

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 February 2017

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 CSP continue to prioritise issues that are most likely to affect people in their day to day lives, including violent crime (including domestic abuse), 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 has seen a downward trend for 2016/17, seeing increases in Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC), Anti-Social Behaviour and continued increases in Violent Crime. Overall crime has also continued to increase.

Actual Performance – April 2016 to November 2016

There's been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 7.2% (+1458 crimes) from the baseline during the year. Performance has varied significantly between different crime types/groups. The increases seen within violent crime and serious acquisitive crime types have impacted on the overall crime figure which has meant that targets set by the CSP at the beginning of the year are not being achieved.

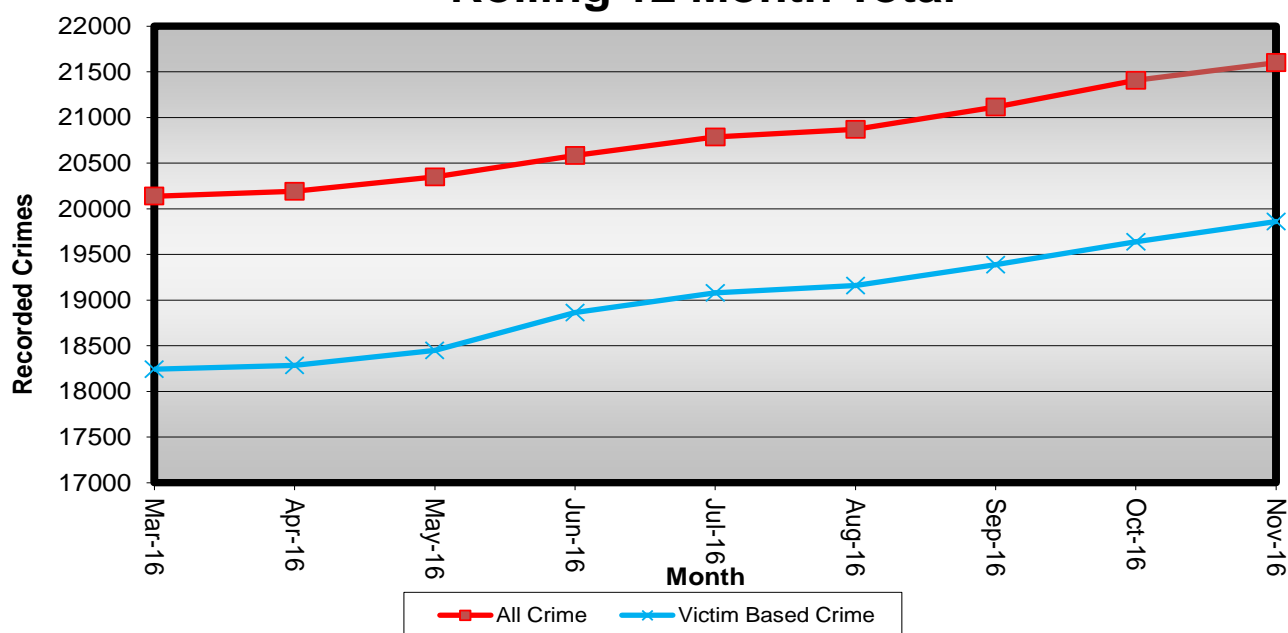
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All Crime Rolling 12 Month Total



Northampton has seen a 4.4% increase (+262crimes) in violence offences from April 2016 up to November 2016. This includes a 5.1% increase (+167 crimes) in violence without injury and a 3.6% increase (+95) in violence with injury. The rate of increase has slowed considerably during the year compared to last year and appears to have reached a plateau. There are a significant amount of initiatives being implemented which should in turn continue to have an impact upon these figures.

Continuing from the last 6 months of 2015/16, increases in SAC continues with a 29% increase from the baseline (+796crimes) since April 2016. Vehicle crime has been the primary performance issue in relation to acquisitive crime, with theft of motor vehicles increasing by 9.5% (+37 crimes) and theft from motor vehicles increasing by 50.3% (+540 crimes). Domestic burglary has increased by 14.9% (+149 crimes). There are a number of initiatives specifically focussed on vehicle crime and burglary now taking place.

Following a number of years of positive performance in relation to reducing Anti-Social Behaviour, a downward trend is now being seen. Reported incidents to the Police has increased by 8.3% (+1051 incidents) from the baseline compared to the 12.9% reduction that was seen for the same period in 2015/16. All three ASB incident types have seen an increase this year than last with increases of 7.5%% (+97 incidents) in environmental ASB, 2.8% (+111 incidents) in personal ASB and 13.6% (+843 incidents) in nuisance ASB. 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 56.9%, compared to 57.1% 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 8.1% in November 2015 to 10.4% in November 2016.

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Specific pieces of work that are taking place are:

- Priority location work in relation to violent crime and serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main areas for focus are Bellinge, Lings, Semilong/Regent Square, Kingsheath and St David's.
- The key focus is violent crime for Partnership 'Weeks of Action'. With serious acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour, drugs & alcohol and environmental issues being included. Weeks of Action have already been held in 4 out of the 5 identified areas.
- Domestic Homicide Reviews – There are currently 3 reviews taking place, which are at different stages. They are being led by the Community Safety Partnership, with an Independent Chair and Report Writer appointed, supported by the NCC Safeguarding Adults Team and overseen by the Chair of the Partnership. Home Office approval and sign off has been given for one review and it will be published at the end of January 2017. The second review is complete and awaiting Home Office sign off. The third review is currently in its early stages, and it is anticipated it will be ready to submit to the Home Office in September 2017.

Partners involved in the reviews 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.

- Community Payback have undertaken 15 specific projects so far this year.
- Personal Safety awareness sessions have been delivered to local youth groups.
- Government's Prevent/WRAP Training - a series of Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent have been held across Northampton and Northamptonshire, delivered to front line officers. The object being to understand the aims of Prevent, the role front line officers could have in identifying those who may be vulnerable to terrorism/radicalisation and how to prevent them becoming involved or supporting terrorism. Approximately 300+ staff have attended this workshop.
- The CSP Street Community (Street Drinkers/Beggars/Rough Sleepers/Sex Workers) Multi-Agency meetings continue, with a case management approach being taken to provide support and address any offending behaviour. There are currently over 40 individuals being monitored and case managed through this process.
- Awareness training on Child Sexual Exploitation has been provided for all NBC front line officers and Councilor's.
- Target Hardening of properties at risk of burglary continues. 15 properties have improved security measures implemented.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse continues to be provided. Over 26 victims have received security improvements to their home.

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- Street Football continued in hot spot locations.
- School Pastors continue to operate at Northampton Academy and have also been launched at Weston Favell Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursday's and Friday's with pastoral support being provided as and when required.
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, with 3 further events being held since April 2016. The main aim is to raise awareness around street begging and rough sleeper issues, and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this vulnerable group.
- Ongoing work with University of Northampton and Northampton College, providing crime prevention and personal safety advice, support and guidance to students.
- Security marking of property and bicycles being undertaken in hot spot locations.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 147 referrals being received by ASBU up to December 2016. To date, for 2016/17 18 Community Protection warning letters have been issued, 10 full Community Protection Notices served, 3 Criminal Behaviour Orders granted and 4 pending court hearing. There have also been 3 Premises Closure Orders obtained by Northamptonshire Police and Northampton Partnership Homes.
- Junior Warden's scheme continues, with a further 3 primary schools taking part.
- 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.
- A media campaign focussing on the night time economy entitled 'Nights Out Northampton' has been developed. This will see a range of articles covering a range of topics. In support of this campaign Street Marshal's now patrol on pay weekends and key dates, supporting the work of the Police and Street Pastors. Key messages of the campaign will focus on personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis.

Partnership Weeks of Action

Partnership Weeks of Action have been a key delivery model. These 'Weeks' are held in the priority areas as identified by the police and NCSP as high in Violent Crime, 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 there are a number of coordinated activities across each of the areas which include:

- Community Engagement
- Personal Safety
- Awareness raising around drug and alcohol abuse

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- Crime prevention and home security advice
- Target Hardening & Home Security Checks
- Property and bicycle marking
- Dog chipping
- Rubbish removal and community clean-up activities
- Community Payback carrying out landscaping improvements and other clean-up activities
- Environmental improvements
- Fire Service carrying out Home Fire Safety checks and fitting smoke alarms
- Housing enforcement activity
- Police enforcement activity
- Multi-agency Licensing checks
- Family Fun Days
- Youth engagement and supporting activities
- Sports activities

It is important to note that up to 2014/15 Community Safety Partnerships received government funding to deliver community safety initiatives. Due to this all activity delivered has mainly been supported from existing NBC resources, and partner resources where available.

Conclusion

Northampton continues to see reduced performance against the majority of targets. Overall crime is continuing to increase, with Serious Acquisitive Crime being the largest contributor towards this increase. Violent crime is continuing to increase, but at a slower rate compared to 2015/16.

The CSP continue to work closely with partner agencies, particularly the Police and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver activities that will target 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 disorder issues.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety – December 2016.

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