

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

24 September 2018

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, an 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 Community Safety landscape continues to evolve and partners continue to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. However, the principle aim of the CSP remains; 'deliver a safe, confident Northampton by working together to improve the quality of life for local people'.

The following priorities have been identified by the CSP;

1. Reduce Crime – reduce property crime, specifically residential burglary and vehicle crime and support those at risk of becoming victims of crime.
2. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour & Hate Crime – prevent and tackle incidents of anti-social behaviour, utilising enforcement and working with partners to provide positive interventions. Deliver targeted interventions to raise awareness of anti-social behaviour and hate crime and encourage reporting.
3. Support Vulnerable People – Co-ordinate partnership activity to reduce incidents of domestic and sexual abuse, work with partners to tackle serious organised crime including; child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and modern day slavery. Reduce harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse and use national days and weeks of celebration and commemoration to bring partners, including the community and voluntary sector together, to raise awareness and offer support to the most vulnerable people in our communities.
4. Build Stronger & resilient Communities – improve community confidence and resilience using different forms of engagement, including weeks of action and

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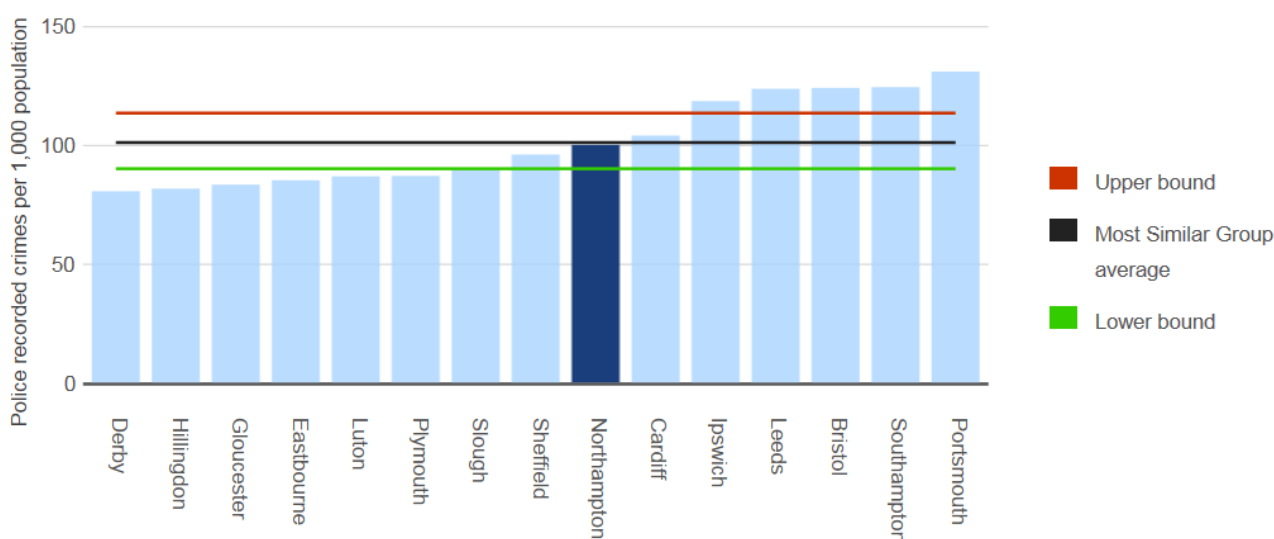
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community forums, identify opportunities for undertaking restorative justice methods, continue to utilise community payback, volunteers and community and voluntary organisations to address environmental issues in priority areas.

5. Safety in the Night-Time Economy - reducing violent incidents, alcohol and drug misuse and other negative behaviour that is linked to the night-time economy.

Actual Performance

This chart compares the crime rate in Northampton, to the average crime rate across similar areas. It shows the total number of crimes over a twelve month period per thousand residents, for overall crime. In the year ending March 2018, the crime rate in Northampton was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



Over the last 24 months, September 2016 – August 2018, there has been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 1.55% (+367 crimes). Although an increase, this is a very small increase, when compared to previous years.

Performance varies significantly between different crime types/groups.

Northampton has seen a 1.71% reduction (-50 crimes) in violence with injury offences. There are a significant amount of initiatives being implemented which will continue to have a positive impact upon these figures.

Home Office Counting Rules for recording burglary changed last year. With effect from April 2017, the classification of residential burglary includes all buildings or parts of buildings that are within the boundary of, or form a part of, a dwelling and includes the dwelling itself, vacant dwellings, sheds, garages, outhouses, summer houses and any other structure that meets the definition of a building. It also includes other premises used for residential purposes such as houseboats, residential care homes and hostels. This has resulted in the following increases and reductions within the crime recording types; Residential Burglary 214.43% increase (the new recording category), Domestic Burglary 100% reduction and Non-Domestic Burglary 100% reduction (previous categories used).

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The figures counteract each other, evidencing a slight increase in Residential Burglary. We have seen a reduction in Vehicle Crime, with theft of motor vehicles reducing by 8.60% (-38 crimes) and theft from motor vehicles reducing by 3.85% (-86 crimes).

Furthermore, a downward trend continues to be seen with regards to Anti-Social Behaviour. Reported incidents to the Police have reduced by 22.1% (-2533 incidents). All three ASB incident types have seen a reduction this year, a decrease of 5.39% (-19 incidents) in environmental ASB, 33.71 (-295 incidents) in personal ASB and 38.5% (-642 incidents) in nuisance ASB. However, the data relating to the Police public attitudes survey shows that the percentage of respondents who agreed that the Police and Council were dealing with ASB & crime issues is 30.5% compared to 52.0% for the same period last year. Performance has also declined in relation to the percentage of those surveyed reporting ASB as an issue which has increased from 16.7% in June 2017 to 29.5% in June 2018. We have a number of initiatives and projects in place to improve public confidence and perception.

Specific pieces of work that have taken place in the last twelve months include:

- Partnership 'Weeks of Action', personal safety, anti-social behaviour, hate crime, drugs & alcohol and environmental issues being included. Five weeks of action have been delivered.
- Community Payback have undertaken 15 specific projects so far this year.
- 16 Days of Activism – commenced on 25 November. Working with Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and Northampton University, information stalls have been provided at key locations in high footfall spaces, stories of resilience and a drama production, dealing with the issues of grooming was staged at the Deco, and a film showing of East is East took place at the Errol Flynn.
- Target hardening of vulnerable victims properties continues.
- Northampton's fourth domestic Homicide Review is complete and awaiting Home Office sign off. Partners involved in the review have produced an Action Plan highlighting gaps in the existing process that may have contributed to the homicide. Partners involved in the Reviews will continue to meet to make sure actions within the plan are progressed to mitigate a similar event happening in the future.
- Personal Safety awareness sessions have been delivered to frontline officers.
- Cuckooing Multi-Case Management meetings set up, to tackle the issue of vulnerable people's homes being taken over as an operations base for selling drugs and identifying offenders involved and safeguard vulnerable and exploited residents.
- Cuckooing Training delivered to more than 150 frontline officers
- Child Sexual Exploitation event held at the Deco Theatre during national online

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safety day. Drama production and awareness session delivered to 500 young people across 10 of our primary and secondary schools.

- Knife Crime Launch in the summer, promotional materials produced to raise awareness of the dangers and consequences of carrying a knife.
- £354,706, secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund for the next two years, with a potential of additional funding for a further two years, a total of £470,936 (subject to the Governments Spending Review) to help increase the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. The funding will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring, lasting up to a year, to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Street Football continued in hot spot locations.
- School Pastors continue to operate at Northampton Academy and Weston Favell Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursday's and Friday's with pastoral support being provided as and when required.
- Street Pastor Scheme continues to operate in the Town Centre.
- Purple Flag for the Town Centre achieved.
- The media campaign focusing on the night time economy, 'Nights Out Northampton' continues. Key messages of the campaign will focus on personal safety, alcohol awareness and projects that are currently being developed, including a 'taxi-marshalling scheme' and 'safer routes home'.
- Ongoing work with University of Northampton and the student Union as they move to the town.
- Security marking of property and bicycles being undertaken in hot spot locations, including parks, schools and in the Town Centre.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 43 open cases currently in the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. 33 Community Protection Warning letters have been issued, 20 full Community Protection Notices served, 8 Criminal Behaviour Orders granted and a Cuckooing specific Civil Injunction issued.
- Marble Arch PSPO obtained.
- During the six week summer holidays, six partnership days of action took place, working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour, street drinking and begging, in the Town Centre.
- Funding provided for additional police resource on the Town Centre, to provide visibility, improve the feeling of safety and to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime.
- Community Events held for International Women's Day, International Men's Day,

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and International Day for Persons with a Disability Day, International Youth Day and National Hate Crime Week. These events were utilised to bring the community together, to get key messages out to the community. Including how to stay safe, get help and support and to raise awareness of hate crime, domestic abuse, mental health and equality.

- I'm Still Me LGBTQ learning conference delivered. Attended by approx. 65 delegates covering 40 schools and organisations across Northamptonshire.
- Through the Partnership Grants process, funding has been allocated to groups that support Community Safety activity such as domestic abuse, young people, and night time economy.

Specific pieces of work that will take place in the next three months:

- CSP are funding the Youth Offending Service to deliver knife crime awareness in our ten secondary schools, colleges, and the University from September 2018.
- Together with Leicestershire Community Safety Partnership, Northampton CSP have funded East Midlands Ambulance Service to produce a short video, highlighting the consequences of knife crime, to be used in conjunction with the awareness raising work we are doing in schools.
- Primary Schools Community Safety event to take place next month, working with partners, including Fire Service, Northants Police, Network Rail and the Youth Offending Service. More than 300 year 5 and 6 students will be in attendance. The event will involve workshops, drama productions and presentations covering our community safety issues for young people in the town, specifically; railway safety, child sexual exploitation, knife crime, personal safety and anti-social behaviour.
- Hate Crime Week and the launch of our 'Equality Allies' programme.
- Implement a Taxi Marshal Scheme in the Town, working peak times.
- Develop a Safer Routes Home Scheme, working with University of Northampton.

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Conclusion

Northampton's crime statistics, when compared to other areas of a similar demographic, are no better or worse. Although we have seen a slight increase in overall crime in the Town, for many of the individual specific crime types, there has been an improvement in comparison to the previous year's performance.

The CSP continues to work closely with partner agencies, particularly the Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Youth Offending Service, University of Northampton and Community and Voluntary Organisations to deliver activities that will tackle our key issues. There are a number of initiatives being implemented that should have a positive impact and ensure that an effective multi-agency approach will be taken in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Brief Author: Vicki Rockall, Community Safety & Engagement Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Engagement – September 2018.