

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 November 2014

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

The CSP continue to prioritise issues that are most likely to affect people in their day to day lives, including violent crime, anti-social behaviour, domestic burglary and vehicle crime, ensuring that our town and communities are safe places in which to live and enjoy themselves.

Performance overall has been mixed for the first 6 months of 2014/15, continuing to achieve reductions in some crime types but seeing reduced performance in others. The partnership continues to see good reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC). There is a small reduction in recorded Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), and victim satisfaction for the ASB Unit is exceeding targets, but there has been a small increase in reported criminal damage. However, overall crime and specifically violent crime have seen increases.

Actual Performance – April 2014 to September 2014

Overall crime has seen an increase in the first 6 months of 4.7% taking the CSP off target for this priority.

Overall crime is used as a proxy measure for crime relating to drugs and alcohol misuse. There's been an increase of 4.7% (+771 crimes) from the baseline in all

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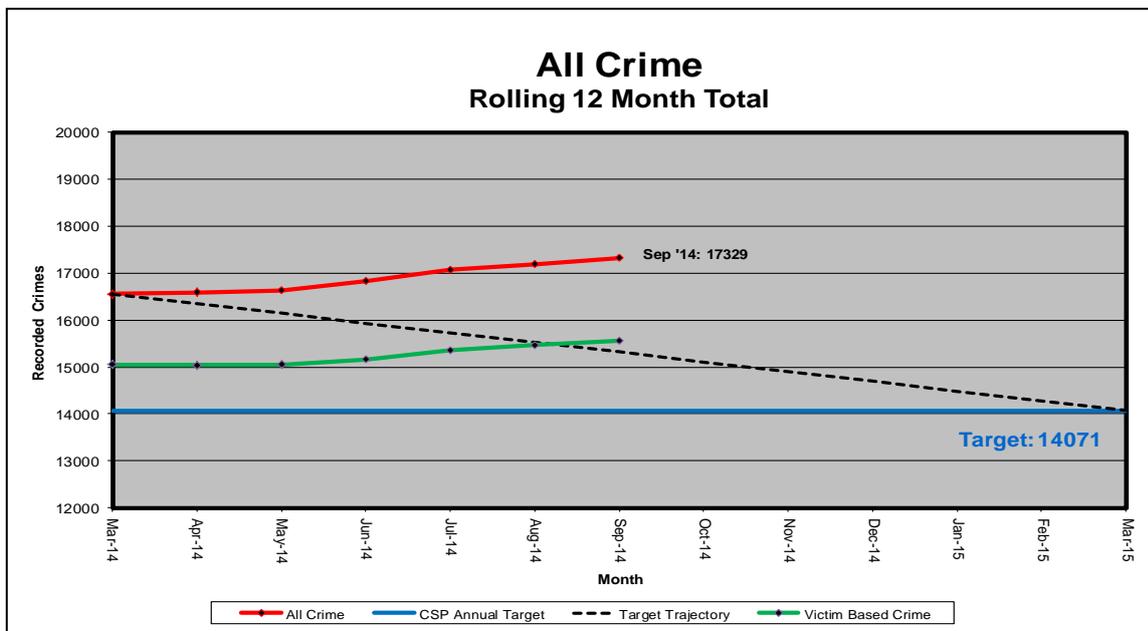
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crime. When comparing September 2013 to 2014, there has been a decrease of 6.0%. There have been increases in six of the crime types (table below) from the 2013/14 baseline figures, particularly vehicle interference and all sexual offences, increasing by 28.7% & 21.0% respectively. The largest reduction continues to be theft from person, which has reduced to -22.6% (-129 crimes).

Victim based crime has been shown in the graph below, to illustrate the changes in crime which closer aligns with CSP work, and the symptoms of alcohol & drug abuse. This crime group has also seen an increase of 3.4% (+512 crimes). Comparative performance for the last 12 months shows a 7.1% reduction.

Other Victim Based Crime Types (12 Month Rolling Total)		
Crime Type	% Change 2014-15	Vol Change 2014-15
ARSON	-7.6%	-7
NON-DOMESTIC BURGLARY	-1.7%	-19
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	2.6%	66
ALL SEXUAL OFFENCES	21.0%	65
ROBBERY	2.7%	9
SHOPLIFTING	-2.7%	-51
VEHICLE INTERFERENCE	28.7%	29
CYCLE THEFT	7.3%	35
THEFT FROM PERSON	-22.6%	-129
ALL OTHER THEFT OFFENCES	1.5%	31



Northampton has seen a 25.1% increase in **violence offences** (+731) from the baseline. This increase can be seen across all sectors. There has been a 15.4%

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increase in violence against the person in comparison to September last year (+487). Assault with & without injury accounted for 87% of violence offences in September. It is important to note that the recording method for violent crime was reviewed and changed in April 2014. This has in part contributed towards the increases seen, and is reflected nationally.

