like to thank everyone for the hard work they do in improving the life chances and outcomes for children, young people and their families in Gateshead.

Councillor Angela Douglas
Cabinet Member
Children & Young People





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National and Local Context

Children Gateshead, the plan for Children, Young People and Families in Gateshead 2014-17 continued to set our priorities for children, young people and their families. The plan addresses the wider issues of families and communities, which may have an impact upon long term life chances. The plan is linked to the Gateshead Vision 2030 and the overall community strategy for Gateshead.

Our Children's Plan priorities for 2014-17 are:

- Safeguarding children and strengthening families – from early help to statutory social care
- Tackling child poverty and raising families income
- Reducing risk and promoting resilience – giving children the best start in life
- Education – opportunity and achievement for all

Vision 2030

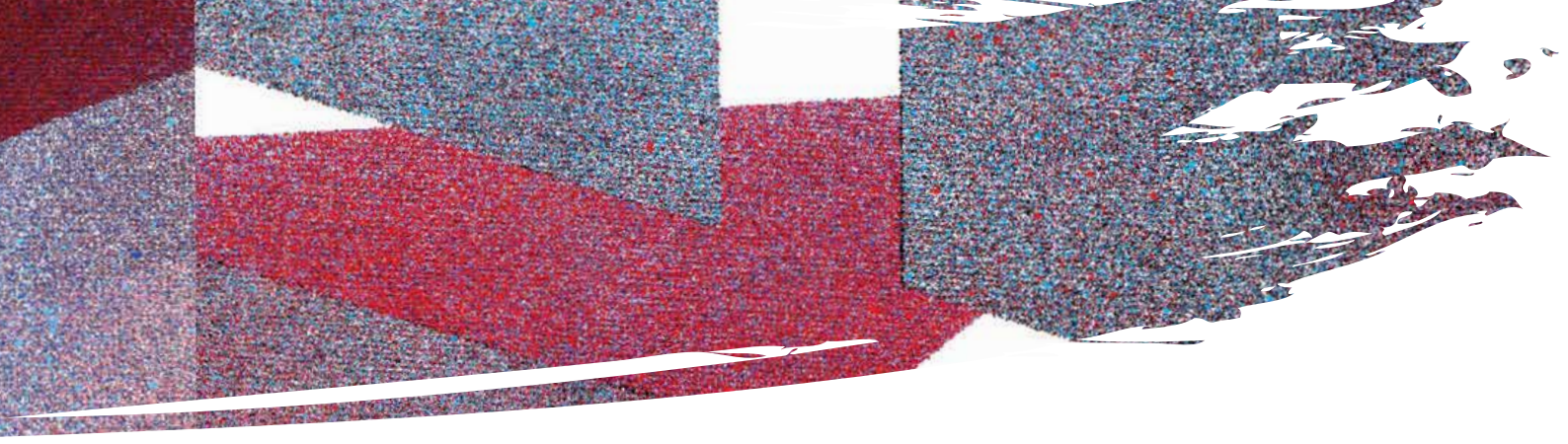
The vision for Gateshead is:

Local people realising their full potential, enjoying the best quality of life in a healthy, equal, safe, prosperous and sustainable Gateshead.

Our plan within this vision will be to focus upon the needs of children, young people and families to ensure they have the opportunity to flourish by addressing the key barriers and complex challenges that face them.

Due to austerity measures, a £60 million pound funding gap and a significant loss of resources across all areas of business within the Local Authority, Vision 2030 is currently being reviewed and refreshed. A transformation programme is underway and it is likely that by September 2015 we will have a clear strategy with renewed priorities for the future.

In the interim Gateshead YOT will strive to further improve upon the delivery of relevant and high quality interventions for the young people and communities to ensure we remain one of the safest places throughout England and Wales to live.



National Picture

National policy continues to focus upon localism with an expectation that local authorities and their partners operate in such a way that collectively they deliver services that meet the specific needs for the area. The targets for Youth Offending Teams remain unchanged and these are to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system, reduce re-offending of young people and reduce the use of custody.

Over the past year there has been a change in Government and it is not yet clear what the future model or targets of Youth Justice Services across England and Wales will look like. The Ministry of Justice commissioned a stock take of the Youth Justice System in England and Wales in 2014 the findings of which are published. The purpose of the stock take was to give the Ministry a better understanding of how local youth justice services are delivered and to ensure the Government can provide the best support to young people and their communities. Alongside the stocktake the Youth Justice Board undertook a review of Youth Justice Services and Gateshead was chosen as one of the Youth Offending Teams to be visited.

Government policy continues to place emphasis upon early intervention and in line with this, Gateshead has aligned it's delivery model to the National Troubled Families Agenda to ensure we provide a whole team around the family approach to preventing youth crime.

Locally

Due to austerity measures across all of the partnership, Gateshead YOT recognises that there are some business risks to service delivery for the YOT aligned to the reduction in resources and changes to partnership models of delivery. Notwithstanding this, Gateshead YOT are working hard with partners to try to ensure we have access to expedited, specialist and relevant resources for young people at times of both planned and unplanned need.

Gateshead Youth Offending Team faces new challenges during 2015/16 with the introduction of the new case management system Asset Plus. There will be a whole service change in the way we assess the needs of both young people and the wider family unit. This will require an extensive training programme for staff and volunteers and it is envisaged the new methods will involve a substantial amount of management time to support staff during the transition across all service areas. In addition the YOT will continue to focus upon early intervention and prevention using the Troubled Families model of delivery. In addition there will be a specific emphasis this year in the areas of 'Child to Adult Violence', 'Child Sexual Exploitation' and 'Cyber Enabled Crimes'.

As a result of recent HMIP Inspection Reports and a review of the services we deliver to girls there has been a significant amount of research and networking nationally to ensure we have access to the most up to date and relevant interventions when working with young female adolescents. This work will be a priority for Gateshead YOT going forward. This has resulted in a recent change within the team's structure that has enabled the YOT to develop the role of a dedicated worker to manage all Looked-after Children who enter the Criminal Justice System. This initiative has further improved relationships and communication with wider Children Service Teams.

The Police and Crime Commissioner continue to support the work of Gateshead YOT and we will be working in partnership with the PCC to further develop our capacity to 'live-track' re-offending data and to offer regular reports to the PCC of the Child to Adult Violence work which they part funded during 2014/15. Alongside this we are currently assessing our Community Remedy Offer and we will be providing a proposal to the PCC during 2015/16 to seek funding from the PCC to enable us to extend the nationally recognised work already being offered by Gateshead YOT.

The Youth Justice Board Context

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales strategic objectives for 2015-18 are:

- Oversee the delivery of distinct youth justice services which deliver against the three youth justice outcomes as well as ensuring the safety of children and young people.
- Maximise the influence of the work to key partners nationally and locally to contribute to the effective delivery of distinct youth justice services within the community and custody.
- Work in partnership with the Welsh Government to make appropriate adaptations to the youth justice system in order to reflect the policy context of a devolved Government.
- Develop a more holistic and responsive approach to the way in which statutory functions are commissioned, develop research and good practice and improve capacity to build, translate and disseminate the evidence across the sector.
- Make better use of existing statutory powers to improve performance of youth justice services in the community and custody with a specific focus upon reducing re-offending.
- Improve data collection and analysis to inform the continuous improvement of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board will press for more effective transfer of data so that those making decisions about a child's welfare has the fullest and most up to date information on which to base those decisions.

Community Safety Board

Gateshead Community Safety Board Partnership Priorities for 2015/16 are:

Following the completion of the eighth statutory strategic assessment in December 2014 Gateshead identified the following priorities to ensure Gateshead remains responsive to local community needs:

- Protecting Vulnerable Groups
- Addressing re-offending
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Addressing the drivers of crime



2

Resources and Value for Money

Core YOT funding

The table below shows how the funding for the Core YOT functions are changing between 2015/16.

	2014/15 Budget			2015/16 Budget			
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
YJB Grant	510		510	483		483	-27
Police	14	48	62	0	49	49	-13
Probation	51	28	79	25	44	69	-10
Health	62	60	122	62	18	80	-42
Gateshead MBC	898		898	810		810	-88
	1,535	136	1,671	1,380	111	1,483	-180
Expenditure							
Salaries	1,367	136	1,503	1,270	111	1,381	-122
Activity	148		175	92		92	-56
Overheads			0	17		17	17
Equipment	20		20	1		1	-19
	1,535	136	1,671	1,380	111	1,491	-180

The YJB Good Practice Grant has been initially reduced by £38k from £521k to £483k. However, we are receiving specific grants of £2k for Restorative Justice and £10k for unpaid work.

We are no longer receiving a YOT Grant notified in advance from the Police and Crime Commissioner, which was usually in the region of £30k. However, in 2014/15 bids were invited and accepted by the PCC for specific pieces of work and £62k was received in total throughout the year. It may be possible to submit further bids in 2015/16. The YOT receives the services of a full-time Police Officer.

The contribution from Probation reverts to the usual amount of £25k, which has been maintained whilst the Probation Service has been through a major national reorganisation. In recent years, we have received a monetary contribution in lieu of a Probation Officer post which has been vacant for some of the year. However, in 2015/16 we have a full time staff member in place for the full year.

The Health cash contribution is expected to remain the same, although the in-kind provision of staff is reducing from 1 full time equivalent health employee who specialises in drug education and rehabilitation to a nominated link worker within the Platform service who will attend the YOT office one day per week, carrying out generic interventions and supported by colleagues from Platform. The dedicated nurse position now works only with allocated Platform clients.

Gateshead Council has been making savings across all directorates and in this instance a reduction of £88k in their contribution has resulted in the loss of 2.2 fte posts, consisting of the deletion of 1.2 posts and the transfer of a senior manager's post to the Troubled Families budget.

Overall there has been a major reduction in the income of the YOT totalling £180,000 (11% of the budget). This is made up of £155k in cash terms and £25k in in-kind contributions. The in-kind contributions of staff reduce the fte contribution from 4.1 to 3.1

Remand

In common with other YOTs in the North East, Gateshead does not make major use of the Remand system. The relatively low remand grant of £12k reflects the few bed nights used in the past three years. The grant would pay for 69 nights in a YOI or 25 nights in a secure training centre. The number of bed nights in 2014/15 was 75, however to date the remand spend for 2015/16 has exceeded the grant allocation.

	2013/14 Budget			2014/15 Budget			
	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Cash	In-Kind	Total	Difference
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
YJB Grant	13	0	13	12	0	12	-1
Expenditure							
YOI Recharge	13	0	13	12	0	12	-1





Structure and Governance

Gateshead Council continues to face increasing demands for services and reducing resources to meet those needs. The Council's roles and responsibilities, and those of partners are changing rapidly, as are the expectations of local citizens. Technology has a growing significance in all lives and, increasingly, we have to think and work more flexibly across many boundaries.

In this context, Gateshead have taken a step back to reaffirm our long term Vision – Vision 2030, and to consider how we play our role in helping to achieve that shared vision for Gateshead. Our approach is to start from the person, not the institution. We have looked carefully at the evidence to understand the issues that individuals and communities are facing and have considered how we can best contribute to achieving the best possible outcomes for local people.

Currently Gateshead YOT sits within Care Wellbeing and Learning Service alongside the Family Intervention Team (FIT), the Play Service, Early Years, Youth and Community and Connexions.

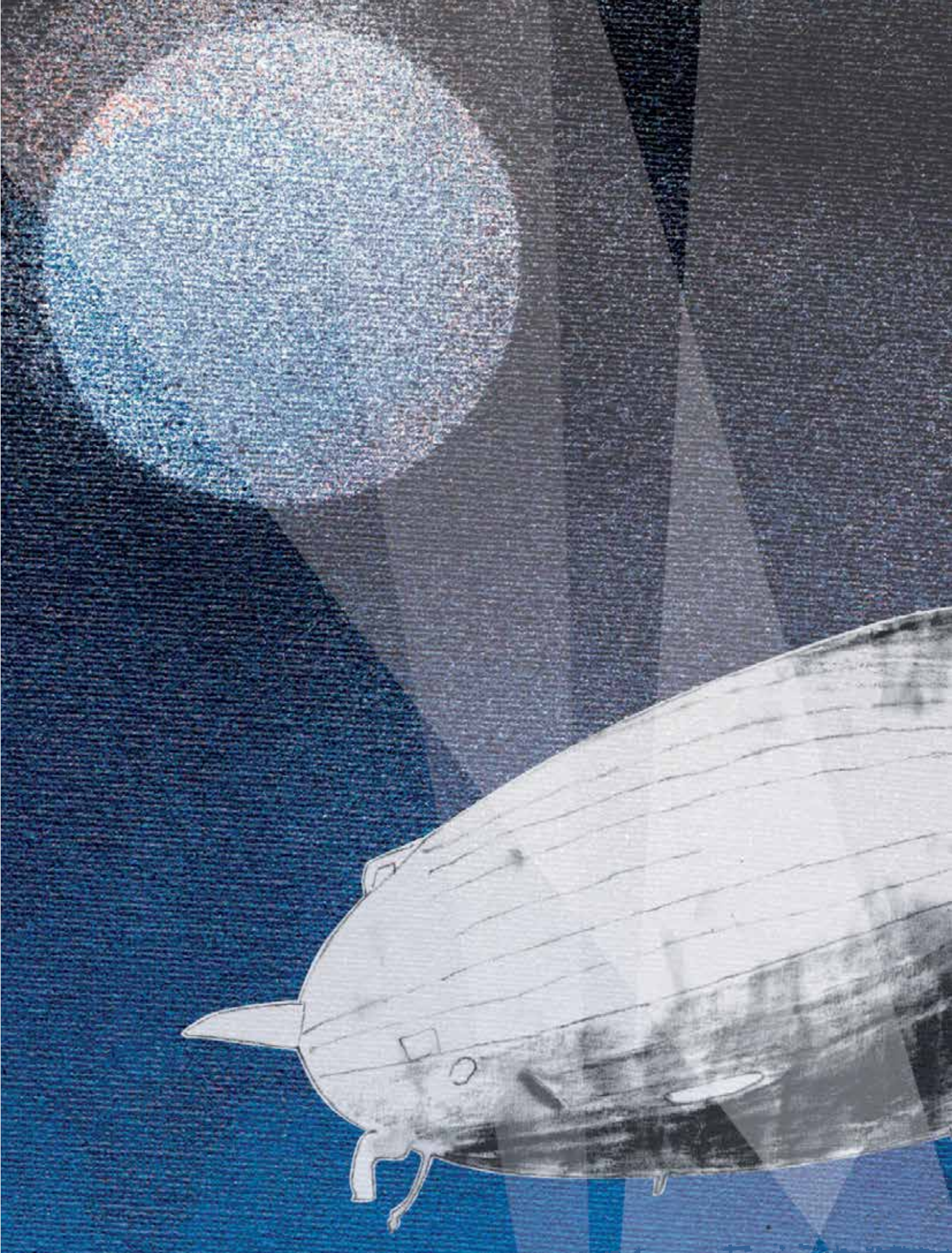
The YOT is physically co-located with the Referral and Assessment and Safeguarding and Care Planning Teams of Children and Families Social Care, which has strengthened joint working between Teams.

The YOT and the FIT are both aligned to the Troubled Families agenda (known in Gateshead as Families Gateshead). The YOT Service Manager co-ordinates the delivery of this programme on behalf of the Local Authority.

The YOT Board is Chaired by the Service Director for Children and Families Support and has a good representation of partners attending. Due to a potential review of structures within the local authority and with some of the YOT partner agencies, it is envisaged that the Board will need to review membership during this financial year.

The Board continues to concentrate its core business on:

- Budget
- Performance
- Emerging Issues
- Partners





4

Partnership Arrangements

Gateshead YOT has a strong and effective partnership which is led by the YOT Board.

2014/15 presented Gateshead YOT with some significant challenges linked to our partnership arrangements and during this time we reviewed service provision whilst trying to ensure young people and families maintained expedited access to services when risk or need is identified. During 2015/16 a review of membership and attendance of the YOT Board will be undertaken.

During 2014/15 Partners reviewed and altered the service provision provided to the YOT. In most areas this has resulted in a reduction of resource to Gateshead YOT and the specific changes to service delivery included:

Substance misuse

The Health commissioned Service has moved from SMART to DISC with the specific Gateshead Young Peoples Service named 'Platform Gateshead'. The new service offer has been agreed in a service level agreement (SLA) brokered by the Health Commissioner, however the new model has seen a reduction to resources allocated directly to the YOT.

The changes have resulted in a review of the referral process which has led to a more generic approach for YOT clients where previously bespoke work was available on an expedited needs basis. Further changes have resulted in a reduction in allocated YOT resources moving from a full time seconded worker who was visible to the team on a regular basis to a designated lead for YOT working one day per week within the YOT.

General health

The general health nurse currently is based within the new PLATFORM service. All young people open to PLATFORM are offered an assessment on their general health. There will be a requirement this year for health partners to adopt the new Assetplus health assessment tools.



Parenting

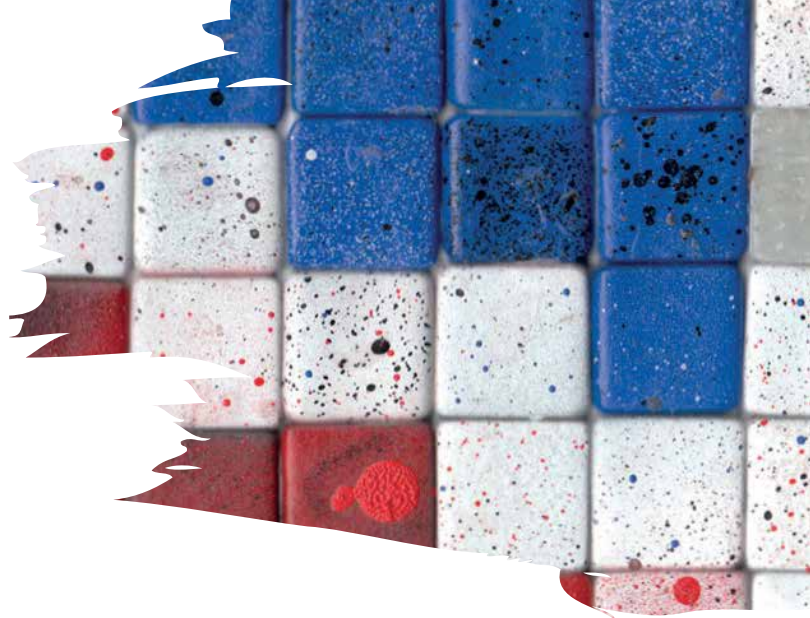
The YOT continues to commission Barnardos for the delivery of a wide range of parenting support across Gateshead. The YOT Team Manager attends the Local Authority Corporate Parenting Group and has regularly 1/4ly meetings with a senior manager from Barardos to addresses any staff or other service delivery issues.

Housing

The YOT Team Manager attends the Vulnerable Person's Housing Group and the Young Persons Housing Working Group. Emergency accommodation has been established for urgent cases through the Service Director Children and Families who via the Referral and Assessment Team manages access to Gateshead's own recently opened hostel. Accommodation continues to provide substantial challenges for the 17-18 year olds who find themselves in need of alternative placements.

Mental Health

South of Tyne Children and Young Peoples Service has now changed to the Children and Young Peoples Service (CYPS) and is now structured on a Newcastle / Gateshead area basis in line with National Health reform. When this restructure took place a senior nurse was appointed to cover Gateshead YOT. This nurse has not only responsibility for Gateshead but also for the Newcastle CAMHS worker and a separate complex caseload. These commitments have resulted in a significant reduction of around 50% visible presence and access to the mental health nurse within the YOT.



National Probation Service

The Seconded Probation Officer has a pivotal role in managing 16 to 17 year old young people who present as medium or high risk. This established role is integrated into YOT and NPS, and has links into CRC's. This involves the probation Officer managing all potential and agreed transfers to NPS/CRC using the Y2A (Youth to Adult) portal system, working directly with 16 and 17 years olds under youth Justice national standards and preparing young people for transfer and management under NPS/CRC national standards. This involves the coordination of current and potential allocated workers from both arenas, along with parents and young people, who are introduced to each other in person as the 'core' working team around the young person.

Through the use of the Y2A, up to date assessment, planning and intervention information is transferred securely and timely to the receiving NPS/CRC Officer following an assessment of risk by the YOT seconded Probation Officer. This process defines the most appropriate referral route into either NPS or CRC.

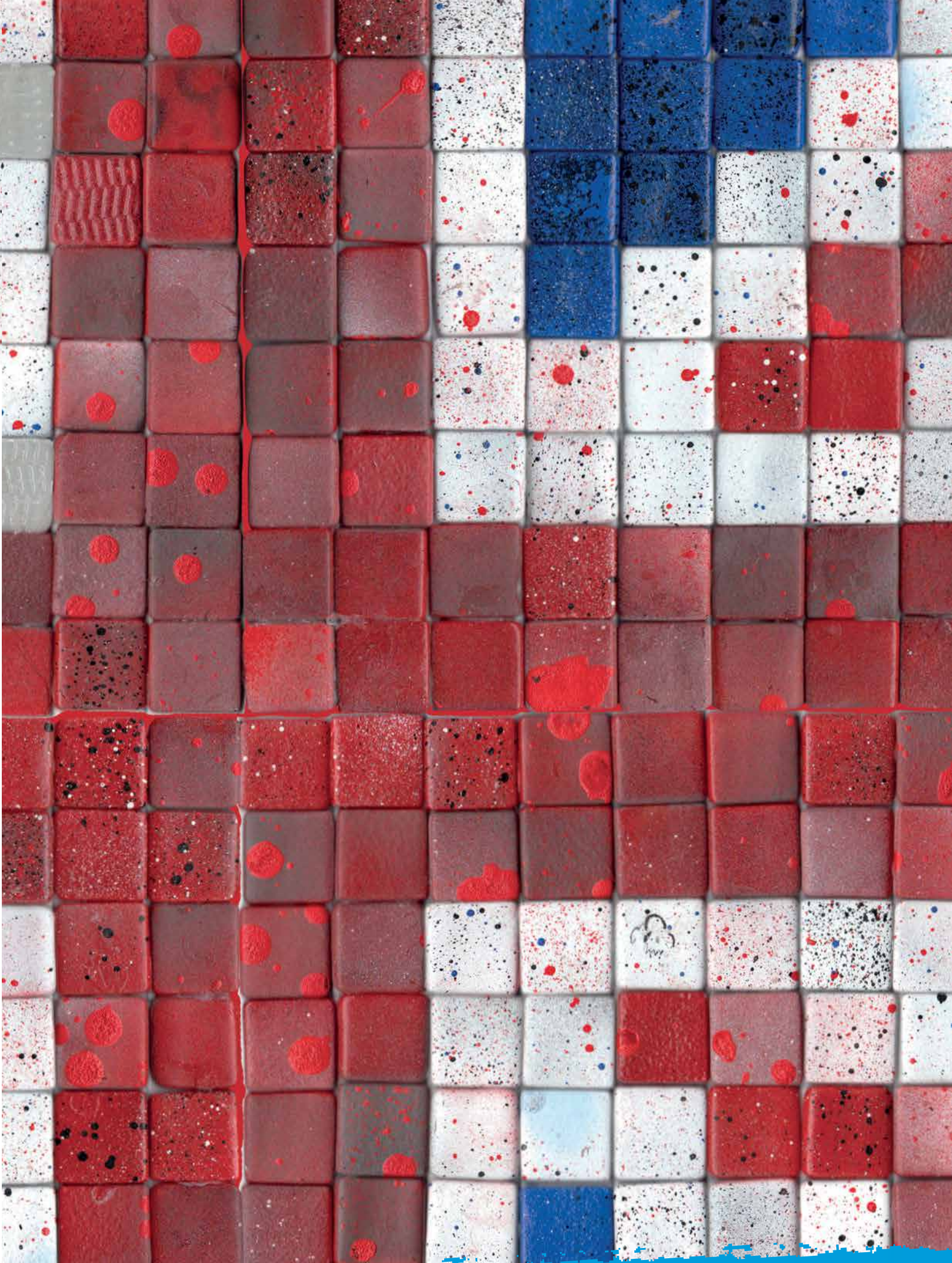
The positive relationship between NSP/CRC and YOT has supported seamless transfers with open and ongoing communication and joint working arrangements, all of which supports motivation and compliance within this difficult to engage group of young people.

Police

The Service Manager meets with the Police at the YOT Board and through regular meetings to address any issues and practice. In the last year the Team Manager failed to meet with the new area supervisor for the YOT PC due to several restructures of roles and responsibilities within the police. While a formal meeting has not taken place roles and responsibilities have been updated and agreed with the police following the appointment of a new police officer. These remain subject to continuous monitoring undertaken by the YOT Team Manager to ensure that local demands do not detract from the legal requirements of the YOT.

The emerging Police Commissioner agenda has resulted in the six Tyne and Wear YOTs meeting on a monthly basis with the Northumbria Police Commissioner and / or her representative being invited to all meetings.

The YOT part time Police Intelligence Officer post has been deleted. The primary role of this officer was, to monitor young people who are identified as DYOs, conduct doorstep curfew checks for non electronically monitored curfews and provide general community intelligence for young people actively involved with Gateshead YOT. This role has now fallen to the YOT Police Officer which is a further reduction in resources to the YOT. As the young people in the statutory service are a more complex challenging group this could be a gap in service delivery in being able to manage these young people within the community.



5

Key Priorities for 2015/16

Gateshead Youth Offending Team Priorities for 2015/16

Gateshead YOT partnership has set out its plans to address gaps and risks identified within the 2015/16 Capacity and Capability Self-Assessment process. The proposed priorities for 2015/16 are:

- 1 Implement Asset Plus which will require a cultural case management change across both Prevention and Statutory areas of business.
- 2 Further develop unpaid work and develop trading opportunities within and external to Gateshead for delivery of community reparative activity.
- 3 Maintain a low level of first time entrants by reviewing our relationship and data collection structures with Northumbria Police to ensure children are referred to Gateshead Youth Crime Prevention Services at the earliest opportunity.
- 4 Ensure all service delivery is aligned to the requirements of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- 5 Further develop consistent health provision for young people within YOT with a specific focus upon improving assessment of speech, language and communication needs.
- 6 Increase the number of Families Gateshead cases where crime is a contributing factor to eligibility.
- 7 Further development of the re-offending live tracker in order that Gateshead can track more up-to-date performance than is yet available from the Police National Computer. Allowing for more swift action to be taken to monitor and manage re-offending trends in line with the findings of the HMIP Joint Thematic Inspection of Resettlement Services to children by Youth Offending Teams and Partner Agencies.
- 8 To be at the forefront of safeguarding those adolescents whose offending behaviour is heavily influenced by exploitation and abuse by others, for example those experiencing child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, child to adult abuse and those affected by cyber-enabled crimes.
- 9 As a result of the findings of the HMIP Thematic Inspection of Girls in the Criminal Justice System Gateshead YOT is committed to further developing more specialist skills and resources when working with girls in order to improve outcomes, increase resilience, protect the public and reduce the risk of re-offending.
- 10 Review the membership and attendance levels of the YOT Management Board.





Performance Data 2014/15

Reporting of performance data to the Youth Justice Board (YJB) is set against the three youth justice outcome indicators set by the UK Government, as follows:

- reducing first-time entrants (FTE) to the criminal justice system
- reducing reoffending
- reducing the use of custody

These are reported to and monitored by the YJB, and locally reported to the YOT Board. The national and local statistic show ongoing reduction in the numbers of young people entering the youth justice system, those receiving court and pre-court outcomes, rates of custody and reoffending. The performance of Gateshead YOT in the three National outcome Indicators is an encouraging picture with some improvements, as well as favourably comparing with YOT's regionally and nationally.

First-Time Entrants (FTE) – This indicator has shown a consistent reduction since 2008, and has generally achieved target. The large reduction in numbers of first-time entrants over recent years has been as a result of evidence-based early intervention and diversion, delivered through multi-agency partnerships.

We reported 67 FTE's during 2014/15, 13.0% reduction from the previous year's FTE of 77, continuing the downward trend experienced locally and nationally since 2010. The YJB data for this target is gathered from the Police National Computer, as well as reported by YOT's to the YJB, and stated per 100,000 of 10-17 year old population.

The latest YJB published data for January 2014-December 2014 shows the rate of FTE's for Gateshead at 464, below the regional average (472), demonstrating the effectiveness of the local initiatives in reducing the number of young people becoming FTE's (FTE Data taken from PNC).

Gateshead's FTE's	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	371	267	120	115	103	82
Rate/100,000	2,027	1,501	691	641	576	464
North East	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	5,172	3,487	2,215	2,085	1603	3,426
Rate/100,000	2,063	1,427	930	875	689	478
National	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Number	75,111	58,457	43,111	34,931	26,127	21,118
Rate/100,000	1,493	1,180	884	696	528	431

We have delivered a significant number of Triage and Prevention interventions since the re-organisation of the team which was to promote joined-up youth crime prevention and work with partners. The introduction of the LASPO Act, which will have a significant and on-going impact on the number of FTE's in Gateshead. During April 2014 and March 2015 there were 59 Prevention interventions, and 109 Triage Interventions delivered in the period. The reoffending rate for Triage to date is 8.25%, and the current rate for Prevention interventions is 8.47%, demonstrating the effectiveness of both these referral processes.

Use of Custody - Reducing the use of custodial sentences has been a focus for the YOT, we introduced Compliance Panels in 2013 alongside robust community interventions to manage offenders in the community, which have provided good results overall. The latest YJB published data for **Apr 14-Mar 15** shows the rate of Custody for Gateshead at 0.28 (per 1,000 of 10-17 population) this represents 5 Custodial Sentences during the period. This is a decrease of -0.34 year on year. This is lower than the Regional average (0.46) and the National average (0.42) for the period.

Gateshead's Custody Rates	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	30	13	14	7	11	5
Rate of Custody / 1000	1.62	0.71	0.78	0.39	0.62	0.28
North East	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	245	177	153	128	139	332
Rate of Custody / 1000	0.98	0.73	0.66	0.55	0.60	0.46
National	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Custodial Sentences	5059	4349	4099	3101	2211	2064
Rate of Custody / 1000	0.99	0.86	0.83	0.63	0.45	0.42

Rate of Reoffending - Reducing reoffending has been highlighted as a priority by the YJB and the Secretary of State for Justice. We committed last year to undertake targeted work to reduce reoffending, improve outcomes in the team, and develop local reporting to highlight prolific offenders for targeted work. The frequency of reoffending by some young people in the service is not reducing, and this reflects the national picture and the complexity of the young people we are currently working with.

The latest YJB published data from PNC for the Rate of Re-offending is for the period, July 2012 – June 2013. The percentage rate of reoffending is 37.4% - this is the number of young people who go on to reoffend in the year, which is a 0.1% increase year on year. The frequency rate of reoffending is 0.99 – this is the number of offences committed by those who reoffend, this is a -0.09 decrease year on year.

Gateshead's Proven Rate of Reoffending	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.86	0.96	0.87	1.05	0.99
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	32.4	36.3	34.4	33.5	37.4
North East	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.97	0.92	1.18	1.13	1.19
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	33.6	36.7	39.5	37.6	38.2
National	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Offences/Offender	0.90	0.92	1.03	1.02	1.10
% Reoffending (# reoffender)	32.8	33.3	35.8	35.4	36.5

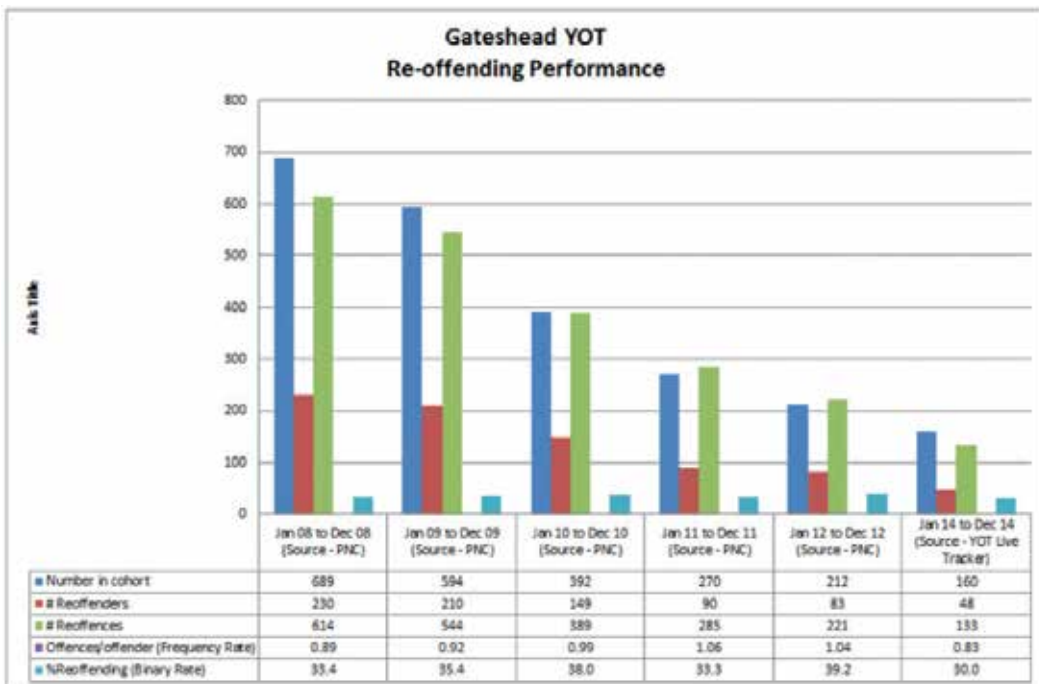
Re-offending Rates through use of Re-offending Live Tracker for period Jan 14 to Dec 14

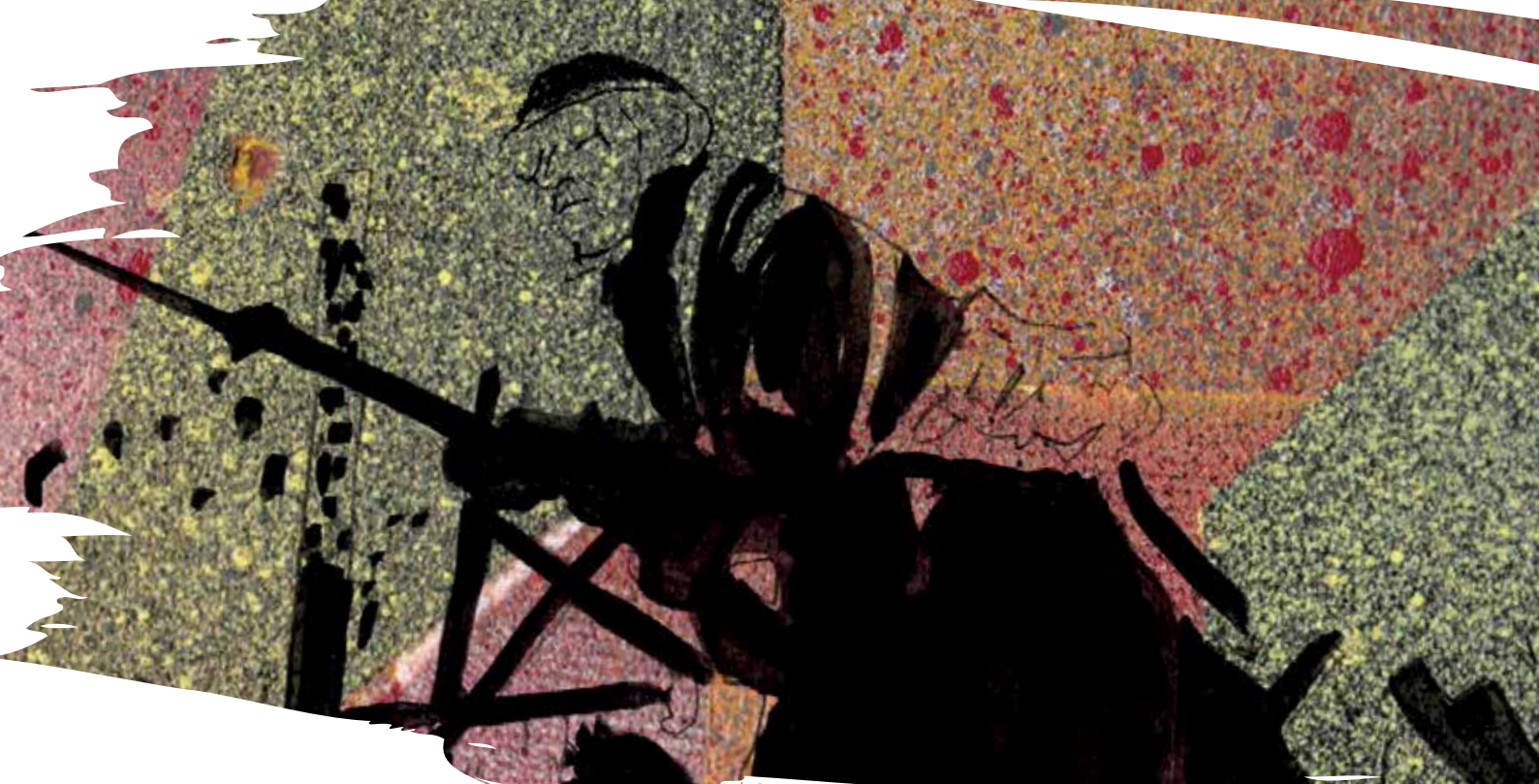
We have developed a local reoffending report which looks at live data through the use of the re-offending Live Tracker Toolkit, which was provided by the Youth Justice Board. We measure current reoffending rates, and analyse the re-offending data on current cohorts as they go through the year, which helps to develop bespoke plans for young people. This tracking tool can help to inform any required remedial action to be taken by the YOT during the 12 month tracking period.

The current Live Tracker re-offending cohort takes the 160 young people who were in the service during Jan-Dec 2014 and measures their reoffending rates for 12 months. To date we know that of the 160 offenders within the cohort only 48 offenders have so far gone on to re-offend, committing 133 offences. This gives a percentage rate of reoffending for the group at 30%, and the frequency rate of reoffending currently as 0.83.

The graph below compares Gateshead's current re-offending performance taken from the Re-offending Live Tracker, against PNC data and it is encouraging to note that since 2008 there has been a 77% reduction in cohort size, which equates to a reduction from 689 young people in the service to 160 young people. There is also a 78% reduction of re-offenders, which equates from 230 re-offenders to 48 re-offenders.

This demonstrates the prolific nature of the young people within our current cohort, and the challenges faced by the service to reduce their re-offending.





Local Targets

The local landscape has changed significantly over recent years and continues to change, with greater local accountability and responsibility, including the transfer of key funding from the UK Government to local authorities, and the opportunities created by local integrated offender management.

Families Gateshead

The Troubled Families programme has been embedded in the YOT as a local strategy to support families, prevent first-time entrants, and reoffending within families by offering additional support to all family members.

Phase 1 – Of 109 families allocated between April 14 – March 2015, 40 families were allocated to YOT, this is represented as 36.69%.

During the early adopter stage of Phase 2 – Of 582 families which were allocated between September 2014 – March 2015 69 families were allocated to YOT, this is represented as 11.85%. The Service Manager for the YOT also co-ordinates the Troubled Families Programme for Gateshead.

Looked After Children

There were 17 cases of Looked after Children in the service, 8 were LAC for 12 months, and 9 cases were LAC for a period during the year. Males make up 76% of the cases which reflects the general population of service users.

Restraints in Secure Accommodation

We felt there was a potential for gaps in reporting of this crucial data from secure accommodation, and Gateshead have developed a questionnaire to ascertain safeguarding and restraint information during our monthly visits to young people. This questionnaire was shared with the Youth Justice Board Regional Re-settlement Group and was considered an innovative proactive strategy for reporting safeguarding issues in custody.



What Do People Say About Us?

"The member of staff who worked with my son is in my opinion a legend and the fabulous support and advice he has given to me and my family has been first class."

Parent, 2014

"We have just finished a fabulous four week course working with Gateshead Youth Offending Team. A range of excellent activities helped us to explore ways to make good choices as well as understand the Law in England. Everyone, including the adults loved the sessions. Thank you."

Blaydon West Primary School

"The YOT victim worker was "brilliant and kept us well informed". We are very satisfied with how the YOT have kept us informed and given us an opportunity to be heard. We feel we were well prepared, supported and safe."

Victim 2014

"Thank you for attending our group and training our young people in positive relationships and sexual exploitation. The group was particularly challenging but the YOT staff were able to engage and empower them to enable them to contribute to the sessions. The training itself was brought to life by the YOT staff and delivery style was highly effective."

Princes Trust 2015

"The YOT reparation staff who worked with my child has proved to be a good mentor to him, resulting in my child wanting to continue with the work he was doing which he was able to do on a voluntary basis, after his court order finished. Thank you for giving him this chance."

Parent 2014

"Thank you Gateshead YOT for cleaning up the graveyard at St Oswalds. The parishioners and I are very pleased with the YOT Teams work. I wish the young person who made this (wreath) well because he has shown a lot of remorse for his actions."

Fr Kevin Cummins, Parish Priest, St Oswalds Catholic Church

"The lessons learned were really important and I think hit home to some key children. YOT staff were great with the children and made them feel that their contributions were really valued and shared some really important messages in a way they could relate to."

Teacher, Wardley Primary

"On behalf of the friends of Winlaton Village I write to thank you for the excellent job which has been done on the garage walls facing onto the Windy Fields in Winlaton to remove the graffiti. The area already looks so much better thanks to the efforts of your team."

Chair 'Friends of Winlaton Village

"We would like to express our appreciation for the work you have carried out at St Chads, this proved to be an excellent opportunity to develop a better understanding across generations of both young and old."

Meg Gilley, St Chads Church 2014

"I am very pleased with the work the YOT did at the Wardley Underpass. The YOT staff member deserves an MBE."

Resident 2014

Recognition

Restorative Justice Quality Mark

Gateshead Youth Offending Team attained the Restorative Justice Quality Mark in July 2015 and were the first organisation in the North East of England to receive the prestigious award.



The Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) backed by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) demonstrates that Gateshead Youth Offending Team, are delivering good quality, safe and sustainable restorative services that meet the six Restorative Service Standards. Only twenty organisations nationally from sectors that include criminal justice, education and care have achieved the RSQM.



Gateshead Youth Offending Team Centenary of First World War project

Young people known to Gateshead Youth Offending Team took part in a year-long art project where they have learned about the local, national and international impact of the First World War.

The young people involved in the project were also involved in reparation to clean up St Oswald's Catholic Church, where they uncovered 2 World War 1 gravestones of young men who had died in action.

The art exhibition is the final part of the project, it will be displayed (in part) at the annual Youth Justice Board Conference and has been put forward for the Koestler Awards and the Children and Young People Now 2015 awards.



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Risks to Future Delivery

The current review of Council Services within Gateshead to ensure we can meet the £60 million pound funding gap will provide Gateshead YOT with significant challenges in 2016/17 and the preparation for these cuts in 2015 will impact upon the current delivery model. There will be reductions to funding and this will impact upon services to young people, partners and communities. In order to mitigate this risk, during 2015, Gateshead YOT management team will be exploring any new opportunities and new ways of working to determine which model of delivery will be the most cost effective to ensure we can deliver more with less.

Remands to the Local Authority provide a significant risk to the council budget. Actions to mitigate the risks will include robust monitoring and management oversight, dedicated weekend and bank holiday management cover whilst maintaining regular communication with the Youth Court Bench to ensure confidence in bail supervision and support programmes remains strong.

Maintaining and improving our performance alongside delivering consistent and high quality interventions whilst facing challenging reductions in budgets will require Gateshead YOT to further develop performance monitoring systems that will give more detailed local data. This is especially difficult in the context of reducing our re-offending rates as the relevant cohort of young people has reduced but the levels of complexity within their lives has not. With the development of Asset Plus alongside the re-offending toolkit we will continue to robustly audit ourselves using the HMIP Inspection Framework and investigate all possible new and innovative ways of working.

Implementing new measures such as the Anti Social Behaviour Tools and Powers and the new requirements of Anti Terrorism for YOT Boards against a backdrop of efficiencies and loss of resources will require Gateshead YOT to maintain strong links with the Community Safety Partnership. Active inclusion within the joint agency Anti Social Behaviour Panels and working within the Gateshead Community Tensions framework will give wider partnership opportunities to ensure we deliver against statutory requirements within a robust governance structure.

There is a risk to the service linked to loss of expertise and skills due to potential redundancies. Recent resignations, including those within the management team, have resulted in staff vacancies being left unfilled. As well as losing skilled staff, Gateshead YOT is aware of the impact these gaps in service can have upon the staff who remain. There is a statutory requirement for YOTs to have a skilled volunteer workforce. Due to diminishing resources there is no longer the capacity to offer the volunteers a volunteer co-ordinator and this role has been absorbed into the YOT Management Team. Gateshead YOT will continue to monitor the impact of this change.

Gateshead Local Authority is currently in discussions with staff across all areas of business to make informed decisions during September to December 2015 on how the authority will deliver services in the future. Depending upon the decisions made, it is envisaged that some of the specialist services the YOT currently delivers would no longer be viable beyond April 2016.

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Contact Us

Children and Families Support Service
Youth Offending Team
Civic Centre, Ground Floor
Regent Street
Gateshead NE8 1HH

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 5.30pm
Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm
Saturday Reparation/Constructive Activity and on call Court 8.30am - 4.30pm
Sunday ISS/Constructive Activity – as required

Tel: 0191 433 3000 • Fax: 0191 433 4548

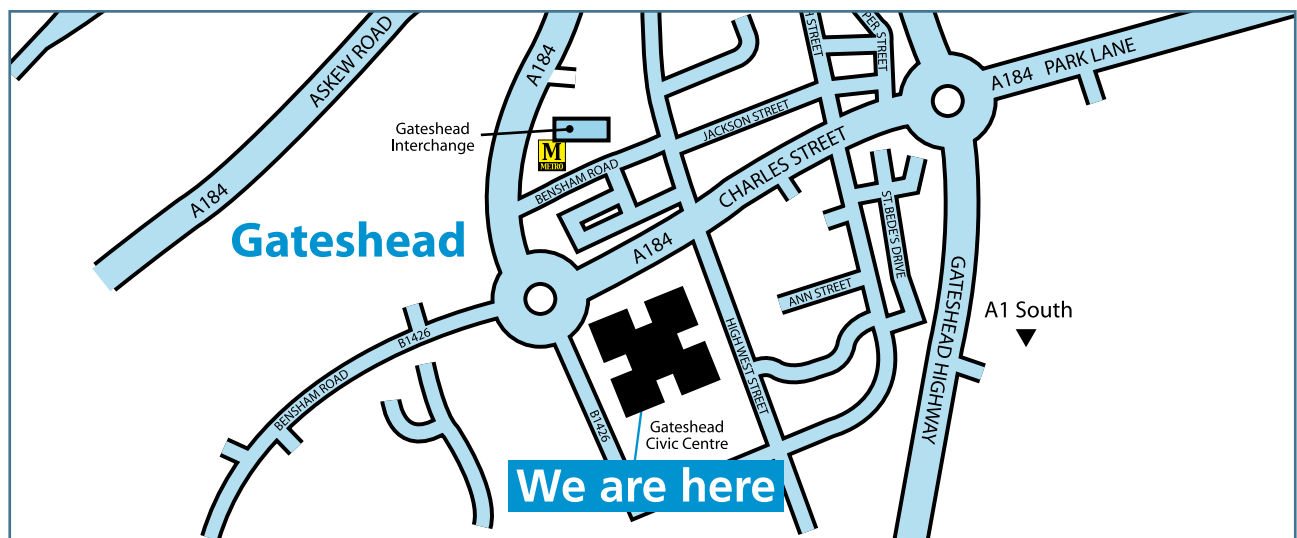
Service Manager

Susan Butler, Service Manager for Youth Offending and Family Intervention Teams and
Co-ordinator of the Families Gateshead Programme

Tel: 0191 433 4596

Email: susanbutler@gateshead.gov.uk

How to find Gateshead Youth Offending Team





Gateshead
youth
offending
team



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All images in this publication are taken from artwork created by young people known to Gateshead Youth Offending Team.





COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

CHANGES TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY UNDER THE DEREGULATION ACT 2015

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of proposed changes to the hackney carriage and private hire policy and fees.
2. On 1 October 2015 changes to the legislation regulating the provision of hackney carriage and private hire services under The Deregulation Act 2015 will come into force. In order to give effect to these changes, amendments are required to the Council's current policies and conditions and to the Council's fees and charges, as detailed within the attached report.
3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. It is recommended that Council approves the proposed changes to the hackney carriage and private hire policy and fees so that they take effect on 1 October 2015 as required by the Deregulation Act 2015.

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TITLE OF REPORT: Changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy under the Deregulation Act 2015

REPORT OF: Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Purpose of the Report

1. This report is to inform Cabinet of the changes required to licensed hackney carriage and private hire driver and private hire operator policy and fees as a result of the introduction of the Deregulation Act 2015.

Background

2. On 1 October 2015 changes to the legislation regulating the provision of hackney carriage and private hire services under The Deregulation Act 2015 will come into force.
3. The changes are that -
 - (a) Driver licences will now normally last for three years and private hire operator licences will normally last for five years (rather than a standard one year duration as present), unless there is good reason otherwise; and
 - (b) Private hire operators will now be able to subcontract bookings to operators based outside the Borough, and Gateshead based operators will be able to accept bookings from operators based outside the Borough under subcontracts.
4. In order to give effect to these changes, amendments are required to the Council's current policies and conditions, and to the Council's fees and charges.

Proposal

Private Hire Operator Licence fees

5. The current fee is £157.00 which includes all administration and enforcement associated with the licence for a period of one year, and is charged on application.
6. The Deregulation Act 2015 requires that Private Hire Operator Licences are now normally issued for a period of 5 years unless the individual circumstances justify a shorter period, which is set out in further detail below.
7. Recent case law requires that Council's structure their fees for licences as separate charges (a) for the initial application payable by all applicants and (b) for ongoing costs, for example enforcement and compliance checking, for those who are licensed.

8. It is therefore proposed to amend the fees and charges schedule as follows:

- An application fee - covering the administration associated with the application process; and the cost of administration and enforcement during the first 12 month period of the licence (with a portion to be refunded to unsuccessful applicants)
- An annual fee - which covers the cost of administration and enforcement during the four subsequent 12 month periods of the licence published each March and determined by the cost of administering and enforcing Gateshead Private Hire Operator licences from 1 October to 30 September each year
- To reflect the fact that operators with larger fleets require greater compliance checks, it is intended that from April 2016 a two tier fee band is proposed for large and small operators
- In order that the actual amount licensees will pay for licences issued in the 2015/16 financial year remains as set out in the Council's Fees and charges, the combined application fee and first year licence fee will be £157.00, being £27.00 Application fee and £130.00 licence fee from 1 October 2015. It is envisaged that in the future the review of these fees will be in line with the annual review of the Council's Fees and Charges schedule. The annual fees from April 2016 will be calculated based on a detailed analysis of costs which will be carried out over the next six months to take into account the impact of the changes to policy and procedure as below.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver licence fees

9. The current fee is £51.90 which includes the cost of issue and administration associated with the licence for a period of one year, and is charged on application.
10. The Deregulation Act 2015 requires that Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences are now issued for a period of 3 years unless the individual circumstances justify a shorter period, which is set out in further detail below.
11. A number of measures have recently been introduced to make Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles safer for passengers and drivers, such as the introduction of compulsory Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training. The Council is also trialling changes to existing procedures, many of which are expected to result in efficiencies.
12. From 1 October 2015 fees will be split so that -
 - (a) all applicants pay a fee of £51.90 for the processing of their application, and
 - (b) successful applicants pay an annual fee of £35.00.
13. There are a number of reasons why it may be appropriate for a Driver licence to be issued for a period less than three years which are set out below, and to accommodate this the proposed fee structure gives applicants the

following payment options for Hackney Carriage Drivers and Private Hire Drivers –

- One year licence - £51.90
- Two year licence - £86.90 (of which £35.00 would be refundable if the application is unsuccessful)
- Three year licence - £121.90 (of which £70.00 would be refundable if the application is unsuccessful)

For Dual Badge Drivers:

- One year licence - £84.00
- Two year licence - £119.00 (of which £35.00 would be refundable if the application is unsuccessful)
- Three year licence - £154.00 (of which £70.00 would be refundable if the application is unsuccessful)

14. Applicants will be required to pay the full amount on application in order to reduce the administrative costs of processing relatively small annual fees, which if processed year on year would increase the overall costs to licensees.
15. It is envisaged that in the future the review of these fees will be in line with the annual review of the Council's Fees and Charges schedule. The annual fees from April 2016 will be calculated based on a detailed analysis of costs which will be carried out over the next six months to take into account the impact of the proposed changes to policy and procedure.

Policy and conditions

16. Some consequential amendments are required in respect of driver and operator licence policy and conditions.

Operator licences

17. As operator licences will normally last for five years, a condition will be added to all new operator licences (including all existing operator licences on renewal) as follows –

“Upon the granting of the Licence and for the duration of the Licence upon (or before) each anniversary of the grant, the Operator must pay the annual fee failing which the Licence shall be suspended until such time as the annual fee is duly paid.”

18. It is anticipated that further changes to conditions and policies will be necessary to accommodate subcontracting. Cabinet's approval will be sought in due course to undertake a consultation in this respect.

Driver licences

19. Drivers are required to provide evidence of their medical fitness and criminal history from time to time, in line with relevant national guidance.
20. The requirement to provide medical certificates to a 'Group 2' standard at staggered intervals depending on age will remain unchanged.
21. Drivers are currently required to undergo a criminal record check on application and then every three years. This will inevitably mean that if a current licensee chooses to apply for a three year licence, the date that they are due to provide a criminal record certificate may not align with their licence renewal date in the future. This will however be mitigated by encouraging licensees to obtain a two or three year licence and subscribe to the Disclosure & Barring Service's new update service which ensures that the Council is able to check if there have been any changes to a person's criminal record on an interim basis. This will improve the Council's ability to ensure public protection and creates an efficiency for both licensees and the Council.
22. As above, Driver licences will normally be issued for a period of three years, but there are a number of reasons why a licence may be issued for a shorter period –
 - Applicants may for their own reasons choose to request that a licence is issued for a one or two year period, for instance if they are approaching retirement so do not intend to work for a further three years
 - Applicants who do not subscribe to the DBS update service may not be issued with a licence for longer than 12 months in order to ensure that they provide a current DBS certificate should they seek to renew their licence upon expiry. Over the next six months further data will be gathered around what duration of licence is appropriate. The Council is mindful of the financial implications of changes to DBS requirements although it should be noted that signing up for the update service provides medium term financial benefits. However the purpose of any changes is fundamentally to ensure that all licensees' criminal records can be checked with appropriate and consistent frequency; and
 - Dependent on individual circumstances.

Recommendations

23. Cabinet is asked to recommend the Council to approve the proposed changes to hackney carriage and private hire policy and fees so that they can take effect on 1 October 2015 as required by the Deregulation Act 2015.

For the following reason:

So that the statutory changes brought about by the Deregulation Act 2015 can be implemented

CONTACT: Elaine Rudman extension 3911

Policy Context

1. The administration and enforcement of licensed drivers and operators contributes to Gateshead's Sustainable Community Strategy - Vision 2030 which sets out an ambitious and aspirational vision for Gateshead. Vision 2030 aims to improve the wellbeing and equality of opportunity for everyone in Gateshead so that all residents and businesses can fulfil their potential.

Background

2. On 1 October 2015 changes to the legislation regulating the provision of hackney carriage and private hire services under The Deregulation Act 2015 will come into force. The changes are drawn from a more holistic review of the existing legislation proposed by the Law Commission, and were included in the Deregulation Act as they were considered by Parliament to be minor amendments that would increase customer choice, create greater efficiencies for the trade and reduce unnecessary red tape.
3. The relevant changes in the Act with respect to taxi and private hire licensing are that -
 - (a) Driver licences will now normally last for three years and private hire operator licences will normally last for five years (rather than a standard one year duration as present), unless there is good reason otherwise; and
 - (b) Private hire operators will now be able to subcontract bookings to operators based outside the Borough, and Gateshead based operators will be able to accept bookings from operators based outside the Borough under subcontracts.
4. The change in the duration of licences requires a review of the way fees are set. Another change to fees that needs to be made arises from recent case law which requires that Council's structure their fees for licences as separate charges (a) for the initial application payable by all applicants and (b) for ongoing costs, for example enforcement and compliance checking, for those who are licensed.

Consultation

5. Cabinet Members for Environment and Transport and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Regulatory Committee have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Alternative Options

6. There are no alternative options to making these changes as they are required to comply with legislation and relevant case law.

Implications of Recommended Option

7. Resources

- a. **Financial Implications** –The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, confirms that there are no additional financial implications arising from this report for this financial year and that future fees will be set as part of the annual review of the Council's Fees and Charges.
- b. **Human Resources Implications** - There are no human resource implications arising directly from this report.
- c. **Property Implications** - There are no property implications arising directly from this report

8. **Risk Management Implications** – There are no risk management implications arising directly from this report

9. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – An Equality Impact and Needs Assessment of these plans has indicated a neutral impact

10. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

11. **Health Implications** - There are no health implications arising directly from this report.

12. **Area and Ward Implications** - This report affects all wards equally.

13. Background Material

These documents that have been considered in preparation of the report:

- Deregulation Act 2015
- The Town Police Clauses Act 1847
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Judgement - R (on the application of Hemming (t/a Simply Pleasure Ltd) and others) (Respondents) v Westminster City Council (Appellant)
- Cummings et al v Cardiff City Council
- Disclosure and Barring Service – DBS Update Service Employer Guide August 2015

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
2014/15**

COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Legal and Corporate Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee.
2. In line with best practice the Audit and Standards Committee is required to report to Council on the Committee's activity each year.
3. Changes to the Council's decision making structures were agreed by Council on 15 May 2014 and this included the merger of the Audit Committee and the Standards Committee. This annual report includes activity for both of the former Audit Committee and the Standards Committee.
4. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is recommended that Council endorse the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2014/15

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TITLE OF REPORT: Annual Report of the Audit and Standards Committee 2014/15

**REPORT OF: Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Corporate Resources
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance**

Purpose of the Report

1. Cabinet is asked to consider the Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report for 2014/15 and agree that this report is submitted to Council.

Background

2. In line with best practice the Audit and Standards Committee is required to report to Cabinet and Council on the Committee's activity each year. The report for 2014/15 was agreed by the Audit and Standards Committee on 27 July 2015.

Proposal

3. Cabinet is asked to consider the Audit and Standards Committee's annual report at Appendix 2 and agree to submit it to Council. The report provides an overview on the work of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2014/15, and describes how it has had a positive impact on governance, financial reporting and audit issues across the Council, as well as providing challenge and independent assurance on the risk management framework and associated internal control environment.

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the annual report of the Audit and Standards Committee for 2014/15 and agree that it is submitted to Council.

For the following reason:

To strengthen the Council's arrangements for oversight by councillors of governance, audit, risk management, the internal control framework, value for money and efficiency.

Policy Context

1. The proposal supports the vision for Gateshead as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Strategy, Vision 2030 and the Council Plan. In particular, it supports the priority to ensure a sustainable Gateshead by building capacity across the Council and ensuring the best use of resources.

Background

2. In line with best practice, the Audit and Standards Committee is required to submit an annual report to Cabinet and Council, and also any further reports and recommendations as it sees fit. The areas of activity of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2014/15 are set out in the Annual Report.

Contents of the Report

3. Appendix 2 outlines the activity which the Audit and Standards Committee has covered over the last year.
4. The Audit and Standards Committee has received reports in the following areas:
 - Internal Audit planning, performance and activity
 - Annual Internal Audit benchmarking results
 - Internal Audit recommendations
 - Internal Audit external assessment against compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
 - External Audit planning, performance and activity
 - Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity
 - The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence
 - Treasury Management Policy and mid-year update.
 - Local Code of Governance update
5. There were no reports in year which were specific to Standards issues. No complaints have been received under the Member's Code of Conduct, that required investigation, nor was there any guidance or best practice issued during the year that warranted a report. The Monitoring Officer is responsible for maintaining and promoting high standards within the Council and he and his staff have contributed to the Audit work on good governance particularly those matters relating to the Corporate Risk Management activity and the Annual Governance Statement.
6. Based on the evidence presented during the year and at the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee on 22 June 2015 it was concluded that the Council's system of internal control and governance framework is effective.

Consultation

7. The Audit and Standards Committee considered and agreed the contents of this report at their meeting of 27 July 2015.

Alternative Options

8. There are no alternative options.

Implications of Recommended Option

9. Resources:

- a) **Financial Implications** - The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources confirms that there are no financial implications arising from this report.

- b) **Human Resources Implications** – None.

- c) **Property Implications** – None.

10. **Risk Management Implications** - The Audit and Standards Committee receives quarterly reports on risk management and has been instrumental in championing risk awareness training for councillors.

11. **Equality and Diversity Implications** – None.

12. **Crime and Disorder Implications** - None.

13. **Health Implications** – None.

14. **Sustainability Implications** – None.

15. **Human Rights Implications** - None.

16. **Area and Ward Implications** – None.

17. **Background Information** – Report and minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee meeting on 27 July 2015.

Contents of the Report to Cabinet and Council – 2014/15

The Audit and Standards Committee has considered the following areas of activity during 2014/15:

Internal Audit planning, performance and activity

As at 31 March 2015 101% of the Internal Audit Plan was completed. This resulted in 81 audit reports. Of these reports 69 (85%) found systems to be operating well or satisfactory, with 12 (15%) systems having significant weaknesses, of which 4 of these instances were schools.

All significant weakness reports are being followed up as part of the Internal Audit process and the Audit and Standards Committee will monitor the outcomes.

Based on this evidence arising from internal audit activity during 2014/15, the Council's internal control systems and governance and risk management arrangements are considered to be effective.

The Internal Audit Service has also co-ordinated the Council's National Fraud Initiative (NFI) work and has supported Council managers with irregularity, e-mail, internet and other disciplinary investigations on an ongoing basis during 2014/15 with quarterly updates to Audit and Standards Committee.

Other reports received during 2014/15 and relating to Internal Audit included the CIPFA Benchmarking Results for 2013/14 and a report on the outcome of external assessment against Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) The Audit and Standards Committee also approved the Audit Strategy and Plan and the approach to follow up of recommendations

The Audit and Standards Committee will continue to monitor Internal Audit's progress on a quarterly basis against the 2015/16 Audit Plan.

External Audit planning, performance and activity

The following external audit reports have been reviewed over the year:

Quarterly Audit Progress Reports – these reports included annual audit fee levels for 2014/15, certification of grant claims and returns and the Audit Strategy for 2014/15. Updates have also been provided on national publications in areas relevant for the Committee. This included a Fraud Briefing based on the Protecting the Public Purse Annual Fraud and Corruption survey results.

The Committee were also asked to consider how they exercise oversight of certain key management processes in relation to some specific areas of

governance, with a potential to impact upon the financial statements, during 2014/15. This was a requirement to satisfy the external auditors that such oversight was in place in order to comply with International Auditing Standards. The Committee agreed that an effective level of oversight was in place.

Corporate Risk Management and Resilience activity

The Committee receives quarterly reports on the assurance derived from risk management. These reports make Councillors aware of the arrangements that exist within the Council for managing risk, the impact that these have had and the plans for further development of risk management arrangements. A member of the Audit and Standards Committee during 2014/15, Councillor John Hamilton, is the Councillor Champion for Risk Management.

The Annual Governance Statement and supporting evidence

The Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 concluded that the Council's system of internal control, risk management and governance framework is effective.

The Audit and Standards Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15 following a review of the evidence, detailed below, and evidence seen by the Committee during the year.

Cabinet Members

Assurance was sought from Members of the Cabinet on the effectiveness they felt could be placed on the Council's corporate governance arrangements. They concluded that effective governance arrangements are in place.

Senior Managers

Service Directors completed self-assessment assurance statements detailing the level of assurance obtained from their key control processes. The conclusion of this exercise found that senior managers agreed that effective control systems were in place overall. These areas will be examined as part of the 2015/16 Audit Plan and the outcomes reported to the Audit and Standards Committee in October 2015.

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit Service has undertaken audit work throughout the year based on the risk based audit plan. In addition the Council has a framework of assurance available to satisfy it that risks have been properly identified and are being managed by controls that are adequately designed and effective in operation. This includes assurance from a variety of sources other than the Internal Audit Service. These other audit systems have been assessed as part of the Audit Plan.

Based on this audit activity the overall opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor for the year 2014/15 was that internal control systems and risk management and governance arrangements are effective.

A review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit has also been undertaken for 2014/15 in line with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. This review focused upon compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit, reliance placed by the external auditor on Internal Audit's work, an assessment of the effectiveness of the Audit and Standards Committee and relevant local performance information. Based on the review the Council's system of Internal Audit was considered to be operating effectively.

Risk Management

Risk management is embedded in the Council through a Corporate Risk Management Policy which includes the requirement to identify strategic and operational risks, assess those risks for likelihood and impact, identify mitigating controls and allocate responsibility for those controls. The Council maintains and reviews a register of its business risks, linking them to strategic business objectives and assigning ownership for each risk. Risk management awareness is an integral part of the Council's employee competency framework and a comprehensive training programme has been developed for employees at all levels.

The Strategic Director, Corporate Resources reported that risk management arrangements during the year were effective.

Performance Management and Data Quality

The Council has a Corporate Performance Management Framework which helps it deliver the priorities within the Council Plan. The monitoring of performance takes place at key performance points as identified in the framework including quarterly performance reported to Group Management Teams and Corporate Senior Officer meetings.

In addition performance is also monitored, measured, challenged and scrutinised on a six monthly basis at Cabinet and respective Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Based on evidence arising from the performance management process for 2014/15 effective controls are in place.

Views of the External Auditor and other External Inspectors

Mazars, the Council's external auditor, issued an Annual Audit Letter covering the financial year 2013/14. This comprised of two elements: the audit of the Council's financial statements and an assessment of the Council's arrangements to achieve value for money in its use of resources. An unqualified opinion was given in both of these areas for 2013/14.

Other external inspectorates' reports have been issued from time to time on management and governance arrangements to the Council. In one instance, an inadequate OFSTED report was issued for a junior school which will be followed up as part of the 2015/16 audit plan.

The Legal and Regulatory Framework

Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance as the Monitoring Officer who has a legal duty to ensure the lawfulness and fairness of decision-making within the Council. The Council has a Constitution in place and compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations is ensured by the requirement to give the Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance the opportunity to comment on every report submitted to a decision-making body.

Financial Controls

Assurance has been obtained from the Strategic Director, Corporate Resources, who is designated as the responsible officer for the administration of the Council's financial affairs under section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972, that financial controls are effective. Systems in place include Financial Regulations, the opportunity to comment on the financial implications of committee reports, monitoring meetings and evidence from internal and external audit.

Partnerships

Service Directors review partnerships within their service plans on an annual basis. As partners are key to the delivery of the Council's objectives assurance of their control and governance systems is required. Service Directors have also been required to provide assurance on governance arrangements through their self-assessment statements and all Services are required to identify, through their business plans, where delivery of activity could impact on partnership working.

During 2014/15 updated corporate guidance on the management of partnerships was issued including a Partnership Toolkit.

Based on evidence arising from partnerships for 2014/15 effective controls are in place.

Other Reports

Treasury Management Policy & Strategy & Six Monthly Update

In line with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Annual Treasury Policy and Strategy are reviewed by the Audit and Standards Committee prior to being reported to Cabinet and Council. A six monthly position is also reported through the Audit and Standards Committee to highlight progress on investment performance and borrowing.

Local Code of Governance Update

The Council has a local code of governance which was originally presented to the Audit Committee in April 2007. In line with good practice the document should be reviewed regularly and the Audit Committee were asked to consider a revised version on 16 March 2015 which they agreed.



COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

ORGANISATION CHANGES – TRANSPORT STRATEGY, COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT

Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of proposals to change the operational service arrangements of the Transport Strategy Service within the Communities and Environment Group.
2. As part of the Council's commitment to efficient use of resources, improved service delivery and achieving Vision 2030, the Strategic Director, Communities and Environment has considered how best to deliver the Transport Strategy Service following a proposed change at Service Director level.
3. It is proposed that an interim position may best serve the Council at this time so as not to affect progress of major pieces of work currently being undertaken by other Service Directors within the Group. These were set out in the Cabinet report of 15 September 2015 which has been previously circulated to all members of the Council.
4. This is the second phase of organisational changes within Communities and Environment, following a report to Cabinet and Council in July 2015. A further review will be undertaken and a subsequent report will be presented to Cabinet in February and Council in March 2016.
5. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. It is recommended that Council:
 - (i) Approves the deletion of the post of Service Director, Transport Strategy
 - (ii) Approves the proposed interim management arrangements as set out in the report considered by the Cabinet on 15 September 2015.

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

EXTENSION OF THE DISTRICT ENERGY SCHEME TO GATESHEAD STADIUM AREA AND NEST ROAD, FELLING

Paul Dowling, Strategic Director, Communities and Environment

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of an increase in the existing allocation for the District Energy Scheme within the Council's capital programme to fund the extension of the private wire network to the Gateshead Stadium area and Nest Road, Felling.
2. Feasibility studies on the Town Centre District Energy Scheme extension are ongoing, but initial findings indicate that the extension is technically and commercially viable.
3. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. It is recommended that Council approves the addition of £2.0m to the capital programme, to fund up to a 2.6km extension to the private wire network.

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 September 2015

GATESHEAD COUNCIL

REPORT FROM THE CABINET

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This is the report from the Cabinet. Its purpose is to report on issues for the period July to September 2015.

PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES

2. PEOPLE

Children and Young People

Dryden School – Ofsted Inspection

Dryden School was inspected on 24 - 25 June 2015 by Ofsted, and has now gone from a good to outstanding school. The Inspector commented on the “exceptional leadership” of the Executive Head Teacher, School Head Teacher and the senior leadership team and noted that the ‘highly skilled’ Governing Body meant they had an accurate view of the school’s still improving performance.

It was noted that the students across the school achieve outstandingly well; there was a very strong, caring ethos evident on entering the school that created an oasis where students are enthusiastic about their learning and thrive, particularly in their personal and social development.

Dryden School is a special school for students aged between 11-19 who have severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties as their primary area of need.

3. PLACE AND ECONOMY

Economy

Thinking Digital Conference - Gateshead

Now in its eighth year, the ‘Thinking Digital’ Conference is one of Europe’s premier technology conferences. The Conference brings together world class speakers and attracts an international audience who participate in this three day community based event held in Gateshead.

This year’s conference delivered another successful programme of technology, ideas and innovation themed talks by 24 world-class speakers from organisations including Google, Sage UK, Pixar, BBC, IBM, Microsoft, Accenture and Gov.uk. The conference was attended by 694 delegates and was viewed live online by a further 660 people across 46 countries. It is estimated that approximately half of all attendees came from outside the North East.

Headline sponsors included Newcastle University's Digital Institute who sponsored the conference for their fifth year; the conference was also directly supported by Sage UK. DigitalCity, Sunderland City Council, Accenture, Virgin Money, Northstar Ventures, BBC and a range of North East digital and creative agencies. The Council's support was acknowledged by Herb Kim, founder of Thinking Digital Conference.

The Council also hosted a pre-conference Virtual Reality (VR) workshop for 40 attendees on 19 May 2015 at Baltimore House. Baltimore House is home to an emerging cluster of VR companies who are co-located in a facility known as VRTGO Labs. The workshop content featured a mix of presentations from VR industry leaders, highlighting the adoptive uses for the technology, and gave an opportunity for delegates to physically experience the latest VR headsets and technology. In hosting the workshop, Gateshead Council was able to showcase local talent and engage with potential investors and key decision makers.

The success of the Thinking Digital Conference directly supports the Council's activities, to make Gateshead's urban core a premier business and visitor destination and to create an environment that allows businesses to thrive and create jobs. The conference complements and raises the profile of the indigenous digital and tech sector, and provides a platform for the Council and its partners to showcase local talent and engage with potential investors and key decision makers.

The Thinking Digital Conference 2016 will take place on 10 - 11 May 2016.

Overseas trade and investment opportunities

Officers have been in dialogue with the Sunne Municipality in the region of Varmland, Sweden to explore reciprocal trade and investment opportunities for our respective business communities, with a focus on the digital and tech sector. Representatives of the Sunne Municipality and Broby Grafiska University attended the Thinking Digital Conference again in 2015, and also participated in a programme coordinated by the Economic and Housing Growth Service to showcase the 'offer' for inward investors and local talent.

Following the visit, Sunne Municipality has confirmed its interest in exploring an arrangement to facilitate trade and investment. Such an arrangement will send a positive message regarding the Council's intent to support inward investment and further add to Gateshead's status as an international business location.

Environment and Transport

Update on the Land of Oak and Iron

The determination and hard work from the Land of Oak and Iron multi-agency team has resulted in the successful submission of the Round 2 funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The projects in this 4 year programme will work together to protect, conserve and enhance the beautiful landscape and fascinating heritage of this special area, stretching from Consett and following the River Derwent to the Tyne.

The scheme is now being assessed by Heritage Lottery Fund over the rest of the year, with a decision expected in November or December 2015. If approved, it will improve access for visitors and local communities and provide activities to discover, learn about and celebrate the area through education, skills development and volunteering commencing in 2016.

Progress of A1 Improvement Scheme

The target date for finishing the improvement works to the A1 between Team Valley and Metrocentre is Spring 2016. Once completed, the improvements will help reduce congestion and facilitate opportunities for development and economic growth along this key transport corridor.

The footbridge across the A1 at Chiltern Gardens has been demolished as part of the works. A date for the replacement bridge has yet to be confirmed, but is likely to be early in 2016.

Hackney and Private Hire Driver Licenses

The Casey report about Rotherham Council's governance, its protection of children and young people, and taxi and private hire licensing has required Licensing Authorities across the country to re-examine whether they are taking sufficient steps to ensure that only fit and proper persons are permitted to hold a driver's licence.

Officers have identified a number of measures that would be of immediate benefit. So that the implementation of these measures was not delayed while an overall review of conditions and policy takes place, the Service Director, Development and Public Protection has made a number of minor amendments to the Council's Policy in respect of the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, to clarify the following:

- The prerequisites to making an application (taking the opportunity to clearly set out the approach the Council will take to a person's right to work, right to drive, medical fitness, obtaining a full criminal history and facilitating compulsory child sexual exploitation / safeguarding awareness training)
- The circumstances that may give rise to the disclosure of non-conviction information by the Police (to enable immediate suspension / revocation)
- That licensing related offences and licence holder's conduct (in particular towards Council staff and councillors) are relevant in a consideration of fitness and propriety to hold a licence.

In order to provide licensed drivers with a greater awareness of child sexual awareness and be part of the community's response in tackling it, Gateshead's Local Safeguarding Children Board and Northumbria Police are providing a series of short awareness sessions.

There are approximately 700 private hire and hackney carriage drivers licensed with the Council. An initial series of nine sessions have been planned and discussions are taking place with Council officers, with a view to incorporating the requirement for CSE awareness training into relevant transport contracts.

Gateshead Road Safety Statistics

In 2014, there were a total of 699 casualties on Gateshead's roads. This is an increase of 7% from 2013. However, the numbers of people killed or seriously injured, at 57, fell by 7%. 4 people were killed on the roads in 2014, a decrease from 8 the previous year.

The overall increase in casualties in 2014 reflects regional and national trends. However, total numbers remain significantly below those seen 5-10 years ago, with a decrease of 26% from the average between 2005 and 2009.

Update on District Energy Scheme

Construction of the District Energy Scheme continues with completion scheduled for August 2016. Balfour Beatty has now completed grouting of historic mine voids prior to the installation of the piled foundations. Community engagement activities with Gateshead College are underway to design the site hoarding and time lapsed photography of the build. Clancy Docwra has successfully undertaken the first highway works for the buried heat and power apparatus for the scheme. Completed ahead of schedule during the school summer holidays utilising night works, the first A167 works were delivered without complaint or delay to the traffic network. Further works in the Highway are scheduled for late September, to secure the required incoming electric and gas supplies to the energy centre on Quarryfield Road.

Following Cabinet approval, an extension to the initial scheme to facilitate a power connection to Gateshead International Stadium is being progressed. Feasibility studies are also underway to investigate the business case for connecting parts of the Trinity Square development and Gateshead Leisure Centre. Discussions are also underway with the developers of a proposed Anaerobic Digestion plant which, if successful, would increase the capacity of network and amount of low carbon electricity produced.

4. COMMUNITIES

Communities and Volunteering

Chase Park

In December 2013, Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Council £66,000 to develop a second round bid to access further funding to redevelop and restore Chase Park, Whickham. The bid was successful and the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the Council £922,900 project delivery grant for the delivery of the project.

The Council is working closely with the Friends of Chase Park, who have an increasingly important role in the delivery of activity and volunteering, to help the future sustainability of the park. The proposals contained within the bid included restoration works on the listed windmill, entrance gates and stone walls, the path system and the former Whickham House Garden. Improvements will also be made to the toddler play area, a multi-use games area will be installed, and new facilities will include community garden, trim trail, and skateboard area.

The delivery stage of the project is expected to cost £985,900, which includes £40,000 in respect of project management overview and technical support provided by the Council. Work is expected to start on site next year, to be completed by Autumn.

Holiday Hunger Programme

Working with key partners, the Council has delivered Gateshead's 'Fill the Holiday Gap' programme. It offered daily hot meals during the school holidays to children who normally receive free school meals in some of the borough's most deprived communities.

Over fifty weekly events were held, with the help of volunteers, benefitting over 1500 children and 500 parents. In addition to providing a nutritious hot meal, each event included wellbeing demos and advice on healthy eating, exercise options and a range of social and educational taster activities.

The summer programme culminated with a Celebration Event on 21 August at Gateshead Leisure Centre with over 400 parents and children attending, 260 of whom enjoyed a hot meal with invited guests. Local MPs from the All-Party Parliamentary Group for School Food also attended. The Group has recently recommended that local authorities should support and resource programmes like Gateshead's as part of the duty to act on Child Poverty, using existing funding mechanisms more creatively.

The "Fill the Holiday Gap" Steering Group will meet in late September 2015 to evaluate the Gateshead programme and help shape any future programme. The Council's leadership team will consider a strategic approach based on evaluation from this pilot programme.

Culture, Sport and Leisure

Heritage Open Days

These took place on 10-13 September with 17 events held in Gateshead, and 190 across the Tyne and Wear region.

The Council reluctantly withdrew from the Tyne and Wear Heritage Open Days event in 2014 due to reduced capacity.

This year, to assist the voluntary and community organisations, the Council has been able to contribute to the Tyne and Wear brochure of events, to help promote events in Gateshead to a wider audience and raise awareness of those groups who continue to take part in the event.

British Transplant Games

More than 850 transplant athletes from across the UK and overseas competed at The British Transplant Games NewcastleGateshead 2015 from 30 July - 2 August. These were officially the best Games ever, attracting 2,500 spectators.

Competitors took part in a range of events including track and field, archery and five-a-side football at Gateshead International Stadium; swimming at Sunderland's Aquatic Centre; golf at Close House and cycling at Leazes Park.

1200 athletes, supporters and members of the public took to NewcastleGateshead's iconic quayside for the Speedflex Donor Run. The mass participation event helps to raise funds for the Games and is organised by athletes in commemoration of their donors who have given the gift of life, as well as members of the public and Games supporters.

Sunday saw the biggest turnout, with 3000 athletes and supporters at Gateshead International Stadium for an adrenalin-fuelled day of track and field events and a surprise visit from TV presenter Jeremy Kyle who started the Tug-of-War and helped spur the athletes on.

The inspirational Games, which are now in their 38th year, take place annually to raise awareness of the desperate need for organ donors.

5. CONCLUSION

The Council is asked to note this report.

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COUNCIL MEETING

24 SEPTEMBER 2015

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Henry will move the following motion:

“This Council notes that:

- In February 2015 the United Nations agency, the International Labour Organisation (ILO), reaffirmed its belief that ‘without protecting a right to strike, Freedom of Association, in particular the right to organise activities for the purpose of promoting and protecting workers’ interests, cannot be fully realised.
- In July 2015, the Conservative Government announced its intention to change legislation affecting trade unions and their members to make it harder to win ballots for industrial action. This will only be lawful if there is a 50% turnout among trade union members entitled to vote in addition to a simple majority voting for industrial action.
- The Trade Union Bill currently before Parliament also seeks to introduce greater restrictions on picketing and the use of social media in relation to industrial action.
- The Conservative Government wants to remove the ban for employers to employ agency workers during a period of lawful industrial action.
- The Government wants to grant ministers the power to reduce the amount of facilities time agreed by employers and the workforce, which is in place to ensure adequate workplace representation.

This Council believes that:

- The right to strike and protest are fundamental rights, which should be respected in a free and democratic society.
- The Conservative Government’s Bill will undermine constructive employment relations and that harmonious industrial relations are achieved by meaningful engagement and not additional legal restrictions to trade union members.
- Workplace representation ensures access to justice and has benefits across whole organisations.
- The Government’s Trade Union Bill is part of a disturbing trend to erode civil liberties and inhibit the right to speak out or protest against the Government.
- The Conservative Government’s Trade Union Bill is a politically-motivated attack on trade unions and could have negative consequences for wider civil society.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, stating the Council’s opposition to their Trade Union Bill and to participate in any consultations.

- Support the Northern TUC and civil liberties groups in campaigning to defend the right to strike and oppose the Trade Union Bill.
- Continue to value the importance of meaningful workforce engagement and representation.”

Proposed: Councillor M Henry

Seconded by: Councillor M Foy
Supported by: Councillor P Foy
Councillor P Mole
Councillor P McNally



12(a)(i)

COUNCIL MEETING

24 SEPTEMBER 2015

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor R Beadle will move the following amendment:

Add: At end of third bullet under Council notes: "For industrial action by some public sector workers a further condition requires an affirmative vote by 40% of the eligible membership"

Delete: At end of fourth bullet under Council believes: "against the Government"

Add: At new final bullet point under Council resolves: "Support the TUC's call for an amendment to the 1992 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act to allow online balloting."

Proposed: Councillor R Beadle

Seconded by: Councillor J Wallace

Supported by: Councillor M Ord

Councillor P Craig

Councillor S Craig

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Henry will move the following motion:

“This Council has a long standing commitment to supporting refugees and asylum seekers. We are deeply concerned by the plight of those suffering as a result of the Syrian crisis and we are working proactively with the relevant agencies to do all we can to provide support. We will place maximum effort into helping those in need and call upon the Government to ensure that the necessary resources are made available to support this vulnerable group.”

Proposed by: Councillor M Henry

Seconded by: Councillor P Foy
Supported by: Councillor P Mole
Councillor P McNally

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor J Wallace will move the following motion:

“This Council welcomes the decision of the previous Government to transfer responsibility for public health to local councils and believes that Gateshead Council is in a better position than Government to address local public health issues.

This Council expresses deep concern that the decision of the new Government to impose a cut of £200 million to the current year’s public health budget in England is damaging to service provision and long term planning.

This Council notes that the Government are consulting on how to achieve the £200 million savings and notes with concern that one option is the return of public health money unspent from the previous financial year.

This Council notes with concern the £1 million underspend on public health in Gateshead in 2014/15 and that this money may have to be returned to Government.

This Council calls on the Government to retain previously agreed budgets for public health and to cancel the £200 million in year cut.”

Proposed by: Councillor J Wallace

Seconded by: Councillor P Maughan

Supported by: Councillor F Hindle
Councillor S Hawkins
Councillor C McHatton

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GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor M Gannon will move the following amendment:

Delete from first paragraph 'the decision of the previous Government to'

Insert 'the' before transfer

After transfer add 'of the'

In the third paragraph, after '£200 million savings', delete the remaining sentence. Then add 'The Council is still unclear on its share of the in-year funding cut well into the financial year. The proposed cut and the lack of clarity on the amount militates against effective financial planning'.

Remove paragraph four and add the following paragraphs:

'The Council notes the Government's commitment to protecting the NHS. However, the Council is concerned that the Government hasn't recognised that Public Health budgets are used to fund a range of NHS services and therefore this in-year cut will affect front line NHS services.'

'The NHS Five Year Forward View outlines *'that the future of health of millions of children, the sustainability of the NHS and the economic prosperity of Britain will now depend of a radical upgrade in prevention and public health'*. The Council acknowledges the challenges set out in this document but notes, with concern, that cuts to Public Health budgets significantly affect the Council's ability to take on this shift towards prevention.'

'The consequences of the cut will be to affect frontline NHS Services as a result of reduced spend on prevention'.

Proposed by: Councillor Martin Gannon

Seconded by: Councillor John McElroy

Supported by: Councillor Linda Green

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