



## **Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety**

**Northampton Borough Council**

**Monday 21 September 2015**

### **Community Safety**

There has been an increase in overall crime of 2.2% (+409 crimes) since April 2015. Serious Acquisitive Crime continues on a downward trend with a decrease of 2.0% (-52 crimes). All crime types within this have seen reductions; robbery -0.3%, vehicle crime - 1.3% and domestic burglary -3.5%. Violence against the person has increased by 10.5% (+489 crimes). Anti-Social Behaviour continues to show a good reduction, decreasing by 7.3% (-1086 incidents) since April 2015 with personal Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reducing by 6.6% (-329 incidents), nuisance by 6.9% (-534 incidents) and environmental by 11.0% (-223 incidents).

The four main Partnership Weeks of Action (WoA) have been completed in Kings Heath, Kingsthorpe, Mounts and Blackthorn (including part of Goldings), and have been the main focus of delivery for Community Safety activity over the summer months. As with previous WoA's, a range of activities have taken place, seeing high levels of community engagement and participation, providing the opportunity to provide advice and support on a wide range of community safety and crime issues. As with previous years, the WoA have been well supported by partnership agencies and in particular the Police who took the lead on 2.

Community Payback work continues across the town in a variety of locations with the main focus being on the Week of Action areas. There is already a full planned calendar of work for Community Payback up until October 2015.

Community Safety are undertaking their annual work with the University of Northampton in preparation for Fresher's Week at the end of September, where the team will be providing advice, support and engagement on a wide range of matters. This year also sees similar work being undertaken in partnership with Northampton College and their students, which is a welcome addition to our partnership work.

### **Communities and Forums**

#### ***Forums***

All forums met again during July and revisited their action plans. Planning for activities over the next 12 months is underway and an Intergeneration Day between the Youth & Pensioners Forum looking at World War I has already taken place. Other events currently being planned are: International day for persons with Disabilities; Women's Forum Health Awareness & Wellbeing Day; co-ordinated approach to Black History Month; forums involvement in Holocaust Memorial Day; International Coming Out Day celebrations.

The Youth Forum will be supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the Break the Shire event with 8 schools involved this year funded by Councillor Community Funds. The Youth Forum will be again providing tours of The Guildhall on Heritage Weekend and members undertook the required training during the summer holidays.

The LGBT Forum took part in the Umbrella Fair again in August and once again signed up more people to support the Straight Allies campaign. The filming of 'I'm Still Me', a

production by Northampton School for Boys used at the LGBT conference, also took place in the summer holidays and will form part of the new education pack to be used in October.

### ***Community Centres***

Our Place consultation has been undertaken with Kings Heath and Kingsthorpe Community Centre's during the Weeks of Action delivered over the summer period. Support continues to be provided on key project work and stakeholder groups. Volunteering to support the centres continues to be a focus, approximately 60 individuals have expressed an interest, and this is being progressed. Other funding opportunities that will help support the further development of our community centres are being progressed.

Councillor Anna King

**Cabinet Member for Community Safety**