

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

11 November 2013

Briefing Note – Crime & Disorder, Overview & Scrutiny

Summary

On the 3 February 2011 it was agreed that as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee role, that in meeting their responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, a bi annual report from the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) would be provided. The report would focus on the levels of CSP performance and whether crime has increased in the light of reduced resources, and if so what measures have been taken to meet any shortfall in performance. The report was to advise the Committee of work undertaken, thereby informing Overview and Scrutiny of further review or scrutiny that may be required.

Community Safety Partnership – Performance Overview

Following a number of years of impressive performance by the partnership and some significant reductions in crime, the partnership continue to work well, achieving some, but not all of the 2011/12 targets. With financial pressures and dwindling resources for partner organisations and the general public, reducing crime and improving public safety is an increasingly challenging task.

Performance overall was mixed in 2011/12, achieving good reductions in some crime types but reduced performance in others, particularly Serious Acquisitive Crime.

Actual Performance – April 2012 to March 2013

The first part of 2012/13 saw mixed results for the Partnership, where we there were continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and robbery.

In respect of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) the partnership under-performed due to a significant increase in burglary dwelling. Vehicle crime also continued to be a concern due to considerable increases in theft from vehicles. However, it is important to note that vehicle crime levels still remained significantly lower than

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2009/10. The Community Safety Partnership identified the priority locations for focussed partnership work for 2012/13, and this work is now taking place.

The partnership continued to see good reductions in recorded anti-social behaviour issues, but perception did increase. One of the reasons for the increase in people's perception can be attributed to the changes that have been adopted in undertaking the survey.

Domestic abuse continued to be a key focus and an increase in first time victims reporting was achieved.

Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target Reduction	Performance Achieved
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3489 recorded crimes	5%	+591 crimes 16.9% increase
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	5%	+273 crimes 13.8% increase
ASB Incidents	? recorded incidents	10%	-1668 incidents 11.2% decrease
Anti-social behaviour Perception	8.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	10.6% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 st time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	0.4% decrease
Domestic Abuse – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	0.4% increase
Violent Crime	4293 recorded crimes	3.5%	-373 incidents 9.6% reduction

Actual Performance – April 2013 to September 2013

First half of the year has seen an overall 7.7% reduction in overall crime. Violent crime is reducing (-10.9%) and is exceeding the annual CSP targets. Repeat victims of domestic violence is down compared to last year, however first time reporting of domestic abuse is also down slightly so this indicator is off target.

Serious Acquisitive Crime is on a downward trend (-8.9%) and is on track to meet the target. Dwelling burglary has reduced slightly (1.4%), with vehicle crime seeing significant reductions compared to recent years.

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Crime Type	2012/13 Baseline	2013/14 Target Reduction	Half year Performance
Serious Acquisitive Crime	4080 recorded crimes	10%	-363 crimes 8.9% decrease
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	N/A	-312 crimes 13.8% reduction
Violent Crime	3529 recorded crimes	5%	10.9% crimes
ASB Incidents	13258 recorded incidents	5%	+280 incidents 2.1% increase
Anti-social behaviour perception	10.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	Now 10% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 st time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	0.6% decrease
Domestic Violence – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	18.2% decrease

Specific pieces of work taking place are:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main areas for focus are Blackthorn/Goldings, The Mounts/Abington Square, Spring Broughs/Semilong, Far Cotton and Spencer/St James.
- Partnership ‘Weeks of Action’ focusing on crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues will be held in all 5 locations by March 2013.
- Specific focused work on alcohol related violent crime (Police led).
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, raising awareness around street begging issues, and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this group.
- Awareness raising around domestic abuse continues.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continue with 5 orders being secured this year.
- Junior Warden schemes continue to be established in primary schools.
- Fourth year of Best Bar None, 24 licensed premises are taking part this year.

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- Fortnightly, multi-agency Domestic Abuse Case Management Meetings focusing on level 1 & 2 cases are now up and running and working well.

Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership is seeing improved results against the targets compared to 2012/13 performance. Excellent reductions in overall crime continue with continued reductions in violent crime. Good improvements have been seen in Serious Acquisitive Crime (specifically vehicle crime) and partnership work continues to further improve this.

Community Safety Partnerships are placed in Most Similar Groups as defined by the Home Office as having similar characteristics. Northampton CSP is improving its comparative performance in this group, seeing an improvement in all but three of the eighteen crime types.

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