

Performance Report Quarter 3 (April – December 2010)

Report of the Chief Executive

1.0 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee with a performance update relating to the period April to December 2010. This quarter the report includes:

- Progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators
- Results of the annual budget consultation

2.0 Background

2.1 Performance against the national indicators, particularly those identified as priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. The LAA priorities have been a key consideration in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people. In October 2010 the Government announced that it was putting Local Authorities fully in control of Local Area Agreements, enabling Authorities and their partners to amend or drop any of the current LAA targets without needing ministerial agreement. Where it is chosen to keep the targets, Government will have no role in monitoring them. Local Authorities will not be required to prepare an LAA from April 2011, once the current regime expires. The Government also announced the replacement of the National Indicator set with a single, comprehensive list of all data that local government will be required to provide.

2.2 As a consequence the performance framework is being reviewed to reflect the requirements of the new governments self regulation and improvement agenda as part of the strategic planning process for 2011/12. The new framework will form the basis of performance reports to members from July 2011. This is the last performance report that will focus on the LAA and national indicator performance

2.3 The annual budget consultation took place during October/November 2010. The consultation took the form of a survey followed by participatory workshops which were held across Sunderland with Community Spirit panel members and representatives from the voluntary and community sector. The findings helped to inform the Council Revenue Budget for 2011/2012 which was approved on 2 March 2011 at a meeting of the full Council. A summary of how resources will be directed to the top priorities identified in relation to community safety can be found in **section 3.1.**

3.0 Findings

3.1 Consultation

The annual budget consultation took place during October / November 2010. It included a survey and workshops, both of which focused on nine areas of priority. These were identified by listening to the views of local people and taking into account other priorities, such as those identified by government or through inspections of council services.

Below is a summary of the findings from the survey and workshops and how the council is responding to priority areas.

For each of the nine areas of priority, the questionnaire asked whether:

- The priority has got better, worse or stayed the same in the last 12 months
- It should be a priority for 2011/12
- There is anything else we can do to address the priority area.

834 Community Spirit panel members took part which represents a response rate of 59%. An additional 32 residents completed the survey online bringing the total to 866.

Of those who expressed an opinion, the majority of respondents (66%) believe that community safety has stayed the same over the last 12 months. A further 19% think it has got better and 15% believe it is worse.

Virtually all respondents (94%) agree that community safety should be a priority for the year ahead and only 1% disagree.

Respondents were asked what, if anything else, can be done to make Sunderland's communities even safer and 517 gave responses. The most popular response is in relation to a greater police presence/more police on the beat (in general and in relation to specific areas) (220 respondents). A number of respondents (72) also gave comments about the need for action around the licensing and sale of alcohol. The related issue of underage drinking is also commonly mentioned (27 respondents) and related to this the need for more activities/facilities for young people (19 comments). Greater enforcement and punishment is also identified (50 respondents). There are however some positive comments around keeping up the good work (26 respondents).

Similar themes emerged at the workshops including the importance of police presence and the need for more action around the licensing and sale of alcohol and issues around young people drinking.

Below is a summary of how we are addressing the priority areas and in particular the issues raised in the survey and workshops.

The council works with a number of partner organisations to tackle crime and the causes of crime and this has resulted in significant improvements in recent years. Sunderland's crime rate remains below the national average and has continued to fall. There were reductions in all of the main recorded crime types in the last year, including:

- the number of victims of recorded crime which has reduced by 2,689 victims (11.5%) in 2009/10
- the number of young people re-offending which has reduced by 26.7% in 2009/10
- recorded anti-social behaviour (ASB) with almost 6,064 fewer ASB incidents and 1,756 fewer youth related ASB incidents.

Below are details of how the council and its partners are addressing some of specific issues raised:

In terms of police presence, there are now 84 dedicated neighbourhood police officers based within Sunderland. That is more than there has ever been. Their aim is to respond to community concerns and reduce crime and disorder. The Chief Constable has made a commitment to maintain front line policing. Northumbria Police is working hard, through activities like planned patrol to ensure these officers are visible at the right times and in the right places to reassure of communities. To contact your Neighbourhood Policing Team telephone: 03456 043 043.

There is a range of activity underway and planned to help tackle issues around licensing, the sale of alcohol and underage drinking:

- Working with Her Majesty's Customs and Excise to target off licensed premises that are involved in the distribution of illicit alcohol which is often sold at very low prices.
- Working with Balance, the North East Region's alcohol office, to:
 - support the introduction of a minimum unit price for alcohol
 - raise awareness of the risks of excessive alcohol use, to both an individual and the community through joint campaigns
 - support parents in saying no to buying alcohol for their children.
- The continuation of Operation Barracuda to reduce irresponsible alcohol sales and to enforce licensing objectives. This involves visits to licensed premises predominantly within the city centre, Coalfields and Washington areas. The aim is to stamp down on crime and disorder and to identify where under 18s are consuming alcohol. Past activity has resulted in prosecutions and one premise was closed down.
- The Council's Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee has been reviewing Alcohol, Violence and the Night Time Economy with a specific focus on the city centre. The review has considered a variety of evidence and also included three night time visits to the city centre. A report of the findings and recommendations to address the issues raised will go to the Scrutiny Committee in April.
- The XL youth village and mobile youth bus frequently host alcohol free cocktail bars, encouraging children and young people not to drink alcohol. They also promote alcohol awareness with children and their families.
- The 'Your Health' website (www.yourhealthsunderland.com) has recently been launched which provides information to young people and their parents on alcohol use, including not drinking and where to seek further information and support if a young person does drink alcohol
- The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill is currently working its way through Parliament; this includes a review of the Licensing Act (2003) and will

give local areas more powers to challenge licensing applications or reviews. If agreed this Bill will allow areas to introduce an Early Morning Restriction Order which will enable them to reduce licensing hours in pubs, clubs and bars. There is also an opportunity to introduce a late night levy against licensed premises to meet the costs of policing the area and other related tasks, including removing broken glass, paying for Street Pastors, Taxi Marshall Services, etc. Once this Bill has been passed we will look to implement it in Sunderland.

In terms of anti-social behaviour, a new approach has been agreed to delivering services which will mean that they are tailored to the needs of local communities and focus on prevention and early intervention.

3.2 Performance

The following section contains an overview of performance.

The number of serious acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population has improved when compared to the same period the previous year. At the end of December 2009 there were 7.93 crimes per 1,000 population this improved to 6.54 crimes per 1,000 population at the end of December 2010. An Acquisitive Crime Campaign ran throughout the Christmas period with extra community engagement activity taking place in Sunderland East, North and Washington. This included engagement stands in high footfall areas providing the public with crime prevention advice. The number of actual bodily harm (assault with injury) crimes per 1,000 population also improved when compared to the same period the previous year. The rate was 5.62 per 1,000 population at the end of December 2009 this improved to 5.03 per 1,000 population at the end of December 2010. Based on current performance it is anticipated that the target of 6.50 per 1,000 population will be achieved.

Overall a reduction of 25.8% in the rate of re-offences by young offenders has been made when comparing offending after 6 months in 2010/11, against the 2005 baseline.

There has been a slight increase in the level of most serious violent crimes per 1,000 population (NI 15) when compared to the same period the previous year. From 0.51 per 1,000 population at the end of December 2009 to 0.57 per 1,000 population at the end of December 2010. Improvement work is ongoing with continued visits to problem premises during peak hours through Operation Barracuda and continued work with the SIA agency which regulates the activity of door staff. Operation Jaws also continues with a focus on reducing the level of cocaine use and the taxi marshalling scheme has been extended to Monday evenings during term time. A draft local violent crime strategy action plan has been developed and a strategic group has been established for violent crime.

There have been substantial reductions in recorded crime categories ranging from 2.5% to 42% reduction. Most Serious Violence although showing an increase of 4.4% compared to the previous year, this increase is continuing to reduce from its previous peaks, reducing from 16.3% at the end of Nov to 4.4%

at the end Feb 2011. However Burglary Dwelling 10%, Sexual offences 10.8%, Drug crime 4% are showing an increase when compared to last year.

Sunderland Crime April to February 2011			
Actual vs. Previous Year To Date (YTD)			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	17,359	18,732	-7.3%
Violent crime (excluding PNDs)	3,606	3,930	-8.2%
• Violence against the person	3,390	3,666	-7.5%
• Violence against the person - With injury	1,887	2,106	-10.4%
• Most serious violence	191	183	4.4%
• Violence against the person - Without injury	1,503	1,560	-3.7%
• Robbery	102	129	-20.9%
• Sexual offences	226	204	10.8%
Vehicle crime	1,465	1,981	-26.0%
• Vehicle interference	130	224	-42.0%
• TFMV	959	1,299	-26.2%
• TWOC	376	458	-17.9%
Burglary	1,857	1,904	-2.5%
• Burglary dwelling	816	745	9.5%
• Burglary OTD	1,041	1,159	-10.2%
Criminal damage	4,071	4,731	-14.0%
Drug crime	996	961	3.6%
Other crime	5,252	5,156	1.9%
Shoplifting	1,777	2,177	-18.4%
Theft from the person	109	148	-26.4%
Serious acquisitive crime	2,263	2,631	-14.4%
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	107	121	-11.6%

Appendix 1 provides an overview of the position for relevant national indicators and also any local performance indicators that have been retained to supplement areas in the performance framework that are not well covered by the national indicator set.

4. Recommendation

That the committee considers the continued good progress made by the council and the Sunderland Partnership and those areas requiring further development to ensure that performance is actively managed.