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

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**Purpose of the Report**

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

**Environmental Services**

**Street Scene**

2. Members will be aware that management of winter maintenance services and emergency call out transferred to Street Scene in October 2009. Following an initial mild period through October and November, extreme weather was experienced throughout December 2009 and early January 2010. During this period it snowed 25 consecutive days and road surface temperatures were almost constantly below freezing point. Throughout the 25 day period, each designated winter maintenance route was gritted and/or ploughed on 80 occasions covering a total of 16,000 miles, depositing approximately 3,500 tonnes of sock salt during the process. Notwithstanding the extreme weather conditions, all highways identified on pre-designated gritting routes remained open.
3. On a national basis due to the extreme conditions, salt stocks throughout Great Britain have reached crisis point with the result that GoNE now advise salt suppliers which local authorities are to receive supplies and in what quantities. For information, Darlington Borough Council, due to proactive reordering of salt prior to the inclement weather, is in a favourable position in relation to salt levels and it is not anticipated that the provision of salt will be an issue for ourselves.
4. Throughout this period, significant operational difficulties were experienced, particularly in relation to refuse and recycling collection. Despite hazardous conditions, crews continued to collect each day however some locations, for health and safety concerns, were missed with the commitment of Street Scene to collect all wastes presented on the next accessible scheduled day of collection.
5. Furthermore, again due to inclement weather, little or no litter picking was undertaken throughout the Borough for a sustained period. As a result, with the snow and ice melting, large amounts of litter were present on highways/footpaths throughout the borough. Additional resources were deployed to 'catch-up' and satisfactory levels of cleanliness were achieved within a two week period.

**Anti Social Behaviour**

6. The Anti Social Behaviour Team are currently involved in a number of Operations/initiatives, working in partnership with several agencies & the Police:
  - (a) Operation Belgowin in the Park East area has moved into its second phase after community consultation and agreement on priorities. The ASB Team & Police are currently carrying out surveys with residents in the area to gauge opinion on the Operation to date.
  - (b) Operation 'Verona' concerns the Bank Top area in relation to vehicle nuisance, anti-social behaviour and child vulnerability. This operation is closely linked to 'Apollo' which involves the Green Street Industrial Estate in relation to anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and criminal damage.
  - (c) Operation 'Staysafe' concerns alcohol related ASB and vulnerable young people, has been running almost a year and many successes have been achieved. In the last three months:
    - (i) 160 young people have been engaged with as part of 'Staysafe'.
    - (ii) 38 young people have been referred to alcohol support services.
    - (iii) 5 young people referred to other agencies.

## **Housing**

### **Consultation on New Build**

7. Housing Services have successfully secured grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) of £3M towards joint financing of a local authority new build programme to deliver 65 new affordable homes. Following the announcement, consultation has taken place in Cockerton and Springfield on two of the identified sites to canvass local people's views. Residents were given an opportunity to view proposed plans, ask questions and feedback any comments they had about the proposals on two separate consultation events within the community held on 16 December 2009. Consultation has been previously undertaken in respect of the other two sites with work progressing well adjacent to the remodelled Dinsdale Court at Middleton St George for the first ten apartments.

## **Licensing**

8. In 2009 officers carried out 11 enforcement exercises visiting 121 premises. As a result of these activities one premise was prosecuted for selling alcohol without a licence and staff at another two premises were given cautions for unauthorised licensable activities. Two exercises were joint test purchase operations with the Police, both in respect of off and on licensed premises.

## **Assistant Chief Executive**

### **Safer Communities Forum (Update)**

9. The Safer Communities Forum took place on 15 January at the Dolphin Centre and was well attended by elected Members and agencies. Workshops were held around each of the new CDRP priorities and a range of useful ideas were put forward which have helped to inform the delivery plans for 2010/11. Useful and informative presentations were also

given around the CDRP performance and key achievements over the past twelve months.

### **Funding for Sexual Abuse Services**

10. Central Government funding has now been made available to the Community and Voluntary Sectors to fund Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA). A new combined fund has also been launched which merges the Special Fund and the Victims Fund and which is aimed at supporting victims of sexual violence. The closing date for both funding pots is 22 February.

### **Darlington Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Durham Police Authority**

11. The North East Alcohol Office, now branded 'Balance', was launched in February 2009, providing a lead on social marketing, consistency of service provision and practice across the region and a focus for lobbying government on alcohol related issues. The Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has been successful in a bid to become an Early Implementation site around NI39 (reducing alcohol related admissions to hospital), drawing an additional £150k into Darlington for 2008/09 and a further £200k for 2009/10. This will fund:
  - (a) Large scale training of GPs and other generic staff in adult services to screen, assess and deliver Alcohol Brief Interventions at Tiers 1 and 2; homelessness and housing support for adults and young people;
  - (b) Floating support and homeless prevention services
  - (c) Alcohol Arrest Referral;
  - (d) Additional Counselling capacity for the Community Alcohol Service
  - (e) Education and awareness raising projects and a thorough, independent evaluation of the above projects and implementation of the Community Alcohol Service.
12. Additional Early Implementation funding of £200k was secured for 2009-10 for further alcohol services to address the high rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions in Darlington. These services include the roll-out of Alcohol Treatment Requirements for adult offenders with alcohol issues and the introduction of a 16-week rolling alcohol programme for both offenders and non-offenders to run alongside. Also, there is funding for additional nursing capacity in the Community Alcohol Service (CAS). Further Primary Care Trust (PCT) Annual Operating Plan (AOP) investment in 2009-10 enabled an increase in training and performance support within the DAAT.
13. It has now been confirmed that the anticipated repeat of the Early Implementation Grant of £200k for 2010-11 has been cut by 50%. However, the DAAT submitted a business case, in conjunction with Balance, which had mitigated this reduction from the total cut imposed in other areas. 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 has also been reduced in terms of what can be provided with residual funds). The DAAT submitted a similar prioritisation request to the PCT regarding the safeguarding of the Annual Operating Plan investment into alcohol services.
14. 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 7/9 at Green or Amber and 2 reds. The red areas remain NI39 and drunk and rowdy behaviour; however there has been a significant upturn

in the sign up to the Responsible Sales Code since the last report.

## **Community Safety Plan 2008-2011**

15. Following publication of the Joint Strategic Assessment in November 2009, the CDRP 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
16. There are two themes which cut across all priorities, namely public confidence, and drugs and alcohol.
17. This report is based on provisional data and may need to be updated on receipt of confirmed data.

## **Crime and Disorder Performance against Targets**

### **Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)**

18. 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.
19. The table below shows overall performance based on the **last rolling 12 months**:

<b>2008 Baseline</b>	<b>2009/10 Target</b>	<b>12 Months to 31/12/09</b>	<b>% Change</b>
1933	1833	1736	- 5%

### **Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)**

20. For the rolling 12 months to December 2009 there was a 26% reduction in TOMV with 93 fewer crimes being recorded between January and December 2009 (267 crimes) compared to 360 crimes between January and December 2008.

### **Theft from Motor Vehicles (TFMV)**

21. For the rolling 12 months to December 2009 there was a 20% increase in TFMV with 142 more crimes being recorded between January and December 2009 (860 crimes) compared to 718 crimes between January and December 2008.
22. During the last quarter (October-December 2009) there were 145 recorded crimes equating to a 34% decrease (74 crimes) compared to the previous quarter (219 crimes).

### **Robbery**

23. For the rolling 12 months to December 2009 there were 75 recorded crimes representing 19 more offences than in the same period of 2007/08.

## **Domestic Burglary**

24. For the rolling 12 months to December 2009 there was an 1% decrease in domestic burglary with 3 fewer crimes being recorded between January and December 2009 (534 crimes) compared to 537 crimes between January and December 2008.

## **Perceptions of AS – NI 17**

25. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour within the Borough.
26. 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.
27. The CDRP have set a target to reduce this to 14.1% by 2011.
28. Between October and December 2009 there were 2,766 ASB incidents recorded by police compared to 2,749 over the same period in the previous year, an increase of 1% (17 incidents). However, performance has improved each quarter this year compared to the preceding quarter.
29. The number of recorded alcohol related ASB incidents has decreased. Between April and December 2009, 1599 incidents had been recorded, compared to 1938 over the same period in the previous year, a 17% reduction.
30. The number of recorded youth related ASB incidents increased between October and December 2009 by 35% compared to the same period last year, and over the nine months to the end of December 2009, 3474 youth related incidents had been recorded, against a total of 2290 for the same period the previous year, representing an increase of 52%.

## **Assault with Less Serious Injury (AWLSI) – NI 20**

31. This includes actual bodily harm and other injury and racially/religiously aggravated actual bodily harm.
32. For the rolling 12 months to December 2009 there were 585 incidents recorded by police which equates to 22 fewer crimes (4%) than recorded in the previous 12 months.
33. Between October and December 2009, 134 offences were recorded against a target of 152, therefore performance for quarter three was within target by 12%. For the year to date, overall performance is within target by 1%.
34. The CDRP has identified assault with injury a key risk to performance. Although in the longer term the trend is an improving one, there is a risk that it is not improving fast enough for us to meet our target for this year.
35. Our family group position is particularly strong, currently standing at 2nd.

### **Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse – NI 32**

36. 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).
37. Between April and December 2009 74 cases went to a MARAC, 13 of which were repeats, meaning that the repeat victimisation rate currently stands at 18%. One of the repeat victims was male.
38. In respect of numbers of domestic abuse incidents recorded by police, data from February to date is being provided in arrears and was not available for inclusion in this report.

### **Alcohol Related Admission Rates – NI 39**

39. The provisional outturn for 2008/09 is 2113 against a baseline of 1886: the target for 2009/10 is 2207. Due to the way NI39 is calculated, the PCT is expecting an increase in numbers, and has set its targets accordingly. A presentation to Business Group was provided to give more detail around this.

### **Drug Users in Effective Treatment – NI 40**

40. Between September 2008 and August 2009 there were 442 problem drug users in effective treatment against a target to March 2010 of 449.

### **Prolific and Other Priority Offending Rate – NI 30**

41. In 2007/08, 23 PPO's committed 134 offences. The CDRP target was to reduce this to 94 offences by March 2009. The provisional outturn for 2008/09 indicates that the 23 PPOs were convicted of 61 offences.
42. A new PPO cohort has been selected for 2009/10, with a reduction target of 23% (94 convictions) against a baseline of 121. Between April and June 2009, only 1 offence was proven against a member of this cohort, meaning that the CDRP is performing well against this indicator.

### **CDRP Delivery Plans**

43. At the end of quarter three, progress against each of the actions within the CDRP Delivery Plans remains broadly on target. A small number of key risks have been identified, as below:
  - (a) The lead on some actions in the Public Reassurance plan left the organisation without a succession plan being in place. Actions affected were the induction pack, website development, and a communications strategy linked with the LCJB. The same person was to take the lead in ensuring that the work of the LCJB was fully integrated within the CDRP. A decision is to be taken in respect of actions which rely on the recruitment of a partnership analyst.
  - (b) Partners agreed a moratorium on all actions within the Domestic Abuse plan pending the return of the plan owner from long term sick leave. The Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator has now returned to work and actions are being incorporated into the

refreshed delivery plans for 2010-11 as appropriate.

- (c) A number of actions within the Reducing Offending Plan are dependent on the implementation of POMIES, a web-based system for integrated offender management. This is resourced through BCU funding, so it is crucial that software is commissioned immediately in order to ensure the money is spent by the end of March. Commissioning plans are being drawn up as a matter of urgency.
  - (d) Planning is currently under way to develop and consult on delivery plans for 2010/11 in line with the priorities identified earlier in this report. Therefore there will be actions across all delivery plans which relate to the reduction of alcohol and drug misuse in order to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is taken to this issue. Tackling violent crime (other than domestic abuse) and the night time economy is another important priority for the partnership. However, it was decided that this would fit well within the drugs and alcohol theme.
44. With regard to public confidence, again all delivery plans will have actions which contribute to the increase in public confidence in Darlington. However, it was felt that in addition to this there should also be a specific delivery plan to progress this in order to ensure that the positive work of the CDRP is highlighted and that opportunities to increase confidence are not lost.
45. All delivery plans will also contain actions that contribute towards effective enforcement, rehabilitation and prevention in order to ensure that a holistic approach is taken to tackling crime and disorder across the town.
46. A series of meetings and workshops are to take place in order to develop the delivery plans around each of the priorities.

**Councillor Bill Dixon**  
**Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio**