

# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 July 2020

### 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 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 community forums, identify opportunities for undertaking restorative justice

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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

The Home Office places Community Safety Partnerships in groups considered to have enough similar characteristics to allow a meaningful comparison of their crime rates: this is known as the Most Similar Group and the fourteen other partnerships which currently make up our Group are listed at the bottom of the page.

Using data obtained from the Home Office iQuanta system we are able to produce the table below. There are thirteen crime types on the table and a headline category of all crime.

The Current Position column tells us whether performance is in line with, Above or Below the upper and lower control limits from the average for the Group; the Distance column gives the difference between our crime rate and that average, with the arrow indicating whether this distance has improved or worsened compared to the year-end figure.

Next we have our Rank within the Group, with lower numbers indicating better comparative crime figures. The final column shows the current Crime Rate per 1,000 head of population and the same measure at the 2018/19 year-end.

Crime Type	Most Similar Group			Crime Rate (per 1,000)	
	Current Position	Distance from Average	Rank	2019/20	2018/19
All Crime	Inline	1.9% ▼	9	110.36	108.81
Robbery	Inline	18.4% ▲	12	1.89	1.72
Theft from Vehicle	Above	31.9% ▼	13	7.92	10.40
Theft of Vehicle	Below	-28.2% ▼	5	1.55	2.01
Theft from the Person	Below	-32.9% ▼	3	0.98	1.55
Shoplifting	Inline	-14.9% ▲	6	7.09	6.89
All Other Theft	Inline	-10.8% ▲	3	8.01	8.42
Violent Crime	Inline	-0.8% ▲	9	46.53	39.41
Sexual Offences	Above	36.9% ▲	14	4.64	4.12
Racially Aggravated Offences	Inline	-4.8% ▲	8	1.42	1.14
Drug Offences	Inline	19.0% ▲	14	4.52	3.68
Criminal Damage	Inline	0.3% ▲	9	10.68	10.90
Burglary - Residential	Inline	-17.1% ▼	6	10.85	18.33
Burglary - Business/Community	Above	69.3% ▲	15	3.59	3.33

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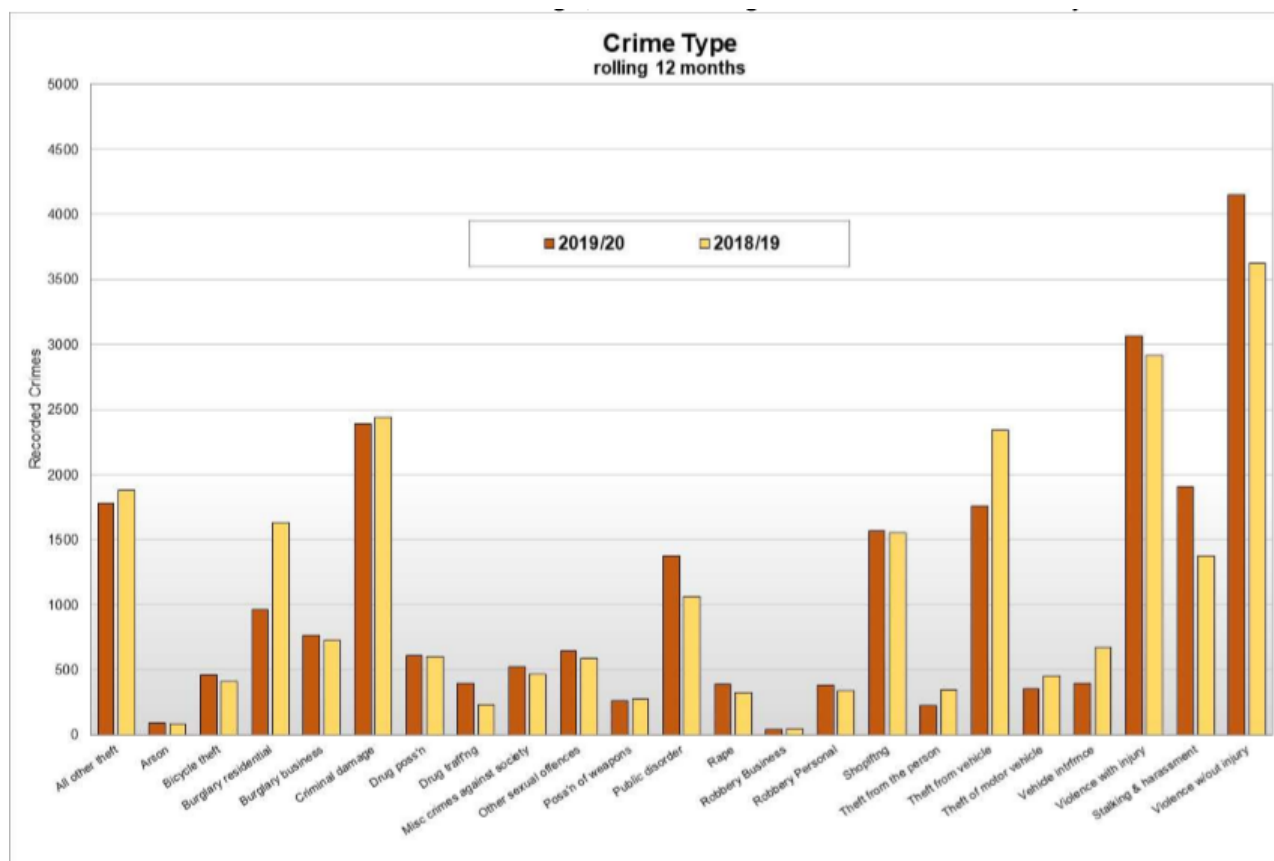
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The picture from this table is mixed: the all crime rate for the Partnership is moving towards the average for our Most Similar Group, which reflects a stronger performance than our comparator partnerships in a time of rising crime levels. There are nine red arrows for distance from the average for the Group, but in four of those cases the Partnership is below (or significantly below) that average; for criminal damage, despite the red arrow, the crime rate has actually fallen.

To give context to the crime rate, data for the year to December 2019 gives the crime rate for England and Wales as 89.5, with numbers ranging from West Yorkshire at 126.7, to Gloucestershire at 61.2; the figure for Northamptonshire as a whole was 83.8. There were 24,493 recorded crimes in Northampton during 2019/20, which was a 0.4% increase on the previous year.

The chart below shows numbers for each of the crime groups recorded by Northamptonshire Police: data for 2019/20 is shown in orange, while the figures for 2018/19 are in yellow.



The overall picture is positive with decreases from the 2018/19 year-end figures in most categories. Violent offences are the notable exception and are discussed in the next section of this report.

Public disorder offences rose from 1,064 to 1,378: looking more closely there are peaks related to anti-social behaviour or the night-time economy, but these indicate nothing of concern. Violence and Domestic Violence accounted for 37.2% of the crime recorded in the town, making it the most significant category: recorded violent offences for the year

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rose by 15.1% for the Partnership. While recorded crime continued to rise, the Partnership's crime rate remained below the average for our Most Similar Group, although the trend was towards that average.

Violent crime breaks down as 45.5% without injury, 33.6% with injury and 20.9% stalking and harassment. Stalking and harassment was a significant factor in the rise in recorded crime: without injury offences were up by 14.3% and with injury offences were up 5.1%, but offences of stalking and harassment rose by 38.9%. It is worthwhile examining the offences of violence with injury more closely: the majority, 2,950 offences, were assault with injury; of the more serious offences there were 173 assault with intent to cause serious harm, 1 attempt murder and 18 of endangering life.

Domestic violence accounts for 33.3% of all violent offences reported in the 12 months covered by this report. Offences with a domestic flag rose by 14.5% in the year to the end of March, while the figures for other violent offences increased by 15.4%.

Anti-social behaviour Incidents recorded by Northamptonshire Police fell by 18.8% during the year. The reduction was seen in the majority of the wards across the town: only three wards showed any increase in reported incidents, with none of these being significant. It is worth noting that Police are recording breaches of the COVID regulations as anti-social behaviour offences and we should expect to see a significant increase in anti-social behaviour reports in the first quarter of 2020/21.

A secondary measure for anti-social behaviour is criminal damage: figures for the Partnership decreased by 2.1% compared with 2018/19.

As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, the landscape has changed significantly, and the Community Safety and Engagement Team have been redeployed over the past 15 weeks coordinating the requests that have been coming into Northampton's community resilience hub.

More than 6000 volunteers have signed up to support vulnerable residents in Northampton –these volunteers have been and continue to be matched up with the existing community groups (126 that have registered) in the Town. The hub has been working with the volunteers to ensure that support is in place for each resident that has requested help through the central support line. More than 1060 vulnerable people in Northampton have requested help and been supported with emergency food deliveries, food collection, shopping, furniture collection, prescription collections, emotional and mental health issues, loneliness and social isolation and financial support.

Recovery planning continues with partners and a plan has been developed, focusing on mental health and exploring a place-based pilot with Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire and health partners, the areas being looked at will include those that have been identified with the highest unmet need, these will also be areas where we experience the highest crime levels.

We are working with more than 100 organisations - important to continue these relationships and provide support to these groups at neighbourhood level post COVID19 – looking to do this through the community safety and engagement team and our existing

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multi-agency neighborhood working groups.

**Specific pieces of work that have taken place in the last six months, since the last report in January 2020 include:**

- Delivered and supported the following community engagement events, bringing our communities together, including; Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBTQ History month, International Women's Day, IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia) **virtual event**, Windrush **virtual event**, Srebrenica **virtual event**.
- £500,000 administered through the Cllrs Community Fund, Small Grants Fund and the Partnership Grant distributed to the community and voluntary organisations across the borough who are delivering positive outcomes to improve the quality of life of our residents living in the Town, many of which have an impact on reducing crime and improving community safety.
- Two community engagement sessions held with the Police in the town centre and at Northampton General Hospital.
- Our 4th Primary School Community Safety Conference held at the Deco. Themes including hate crime, fire safety, railway safety, personal safety, cyber bullying, knife crime and gangs all covered by experts to raise awareness and educate 180 year six students, across four primary schools.
- Levels of anti-social behaviour, street drinking, begging, drug dealing and criminal activity in the Town Centre and on the Market Square, prior to Operation Lily, were significant. Northampton Borough Council entered into an agreement with Northants Police to provide additional police resources during the six-week summer holiday period, July-September 2019 as a result of the above, we felt an extra presence of police officers was an absolute need. The funding provided two additional police officers, which led to an additional 576 patrol hours, 154 seizures of alcohol, 24 arrests and enforcement action taken with regards to cycling, begging, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. In the Autumn, as part of Operation Lily, ten police officers were deployed to the Town Centre, as a result of their hard work and commitment we have seen excellent results.  
As well as several arrests, stop searches, alcohol confiscations and disruptions, having the additional officers has had wider benefits too, including;
  - Police Officers taking appropriate enforcement action to tackle anti-social behaviour, street drinking and begging, including the issuing of CPN's and enforcing CBO breaches, working with our Anti-Social Behaviour Case Managers
  - Engagement with the Town Centre businesses, offering support and a point of contact, we have seen a huge rise in the confidence of the businesses to report issues
  - The ability to do some effective partnership working with other agencies including, CCTV, the outreach workers, Town centre BID, neighbourhood wardens, community safety and engagement officers and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team
  - Carry out and support joint patrols and operations with partners to reduce crime

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and anti-social behaviour on the Town Centre

- Provide a visible presence in the Town Centre, acting as a deterrent to those who may ordinarily be engaged with criminal activity or be causing alarm, harassment or distress.
- Increased public confidence
- Reduction in drug dealing

The additional resources committed by the police have been retained, and the Town Centre has been adopted as a priority area so this work can continue.

- Street Pastor Scheme continues to operate in the Town Centre, on bank holidays and pay weekends. Paused in March as a result of COVID-19, funded committed through the partnership grant and due to commence in July, when the nighttime economy is due to re-open.
- Taxi Marshal Scheme relaunched, two taxi marshals providing cover Friday and Saturday evenings, pay weekends and bank holidays. Paused for COVID-19 – but due to commence from 4 July 2020.
- Renewal of the Town wide Public Spaces Protection Order, giving additional enforcement powers, to tackle varying forms of anti-social behavior including street drinking.
- Jeyes Jetty Public Spaces Protection Order approved as well as planning permission for the gates granted. Gates are being made and installation to occur imminently.
- Application for the Purple Flag reaccreditation scheme for the Town Centre submitted.
- Northampton Town Anti-Social Behaviour Reporting Scheme (NTARS) operational - enables levy paying businesses to collate and share intelligence on anti-social behaviour and 'low level crime'. The PSPO provides a defined legitimate interest to allow this. The members include businesses and members of partnering authorities. For Example, NBC ASB Case Management, Outreach workers, the Police and Street Pastors. The system usage has significantly reduced throughout COVID-19 as the retailers have been closed. However, there are still 143 members that have signed up. 124 have been inactive for the last three months and no reports were logged throughout April, May and June.
- The multi-agency case management meetings for Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime, Cuckooing and Youth Violence – all re-established and taking place via the zoom platform.
- Our Anti-Social Behaviour Officers are working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime, and begging and youth violence, they have achieved the following:
  - There are currently 22 active cases being managed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Managers.
  - 10 x neighbour disputes (13 CPW's (Community Protection Warning's) and 1

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- CPN (Community Protection Notice) issued)
  - 6 x street drinkers/beggars (2 CPW and 2 CPN's issued)
  - 2 x female perpetrator targeting vulnerable individuals for money/place to stay etc (1 CPW and 1 CPN issued)
  - 1 x youth nuisance (1 Acceptable Behaviour Contract issued)
  - 3 x perpetrators causing harassment, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour (2 CPN's issued)
  - 4 x gang related/ASB injunctions have been submitted to deal with gang violence on the Eastern part of the Town.
  - 7 x CPW's issued and 1 ASB injunction and 1 Cuckooing injunction being progressed to tackle issues on the North East part of the Town.
- Youth Provision meeting established to coordinate the activity and youth spaces that are developing in the Town. Bringing partners together to work collaboratively as our youth offer continues to grow and develop.
- Newsletter developed with youth providers – promoting youth services that are available for young people in the Town, circulated widely amongst frontline officers across the partnership.
- Through the funding secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund, Free2Talk continue to deliver youth services in four of our priority neighbourhood areas, increasing the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. Delivering interventions and mentoring to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Target hardening of vulnerable victims' properties continues.

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

- Explore the opportunity to develop virtual school events, with partners and the schools.
- Develop a programme of days and weeks of action.
- Planning with partners a range of activity, focusing on anti-violence messages and activity to coincide with the arrival of the knife angel which has been put back to May 2021.
- Youth forum have started planning the 'youth app' in partnership with communication and digital teams at NBC, the app will allow young people to see what youth provision there is in the Town, searchable by location.

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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 very 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. However violent crime continues to be an issue for the partnership.

The CSP continues to work closely with partner agencies, particularly the Police, the Office of the Police, Fire 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 several 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, focussing on key priority areas, including violent crime.

The CSP has reviewed its strategy and action plan, identifying the new priorities, which will cover the next two years 2020-2022.

Brief Author: Vicki Rockall, Community Safety & Engagement Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Engagement – July 2020

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