Serious Acquisitive Crime has continued on a downward trend, reducing by 8.5% from the baseline (-251 crimes). There has been a 27.4% reduction in SAC when comparing September this year to last year. The CSP remains on target to reach a 16% reduction from the 2013/14 baseline. Of the four crime types, there have been good reductions from the baseline for three. Theft of motor vehicle has seen the largest percentage decrease of -16.3% (-48 crimes), but domestic burglary has seen the largest volume decrease of -138 crimes (-11.8%). Similar reductions can be seen across all sectors. In relation to Police wards Weston (+8.0%), Old Duston (+7.3%) & Nene Valley (+6.1%) have seen the highest percentage increases from the baseline. The most significant percentage decreases can be seen in St James (-34.5%), Lumbertubs (-23.79%) & Headlands (-21.4%).

The CSP aims to reduce actual **Anti-Social Behaviour**, improve public perception of community safety and improve victim satisfaction. Performance of these objectives is monitored using a suite of measures utilising data from Police recorded incidents and crimes, Public Perception Surveys, Victim Satisfaction Surveys and NBC case management systems.

ASB has seen a mixed performance. Police recorded ASB has reduced by -0.5% (-77 crimes). Both environmental and personal ASB continue to reduce from the baseline by -7.7% and -5.1% respectively. Nuisance ASB has increased by 5.2% across all sectors. Criminal damage has increased slightly by 2.6% from the baseline (1.5% last month). In relation to case management by the ASB Unit, 100% of those contacted were satisfied with the service they received.

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Crime Type	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target Reduction	Performance as at 30/09/2014
All crime	16,558 recorded crimes	15%	4.7% increase, +771 crimes from baseline
Violent Crime (including domestic abuse)	2913 recorded crimes	9%	25.1% increase, + 731 crimes from baseline
Serious Acquisitive Crime	2946 recorded crimes	16%	8.5% reduction, -251 crimes from baseline
Criminal Damage	2562 recorded crimes	5%	2.6% increase, +66 crimes from baseline
Anti-social behaviour incidents	15,226 recorded crimes	5%	0.5% reduction, -77 crimes from baseline

Specific pieces of work taking place to address issues of Community Safety and Crime and Disorder are:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main areas for focus are Blackthorn, The Mounts/Abington Square, Spring Boroughs/Semilong, Spencer/St James. .
- Three Partnership 'Weeks of Action' focusing on crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues have already been held. These weeks have resulted in over 1,100 face to face interactions with local residents, 147 Home Fire Safety Checks and the removal of over 34 tonnes of waste.
- Community Payback have undertaken 8 specific projects and also supported work during all three 'Weeks of Action'.
- Specific multi-agency focused work on alcohol related violent crime. Closer working between Police, NBC and NGH looking at frequent flyers.
- Development of Alcohol Outreach project for street drinkers and rough sleepers in partnership with the Bridge Project.
- Target Hardening of properties at risk of burglary continues. As at 30/09/2014 75 properties have had improved security measures implemented
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided. As at 30/09/2014, 46 victims have received security improvements to their home.
- Street Football continues in hot spot locations, with 13 weekly 2 hour sessions

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taking place.

- School Pastors have been launched at Northampton Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursdays' and pastoral support being provided as and when required.
- Castle Community Hub has been re-opened (formerly known as Community Café), headed up by the local Police Sector, NBC Wardens and Housing. To date over 150 residents have utilised the resource.
- 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.
- Specific events held at University of Northampton and Northampton College, providing crime prevention and personal safety advice, support and guidance to students. Security marking of property was also undertaken.
- Implementation of a Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) in Kingsthorpe/St David's.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 4 orders being secured to date.
- Junior Warden's scheme continues, with a further 2 primary schools taking part and one planned for January.
- Fifth year of Best Bar None - 20 licensed premises achieved accredited status this year.
- Funding has been allocated to domestic abuse support agencies to provide counselling and support for victims, perpetrators and their families.

Partnership Weeks of Action

Partnership Weeks of Action continue to be a key delivery model in priority locations. Five priority locations have been identified by the CSP as high in Serious Acquisitive Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. The areas also mirror the authority's hotspots for fly-tipping and other social disorder.

During the weeks a number of coordinated partnership activities take place across each of the areas which included:

- Crime prevention advice and home security advice
- Rubbish removal and community clean-up activities
- Community Payback carrying out landscaping improvements and other clean-up activities

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- Fire Service carrying out Home Fire Safety checks and fitting smoke alarms
- Target hardening and home security improvements by Care & Repair
- Housing enforcement activity
- Police enforcement activity
- Community and Youth engagement/activity

Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership is seeing mixed results against the targets compared to 2013/14 performance. Good reductions in Serious Acquisitive Crime continue, with excellent partnership work to further improve this. There are issues around increases in overall crime and specifically violent crime, but it is felt that the change in national recording has contributed towards this. Nevertheless, the CSP do take this increase seriously, and are looking at all factors to ensure an effective multi-agency approach is taken in addressing the matter.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Leader of the Council, Cllr David Mackintosh – November 2014