
**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. Anti Social Behaviour is down compared to 2009:-
 - (a) All ASB incidents – reduction of 16%
 - (b) Youth related ASB – reduction of 21%
 - (c) Alcohol related incidents – reduction of 15%
3. The Anti Social Behaviour Team is currently involved in a number of operations/initiatives, working in partnership with several agencies and the Police:-
 - (a) Operation ‘Staysafe’ which targets alcohol related anti social behaviour and vulnerable young people continues to be a success. Young people are referred into specially formed Targeted Youth Support groups to look at early intervention in each of the three localities. 41 referrals have been submitted to targeted youth support since they began in October 2010.
 - (b) The ASB Team, Youth Services and Police are currently working in and around the Town Centre due to complaints of gang nuisance on a weekend. Several young people are in the process of being interviewed by the ASB Team and signing up to Acceptable Behaviour Agreements with support packages attached; if these agreements are breached further enforcement action can be taken.

Housing

4. Improvements to Sheltered Housing and Extra Care Schemes

Windsor Court Sheltered Housing Scheme

- (a) The redevelopment of the sheltered housing scheme at Windsor Court at a cost of around £2.7m was completed in January 2011. The scheme was extensively remodelled and now includes 32 apartments, lift access to all floors, a wheelchair scooter store and a range of communal facilities. Modern fitted kitchens and

bathrooms have been provided including level access bathing and the heating has been replaced with a more efficient and effective system. The external environment has been transformed to include accessible paths, secure gardens and a replanting scheme which the residents are developing in partnership with Groundwork Trust.

Rosemary Court Extra Care Scheme

- (b) The Council, in partnership with Hanover Housing Association and MIND, has developed a training and development opportunity using land in the grounds of Rosemary Court. Food is being grown, to be used by MIND's Mood Food Café, thanks to funding from the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. MIND have employed a Mental Health Horticultural Support Worker to work with trained volunteers and service users to develop skills and expertise in horticulture, grounds maintenance and food production. Residents at Rosemary Court who wish to be included in the project will be encouraged to do so and it will be particularly beneficial for residents in the early stages of dementia. The scheme will support residents to live independently in the community and it creates therapeutic opportunities for residents and users of MIND's services.

Development and Commissioning

Safer Communities Forum

- 5. The Community Safety Partnership held its annual Safer Communities Forum on 28th January. The Forum provided the opportunity for Councillors, partners, and residents to hear about the progress made by the Partnership during the past twelve months and to joint in discussions around the priorities set for 2011/12.
- 6. The Government is planning to re-write the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (VAWAG) including changes to the structure, with reference to economic, political philosophy and delivery framework, which reflect the current political climate. The inter-ministerial group for VAWAG met on 15th December, 2010 to agree key priorities/outcomes.

Community Safety Plan 2008-2011

- 7. Following discussions with CSP partners, a jointly agreed financial plan has been developed, ensuring continued investment in high priority areas.
- 8. The Early Implementation Grant for 2010-11 was allocated by the Department of Health against the Paramedic and Assertive Outreach posts. This is coming to an end but findings and recommendations from independent and academic evaluations will be taken forward with partners regarding the future of the project.
- 9. The latest Performance Report on how the Darlington Community Safety 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 improvement in slowing the rate of increase in alcohol-related hospital admissions (NI39).

10. The relocation of adult substance misuse services is complete, with both services now operating from the new premises. The Reference Group, with local businesses and residents to discuss and address any issues that may arise as a result of the relocation, met with a very positive start for the first time on 26th January. This freed up premises to move the Young People's Substance Misuse Service (SWITCH) into more suitable premises which has now taken place.
11. Following the publication of the Government 's Public Health White Paper, 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People', and the revised Drug Strategy; there will be work undertaken over 2011/12 to ensure substance misuse services in Darlington are fit for purpose.

Crime and Disorder Performance against Targets

Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC)

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

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Performance against Target
1933	1774	1328	- 25%

Theft of Motor Vehicle (TOMV)

14. There was a 32% reduction in thefts from motor vehicles in the rolling 12 months to December 2010, compared with the rolling 12 months to December 2009, and the CSP is performing well within its target for the year.

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Reduction against Target
419	356	180	-49%

Theft from Motor Vehicles (TFMV)

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

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Performance against Target
987	938	572	-39%

Robbery

16. The number of robberies reduced by 55% over the rolling 12 months to December 2010, and performance is within target for the year:

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Performance against Target

58	58	34	-41%
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Domestic Burglary

17. For the rolling 12 months to December 2010 there was no change in the level of 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 559. Since May this year, figures for domestic burglary have been steadily increasing month on month, peaking sharply in November 2010. Detections, however, have also increased significantly and in January a number of key arrests were made leading us to believe that performance will begin to improve.

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Performance against Target
469	422	542	28%

Perceptions of ASB – NI 17

18. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour (ASB) within the Borough.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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 December 2010 for the CSP indicated that the percentage of people who perceived a high level of ASB in their area was 7.1% (± 5.1). The roll up figure for the last four quarters is 7.7% (± 2.6).
22. 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		
	December 09	December 10	Change
Incidents	9462	7934	-16%
Per 1000 Population	94.6	79.3	-15.3

Youth Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	December 09	December 10	Change
Incidents	3461	2733	-21%
Per 1000 Population	34.6	27.3	-7.5

Alcohol Related Anti Social Behaviour Incidents	Year to Date		
	December 09	December 10	Change
Incidents	1599	1363	-15%
Per 1000 Population	15.9	13.6	-2.3

Assault with Less Serious Injury (AWLSI) – NI 20

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

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/12/10	Performance against Target
789	569	586	+3%

24. Forecasts to the year end indicate an outturn of 616, so there is a significant risk that the CSP will fail to meet its target for this indicator. Over the nine months from 01 April to 31 December, 462 offences were committed, meaning that over the remaining 3 months of the year, if the CSP records more than 107 offences the target will not be achieved – the average per month this year has been 51 offences.

Repeat Incidents of Domestic Abuse – NI 32

25. 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).

26. Between April and December 2010, 63 cases went to a MARAC, 15 of which were repeats, meaning that the repeat victimisation rate currently stands at 24%.

Alcohol Related Admission Rates – NI 39

27. For 2009/10, the provisional rate of alcohol related admissions per 100,000 population is 2152, an increase of 1% from 2008/09. This would achieve the target of no more than 2207 admissions.

Drug Users in Effective Treatment – NI 40

28. 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. The baseline has been revised (from 416) following a national data quality audit by the National Treatment Agency (NTA), the target would have been achieved using either baseline. Performance in 2010/11 is currently green.

2008 Baseline	2009/10 Target	12 Months to 31/03/10	Performance against Target
406	430	473	110%

2008 Baseline	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 31/08/10	Performance against Target
406	447	477	107%

Prolific and Other Priority Offending (PPO) Rate – NI 30

29. A new PPO cohort was selected for 2009/10, with a reduction target of 23% against a baseline of 121 convictions. There is no local target this year, because advice from GONE is that this is one of the indicators that has been deleted from the national set. Nevertheless,

if the CSP were to perform in line with the national cohort, then at the year end, we would be looking for a figure of 130 offences from our cohort. Our performance over the 12 months to June 210 is 82, so the CSP is currently performing well.

30. The Government is currently consulting on a single indicator for offending, to replace the six indicators currently in place. Advice is that statistics on cohorts of interest will still be available once the single indicator is adopted.

CSP Delivery Plans

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

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Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio