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

Purpose of the Report

1. The following were the main areas of work under my Community and Public Protection portfolio.

Street Scene Information

2. Members will be aware that the environmental crime element of the former Anti Social Behaviour Unit has now transferred to Street Scene to allow for more integration between the two services, subsequently leading to more effective enforcement being undertaken around issues such as litter, dog fouling and placing waste out for collection on the wrong day.
3. This has now been successfully transferred and recruitment for 3 x vacant Environmental Enforcement Officers is currently proceeding. Furthermore, with the recruitment of the Environmental Campaigns Officer we are now investigating best practice at other authorities in relation to initiating a campaign around environmental crime with a view to enhancing local environmental quality for residents.
4. Members will recall that the previous two summers have been particularly wet and caused significant problems for grounds maintenance services throughout the Borough. To date, the weather this year has allowed us to undertake services to the required frequency, and significant improvements in ground maintenance services have been experienced throughout the Borough.
5. Members may have also noticed improvements such as Yarm Road and Neasham Road roundabouts, new planter at Cockerton shops, 6 x flower towers on ring road as well as other improvements throughout the Borough. These improvements are also designed to create efficiencies with regard to ongoing maintenance.

Anti Social Behaviour

6. A full 5 year ASBO has now been served on a male for persistently causing annoyance and nuisance to members of the public by presenting himself as a member of the local authority to enforce license provisions and gain entry to various on-license premises. On one occasion the male stole items from an establishment during a false visit and has also been accused of wasting police time, posing as a security guard in a number of outlets, carrying false ID and wearing a radio and ear piece and claiming to be investigating covert matters that would allow him access to staffing areas. The following prohibitions are in place:

- (a) Engaging in conduct which causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to anyone.
- (b) Entering any premises and/or land with an on licence for the sale of alcohol licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 within County Durham and Darlington.
- (c) Wearing or displaying or to be in possession of radio ear pieces and link radios.
- (d) Attempting to impersonate any security staff, council employee or using any false identification.
- (e) Making a report to Police which may result in wasting Police time.
- (f) Inciting or encouraging others to commit any act prohibited by the order.

7. In May's Council report it was reported that:

“A County Court Injunction has been obtained against a 38 year-old male, of no fixed abode. Evidence was presented to the court relating to the appalling behaviour of this male over the last 12 months, who caused a great amount of alarm and distress to residents of Hawkesbury Mews, Darlington, by regularly sleeping rough and urinating in their property doorways, often leaving empty glass bottles and litter wherever he had been. Additionally, the male regularly attended Darlington Memorial Hospital where he verbally abused and threatened hospital staff, members of the public and hospital security and openly drank alcohol in the hospital grounds and deliberately caused a nuisance to hospital staff with nuisance calls and false injuries. He is now subject to a 12-months Injunction that prevents him from entering any part of the hospital site or Hawkesbury Mews. He faces up to two years in prison if he breaches the Order.”

The above individual has breached the terms of his Injunction on several occasions and the Anti Social Behaviour Team are currently awaiting a court date for committal proceedings.

Darlington Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Durham Police Authority

- 8. ‘Balance’, The North East Alcohol Office, has just launched The Big North East Drink Debate. Balance hope to achieve around 10,000 responses to its alcohol survey questionnaire across the region. The debate had a media launch in both Newcastle and Darlington on June 16 achieving much press interest including TVs’ North East News. The DAAT pilot project to put a paramedic on the streets at key times with the police and other agencies is moving forward. A Clinical Services Management post is in place at Darlington Memorial Hospital to co-ordinate and implement an alcohol action plan in hospital settings. Large scale training of GPs and other generic staff in adult services to screen, assess and deliver Alcohol Brief Interventions at Tiers 1 & 2 is underway. Two additional temporary posts providing homelessness and housing support services for adults and young people have been recruited. Alcohol Arrest Referral is in place as part of a pilot Arrest Referral Service. Two pilot Safer Schools posts, with a health remit around drugs and alcohol, have been appointed to work in two of Darlington’s schools.
- 9. Additional PCT AOP funding has been confirmed for additional services for the roll-out of Alcohol Treatment Requirements for adult offenders with alcohol issues and a rolling alcohol programme for non-offenders alongside. Also, for additional nursing capacity in the Community Alcohol Service and training and performance support within the DAAT.

10. For the rolling 12 months up to 31 May 2009 crime reduced by 4% compared to the same period in 2007/08. There were 9,424 recorded crimes in Darlington between June 2007 and May 2008. For the same months in 2008/09 this fell to 9,046, a reduction of 378 crimes (4%).

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

11. The priorities identified within the plan are:
- (a) Anti-Social Behaviour;
 - (b) Reducing Offending;
 - (c) Violent Crime and Disorder in the Night Time Economy;
 - (d) Domestic Abuse and
 - (e) Public Reassurance
12. Reducing the harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol forms a cross cutting theme across all priorities.

Crime and Disorder Performance against Targets

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

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

2008 Baseline	2008/09 Target	12 Months to 28/02/09	% Change
1933	1888	1766	- 4%

Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)

15. For the rolling 12 months to 31 May 2009 there was a 17% reduction in TOMV with 64 less crimes being recorded between June 2008 and May 2009 (318 crimes) compared to 382 crimes between June 2007 and May 2008.
16. Comparative quarterly data shows an improving trend with 69 crimes being recorded between March 2009 and May 2009. A reduction of 22% or 19 crimes compared to the previous quarter.

Theft from Motor Vehicles (TFMV)

17. For the rolling 12 months to May 2009 there was a 18% reduction in TFMV with 18 less crimes being recorded between June 2008 and May 2009 (837 crimes) compared to 855 crimes between June 2007 and May 2008.
18. During the last quarter (March 2009 to May 2009) there were 232 recorded crimes equating to a 21% increase (41 crimes) compared to the previous quarter (191 crimes).

Robbery

19. For the rolling 12 months to May 2009 there were 65 recorded crimes which is two more offences compared to the same period in 2007/08.

Domestic Burglary

20. For the rolling 12 months to May 2009 there was a 10% increase in domestic burglary with 65 more crimes being recorded between June 2008 and May 2009 (723 crimes) compared to 658 crimes between June 2007 and May 2008.
21. During the last quarter performance has improved with 171 crimes being recorded between March 2009 and May 2009, which equated to 18 less offences compared to the previous quarter, a reduction of 10%.

Perceptions of ASB - NI 17

22. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour within the Borough.
23. 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 is an improvement on previous general survey results.
24. The CDRP have set a target to reduce this to 14.1% by 2011.
25. For the rolling 12 month to **April 2009** there was 10,538 incidents recorded by police compared to 10,783 the same period in the previous year, a reduction of 245 incidents.

Assault with Less Serious Injury (AWLSI) - NI 20

26. This includes actual bodily harm and other injury and racially/religiously aggravated actual bodily harm.
27. For the rolling 12 months to May 2009 there were 589 incidents recorded by police which equates to 210 less crimes (26%) than recorded in the previous 12 months.
28. The target to March 2010 is 726 crimes against a baseline of 789 crimes. Hence current performance is ahead of target by 23%.

Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse - NI 32

29. This measure came into place in April 2009 and relates to the repeat victimisation rate of those individuals supported through the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).
30. Since April 2009, 19 cases have been referred to MARAC of which 3 cases have involved repeat victimisation.

31. The latest data available is up to April 2009. For the rolling 12 month to April 2009 there were 1903 incidents recorded by Police compared to 1659 in the same period for the previous year, this should be viewed as a positive result, with more people coming forward to report incidents.
32. The repeat victimisation rate as a percentage of total incidents was 41% in April 2009 compared to 43% in April 2008, showing a slight improvement.

Alcohol Related Admission Rates - NI 39

33. This data is provided in arrears and was not available for inclusion in this report.

Drug Users in Effective Treatment – NI 40

34. At December 2008 (latest data) there were 435 problematic drug users in treatment ahead of the 416 target to March 2009.

Prolific and Other Priority Offending Rate – NI 30

35. The CDRP target is to reduce the PPO cohort (23 offenders) reoffending rate by 23%, from a baseline of 121 offences in 2008/09 to 94 offences by 2009/10.
36. Performance data which is provided nationally via Government office is awaited. Although local performance data does not indicate any significant issues in regards to the cohort of 23 offenders.

CDRP Delivery Plan

37. There are no significant issues with any of the CDRP Delivery Plans with the majority of actions being ahead of or on target.

Operation Summer Nights

38. The highly successful ‘Summer Nights’ campaign that won a National PR Award for best not-for profit campaign in 2008 is to be run again for 2009. This is a multi agency crime reduction and reassurance campaign which aims to prevent anti-social behaviour, particularly when it is alcohol related. The operation will take a triple track approach of enforcement, non negotiable support and prevention. The operation will run throughout the whole of Darlington from Friday, 10 July 2009 to Monday 7 September 2009. The timing of the operation deliberately incorporates the main school holiday period.
39. The operation has three distinct strands, these are as follows:
 - (a) To reassure the public that partner members are working together to take action in relation to anti-social behaviour particularly at this time of year when we often experience an increase.
 - (b) To promote personal health and safety and build on the positive behaviour of most young people. Also to encourage those persons to respect others and their property.

(c) To educate, prevent or enforce those messages to people who are behaving or are at risk of behaving anti-socially.

40. The achievements and outcomes will be reported as part of the next report.

Councillor Bill Dixon
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio