
**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) 'Mischief Week' will run from 22 October to 9 November 2010 incorporating Halloween and Bonfire Night. The partnership mobile unit will be deployed in various 'hot spot' locations in attempt to tackle the usual rise in reports of anti social behaviour around this period.
 - (b) Operation 'Staysafe' which targets alcohol related anti social behaviour and vulnerable young people continues to be a success. In the month of September, 18 referrals were made to support services.

Street Scene

3. Members were advised in the last Portfolio report that Street Scene were currently working with the North East Improvement and Efficiency Programme in relation to route optimisation of refuse and recycling collection vehicles. It was envisaged that this work would be completed by the end of September 2010, however due to difficulties with software installation, a delay to this programme has resulted and it is now envisaged that work will be completed on this programme by the end of November 2010.
4. Street Scene are currently working with Nordic Pioneer, a Darlington based organisation that source apprentices and undertake work on behalf of the Council on environmental issues. A number of young apprentices work on a supervised basis with Nordic Pioneer on behalf of the Council, undertaking tasks such as clearing hot spots of litter and fly tipping, and low level horticultural work. The scheme commenced on 11 October 2010 and will be monitored over forthcoming weeks to determine the feasibility of a long-term partnership.
5. I am delighted to report that Darlington won the Best Small City category, with ED Walker Homes being issued with a gold medal, and South Park, at the first time of trying following the restoration of the park, also attaining a gold medal in the Best Park in City category.

6. In what seems very little time at all since the end of the last winter period, the winter season for 2010/11 is already upon us. The official date of the winter season commenced on Monday 4 October and runs through to Sunday 1 May 2011. Following last year's severe winter, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken in relation to planning for this year, which is all now in place with the team ready to deal with whatever the weather throws at them.

Housing

Beaumont Hill Affordable Housing

7. Development commenced on each of the three former sites at Beaumont Hill school on 11 October 2010. This represents a partnership between Darlington Borough Council, Fabrick Housing Group and Southdale Homes. Southdale Homes are a locally based building contractor based at Faverdale and, as part of the development agreement, will provide some local apprenticeship and employment opportunities by working closing with Darlington College. The 106 new affordable homes will include 32 homes for rent, 42 homes for market sale and 32 homes of Intermediate Market Rent (housing which allows renting initially but a facility to save a deposit to make an outright purchase within 3-5 years).
8. Of the 32 homes for rent, there will be six homes build to Code for Sustainable Homes (CSH) level 5 (a first for Darlington) providing eco-friendly homes to reduce household expenditure on energy. The CSH level 5 homes will include rainwater harvesting, heat recovery systems, air source heat pumps and photovoltaics on the roofs. The 106homes will be completed by December 2011.

Local Authority New Build Programme 2010-11

9. The first of the Local Authority new build 2 bed apartments have been completed in October 2010. The first 10 apartments have now been allocated and the new tenants will be moving in very shortly. The apartments have been built to CSH level 3 with rainwater harvesting and photovoltaics installed on the roofs to reduce water consumption and energy costs. The second phase of the Local Authority new build programme at Richmond Close is due to be completed in December 2010. Richmond Close will deliver a further 12 x 2 bed houses and 1 x 3 bed house built to CSH level 4. The third phase at Burnside Road for 8 x 2 bed apartments is due to be completed in February 2011. The contract for the largest of the four sites under the Local Authority new build programme (34 new homes at Springfield) has been won by the Keepmoat Group (Frank Haslam Milan) and is due to be completed in March 2011.

