



Cabinet Member Report for Community Safety

Northampton Borough Council

Monday 18 July 2016

Community Safety

On June 29th, I had an extremely useful and informative first meeting with the new Police and Crime Commissioner where we discussed a wide range of issues. The meeting was an excellent starting point to our working relationship and I look forward to working closely with him over the coming months and years.

Overall crime has increased marginally by 0.8% (+156 crimes) since the beginning of April 2016. Serious Acquisitive Crime is showing an increase of 4.5% (+125 crimes) with vehicle crime rising by 4.2% (+61 crimes), domestic burglary by 5.4% (+54 crimes) and robbery by 3.2% (+10 crimes). The rate at which violence against the person is increasing has slowed in comparison to 2015/16 with an increase of 1.6% (+35 crimes) during April and May. There continues to be a reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to Police, with environmental reports decreasing by 2.7% (-35), personal by 0.5% (-19 incidents) and nuisance ASB remaining at the same level as at the end of the last financial year.

During 2015/16 Northampton saw a 21.28% reduction in reported Hate crimes and incidents (686 to 540). Despite some area's reporting a recent spike in Hate Crimes, I am pleased to report that Northampton/Northamptonshire has seen no volume increase in recent weeks. This is an issue that we take extremely seriously and will continue to monitor closely. In the past year, we have been focusing on increasing the level of reporting of these incidents to ensure that all incidents are captured and reported on the NBC reporting system. Staff have been utilising the updated online training module during the year and further training sessions have been arranged for 2016/17.

The multi-agency Weeks of Action continue with Kingsheath being held during the final week of June. A range of events took place over the week resulting in excellent engagement from the community. The 'Hub' on Park Square continues to be well used by agencies, and formed the central point for the week's activities. Planning is now well underway for St David's, Lings/Weston Favell Centre and Semilong/Regents Square weeks.

A media campaign focussing on the night time economy entitled 'Nights Out Northampton' has commenced. This will see a range of articles covering a range of topics such as Street Marshalls and Street Pastors, personal safety, alcohol awareness and the correct method for booking and using private hire and hackney taxis.

Final draft of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is now out for consultation. The 'Order' covers a range of Anti-Social Behaviour, namely alcohol, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances, urinating/defecating in a public place, begging, busking, dog fouling and dogs being kept on leads in certain public areas. Subject to the consultation results, it is anticipated that the PSPO will be in place by November 2016 at the latest.

A number of important training sessions have been held within the council over the past few months. 'Prevent' Counter Terrorism Awareness training, which is a statutory

responsibility, has been delivered to all Northampton Borough Council staff. Excellent feedback was given on these sessions by all staff. Domestic Abuse Awareness training for Councillors has also been delivered on 29 June 2016 and 6 July 2016. The sessions were well received by the Councillors that attended.

Councillor Mike Hallam
Cabinet Member for Community Safety