

# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

20 February 2020

### 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 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; 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 community forums, identify opportunities for undertaking restorative justice methods, continue to utilise community payback, volunteers and community and

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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

The Home Office places Community Safety Partnerships in groups considered to have enough similar characteristics to allow a meaningful comparison of their crime rates: this is known as the Most Similar Group and the fourteen other partnerships which currently make up our Group, include; Hillingdon, Gloucester, Sheffield, Slough, Derby, Luton, Cardiff, Eastbourne, Plymouth, Bristol, Ipswich, Portsmouth, Southampton and Leeds . Using data obtained from the Home Office iQuanta system we are able to produce the table below.

There are thirteen crime types on the table and a headline category of all crime. The Current Position column tells us whether performance is In line with, Above or Below the upper and lower control limits from the average for the Group; the Distance column gives the difference between our crime rate and that average, with the arrow indicating whether this distance has improved or worsened compared to the year-end figure. Next we have our Rank within the Group, with lower numbers indicating better comparative crime figures. The final column shows the current Crime Rate per 1,000 head of population and the same measure at the 2018/19 year-end.

| Crime Type                    | Most Similar Group |                       |      | Crime Rate (per 1,000) |          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------|------------------------|----------|
|                               | Current Position   | Distance from Average | Rank | Current                | Year-end |
|                               |                    |                       |      |                        |          |
| All Crime                     | Inline             | 3.0% ▼                | 10   | 109.99                 | 108.81   |
| Robbery                       | Inline             | 22.2% ▲               | 11   | 1.99                   | 1.72     |
| Theft from Vehicle            | Above              | 44.5% ▼               | 13   | 8.90                   | 10.40    |
| Theft of Vehicle              | Below              | -24.0% ▼              | 6    | 1.66                   | 2.01     |
| Theft from the Person         | Inline             | -14.3% ▼              | 6    | 1.28                   | 1.55     |
| Shoplifting                   | Inline             | -13.7% ▲              | 7    | 7.30                   | 6.89     |
| All Other Theft               | Inline             | -13.5% ▼              | 4    | 7.94                   | 8.42     |
| Violent Crime                 | Inline             | -2.6% ▲               | 10   | 43.50                  | 39.41    |
| Sexual Offences               | Above              | 27.9% ▲               | 13   | 4.29                   | 4.12     |
| Racially Aggravated Offences  | Inline             | -12.7% ▲              | 6    | 1.27                   | 1.14     |
| Drug Offences                 | Inline             | -4.8% ▼               | 5    | 3.38                   | 3.68     |
| Criminal Damage               | Inline             | 2.3% ▲                | 10   | 10.92                  | 10.90    |
| Burglary - Residential        | Inline             | 12.4% ▼               | 10   | 15.99                  | 18.33    |
| Burglary - Business/Community | Above              | 70.0% ▲               | 15   | 3.68                   | 3.33     |

The picture from this table is mixed: the all crime rate for the Partnership is moving towards the average for our Most Similar Group, which reflects a stronger performance than our comparator partnerships in a time of rising crime levels. There are seven red arrows for distance from the average for the Group, but in three of those cases the Partnership is below (or significantly below) that average.

The overall picture is positive with decreases from the figures at the same point in 2018/19 in many categories; violent offences including public disorder, are the notable exceptions. Violent crime accounts for 36.0% of the crime recorded in the area, making it the most

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significant category: recorded violent offences for the year to December have risen by 16.5% for the Partnership.

While recorded crime continues to rise, the Partnership's distance above the Group average remains below the average for our Most Similar Group, although the trend is towards that average.

Violent crime breaks down as 45.8% without injury, 34.8% with injury and 19.4% stalking and harassment. Stalking and harassment is a significant factor in the rise in recorded crime: without injury offences are up by 16.0% and with injury offences are up 5.7%, but offences of stalking and harassment are up by 45.0%.

Domestic violence accounts for 32.7% of all violent offences reported in the 12 months covered by this report. Offences with a domestic flag rose by 12.1% in the year to the end of December, while the figures for other violent offences increased by 16.5%.

Incidents of anti-social behaviour recorded by Northamptonshire Police fell by 15.5% in the year to the end of December. The reduction was seen in the majority of the wards across the area: only four wards showed any increase in reported incidents, with none of these being significant.

A secondary measure for anti-social behaviour is criminal damage: figures for the Partnership decreased by 2.5% when compared with the same period a year ago.

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

- Delivered and supported several community engagement events throughout the year, bringing our communities together, including; Holocaust Memorial Day, LGBTQ History month, International Women's Day, Northampton Pride, IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia), Refugee Week, International Youth Day, Love Parks Week, Srebrenica, International Men's Day and International Day of People with Disabilities.
- Just short of £1,000,000 administered through the Cllrs Community Fund, Small Grants Fund and the Partnership Grant distributed to the community and voluntary organisations across the borough who are delivering positive outcomes to improve the quality of life of our residents living in the Town, many of which have an impact on reducing crime and improving community safety.
- Six personal safety events held at Northampton University, the Grosvenor Centre and Wellingborough Road.
- Three primary school community safety events held at the Deco theatre, we have engaged 12 of our priority primary schools, more than 500 year 6 students, attended during the day to learn more from our experts, through workshops, theatre performances and films about important issues such as knife crime, gangs, online safety, child sexual exploitation, railway safety, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Held our first secondary school's community safety awareness raising event held at

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# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

the Deco theatre. 540 year 8 and 9 students attended from Weston Favell Academy to hear key community safety messages. Expert speakers, performers and presenters covered topics such as healthy relationships, knife and gang crime, personal safety, online safety, grooming, cyber bullying and hate crime.

- I'm Still Me conference – education conference provided teachers and other school staff with the skills, confidence and information to support LGBTQ students in primary and secondary schools in the county.
- Fifteen Community Days of Action, focused on environmental improvements, clear ups, community engagement, recycling, fly tipping, drops ins and surgeries held in Blackthorn, Bouverie, Semilong, Town Centre, Outer Central, Briar Hill, Rye Hill and Kings Heath.
- Six bike marking events delivered, in high footfall areas including; outside McDonald's, NGH, University of Northampton and Midsummer Meadow.
- Community Safety focussed Weeks of Action delivered across the Town, focused on Knife Crime, Burglary and Hate Crime.
- Target hardening of vulnerable victims properties continues.
- 16 Days of Activism – working with the domestic abuse and sexual violence charities in the Borough to provide pop up, support cafes across businesses and organisations in the Town. Posters, baubles and leaflets handed out to businesses, including restaurants, cafes, and shops across the borough.
- Two Police Officers funded during the six-week summer holidays, resulted in; 576 extra patrol hours, high visibility foot patrols, 154 seizures of alcohol, 24 arrests (relating to violence, shoplifting, drugs, domestic assaults and prostitution) and 88 warnings and words of advice given to cyclists who were riding through the Town on bikes.
- Through the funding secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund, Free2Talk continue to deliver youth services in three of our priority neighbourhood areas, increasing the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. Delivering interventions and mentoring to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Street Sports continued in hot spot locations.
- 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.
- Street Pastor Scheme continues to operate in the Town Centre, on bank holidays and pay weekends.
- Taxi Marshal Scheme launched, two taxi marshals providing cover 11pm-5am,

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Friday and Saturday evenings, pay weekends and bank holidays.

- Purple Flag for the Town Centre achieved.
- The media campaign focusing on the night time economy, 'Nights Out Northampton' continues. Key messages of the campaign focusing on personal safety, alcohol awareness and 'safer routes home' working closely with University of Northampton.
- Jeyes Jetty Public Spaces Protection Order approved
- Our Anti-Social Behaviour Officers are working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime, and begging and youth violence, they have achieved the following:
  - 50 CPW's (community protection warnings) issued for threatening behaviour, smoking cannabis, neighbour disputes, harassment
  - 8 CPN's (community protection notices)
  - 7 CBO's (criminal behaviour orders) issued for shoplifting, nuisance behaviour and street drinking,
  - 3 Cuckooing Injunctions for offenders who are targeting vulnerable people and their properties to deal drugs

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

- Two Primary School Community Safety Conferences planned, working with partners, including Fire Service, Northants Police, Network Rail and the Youth Offending Service. More than 300 year 5 and 6 students will be in attendance. The event will involve workshops, drama productions and presentations covering our community safety issues for young people in the town, specifically; railway safety, child sexual exploitation, knife crime, personal safety and anti-social behaviour.
- Two Secondary School Community Safety Conferences to be delivered to more than 1,000 year 8 and 9 students.
- Planning with partners a range of activity, focusing on anti-violence messages and activity to coincide with the arrival of the knife angel in June 2020.
- Continue to work with partners to provide youth provision and develop youth spaces in the Town, including the 'Basement' in the Town Centre and an identified space on the East.

## Conclusion

Northampton's crime statistics, when compared to other areas of a similar demographic, are no better or worse. Although we have seen a slight increase in overall crime in the Town, for many of the individual specific crime types, there has been an improvement in comparison to the previous year's performance.

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# Northampton Borough Council Overview and Scrutiny

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

The CSP is currently reviewing its strategy and action plan, there will be a new strategy and action plan in place to cover the next two years 2020-2022.

Brief Author: Vicki Rockall, Community Safety & Engagement Manager on behalf of Councillor Anna King, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety & Engagement – February 2020