

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Panel 1 – Serious Acquisitive Crime & Violent Crime and Community Safety

CORE QUESTIONS – NORTHANTS POLICE

Violence:

(1) What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to address/tackle issues of Violence?

BACKGROUND

This paper is designed to inform the reader with a high level overview of some of the activities that have been, are being undertaken or are planned for the future in Northamptonshire in order to reduce violence across the County.

Ahead of the performance year 2012/2013 the Force in setting, with the Police Authority and local communities it's local policing plan made the reduction of violence a key priority.

At that time the Force appointed a Force Strategic Violence lead at Chief Superintendent level.

Current Force performance showing an 9.1% reduction YTD (580+ fewer offences) and movement from 8th to 6th in MSG. Rest of year predictions give a high level of confidence of continued sustained reductions.

STRATEGY

- Violence reduction highlighted as key Force priority.
- New Force violence reduction strategy developed, informed by analysis, professional judgement and experience. This strategy identified 5 key themes for focus (domestic abuse, serious sexual offending, night time economy, schools and young people and alcohol harm).
- Operation Challenge launched as a vehicle to drive activity to achieve the aims of the violence reduction strategy, (reduce violence, increase resolutions for violence, increase satisfaction with victims of violence).
- Chief Constable and Police Authority allocated funding to deliver strategy.

GOVERNANCE

- Strategic lead appointed at Chief Superintendent level.
- Chief Inspector and Inspector investment made to drive daily activity and deliver sustainability in violence reduction.
- Operational leads identified at Chief Inspector level for each of the agreed five key themes.
- Strategy developed into a strategic performance plan, containing actions, owned by the five operational leads to deliver the aims of overall strategy and performance improvements.
- Monthly strategic violence governance process in place that identifies violence related risk issues and delivers operational responses to mitigate.
- Robust daily management places re inforced to manage violence performance and related incidents.

(2) What activity as an organisation/department do you undertake to **prevent** issues of Violence?

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

- Review and restructure of Operation Nightsafe, the Force operational response to the policing of the local night time economy. This is supported by a bespoke intelligence and briefing process and includes a risk assessed process that prevents a one size fits all approach, but one that effectively manages the risk risks associated with a specific location. This has been supported by individual training of Inspectors relating to the expectations required of them concerning this activity.
- Frontline officer briefings delivered focused on " Early interventions and positive action" in order to prevent trigger incidents such as ASB and public order becoming violence related incidents.
- Small pro active capability created to target repeat violence offenders and those subject to use of preventative powers (see below).
- Increased usage of preventative powers (arrest of drunken persons that present risk of vulnerability to themselves, Section 27 powers). Persons so arrested are subject to visits by this resource to reinforce earlier interventions.
- Use of custody village approach in night time economies to reduce frontline officer abstractions and deliver low tolerance message to communities.
- Robust management processes put into place to manage offenders wanted for violence offences, offenders on bail.
- Regular visits made to addresses of repeat domestic abuse victims and offenders. These are subject to risk assessment by PVP to ensure consistency and protection of vulnerability is paramount.
- Joint campaign launched with Northamptonshire Rape and Incest Crisis Centre (NRICC) to reduce sexual offending and sexual health and to undertake research with victims in order to better inform future operational activity.

- Introduction of "consequences" workshops for young people (13 to 17) as a part of CR disposals where their offending includes low level violence offences.
- Rollout of Domestic Abuse Perpetuator Scheme across County.
- County Schools Challenge used last academic year to deliver "One Punch" campaign and anti violence messages and will be themed again this year in relation to violence reduction to engage with the County's secondary school pupils.
- Significant marketing of success undertaken including support from NTFC, Northampton Saints RFC and NCC as key sports venues in the County.

FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY

- Literature review commissioned to provide "what works" in relation to violence reduction. Following this working group commissioned to action. SWOT analysis undertaken against this literature review to ensure best use of Force resources are made.
- 6 month review of Operation Challenge to inform future 18 to 24 month strategy, operational activity and governance.
- Multi agency process to start in November 2012 based on MAPPA style process to try and identify and intervene with potential future violence offenders.
- Force violence reduction strategy and strategic performance plan cross referenced with 6 CSP action plans to ensure connectivity between partners.
- Reading project commissioned to spread sustainable anti violence messages in the County's primary schools to support County Schools Challenge in Secondary schools.

(3) What do you see as the main issues and barriers to successfully addressing Violence within the borough of Northampton?

I do not foresee any particular barriers but clearly challenges remain such as the culture of excessive alcohol consumption within the night time economy and the new phenomenon of pre-loading.

(4) What activity do you undertake in partnership with other organisations/departments to tackle issues of Violence within the borough of Northampton?

The District Commander links into the BSG and CSP and Ward level engagement is managed by the relevant Sector Inspector and their teams.

Operation Challenge management team have presented to each CSP the plans for tackling violence throughout 2012/13. Seeking engagement, join up and discussing potential funding streams to support activity.

A partnership has been established (commencing December 12) to tackle strategic violence issues utilising an evidenced based approach.

(5) How can Northampton Borough Council further help your organisation to tackle Violence and address any barriers, in order to achieve positive reductions?

As above; together with a continued desire to have reduction of violence high on partners priorities and a desire to work collectively.

(6) What do you see the role of the Police Crime Commissioner to be in preventing and tackling violent crime?

Directing funding and resources against these aspects as they see fit and in line with their manifesto and mandate.

To forge strong working relationships with partners, businesses and the wider criminal justice system.

To act as a voice for the community/victims of crime in order to address specific issues or concerns they may have in respect of violent crime.

(7) What additional information and/or data can NBC provide to the Police to further inform intelligence led policing for Violent Crime?

Drive information sharing protocols to inform and alert Police to potentially violent offenders and enable Police together with partners to take appropriate actions (such as enforcement).