

Sunderland North SAFE Theme

1 Tighter control on sale of alcohol to under 21s and reduce underage drinking

Background/Key Issues

The main areas of concern regarding drinking and anti social behaviour are Marine Walk, Roker Park and Seafront and Downhill

Current Activity

- Police have successfully targeted a number of off licence premises
- Alcohol seized from young people in disorder hotspots
- Police working with RNLI lifeguards to identify those responsible for ASB at Roker
- Successful prosecution of adults buying alcohol for young people
- XL Youth village providing activities on Friday evening at Castletown. From September activities will also be available at Cliff Park, Seaburn on Saturday evenings
- Trading Standards and Environmental Health currently visiting all off licences as part of an education campaign
- Individual complaints regarding licenced premises investigated by officers – may progress to review of licence or prosecution
- Best Bar None scheme to improve standards in pubs and clubs
- Licensing Section works with Police and Trading Standards to prevent crime and disorder
- Specific issues are brought to LMAPs and a multi agency solution is implemented
- Castletown Neighbourhood Wardens work with young people 6 nights per week, they deliver a range of diversionary activities and health awareness sessions
- Complaints from Gentoo tenants are passed on to Northumbria Police
- The Home Office have funding for preventative measures for licensed retailers in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the City (for CCTV etc..)
- Gating order piloted in Castletown. Gates in areas of disorder locked between 7pm and 7am

Gaps/Needs

- Shortage of quality age related sales intelligence to justify directed surveillance
- Lack of support for retailers who feel pressured into selling to young people
- Lack of information/awareness around Trading Standards
- Castletown Neighbourhood Wardens project due to end in October. The project is a valuable resource and frees up police time to deal with crime and disorder (Annex 1a)
- Funding for the Castletown Gating order pilot is now coming to an end. A strategic/Citywide response is required

Actions

- Trading Standards deliver presentation to LMAPS to raise awareness of their role in the control of alcohol related disorder
- Councillors identify retailers who may benefit from Home Office funding. Safer Communities Team could provide support to access funding
- Corporate Communications to communicate current activity/multi agency working/successes/results to the local community (e.g. via newsletter). More information sharing required to provide reassurance.

Proposals

- Using an evidenced based approach, responsive to intelligence gathered, develop a joint operation between Trading Standards and Northumbria Police to carry out covert operations at times when sales of alcohol to young people are most likely (Friday evenings and weekends). Funding may be required for extra hours
- Provide funding for Community Wardens to continue in the Castletown area at a total cost of around £60k for 1 year
- HHAS to explore effectiveness/need for Castletown Gating order to continue as part of a Citywide initiative. Consider alternative delivery mechanisms e.g. residents group take ownership.

2 Provide more/better facilities/activities for young people and review current provision

Background/Key Issues

All commissioned youth work is being reviewed by the Youth Development Group (Sunderland City Council). Future contracts will be ward based. New youth commissioned contracts commence April 2009. Youth villages and mobile youth facilities are proving effective in reducing youth disorder

Current Activity

- Mobile youth village (Youth Development Group) now being delivered on Friday evenings at Castletown and Saturday evenings at Cliff Park, Seaburn. A range of activities such as football cage, dance workshops and climbing wall are available. The location changes every 10 weeks (depending on area of need)
- A variety of generic youth provision is being delivered by SNCBC across all wards in the North Sunderland area
- Town End Farm and Hylton Castle boys and girls groups supported through commissioning strategy
- Girls football team after school during term time (SAFC Foundation)
- Youth Development Group and Redhouse Academy developing dedicated youth provision on Friday and Saturday evenings. Should be open October/November
- Local police work with partner agencies to support diversionary work being undertaken in ASB hotspot areas
- Gentoo staff promote local activities in partnership with youth providers
- Gentoo are developing a prevention programme for young people causing, or at risk of causing, ASB – currently piloting visits to Durham prison
- Gentoo have developed a framework and indicators to measure impact of diversionary activity
- Kickz project (SAFC) deliver a wide range of youth provision in partnership with other agencies. The Football Friday programme is a successful, well attended provision
- Community Transformation Programme (funded by WNF) delivered by Youth at Risk is working with young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- Gentoo diversionary team and victim support staff work with SNCBC around particular issues regarding youth disorder
- Council/Gentoo/Groundwork are working to set up 'Green Teams' with NEET young people
- The Phoenix project delivered by Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue works with young people aged 11 to 17 who have offended or are at risk of offending (see Annex 1b)

Gaps/Needs

- Lack of mobile provision (e.g. Youth Villages) during weekdays and holidays
- Insufficient activity in some areas which are ASB hotspots (although the recent XL Youth villages have gone some way to address the situation)
- Lack of dedicated youth provision/activity in Fulwell and St Peter's wards
- Centre based activities concentrated around a small number of venues
- Facilities such as school playing fields and MUGAs are under utilised out of hours. More partnership working or sharing of facilities should be explored. Young people are being brought from schools football clubs to use XL villages facilities
- The Phoenix project delivers a limited service. Additional funding can provide enhanced delivery

Actions

- Extended Schools Team explore the possibility of utilising school facilities for youth activity
- Youth Development Group to consult with Area Committee regarding specification for future ward based commissioned youth provision

Proposals

- Receive SIB funding application (£38,000 per year) from the Youth Development Group (YDG) in order to extend mobile youth provision to weekdays and holidays in the North area
- Receive funding application from T&WFRS to deliver an enhanced Phoenix Project in the North area at a cost of £14,758 for a two year project

3 Provide a more visible Police/CSO/Warden presence

Background/Key Issues

Some residents feel that a visible Police presence provides reassurance and can reduce the fear of crime. The actual crime rate (total crime) for North Sunderland is below the City average.

Current Activity

- As part of the policing pledge the local policing teams listen to the concerns of the community and evaluate hotspots for crime and disorder. These areas are then a priority for police action and high visibility police presence. Several operations have been undertaken this year
- Two neighbourhood wardens employed until October 2009 (SNCBC). They carry out a range of duties including patrols, youth and diversionary activities and provide a valuable resource to free up police to deal with crime and disorder issues. Wardens also provide reassurance for older people
- Gentoo have two Neighbourhood Nuisance Enforcement Officers for the North area who work in close partnership with CSOs and Beat Managers
- Police surgeries are available for members of the public to raise issues/concerns (all dates, times and venues can be found on the Northumbria Police website or on posters in key locations within each neighbourhood)
- Gentoo hold local surgeries in partnership with the local Beat Manager from Northumbria Police and ward councillors

Gaps/Needs

- Need to maintain the neighbourhood wardens. Funding is required post October 2009. Northumbria Police fully support the continuation of the project

Actions

- HHAS to develop a forward strategy for community wardens and feasibility of area wide/city wide project
- Corporate Communications to lead on a campaign to raise awareness about current activity and opportunities to interact with local Police. This could include local publications/websites/radio

4 Strengthen relationships between Police/other agencies/community to reduce fear of crime and offer support to victims of crime

Background/Key Issues

Feedback suggests there is a lack of knowledge and communication regarding availability of support for local residents regarding crime related issues. The co-ordination and promotion of services available needs to be strengthened to gain community confidence

Current Activity

- Excellent working relationships between police and partner agencies via the local LMAPS group.
- The community have access to the police via numerous community meetings and the local police are in touch with local councillors
- Gentoo community safety days being replaced with a more customer facing delivery format
- Police and Community Forum meets annually at a neighbourhood level
- The ARCH racist incident reporting system allows victims and witnesses of racial harassment to report incidents to any ARCH partner agency or via freephone. Victims are offered support and where appropriate action can be taken against perpetrators. ARCH partners include Council, Police, Gentoo, Sunderland University, and CoS College. Referrals can be made to Victim Support
- Gentoo have a victim support officer who works in partnership with the police, the safer communities team and the safer homes initiative
- Gentoo are developing a programme of focused neighbourhood work. This includes Marley Potts and Southwick and will produce a plan for the neighbourhood outlining key responsibilities and service standards

Gaps/Needs

- The current ARCH system has not been evaluated to gauge effectiveness and show added value to the system operated by Northumbria Police. The system is being further developed through the ARCH operations group to produce improved intelligence which can be shared with partners to address areas of concern
- Need to ensure consistency in way racist incidents are recorded and the support offered to victims and witnesses regardless of where they happen.
- Lack of similar support services to victims of other types of hate incidents. ARCH is to be extended into the reporting of other incidents
- Lack of communication (especially to local residents) about the range of support available and the amount of partnership working in the local area
- Lack of out of hours support for victims of anti social behaviour

Actions

- Area Committee to receive an evaluation on the improvements/development of the ARCH system and the level of added value the system brings
- Gentoo to provide further information (when available) on the focused neighbourhood plan
- Using a wide range of consultation and communication styles, Corporate Communications develop an awareness raising/promotional campaign to inform local people what support is available

- Communication of key facts and successes to address fear of crime (e.g. 'you said, we did')
- In their Community Leadership role, local Councillors promote opportunities to get involved in shaping local services within the local community
- Gentoo investigating possibility of out of hours support for customers – report back to Area Committee

5 Target hotspots of disorder and monitor the use and potential increase of the current CCTV provision in the area

Background/Key Issues

Specific localised areas of disorder have caused issues in the North. Tackling issues in these areas requires concentrated Police and other resources. The rapid response 3G camera system allows cameras to be redeployed quickly to areas of concern.

Current Activity

- There are currently four 3G cameras available to the North area. Using intelligence gathered by local police and other agencies, locations are determined by LMAPS and Area Committee
- Community and Cultural Services will be installing (fixed location) Swift cameras in high priority areas (environmental issues - fly tipping, graffiti etc..)
- The Health, Housing and Adult Services (HHAS) anti social behaviour team work with the police and other agencies to target disorder and ASB using the tools and powers available. Currently 5 ASB officers for the City
- The number of environmental enforcement officers within Community and Cultural Services has been increased to address ASB issues around environmental crime
- Proactive targeting of Police resources into areas with evidenced need has successfully reduced youth disorder in the North in the past 12 months
- The Police are currently proactively targeting Downhill and Roker areas
- Gentoo are working with the Police and other partners to address issues of disorder in localised areas
- Gentoo have a fully equipped CCTV van that can be used in covert or overt operations
- Gentoo have a number of mobile CCTV cameras that can be installed when needed. Location of cameras are discussed at the North LMAPS meeting

Gaps/Needs

- Lack of pro-active/evening work due to staffing implications (HHAS)
- Planning legislation restricts long term siting of 3G cameras – currently the cameras have to be moved every 3 months
- Only four 3G cameras for a large area – there may be a need to fund additional cameras
- Head cams, which provide an additional means of collecting evidence, currently used by Police Officers and CSOs are outdated
- Lack of CCTV on sea front (traffic/speeding issues)

Actions

- HHAS to provide information on explore the need for more staffing (ASB team) to provide more visible patrols, evening work, proactive work
- CCS environmental officers and HHAS ASB officers to explore more joint working to increase effectiveness and avoid duplication
- CCTV co-ordinator requested to explore the potential to gain permission for longer term locations for 3G cameras (only in areas of evidence based high need)
- CCTV co-ordinator requested to provide a report outlining the options and costs for extending CCTV camera provision (e.g. extend 3G system, obtain fixed Swift cameras)

- Area Committee receive regular updates from Northumbria Police regarding hotspots of disorder and successful operations

Proposals

- Area Committee agrees to receive SIB funding application to provide Head Cams at a cost of around £6,000
- Area Committee explores the feasibility of funding the installation of two vehicle activated speed signs at the Seafront. Capital costs are around £8,000