Energy Efficiency Contract Awarded

10. A new energy efficiency contract to deliver energy efficiency measures to private sector and owner occupied homes in Darlington has been awarded to British Gas. The contract was formally awarded in October 2010 and is financed from grant funding secured from the Single Housing Investment Programme (SHIP3). British Gas indicated in their tender submission that they were confident that £150k of SHIP3 funding could deliver £900k of private sector investment for Darlington. The contract includes insulation measures such as loft (virgin and top ups) and cavity wall insulation as well as draught proofing which has been proven to have the greatest impact in terms of improving thermal comfort and energy efficiency ratings of dwellings to reduce household energy costs. In addition, we are also exploring the potential to have a pilot project which will "showcase" new renewable forms

of energy generation and insulation as a demonstration model and hopefully encourage more households to go green and be more eco-friendly. Through the showcase pilot, it is anticipated that this will provide invaluable information to inform our future approach to investment in replacement heating systems in our local authority owned dwellings by monitoring the renewable energy performance and its effectiveness in reducing energy consumption and costs. The other elements of the programme will focus on:

- (a) Tackling Category 1 hazards presented by failing or inefficient heating systems within privately rented housing stock and assisting with their replacement alongside other energy efficiency measures.
- (b) Education on energy usage and how this can be modified to reduce household costs. British Gas have indicated that they can access some free easy to monitor energy meters for domestic households which will help inform household decisions on energy usage i.e. which appliances use the most energy etc.
- (c) A Hardship Fund where there is a gap in funding required to deliver essential improvements to improve thermal comfort after accessing all benefit entitlements.
- (d) Contributing towards increasing the skills and knowledge base locally both with our own operatives and partner organisations.

11. The scheme will be officially launched in November 2010 and will run until March 2011 but, if successful, and British Gas perform well, and, more match funding can be secured, there is the potential to roll the contract forward for a further three years.

Assistant Chief Executive

Summer Nights Campaign

12. Operation Summer Nights ran from July until September and saw an overall reduction in anti-social behaviour. Thousands of young people in Darlington took part in a variety of activities ranging from sports coaching to dance events and film production and the MAD Day events. More than 200 Summer Nights sessions took place and were attended by more than 4,000 young people aged between 11 and 19 years old.

No Rogue Trader Zones

13. This project launched in High Coniscliffe during September, following a residents meeting. An information pack containing information on the No Rogue Trader Zone, a door/window sticker, door hanger and fridge magnet were given to each household. Signs identifying the zone were erected in suitable locations throughout the village. An evaluation will be carried out with the residents in January/February.

Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment

14. 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.

15. 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.

Domestic Abuse

16. A well attended and successful event took place in October. Partners met to map out existing provision for domestic abuse services. Following this event, a picture will be drawn up showing existing pathways for victims coming into the service and where and how they would be referred to. This will also help to identify any gaps in the process and provision to inform prioritisation of remaining resources. Updates will be fed back to the Community Safety Executive Board.
17. Darlington's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme will commence on 11 November 2010. "Foundation" is to host and facilitate the 32 week programme for adult males from their premises in Darlington. Currently prospective candidates are engaged in the screening, and assessment process. On conclusion of the programme an evaluation will be undertaken and the findings presented to the Community Safety Partnership Executive Board in June 2011.
18. Two members of staff from the Youth Offending Service have been trained to deliver the Domestic Violence Programme. A shortened version of the Domestic Violence Programme has been developed for young men (aged 13 – 17). The delivery of the programme is due to be rolled out at the end of October 2010. Young men who have been identified as abusive towards close family members, or those in intimate relationships, will undertake the programme as part of the intervention and prevention process. The programme will focus on "Healthy" relationships, encouraging young men to take responsibility for their actions, with the intention that any abusive tendencies will be halted before they reach adulthood.
19. In partnership with the DAAT, the Domestic Abuse Service has relocated. Encouraged by the neutrality and anonymity of the new base for the domestic abuse service, it is envisaged that there will be an increase in the number of women victims seeking support.
20. Following an intensive training programme, the Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Workers are fully functioning within the community. Volunteers are working alongside the support workers and other professionals to support victims of Domestic Abuse.
21. This year the 2010 "White Ribbon" campaign slogan is, "Are you man enough to swear?" - to swear a 'pledge' against domestic abuse. As part of this men are asked to sign the white ribbon pledge, and put their pledge in a "swear" jar. Clubs, organisations and work places are being asked to:
 - (a) Display white ribbons, and publicity material
 - (b) Raise awareness by publishing a statement in your communications network
 - (c) Make an announcement at half-time on match/game days
 - (d) Management and frontline staff to wear a White Ribbon badge on or around the 25 November.
22. Donations from the planned events will provide support for women and children experiencing domestic/sexual violence.

