
**OVERVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

Purpose of the Report

1. The following were the main areas of work under my Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio.

Environmental Services

Anti Social Behaviour

2. The Anti Social Behaviour Team are currently involved in a number of operations/initiatives, working in partnership with several agencies and the Police:
 - (a) The Town Centre is currently a focus for the team, targeting youth disorder around the Market Place and St Cuthbert's Churchyard linking in with Youth Services. Several young people have been identified and interviewed and Acceptable Behaviour Agreements signed.
 - (b) Operation 'Staysafe' which targets alcohol related anti social behaviour and vulnerable young people continues to be a success. In the month of July, 32 referrals were made to support services.

Street Scene

3. Street Scene are currently working with the North East Improvement and Efficiency Programme (NEIEP) in the route optimisation of both refuse and recycling collection vehicles. The NEIEP procured on behalf of all North East Councils, a software programme that enables local authorities to maximise the efficiency of their collection arrangements. To date, local authorities in Tyne & Wear and Durham have undergone the efficiency programme and the NEIIEP are now working alongside Darlington and the other Tees Valley Authorities in this regard. It is envisaged by the end of September 2010 that routes should be drafted enabling Street Scene to work on the implementation of more efficient collection rounds thus leading to efficiencies in the service.
4. For the three week period, week commencing 26 July 2010, Street Scene employed a contractor to undertake the second tranche of weed spraying throughout the Borough. Should any areas be identified as being missed or treatment not being to standard etc, the contractor will return to any areas and treat accordingly. Street Scene are actively investigating the potential for bringing weed spraying operations in-house as an efficiency measure, commencing in Spring 2011.

5. Many plaudits have been received by Street Scene for the floral displays throughout the Borough this year. Judges from Northumbria In Bloom visited the Borough on 14 July 2010 with results being known in mid September 2010. The Tornado Train installed in the Victoria Road roundabout made a big impression on both judges and the public alike, and Street Scene continue to enhance the borough and the local environmental quality for residents with its floral displays.

Housing

Groundwork Trust – Garden Maintenance Service

6. A new partnership between the Authority and Groundwork Trust which commenced in May 2010 to provide ground maintenance work has delivered some excellent results. To date 109 enquiries have been made to the service by vulnerable residents unable to complete essential small scale garden maintenance works. The service is aimed at improving the security of their homes and reducing the risk from trips and falls as well as ensuring gardens are maintained to a high quality for the benefit of the wider community. The service was funded by a Government grant and a successful application by the Groundwork Trust for Future Jobs funding which provided an opportunity for young long term unemployed to gain new skills hopefully leading to permanent work in the future.

The HEAT Annual Report

7. The HEAT Project, a joint initiative between the Council, the Primary Care Trust, and the voluntary sector led by Age (UK) Limited, has published its first Annual Report for the year ending March 2010. The HEAT Project whose primary aim is to assist local households in Darlington out of “fuel poverty” and provide advice about access to grant assistance and energy efficiency measures has had a busy year with referrals being received from services in both the statutory and voluntary sectors.
8. Some key outcomes from the project have been:-
 - (a) £46,220 of grant funding secured for local households;
 - (b) 275 “Winter Warmth” information packs have been distributed to local households;
 - (c) 143 enquiries were signposted to other local support services
 - (d) 41 households received home energy efficiency checks;
 - (e) 27 households have improved the “thermal comfort” of their homes through the Project’s intervention;
 - (f) 22 briefing sessions for Social and Health Care professionals have been completed broadening the scope and awareness of the service locally;
 - (g) 12 households have been assisted with fuel debts and arrears helping them keep warm during the winter months;
 - (h) 10 households have improved their homes to meet the Decent Homes standard;
 - (i) 9 households have been removed from “fuel poverty”.

Assistant Chief Executive

Summer Nights Campaign

9. Following on from the success of last year's Summer Nights campaign, a new initiative was launched on 26 July and will last throughout the summer. Throughout this period there will be a variety of events for young people organised by the Youth Service, but also supported by the police, anti-social behaviour team and the safer neighbourhoods unit. The aim of Summer nights is to provide young people with a series of interesting and fun activities while at the same time getting across a message about anti-social behaviour. STAR Radio have also been involved to promote the events and to give out a message that anti-social behaviour is not "cool".
10. In one week 600 young people took part in activities which included film production, sports activities and the MAD Day events.
11. To date the police have engaged with over 100 young people in parks across the town, getting involved in events and signposting young people to activities. On a more serious note, police have confiscated 20 litres of alcohol from under age drinkers and have cautioned a local shopkeeper for selling to under 18 year olds.

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment

12. The Safer Neighbourhoods Unit is working with partners to produce this year's Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment, showing progress made throughout the last twelve months and identifying priorities for future action.
13. The deadline for completion is 21 October, when the Police Authority will begin the public consultation process. The Safer Neighbourhoods Unit (SNU) will hold the annual Safer Communities Conference at the end of November to fit in with the consultation process. The SNU aims to encourage as many residents as possible to attend this to ensure their involvement in establishing priorities for next year.

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

14. Following publication of the Joint Strategic Assessment in November 2009, the CSP has refreshed its priorities for 2010/11, as follows:-
 - (a) Public Confidence
 - (b) Violent Crime around Domestic Abuse
 - (c) Protecting Vulnerable People
 - (d) Reducing Offending and Re-offending
 - (e) Anti-social behaviour
15. There are two themes which cut across all priorities, namely public confidence, and drugs and alcohol.
16. Grant funding for the CSP, and associated projects/campaigns, is largely intact for the current year but work is ongoing to find any in-year savings and to re profile budgets for the cuts anticipated for 2011 onwards. Further details should be available for the November

report.

17. This report is based on provisional data and may need to be updated on receipt of confirmed data.
 - (a) In January, the anticipated repeat of the Early Implementation Grant of £200k for 2010-11 was cut by 50%. The funding was re-profiled to support the key pilot and project areas in relation to the reduction of alcohol-related hospital admissions, including continued support staff for the CAS team and the Paramedic project (though this had also been reduced in terms of what could be provided with residual funds). Unfortunately, it was announced on 25 March that the Department of Health had reduced the Health Inequalities budget in half again for the coming year. As a result of the additional bidding process, we were successful in retaining £60k for Darlington. This was allocated by the Dept of Health against the Paramedic and Assertive Outreach posts for 2010-11. Exit funding has now been identified for the remaining posts.
 - (b) The DAAT submitted a similar prioritisation request to the PCT regarding the safeguarding of the Annual Operating Plan investment into alcohol services and have now had confirmation of the full, final allocation for 2010-11. However, as with all funding streams, this is now potentially at risk following potential government policy changes.
18. The DAAT hosted an alcohol stakeholder event in July to celebrate progress against the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy – Safer Drinking, Safer Darlington. The event was well attended with excellent speakers and afforded attendees the opportunity to feed in their views to ongoing government policy consultations on alcohol.
19. The latest Performance Report on how the Darlington Partnership is performing against the nine Indicators in the Safer Drinking: Safer Darlington Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy indicates a very positive position with 8/9 at Green or Amber and 1 red. The red area remains drunk and rowdy behaviour however early indications are that there has been a significant upturn in the reduction of the rate of increase in Alcohol-related hospital admissions (NI39).
20. The DAAT is currently entering the final stages of a large capital project, funded by the National Treatment Agency and partner and provider agencies, to refurbish a site for the creation of a co-located, Integrated Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service. This will free up premises to move the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (SWITCH) into more suitable premises. The project has been subject to further delays since the last update and it is anticipated that the existing services will now not be in situ in the new centre until week beginning 13 of September. However, this is also subject to the presentation of a petition to the DAAT Board on 8 September, following concerns raised by local businesses/residents about the location of the centre. Ongoing dialogue is taking place with all concerned.
21. Domestic Abuse services featured heavily in the partnership World Cup Action Plans, for which separate data is available. The whole of the services are currently under review and a Process Mapping event is planned for October to review and map referral pathways.

Crime and Disorder Performance against Targets

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

22. Serious Acquisitive Crime includes Domestic Burglary, Robbery, Theft of Motor Vehicle and Theft from Motor Vehicle. The CSP target is to reduce SAC by 8.2% by 2010/11.
23. The table below shows overall performance based on the **last rolling 12 months**:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Performance against Target
1933	1774	1298	- 27%

Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)

24. There was a 34% reduction in thefts from motor vehicles in the rolling 12 months to July 2010, compared with the rolling 12 months to July 2009, and the CSP is performing well within its target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Reduction against Target
419	356	201	-44%

Theft from Motor Vehicles (TFMV)

25. There was a 35% reduction in thefts of motor vehicles in the rolling 12 months to July 2010, compared with the rolling 12 months to July 2009. The CSP is performing well within its target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Performance against Target
987	938	577	-38%

Robbery

26. The number of robberies reduced over the 12 months to July 2010, and performance is within target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Performance against Target
58	58	50	-14%

Domestic Burglary

27. For the rolling 12 months to July 2010 there was an 11% reduction in domestic burglaries: however, the CSP set rigorous targets for 2008-11 and based purely on performance to date, there is a risk that the target will not be achieved. However, forecast performance is currently suggesting an outturn of 388, which would fall within target.

28.

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Performance against Target
469	422	470	11%

Perceptions of ASB – NI 17

29. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour within the Borough.
30. The Place Survey 2008 indicated that 17.1% of people perceive there to be a high level of anti-social behaviour in their area, which was an improvement on previous general survey results.
31. The CSP have set a target to reduce this to 14.1% by 2011. However, the place survey scheduled to take place later this year has now been cancelled, and data for NI17 will not be collected.
32. Durham Constabulary conducts quarterly surveys which include questions on perceptions of ASB, though the sample population is much smaller than that used for the place survey. Data from June 2010 for the CSP indicated that the percentage of people who perceived a high level of ASB in their area was 4.2% (± 4.0), suggesting the CSP is performing well. The roll up figure for the last four quarters is 8.1% (± 2.4).
33. CSP performance over the year to date is set out below. Please note that the CSP has not set specific reduction targets in respect of ASB incidents.

Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	July 09	July 10	Change
Incidents	4607	3836	-17%
Per 1000 Population	46.0	38.3	-7.7%

Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	July 09	July 10	Change
Incidents	1628	1294	-21%
Per 1000 Population	16.3	12.9	-3.4%

Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	July 09	July 10	Change
Incidents	747	709	-5%
Per 1000 Population	74.7	70.9	-3.8%

Assault with Less Serious Injury (AWLSI) – NI 20

34. This includes actual bodily harm and other injury and racially/religiously aggravated actual bodily harm. Figures for the rolling 12 months to July 2010 are detailed below:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/07/10	Performance against Target
789	569	538	- 5%

Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse – NI 32

35. This measure came into place in 2009/10 and relates to the repeat victimisation rate of those individuals supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
36. Between April and June 2010, 27 cases went to a MARAC, 6 of which were repeats, meaning that the repeat victimisation rate currently stands at 22%.

Alcohol Related Admission Rates – NI 39

37. The outturn for 2008/09 was 2122 against a baseline of 1886: the target for 2009/10 was 2207. Provisional figures for Q1 to Q3 2009/10 have now been released, and total 1608 admissions. Over the first nine months of the year, this represents a 2% increase over the same period in 2008/09. Due to the way NI39 is calculated, the PCT was expecting an increase in numbers, and has set its targets accordingly.

Drug Users in Effective Treatment – NI 40

38. The outturn for 2009/10 is now available, and shows that the target was achieved. This was due to more service users entering treatment and better retention of those who entered treatment:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/03/10	Performance against Target
416	458	473	105%

Prolific and Other Priority Offending Rate – NI 30

39. A new PPO cohort was selected for 2009/10, with a reduction target of 23% against a baseline of 121 convictions. The LAA target for the year was 93 proven offences against this cohort, and at the year end a total of 56 had been recorded, meaning that the CSP performed well within its target. In order to achieve the same reductions as the national cohort, the CSP would have had to record 98 offences, so at this level, the CSP also performed very well.

CSP Delivery Plans

40. Refreshed delivery plans have been developed in line with the priorities identified from the Joint Strategic Assessment. They include those actions from last year's plans which were outstanding at the end of 2009/10. At the present moment there are no significant issues arising from any of these plans.

Councillor Bill Dixon
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio