

# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

25 April 2013

### 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 started to see some reductions in performance, 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 was reflected in our partnership priorities for 2012/13.

#### Actual Performance – April 2012 to September 2012

The first part of 2012/13 saw mixed results for the Partnership where there were continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and robbery.

The rolling 12 month total for overall crime reduced by 2.5%. This was primarily due to strong performance in tackling violence and low level theft. As at 31/09/2012 there was a 4.6% reduction in violent crime.

In respect of Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) the partnership was under-performing due to a significant spike in burglary dwelling during September. Vehicle crime also

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continues to be a concern due to considerable increases in theft from vehicles. However, it is important to note that vehicle crime levels still remain significantly lower than 2009/10. The Community Safety Partnership has identified the priority locations for focussed partnership work for 2012/13, and this work continues to take place.

The partnership continues to see good reductions in recorded anti-social behaviour issues, but perception is increasing. One of the reasons for the increase in people's perception could be attributed to the changes that have been adopted in undertaking the survey, and also increased media interest due to proposed legislative changes.

Domestic abuse continues to be a key focus and an increase in first time victims reporting has already been achieved.

<b>Crime Type</b>	<b>2011/12 Baseline</b>	<b>2012/13 Target Reduction</b>	<b>Half Year performance</b>
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3489 recorded crimes	5%	3693 crimes 5.8% increase
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	5%	2128 crimes 7.4% increase
ASB Incidents	14926 recorded incidents	10%	13681 incidents 8.3% reduction
Anti-social behaviour	8.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	9.8% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 <sup>st</sup> time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	2.1% decrease
Domestic Abuse – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	1% increase
Violent Crime	4293 recorded crimes	3.5%	4097 crimes 4.6% reduction

## **Performance - September 2012 to March 2013**

The second part of 2012/13 continued to see mixed results for the Partnership. Overall crime has reduced by 2.2% from the baseline, a slight decrease on the half year performance. There are continuing reductions in anti-social behaviour, violent crime and robbery. Vehicle crime and burglary continues on an upward trend.

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Crime Type	2011/12 Baseline	2012/13 Target Reduction	Year Performance (Sept –March)
Serious Acquisitive Crime	3489 recorded crimes	5%	4092 crimes 17.3% increase
Vehicle Crime	1982 recorded crimes	5%	2261 crimes 14.1% increase
ASB Incidents	14926 recorded incidents	10%	13237 11.3% reduction
Anti-social behaviour	8.6% residents perceive ASB as problem	Reduce	10.6% residents perceive ASB as problem
Domestic Abuse – Increase in 1 <sup>st</sup> time victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Increase	0.4% decrease
Domestic Abuse – reduction in repeat victims	N/A – year to date comparison	Reduction	0.4% increase
Violent Crime	4293 recorded crimes	3.5%	4097 crimes 8.5% reduction

Specific pieces of work that took place during 2012/13 are:

- Priority location work in relation to serious acquisitive crime and target hardening for victims of burglary. Main area for focus areas are Spencer, part of St James and Spring Boroughs. A total of 449 properties received improved security measures to their home.
- Priority location work for violent crime.
- Target hardening for victims of Domestic Abuse being provided. 82 victims received security improvements to their home, and Sanctuary work on 6 properties was undertaken.
- Killing with Kindness campaign continues, with 3 awareness raising events taking place and encouraging people to donate to local charities who provide support for this vulnerable group.
- Awareness raising around domestic abuse continues with poster campaigns that coincided with the Football European Championships and Olympics. A further campaign covering the Christmas period which included the production of awareness leaflets in 8 different languages.
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continue with 6 Orders being secured this year, along with 1 Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction and 3 Interim Criminal ABSO's.
- Change of Scene project for 13-19 year olds continues in Northampton East.
- Junior Warden schemes have been established in four further areas – Spencer, Lings, Kingsthorpe & Eastfield.
- Third year of Best Bar None, over 30 licensed premises took part.
- 'Jam in the Hood' youth intervention programmes took place in Northampton East and Delapre/Far Cotton and Spencer.
- Service Six undertook youth outreach sessions in hotspot locations across Northampton by Service Six
- Development and piloting of a domestic abuse support programme, working

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with the family, specifically the victim and perpetrator was undertaken

- In depth domestic abuse training has taken place for 40 key partnership frontline workers in Northampton, with a further 20 to receive training in May 2013.
- Street Football & Basketball programme held in identified hot spot locations across the town in response
- Voluntary agreement drawn up with Public Fundraising Regulatory Association to manage the activity of Face to Face fundraisers in Northampton town centre

## Priorities for 2013/14

Each year Community Safety Partnerships are required to carry out a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area and to consult local communities on the proposed partnership priorities for the coming year. The Partnership Strategic Assessment is developed by a range of agencies using information and data from a variety of sources, including existing local research, consultation and analysis. It looks at specific crime and community safety issues.

Through this process the following 4 priorities have been identified for 2013/14:

- Serious Acquisitive Crime
- Violent Crime (Night-time Economy, Domestic Abuse & Young People)
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Drugs & Alcohol

## Conclusion

The Community Safety Partnership is continuing to see mixed results against the targets it has set. Despite improvements in performance for both violent crime and Anti-social Behaviour incidents, they remain as priorities for 2013/14. The main area of concern continues to be Serious Acquisitive Crime and partnership work will continue in addressing this.