

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUINY PANEL 1 SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME/ COMMUNITY SAFETY

Wednesday, 2 May 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Danielle Stone (Chair); Councillors Brendan Glynane, Christopher Malpas and David Palethorpe

OFFICERS: Tracy Tiff – Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Debbie Ferguson – Community Safety Officer
Will Finn - Community Safety Data Analyst
Steve Elsey - Environmental Health Manage
Cllr Les Marriott – Observer - Chair of Overview and Scrutiny
Cllr Terry Wire DL – Observer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Meredith and Sargeant.

2. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

The Chair proposed that a Vice Chair be appointed for the duration of the Panel. It was agreed that this would be Councillor Palethorpe.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)

Councillor Glynane declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest (for the duration of the panel) as a member of Northamptonshire Police Authority.

4. TO SET THE SCOPE OF THE REVIEW.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the priority was to set the scope of the review. The panel agreed that the objective and purpose of the scope be widened as demonstrated in the attached document.

The panel agreed that there was a need for partnership working to allow for other agencies to feed information into the review and identify any potential gaps that would need to be addressed. It was also agreed that a benchmark be put in place to allow for measurability.

It was proposed that a Neighbourhood Warden be invited to offer information and evidence on Serious Acquisitive Crime in Northampton; the panel requested that another Warden be invited, who covered another area of Northampton, to offer a balanced perspective.

The panel agreed that they would contact a number of people/organisations to feed into the review, which included:

- 1) A representative from a Northamptonshire Prison.
- 2) A representative from Victim Support
- 3) Representation from a youth group such as the Youth Forum or from the University.
- 4) The new Northamptonshire Police Commissioner, when in post.
- 5) A representative from the Police with regards to the planning aspects of reducing crime through architectural and environmental design.
- 6) A representative from Public Health regarding A & E data that is collected on violent crime.

The panel agreed that domestic violence was also another key consideration as it was highlighted by one member, that during large sporting events – i.e the Olympics that the number of cases of domestic violence escalated.

Emphasis was placed on the need for a good working relationship to be established with the new Police Commissioner.

It was noted that a review of the impact of the report would be heard after 6 months.

AGREED: That the scope of the Review as attached at Appendix A be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 28th May 2012 for approval

5. SCOPING DOCUMENT

The meeting concluded at 6.44pm



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – SERIOUS ACQUISITIVE CRIME AND VIOLENT CRIME/COMMUNITY SAFETY

1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

- To investigate, as a benchmark, Northampton's crime statistics in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify 'hotspots' in relation to serious acquisitive and violent crime
- To identify the impact that serious acquisitive crime and violent crime has on the residents of Northampton
- To identify the serious acquisitive crime and violent crime issues that Northampton Borough Council, in partnership with other Agencies, can have an impact upon

2. Outcomes Required

- To provide a research paper for 2013/2014 to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) detailing outcomes and the Council's priorities
- To investigate what Northampton Borough Council services can do to add further value to effectively addressing serious acquisitive crime across the borough
- To identify which services within the Council that could contribute to the reduction in serious acquisitive crime
- To make recommendations for improvement, as appropriate

3. Information Required

- Context:
 - Local statistics
 - Demographics – local and national
 - Benchmarking data from comparable Local Authorities
- Baseline data:

National crime statistics

Local crime statistics

- Synopsis of various research documents and other published documents
- Evidence from expert internal witnesses
- Evidence from expert external witnesses
- Evidence from ward Councillors
- Best practice data
- Site visits
- Desktop research

4. Format of Information

- Officer reports/presentations
- Baseline data such as:
 - Performance data - National and Local Crime Statistics
Identified 'hotspots'
- Published reports (présis's) such as:
 - Environmental audits
 - SAC Evaluation documents
 - Strategic Assessment 2011/2012
 - Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2012/2013
- NBC – Leader of the Council evidence
- Evidence from Julie Seddon, the Chair of Community Safety Partnership
- Evidence from Mark Evans, Laura Mayor, Crime Prevention Manager, Chief Inspector Fay Tennet, Northants Police
- Evidence from Deborah Presbury, IOM Team, Northants Probation
- Evidence from Neighbourhood Wardens
- Evidence from the Head of Offender Management Services, Northampton Prisons
- Evidence from Dawn Wintle, Accident and Emergency, Northampton General Hospital
- Evidence from Victim Support
- Evidence from the Northampton Youth Forum
- Evidence from the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Evidence from Housing Services, Northampton Borough Council
- Evidence from Neighbourhood Management, Northampton Borough Council
- Evidence from Lynn Chapman, Sunflower Centre
- Evidence from ward Councillors
- Expert advice – Internal and external
- Best practice
- Witness interviews/evidence

5. Methods Used to Gather Information

- Minutes of meetings
- Desktop research
- Site Visits (if applicable)
- Officer reports
- Presentations
- Examples of best practice
- Witness Evidence:-

➤ Key witnesses as detailed in section 4 of this scope

6. Co-Options to the Review

- Sharon Henley, Architectural Liaison Officer, Northants Police, to be approached suggesting that she is co opted to this Review for its life.

7 Equality Impact Screening Assessment

- An Equality Impact Screening Assessment to be undertaken on the scope of the Review

8 Evidence gathering Timetable

May 2012 to April 2013

- Wednesday, 2 May 2012 - Scoping meeting
- Monday, 18 June 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Wednesday, 15 August 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Wednesday, 10 October 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Monday, 26 November 2012 – Evidence gathering
- Thursday, 10 January 2013 – Evidence gathering/approval final report
- -Monday, 4 February 2013 – If required
- Thursday, 21 March 2013 – If required
- Monday, 8 April 2013 – If required

Various site visits will be programmed during this period if required.

Meetings to commence at 6.00 pm

7. Responsible Officers

Lead Officer Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection

Co-ordinator Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

8. Resources and Budgets

Steve Elsey, Head of Public Protection, to provide internal advice.

9 Final report presented by:

Completed by 8 April 2013. Presented by the Chair of the Panel to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to Cabinet.

10 Monitoring procedure:

Review the impact of the report after six months (December 2013)