

Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

April 2019

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 Community Safety landscape continues to evolve and partners continue to face challenges in having to adapt the way services and initiatives are delivered. However, 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; knife crime/gangs, 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

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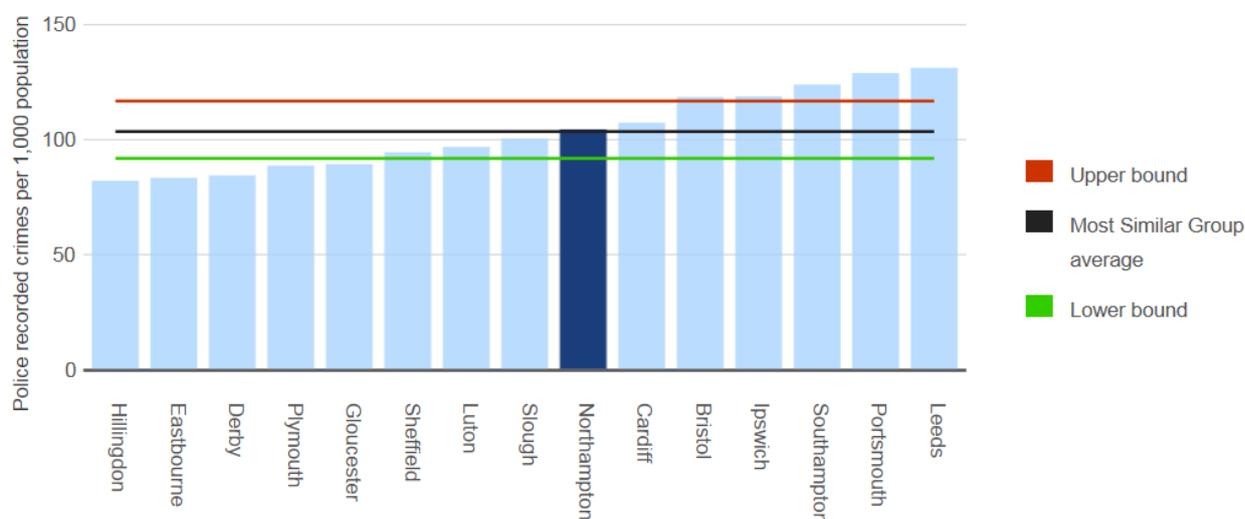
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community forums, identify opportunities for undertaking restorative justice methods, continue to utilise community payback, volunteers and community and voluntary organisations to address environmental issues in priority areas.

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

This chart compares the crime rate in Northampton, to the average crime rate across similar areas. It shows the total number of crimes over a twelve month period per thousand residents, for overall crime. In the year ending September 2018, the crime rate in Northampton was about the same as the average crime rate across similar areas.



Over the last 24 months, March 2017 – February 2019, there has been an increase in overall crime in Northampton of 7.12% (+1,596 crimes).

Northampton has seen a 7.16% increase (484 crimes) in violence with injury offences, an increase in burglary by just over 10% and an increase in weapon possessions, drug offences, public disorder and homicide.

Northampton has seen a reduction in the following crimes, 3.73% (- 246 offences) criminal damage and reductions have also been recorded for both robbery and shoplifting.

Furthermore, a downward trend continues to be seen with regards to Anti-Social Behaviour. Reported incidents to the Police have reduced by 21.4% (-2,385 incidents). A significant reduction in youth-related ASB has been identified, 28.4% (-503 incidents) However, 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 30.5% compared to 52.0% 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 16.7% in June 2017 to 29.5% in June 2018.

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We have a number of initiatives and projects in place to improve public confidence and perception, including a commitment to continually engage and communicate with the public with regards to the work that is being delivered by the CSP.

Specific pieces of work that have taken place in the last twelve months include:

- £354,706, secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund for the next two years, with a potential of additional funding for a further two years, a total of £470,936 (subject to the Government's Spending Review) to help increase the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. The funding will enable Northampton Borough Council and Free2Talk, to deliver interventions and mentoring, lasting up to a year, to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- We have funded the Youth Offending Service to deliver knife crime awareness in our secondary schools, colleges, and the University within the current academic year. We have delivered 38 sessions across 11 secondary schools, teacher training has been delivered to 6 schools, a session has been delivered to the Princes Trust and 3 teacher sessions have been delivered at Northampton College.
- Two Primary School Community Safety events held, working with partners, including Fire Service, Northants Police, Network Rail and the Youth Offending Service. More than 400 year 6 students attended. The event involved workshops, drama productions and presentations covering the following community safety issues for young people in the town, specifically; fire safety, railway safety, hate crime, child sexual exploitation, knife crime, personal safety and anti-social behaviour. The evaluation results identified that between 75-86% of students for each of the eight themes either 'liked' or 'loved' what was delivered.
- School Pastors continue to operate at Northampton Academy and Weston Favell Academy, with regular patrols taking place on Thursday's and Friday's with pastoral support being provided as and when required.
- Funding offered to support the Street Sports youth provision programme, which continues to be delivered by the Leisure Trust in hot spot locations.
- Hate Crime Week of Action commenced on 14 October 2018, the 'equality ally' scheme was launched during an afternoon tea event at the Guildhall. Equality allies are encouraged to wear a brightly coloured, heart shape pin badge to demonstrate their support of equality and raise awareness of how anyone who feels they've been affected by hate crime, can get support. The Greatest Showman, was showcased at Northampton Filmhouse during the week and before the screening, Northampton Inter Faith Forum shared a short film about equality, through the eyes of children. A Remembering Srebrenica walk and talk, took place on the Sunday, which closed the week of awareness activities.
- 16 Days of Activism – supported during November 2018. Working with Northampton Domestic Abuse Service, Northamptonshire Rape Crisis, EVE, Serenity, the Sunflower Centre and Voice, a presence was held by these support agencies in various workplaces across the Town, including; Avon, NGH, Nationwide, Travis

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Perkins, NBC, St Andrews and NHFT.

- Developed a partnership leaflet, detailing information on what all six of the support agencies can offer to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We also produced posters and baubles during a Christmas campaign.
- Funding provided for Women's Aid, Sunflower Centre and Northamptonshire Rape Crisis Centre, totalling £50,500.
- A number of vulnerable victims have received support to improve the security of their home, through our target hardening programme.
- Northampton's fourth domestic Homicide Review completed and published. Partners involved in the review 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.
- Cuckooing Multi-Case Management meetings taking place every six weeks, to tackle the issue of vulnerable people's homes being taken over as an operations base for selling drugs and identifying offenders involved and safeguard vulnerable and exploited residents. Two cuckooing specific injunctions have been achieved to protect vulnerable residents and potential victims.
- Cuckooing Training delivered to more than 200 frontline officers.
- Launch of Taxi Marshalling Pilot Scheme in September, operating 11pm-5am on Fri and sat evenings on pay weekends and bank holidays.
- 'Safer Routes Home' scheme developed in partnership with the University of Northampton.
- Street Pastor Scheme continues to operate in the Town Centre.
- Purple Flag for the Town Centre achieved and renewal application submitted.
- The media campaign focusing on the night time economy, 'Nights Out Northampton' continues. Key messages of the campaign will focus on personal safety, alcohol awareness and projects that are currently being developed, including the 'taxi-marshalling scheme' and 'safer routes home'
- Work on anti-social behaviour cases continues with 34 open cases currently in the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit. From April 2018 – February 2019, 25 Community Protection Warnings and 16 Community Protection Notices have been issued, for neighbour disputes, abusive and threatening behaviour, street drinking/begging and parking. 4 Criminal Behaviour Orders have been granted for aggressive begging, aggressive shoplifting and for making false calls to police and 2 Cuckooing specific Civil Injunctions have been issued.
- Funding provided for additional police resource on the Town Centre, to provide

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visibility, improve the feeling of safety and to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime. This was provided for 6 weeks over the summer and 6 weeks over the Christmas/New Year period.

- Community Events held for International Women's Day, International Men's Day, and International Day for Persons with a Disability Day and International Youth Day. These events were utilised to bring the community together, to get key messages out to the community. Including how to stay safe, get help and support and to raise awareness of hate crime, domestic abuse, mental health and equality.
- 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.
- Three Weeks of Action (intense multi-agency action) focused on the Racecourse, St David's and St James.
- 22 community safety awareness raising days have been held across the Borough, some of these areas include; Eastfield Park, Bradlaugh Fields, community cafes, Northampton General Hospital, Market Square, Billing, Brookside, Rectory Farm, Blackthorn, Semilong, Briar Hill and the University of Northampton
- 14 bike marking sessions have been delivered in hot spot locations, including parks, schools and in the Town Centre.
- No cold calling zone developed in Samwell Way in October.
- Community Payback have provided support for community safety projects for 56 days.

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

- Continued roll out and development of the Trusted Relationships 'True Knowledge' project
- Roll out of partnership 'Days of Action' in Blackthorn, Semilong and Spring Boroughs, multi-agency activity in a specific area, we will continue to adopt the 'you said', 'we did' approach. And continue to work with partners to promote Fearless and Crimestoppers.
- Continue to deliver the primary school community safety events after a positive evaluation – next event in June 2019
- Develop a community safety event for secondary schools and parents

Conclusion

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Northampton's crime statistics, when compared to other areas of a similar demographic, are no better or worse. Although we have seen an increase in overall crime in the Town, particularly in relation to violent crime and burglary.

The CSP continues to work closely with partner agencies, particularly the Police, the Office of the Police 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 a number of initiatives being implemented, with a particular focus on prevention, that should have a positive impact and ensure that an effective multi-agency approach will be taken in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Brief Author: Vicki Rockall, Community Safety & Engagement Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Engagement – April 2019