

---

**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) One Interim ASBO (Anti Social Behaviour Order) and one full ASBO have been obtained by the team.
  - (b) One 'Crack House' Closure Order, in relation to drugs and anti social behaviour, has been obtained by the team.
  - (c) Operation 'Staysafe' which targets alcohol related anti social behaviour and vulnerable young people continues to be a success. In the month of May, 56 referrals were made to support services.
  - (d) The Anti Social Behaviour Team are currently deploying the CDRP (Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership) mobile unit into 'hotspot' locations for anti social behaviour. This is part of the Safer Streets Initiative, which aims to deal with perceptions of anti social behaviour and raise public confidence and reassurance. The deployment of the unit will continue to be advertised in the press and on the team's web pages. In May 2010, 72 members of the public accessed the mobile unit to discuss various issues with the team and partners, ranging from anti social behaviour to environmental issues.

**Housing**

**New Partnership with Groundwork Trust**

3. A new garden maintenance service was launched in May 2010 providing assistance to vulnerable people aged 50 years plus to provide a garden maintenance service focused on safety and well being. The aim of the service is to remove potential hazards such as footpath moss or over hanging branches which may be a hazard to householders. In addition, garden maintenance will also focus on providing better outward visibility from homes to provide a greater sense of security and small scale external footpath repairs to remove potential tripping hazards. The partnership with Groundwork Trust will provide training and employment for up to six young unemployed local people for up to six months to gain vital training and experience that should increase their employability in the future.

The Council have match funded £20k from the Handyperson Service with Future Jobs Funding to support the initiative in 2010/11.

### **New Contract awarded for Home Improvement Agency Services**

4. Following a successful tender in April 2010, the new Home Improvement Agency contract has been awarded to Three Rivers Housing Association. The Three Rivers Housing Association, who previously held the contract, will continue to provide a range of services on behalf of the Council such as Handyperson services, provision of Disabled Facilities Grants and Financial Assistance to help support essential home improvements. Financial Assistance will be targeted at those properties occupied by the most vulnerable and targeted at tackling Category 1 Hazards such as faulty electrics, no heating etc likely to pose the greatest risk to householders.

### **Assistant Chief Executive**

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

#### **Inside Justice Event – Elected Members**

5. An Inside Justice Event organised by the Community Safety Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> September in the Dolphin Centre. The aim of the event is to give members an overview of the Safer Darlington Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board. There will also be the opportunity to hear about the work of some of the community safety partners. A “You be the Judge” sentencing exercise will form a significant part of the event. Facilitated by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and a Magistrates Clerk, the exercise will give members an opportunity to consider real cases and decide on the sentence and the issues to be considered.

#### **Creation of Safer Darlington**

6. In April 2010, the Youth Offending Service, Drugs Alcohol Abuse Team and the Community Safety Team merged under the leadership of the newly created Head of Safer Darlington, Kate Jeffels. There is further work still to be undertaken to complete this restructure and more information will be given as it progresses.

#### **Operation Nimrod**

7. Recent drugs raids have taken place across Darlington as part of Operation Nimrod. Drugs and related paraphernalia were seized in raids on two different days and a total of 20 people were arrested in connection with the supply or possession of drugs. Following the raids, police projected the Operation Nimrod logo onto the side of a building in Grange Road to let people know that drugs will not be tolerated in the town.

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

8. 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
9. There are two themes which cut across all priorities, namely public confidence, and drugs and alcohol.
  10. 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<sup>th</sup> 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. We are still in negotiation around exit funding 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.
    - (c) The Community Alcohol Service has moved into new premises, accessible for clients and was launched with an open day in May.
  11. 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 there has been a significant upturn in the reduction of the rate of increase in Alcohol-related hospital admissions (NI39).
  12. 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 building delays since the last update and it is anticipated that the existing services will now not be in situ in the new centre until at least the beginning of September. However, this is also subject to the investigation of a complaint, following concerns raised by local businesses/residents about the location of the centre. Ongoing dialogue is taking place with all concerned.

## **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 CSP 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	2010/11 Target	12 Months to 30/04/10	% Change
1933	1774	1501	- 14%

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

15. For the rolling 12 months to April 2010 there was a 27% reduction in TOMV with 85 fewer crimes being recorded between May 2009 and April 2010 (226 crimes) compared to 311 crimes between May 2008 and April 2009.

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

16. For the rolling 12 months to April 2010 there was a 15% decrease in TFMV with 127 fewer crimes being recorded between May 2009 and April 2010 (701 crimes) compared to 828 crimes between May 2008 and April 2009.

#### **Robbery**

17. For the rolling 12 months to April 2010 there were 58 recorded crimes representing 8 fewer offences (12%) than in the same period of 2008/09.

#### **Domestic Burglary**

18. For the rolling 12 months to April 2010 there was a 5% decrease in domestic burglary with 30 fewer crimes being recorded between May 2009 and April 2010 (516 crimes) compared to 546 crimes between May 2008 and April 2009.

#### **Perceptions of ASB – NI 17**

19. This indicator measures the percentage of people with high levels of perceived anti-social behaviour within the Borough.
20. 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.
21. The CSP have set a target to reduce this to 14.1% by 2011.
22. Durham Constabulary conducts quarterly surveys which include questions on perceptions of ASB. Recent data for the CSP indicates that the percentage of people who perceived a high level of ASB in their area was 10.1% ( $\pm 2.5$ ), suggesting the CSP is performing well within its target.
23. Over the rolling 12 months to April, 11661 ASB incidents were recorded by police, compared to 11,613 for the same period in the previous year, representing a 0% change (48 incidents).

24. Over the rolling 12 months to April, 12,329 ASB calls were recorded by police, compared to 12,445 for the same period in the previous year, a reduction of 1%.
25. The number of recorded alcohol related ASB incidents has decreased. Between over the rolling 12 months to April 2010, 1954 incidents had been recorded, compared to 2266 over the same period in the previous year, a 14% reduction.
26. The number of recorded youth related ASB incidents increased by 29% over the rolling 12 months to April 2010 compared to the same period in the previous year.

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

27. This includes actual bodily harm and other injury and racially/religiously aggravated actual bodily harm.
28. For the rolling 12 months to April 2010 there were 559 incidents recorded by police which equates to 46 fewer crimes (8%) than recorded in the previous 12 months.
29. The target for 2010/11 is 569 offences.
30. Our family group position is particularly strong, currently standing at 2nd.

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

31. 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).
32. Between April 2009 and March 2010 98 cases went to a MARAC, 14 of which were repeats, meaning that the repeat victimisation rate currently stands at 14%.

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

33. The provisional outturn for 2008/09 is 2113 against a baseline of 1886: the target for 2009/10 was 2207. Provisional figures for Q1 and Q2 2009/10 have now been released, and stand at 541 and 524 respectively. Over the first six 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 is expecting an increase in numbers, and has set its targets accordingly.

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

34. The current performance (February 2009 - January 2010) of 469 problem drug users in effective treatment suggests that Darlington is on course to exceed the 2009/10 target of 449. Performance has improved due to more service users entering treatment and better retention of those who enter treatment.

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

35. A new PPO cohort was selected for 2009/10, with a reduction target of 23% against a baseline of 121 convictions. At the end of Q3, a total of 31 offences had been proven against this cohort, indicating that the CSP is performing well within its target for the year

#### **CSP Delivery Plans**

36. 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 issues arising from any of these plans.

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