

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 July 2012

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

Following a number of years of impressive performance by the partnership and some significant reductions in crime, the partnership continue to work well, achieving some, but not all of the 2011/12 targets. With financial pressures and dwindling resources for partner organisations and the general public, reducing crime and improving public safety is an increasingly challenging task.

Performance overall was mixed in 2011/12, achieving good reductions in some crime types but reduced performance in others. The partnership achieved substantial reductions in domestic burglary, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and drug offences. However, other acquisitive crime, vehicle crime in particular, has seen an increase and violent offences have not seen a reduction. This is reflected in our partnership priorities for the coming year.

Actual Performance - 2010/11

In respect of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) the partnership did not perform as well as expected and despite seeing reductions in burglary, the partnership did not meet its target. High levels of vehicle crime were the main reason for the decrease in performance. The Community Safety Partnership has identified the priority locations for focussed partnership work for 2012/13, and this is now taking place.

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Crime Type	2010/11 Baseline	2011/ 12 Target Reduction	Year end performance
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3304 recorded crimes	10%	3489 crimes 5.6% increase.
Domestic Burglary	1253 recorded crimes	10%	1253 crimes 9.7% reduction
Criminal Damage	3752 recorded crimes	10%	3378 10% reduction
Anti-social behaviour	10.1% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	1.5% reduction
Domestic Abuse	567 successful prosecutions (County)	Increase	12 less successful prosecutions
Most Serious Violence	182 recorded crimes	5%	175 3.8% reduction

Specific pieces of work that took place are:

- A & E Data sharing is now well established for Northampton. Monthly and quarterly profiles being produced. This is now informing the policing of Nightsafe. Further work being undertaken, looking at 'on street' incidents recorded outside of the leisure zone. Domestic Abuse outreach worker is providing to support A&E on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary in hot spot locations took place. Focus areas were Standens Barn, Bellinge, Kinsley/Phippsville, Abington and The Mounts.
- Street Football was run in 12 locations across the Northampton, Monday to Friday
- Choose to Change programme for young perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, run by Women's Aid.
- 12 Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and 1 variation to CRASBO were obtained – 4 of these are in relation to street begging/drinking in the town centre.
- ASB Victim Support worker was appointed in June 2011 on a contract up until 31.03.2013. Up to March 2012 she had engaged with 120 victims/witnesses of ASB.
- Updated Byelaw for Good Rule and Government is now in place in Northampton. The byelaw provides an additional tool to police and wardens to tackle the more minor types of nuisance and anti social behaviour that residents are concerned about such as urinating in the street, dangerous/nuisance skateboarding and touting.

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- Street Pastors numbers have now increased to 30 and they continue to work on Friday and Saturday evenings in Northampton Leisure Zone, linking in with Police and CCTV.
- Targeted youth work took place in ASB hot spot locations on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- 'Killing with Kindness' campaign launched, raising awareness around street begging issues
- Change of Scene project for 13-19 year olds has now been extended to cover the whole of the Eastern District of Northampton. Many of the activities are now over subscribed.
- Stakeholder Nightsafe evenings were held for 18 new Councillors to provide an insight into the Policing of the Leisure Zone and some of the issues faced by partners.
- Second year of Best Bar None scheme took place with 27 licensed premises taking part.

Performance 2012/13 (April – June)

The early part of 2012/13 has seen mixed results for the Partnership where we have seen continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime, burglary and robbery. Vehicle crime continues the upward trend, which started in 2011. However, it is important to note that vehicle crime levels still remain significantly lower than 2009/10.

Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target	Performance at 30.06.2012
Serous Acquisitive Crime	3489 crimes	5% reduction	3.8% increase
Anti-Social Behaviour	14,926 Incidents	10% reduction	5.2% reduction
Vehicle Crime	1982 crimes	5% reduction	7.2% increase
Violent Crime	4293 crimes	3.5% reduction	3% reduction

Specific pieces of work taking place are:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main area for focus is Spencer ward.
- Priority location work for violent crime.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided

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- 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.
- Awareness raising around domestic abuse continues with a poster campaign that coincided with the Football European Championships and will continue through the Olympics.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continue with one order being secured this year.
- Change of Scene project for 13-19 year olds continues in the Eastern District of Northampton.
- Junior Warden schemes are to be established in three further areas – Spencer, Lings & Eastfield.
- Third year of Best Bar None, over 30 licensed premises are taking part this year.
- ‘Jam in the Hood’ youth intervention programmes taking place in the Autumn on Northampton East and Delapre/Far Cotton area.
- Development of a domestic abuse support programme, working with the family, specifically the victim and perpetrator.

Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership is seeing mixed results against the targets it has set. The main area that is not currently on target is Serious Acquisitive Crime (specifically vehicle crime) and partnership work continues to address this.

The introduction of the Police & Crime Commissioner in November 2012 will provide the Partnership with new opportunities and ways of working. We will continue to respond to new proposals, changes in legislation and ways of working in the coming year, ensuring that we are focussing on the important priorities for Northampton.

Brief Author: Debbie Ferguson, Community Safety Partnership Manager on behalf of Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, July 2012

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