23. Bulbs will be planted in the shape of a White Ribbon in Stanhope Park on the 25 November. The Mayor and school children will be participating in the planting ceremony.

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

24. Following publication of the Joint Strategic Assessment in November 2009, the Community Safety Partnership 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
25. There are two themes which cut across all priorities, namely public confidence, and drugs and alcohol.
26. 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.
27. The Early Implementation Grant for 2010-11 was allocated by the Department of Health against the Paramedic and Assertive Outreach posts for. Early indications are that the paramedic project can make significant savings for both health and criminal justice agencies.
28. As with all public sector agencies, the DAAT faces potentially significant cuts in 2011. To date, there have been minimal reductions to existing funding streams – and none in-year. Early indications are that the alcohol investment from the PCT will remain at current levels and that the Department of Health Pooled Treatment Budget may be protected, also at current levels, within a ring fenced Public Health budget. The DAAT will, however, be affected by the removal of the Safer Stronger Communities Funding.
29. 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).
30. The relocation of adult substance misuse services has begun, with one of the services now operating from the new premises. The DAAT is establishing a Reference Group with local businesses and residents to discuss and address any issues that may arise as a result of the relocation. This freed up premises to move the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (SWITCH) into more suitable premises which has now taken place.

Crime and Disorder Performance against Targets

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

31. 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.
32. The table below shows overall performance based on the **last rolling 12 months**:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Performance against Target
1933	1774	1274	- 28%

Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)

33. There was a 33% reduction in thefts from motor vehicles in the rolling 12 months to September 2010, compared with the rolling 12 months to September 2009, and the CSP is performing well within its target for the year.

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Reduction against Target
419	356	187	-47%

Theft from Motor Vehicles (TFMV)

34. There was a 36% reduction in thefts of motor vehicles in the rolling 12 months to September 2010, compared with the rolling 12 months to September 2009. The CSP is performing well within its target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Performance against Target
987	938	566	-40%

Robbery

35. The number of robberies reduced by 43% over the rolling 12 months to September 2010, and performance is within target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Performance against Target
58	58	37	-36%

Domestic Burglary

36. For the rolling 12 months to September 2010 there was a 4% 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. Forecast performance is currently suggesting an outturn of 434.

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Performance against Target
469	422	484	15%

Perceptions of ASB – NI 17

37. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour within the Borough.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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 September 2010 for the CSP indicated that the percentage of people who perceived a high level of ASB in their area was 10.5% (± 6.2). The roll up figure for the last four quarters is 7.8% (± 2.5).
41. 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		
	September 09	September 10	Change
Incidents	6712	5521	-18%
Per 1000 Population	67.1	55.2	-11.9%

Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	September 09	September 10	Change
Incidents	2378	1856	-22%
Per 1000 Population	23.8	18.5	-5.3%

Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	September 09	September 10	Change
Incidents	2399	2262	-6%
Per 1000 Population	24.0	22.6	-1.4%

Assault with Less Serious Injury (AWLSI) – NI 20

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

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/09/10	Performance against Target
789	569	550	- 3%

Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse – NI 32

43. 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).
44. Between April and October 2010, 41 cases went to a MARAC, 8 of which were repeats, meaning that the repeat victimisation rate currently stands at 20%.

Alcohol Related Admission Rates – NI 39

45. The total for the rolling 12 months to September 2009 is 2131. The target for 2010/11 is 2249. Due to the way NI39 is calculated, the PCT is expecting an increase in numbers, and has set its targets accordingly.

Drug Users in Effective Treatment – NI 40

46. 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

47. 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

48. Refreshed delivery plans have been developed in line with the priorities identified from the Joint Strategic Assessment. There are some actions which are not currently on target due to capacity issues.

Councillor Bill Dixon
Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio