

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 27 OCTOBER 2011

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update Scrutiny on current performance, challenges and successes in relation to the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Scrutiny notes the content of this report.
- (ii) That the Community Safety Team continues to provide Scrutiny Commission with six monthly Community Safety Partnership performance update reports

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

3.1 The partnership has developed a new 3 year Community Safety Plan 2011-14 for the borough of Hinckley and district of Blaby which is available for download on the community safety pages at www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk or on request from the Community Safety Team.

3.2 Operational action plans and a robust performance management system are in place to ensure delivery of the Community Safety Plan 2011-14.

3.3 The priorities in the plan are based upon information about crime and disorder issues across the district and borough and take into account the issues local people consider to be of most concern. The partnership has identified the following strategic priorities for the next 3 years:

- Improving Community Confidence, Engagement and Cohesion
- Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable People
- Reducing Offending and Re-Offending.

Cross Cutting Theme:

- Reduction in harm caused by substance misuse.

3.4 The partnership works actively in specific locations, target known offenders and work with local people to ensure confidence and satisfaction with the way we deal with crime and anti-social behaviour is increased.

4. PERFORMANCE

4.1 Fortnightly Delivery Group meetings enable partners to review current crime and anti-social behaviour trends and help to ensure that actions are in place to deliver continued improvement in performance.

4.2 Performance Overview April – end Sept 2011

- Total recorded crime is on target and is down 17.5% (550 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year.
- Serious Violent Crime is down 27.3%(3 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year

- Serious Acquisitive Crime (burglary, vehicle crime and robbery) is on target and is down 12.6 % (62 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year.
- Criminal damage is down 19.9% (123 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year. Criminal damage is often seen as a pre-requisite to anti-social behaviour.
- Race hate crime is down 54.2% (11 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year
- Burglary dwelling (homes) is on target and is down 26.1% (41 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year.
- Vehicle Crime is down 7.7% (26 fewer offences) compared to the same period last year.
- Anti-social behaviour offences are down 33% (as at 1st Sept 2011) though continuing to tackle anti-social behaviour remains a priority concern for the public.
- The satisfaction with the way the council and police deal with anti-social behaviour has reached a record high of 86%.

4.3 In conclusion, the Community Safety Partnership is currently performing well against target and has plans and initiatives in place to help maintain these performance levels. **Hinckley & Bosworth have, year to date, the best crime reduction across the whole of Leicestershire and Leicester City.**

5. CHALLENGES

5.1 In summary the Partnership faces the following performance challenges:

- Seasonal trends show that burglary dwelling, domestic abuse and theft from motor vehicle rise in the run up to Christmas
- Commercial burglary is currently showing an increase of 16.3% compared to last year

5.2 Partnership priority action plans and seasonal campaigns are in place to tackle the above

5.3 External funding which supports the work of the Community Safety Partnership has been reduced within this financial year and is uncertain for 2012/13. This could impact on the Partnership's ability to react to emerging threats and to continue with the campaigns and other positive promotions of the work undertaken.

5.4 Reputational issues undermine the work of the Partnership (anniversary of key dates and outcome of independent enquiries)

6. SUCSESSES

6.1 Significant reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour compared to last year. This is particularly significant given the reductions achieved last year.

6.2 The following seasonal campaigns have been agreed by the partnership and have been planned for delivery over the next quarter:

- Halloween Campaign in October to combat anti-social behaviour in this period.

- Dark Nights Campaign will be launched end October aiming to halt the seasonal increase in burglary.
- Theft from vehicle campaign to be delivered on November 25th. In conjunction with the Fire Service, Police and Prince's Trust the partnership will be undertaking a day of fitting anti-theft screws on vehicles to reduce theft of number plates.
- Christmas Campaign will be launched on November 18th and aims to halt seasonal crime such as burglary, drug misuse and domestic abuse over the Christmas period. The community safety team will be in the town centre on the Christmas light switch on night handing out safety advice for the Christmas period. A seasonal menu will be produced which will give out safety advice in a fun way and these menus will be on tables in pubs, cafes and restaurants. Cocaine usage in town centre pubs is also being targeted with posters discouraging cocaine usage and making clear a zero tolerance approach from the pubs and community safety partners. Taxi marshals will be on duty on key nights over the Christmas period. Oak FM and Twitter will be used alongside other promotional methods to ensure the Christmas safety messages reach a wide audience.

- 6.3 Community Action Week in Wykin, 350 households received information on what is available within their area; contact was made with over 50% of residents; organised through the Neighborhood Action Team with key service providers assisting throughout the week.
- 6.4 Full programme of school holiday youth diversionary activities has been delivered over the summer months via the Community Houses.
- 6.5 Development of Gwendoline Community House - new groups now established at the house, including the local beat team having a permanent office, housing officer working there 1 day a week, girls group gaining new members, Millfield Day Centre assisting on gardening project, Voluntary Action Leicestershire working from the house and new residents accessing services.
- 6.6 Number of awareness sessions held in schools and youth projects to raise awareness of drug and alcohol on well-being and behaviour
- 6.7 Safety Crew programme continued to be delivered to schools (Year 8 pupils) - workshops on ASB, Drugs and Alcohol, hate crime and disability awareness. Two schools have had safety crew this year and it has been arranged to take place during the academic year in five other schools in the borough
- 6.8 Inclusive friendship group started at Earl Shilton Community House.
- 6.9 Introduction of anti-social behaviour vulnerability matrix to identify vulnerabilities on first contact
- 6.10 Promotion of Community Safety services on Hot Homes Tour 11th-15th April. Week long promotion around the borough in conjunction with Community Safety and Fire & Rescue Service on 637 Bus.
- 6.11 National Grid- event for overseas workers to inform them of relevant information relating to hate crime, personal safety and privately rented housing. Over 250+ overseas workers attended the event.

- 6.12 Introduction of First Contact in the borough for residents 18+ to enable better signposting for vulnerable people.
- 6.13 Hinckley and Bosworth and Blaby District Community Safety Partnership have had successful outcomes since the merger of the Strategic partnerships. The new joint partnership has:
- Shared the administration of meetings, reports, strategy work etc resulting in officer time savings for both areas
 - Developed a new joint 3 year strategy
 - Developed and endorsed new Terms of Reference for the joint partnership
 - Developed and endorsed a new Consultation and Engagement Strategy for the joint partnership
 - Developed a new performance monitoring framework that better reflects the performance and achievements of the joint partnership
 - Delivered a joint summer campaign leaflet
 - Joint Domestic abuse leaflet for both areas has been updated and produced
 - Both areas are preparing for roll out of Sentinel database for recording of ASB cases
 - Funding achieved across both areas for joint working on development of schools educational programme

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None relating directly to the report.

8. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)**

None raised directly by this report

9. **CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS** **COUNCIL VISION**

The Partnership assists the Council in achieving the following aims of the Corporate Plan 2010/15

- Cleaner and greener neighbourhoods
- Safer and healthier borough
- Strong and distinctive communities

10 **CONSULTATION**

11 **RISK IMPLICATIONS**

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
External funding reduced	Develop action plan for affected projects/posts to include exit strategies	S Stacey
Performance Risks identified as challenges under Section 5 of this report	Delivery action plans in place to tackle emerging challenges	S Stacey

12. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

The impact on rural areas of the Borough has been addressed within the Partnership's Refreshed Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan 2011-14. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Community safety Partnership Strategy 2011-14.

13. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been taken into account:

- Community Safety – throughout the report
 - Equality & Rural Implications – within Partnership Plan 2011/14 and EIA
 - Environmental Implications – None Directly arising from the report
 - ICT Implications – None directly arising from the report
 - Asset Management – None directly arising from the report
 - Human Resources – None directly arising from this report
 - Voluntary Sector – VAHB is member of Partnership's Executive Board
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Background papers:

Appendix A - Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-14

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