

At a meeting of the COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on TUESDAY, 9TH MARCH, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Heron in the Chair

Councillors Copeland, Paul Maddison, Speding, Timmins and J. Walton.

Also in Attendance:-

Councillor Tate

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ball, Morrisey, O'Connor, Scaplehorn and D. Smith.

Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 9th February, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th February, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest (including Whipping Declarations)

There were no declarations of interest.

Policy Review – Anti Social Behaviour – Evidence Gathering

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide further evidence as part of the Committee's study into the work being undertaken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership into tackling anti social behaviour in the City.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

As part of the evidence gathering process, Gillian Thirlwell, Branch Manager, and Amy Anderson, Outreach Worker (Victim Support), provided a Powerpoint presentation on their work to help support the victims of anti social behaviour and

other crimes, in doing so, working closely with key partners such as the Council, housing providers and Northumbria Police.

Bill Blackett, ASB Strategy Manager, informed the Committee that £54,000 had been given to Sunderland Partnership, of which £30,000 was to be used for a Victim Support Officer to work out of the Council's Anti Social Behaviour Unit.

In relation to the service provided by Victim Support, the Chairman commented it had greatly improved as past problems had been that victims had no-one to talk with.

Councillor Copeland commented that through her experiences with Victim Support, she had nothing but praise for the excellent service that they provided.

In response to Councillor Speding's query, Ms. Anderson advised that an incident did not have to be reported to the Police for Victim Support to become involved.

Ms. Anderson also responded to Councillor Speding's query, advising that there was an overlap in services with Domestic Violence and Wearside Women in Need, but those were specific services whereas Victim Support was open to everyone.

Ms. Anderson informed the Committee that they did carry out proactive work such as attend resident groups, help centres, provide newsletters, community consultation events for feedback and a quality of service was carried out with each individual victim to make sure they had received the best care possible.

In relation to the statistics, Ms. Anderson advised that through Back on the Map they had received £36,000 funding for a two year period, during that time they had been able to generate funds of almost £250,000 proving the service was sustainable.

The Chairman commented that the service covered a massive role now and it had moved on at a pace, but needed to keep striving to do so.

The Chairman wished to thank Victim Support for their excellent work and commented that the Council would look to see where they could help bolster the service.

The report also informed the Committee of recent visits Members had undertaken to the Winter Weekend XL Villages, Area Policing Teams and G45 Electronic Tagging System.

The Chairman advised he had requested Andy Neal, Interim YDG Manager, to provide a scoping paper on the work of the XL Youth Villages and the effects they had on the crime statistics.

In relation to paragraph 4.9 of the report, Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, commented that it should read 'The proactive approach of housing providers such as Gentoo was applauded but it was noted that more needed to be done in relation to the actions of some private rented landlords'.

Mr. Caddick advised that many of the private landlords were very good and if Members wished, information on private landlord enforcement could be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Caddick also advised of the selective licensing scheme at Hendon which would be in place from 1st July to try and tackle the worst offenders so Members may also wish to receive further information on the issue.

The Chairman advised that Members may appreciate a report with further details on the proposal as there had been requests for the scheme to be introduced in other areas.

In response to Councillor Paul Maddison's query, Mr. Caddick advised that it may be possible to provide a breakdown of the worst areas for private landlord issues.

In response to Councillor Copeland's query, Mr. Caddick advised that the Council did have certain powers should landlords not allow inspections of properties.

In relation to the issue of dealing with empty properties, Councillor Speding commented that he felt it was a fragmented process and a more direct approach was needed, almost like a compulsory purchase order, which the Council had performed in the past.

Mr. Caddick advised that the Council was trying to carry out a more direct approach through their enforcement policies, but due to the cost, had to do so selectively. Mr. Caddick also advised that a great deal of landlords lived off shore, therefore were difficult to deal with.

2. RESOLVED that the evidence submitted be noted and that a future report on private landlords be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview on key delivery areas of the Home Office Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In relation to the Policing Pledge, Inspector Paul Barrett advised that the police in Sunderland had been ahead of the game, therefore the pledge was a gentle step.

With regards to the advertising of sentences being passed down, caution was needed so that resources were not spent having to protect criminals once they were back in the community.

Inspector Barrett also informed the Committee that the Police were looking to tackle anti social behaviour through prevention, intelligence and enforcement. Foot patrols

had been increased; school initiatives to educate children were underway alongside the long term approach of the Respect Scheme.

The Chairman commented that he was most impressed with the Policing Pledge and it had been very successful in his area and hoped people would not criticise the Police should they fall short of the high standards they had set.

In response to Councillor Paul Maddison's query, Sue Kelly, Technical Support Assistant, advised that the victims champion had not been a victim of crime herself but had worked within the Magistrates Court so not only had an extensive knowledge of the criminal justice system but also had seen the impact crime had on the victims.

Councillor Copeland commented that through the agencies working together more, the crime rates had reduced and that she was happy with the pledge, but was still having problems with anti social behaviour and drinking in her area. Councillor Copeland reiterated her desire for alcohol free zones.

Inspector Barrett advised that they should not need the alcohol free zones as they could deal with the people before they became drunk and disorderly through the Direction to Leave powers.

Inspector Barrett also advised in regard to their aims to reinvigorate the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with recent figures indicating 75% of people wished to become involved and the Police were looking at different levels of engagement with the public.

Councillor Speding referred to the publicising of offenders and commented that he believed people had a right to know if a criminal was living in their street.

Councillor Speding also commented that to get 10 pledges from the Police was phenomenal and needed to be publicised much more than just the Sunderland Echo.

Ms. Kelly agreed that if a person was a victim of crime they would want to hear of how offenders were being dealt with and the publicising of sentences was a Home Office approach based on what the public had requested.

In relation to the Policing Pledge, Ms. Kelly advised that much more promotion had been carried out than in other areas, such as road shows, DVDs, radio interviews and newsletters.

Councillor Speding appreciated the level of promotion carried out and commented that he felt the most visible promotion was for the public to see officers on the beat and hoped these initiatives would be permanent so that the public could start to recognise those same officers.

The Chairman commented on the community links of the CSOs which had been a good model and that he would like to see Police Officers engaging with people whilst on foot patrols.

Councillor Copeland commented that she was most pleased, having attended a meeting with the Police, Gentoo and residents, who had showed great enthusiasm to be involved in implementing Neighbourhood Watch Schemes which were starting to have an effect.

Inspector Barrett advised that in the past schemes and initiatives had only been delivered over a short period. As they were starting a new way of policing across Sunderland, they were looking at longer term plans. Consideration was to be given on planned patrols and their routes to greatly increase officer coverage and more engagement to increase public confidence.

The Chairman commented that the Policing Pledge was very bold and had been effective with the statistics for fear of crime dropping dramatically. In relation to the PACT meetings, the Chairman stressed that Members needed to report any incidents straight away, rather than waiting for the next meeting which ran on a 5 week cycle.

The Chairman also commented on the highly visible Community Payback Scheme, advising that he had used the service and that whilst the offenders were quite young, they had been quite responsible and he recommended Members to use the service.

Councillor Copeland commented that she was proud of the Community Payback Scheme and she would like to see it continue as the public were working with the Police much better now.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Kelly and Inspector Barrett for their attendance and wished to complement the Partnership for their work with organisations such as Victim Support.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Members raise awareness of the key elements of the crime and justice programme in their localities and support the next phase of the programme.
- ii) the report be received and noted.

Integrated Offender Management – Implementation

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview on the implementation of integrated offender management in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Louise Hill, Reducing Re-offending Manager, presented the report and was on hand to answer Members' queries.

In response to Councillor Paul Maddison's query, Ms. Hill advised that repeat offenders who had been in and out of the justice system, causing nuisance rather

than high risk, tended to be the best type of offender to respond to the programme, so long as they were prepared to change.

In response to Councillor Copeland's query, Ms. Hill advised that if a person did not have employment or accommodation, they were more likely to re-offend so incentives were offered, with consequences, should the person not follow the rules.

Ms. Hill also advised of the Back to You programme which helped offenders manage their finances better and the recruitment of a new Probation Officer would strengthen links with the prisons to try and break the revolving door cycle.

The Chairman commented that new initiatives were to be introduced which would be key to the work undertaken by the Community and Safer City Committee.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS) and Anti Social Behaviour (ASB)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an overview on the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS), including their contribution to resolving ASB issues.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Speding raised concerns over the problem the Council and Police have in dealing with parking on footpaths outside of schools etc. and suggested this may be something LMAPS could look at.

Inspector Barrett advised that the main concerns had been drinking, dog fouling, speeding etc. and the purpose of the groups was to deal with issues important to the public, and it may be the forum to discuss the issues of parking on footways.

The Chairman agreed that it may be a suitable forum to discuss the issue but also advised that people could phone the Council if they had a parking problem who could then contact the Police for local teams if necessary.

Mr. Douglas commented that the Committee may wish for further information from City Services on recording and monitoring problems.

The Chairman commented that the LMAPS had been a huge success, having an effect on the whole City and was credited to the excellent organisation of the group.

The Chairman also requested a report on the violent crime figures to consider where things were going wrong.

Mr. Douglass advised that current statistics showed that figures were falling in relation to violent crime and the situation continued to improve.

Mr. Douglass also advised of the Violent Crime Delivery Group and that a report on their work could be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. RESOLVED that the report and Members' comments be received and noted.

Forward Plan – Key Decisions for the Period 1 March 2010 – 30 June 2010

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on the position with regard to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 March 2010 to 30 June 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Work Programme 2009-10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing for Members' information, the current Work Programme for the Committee's work during the 2009/10 Council year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that the information contained in the Work Programme be noted.

(Signed) R. HERON,
Chairman.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – MAGISTRATES COURT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20 APRIL 2010

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive a report from Lisa Shotton, Legal Adviser with Sunderland Magistrates Court on the work of the Courts and measures being taken to develop confidence in the Criminal Justice system.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At the beginning of the year, members requested that an item be included on the Committee's work programme on the work of the Magistrates Court and in particular the action being taken to develop confidence in the criminal justice system.
- 2.2 The UK's Magistrates' Courts are a key part of the criminal justice system, handling around 95% of overall cases. In addition magistrates' courts deal with many civil cases e.g. family matters, liquor licensing and betting and gaming.
- 2.3 Cases in the magistrates' courts are usually heard by a panel of three magistrates (Justices of the Peace) supported by a legally qualified Court Clerk.
- 2.4 Magistrates are appointed by the Crown (retiring at the age of 70). They are not paid but may claim expenses and an allowance for loss of earnings. They come from all walks of life and do not usually have any legal qualifications. Qualified clerks advise them on the law. They are unpaid but receive travel and subsistence allowance. There are around 30,000 in England and Wales. They undergo a substantial amount of training supervised by the Judicial Studies Board.
- 2.5 Magistrates cannot normally order sentences of imprisonment that exceed 6 months (or 12 months for consecutive sentences), or fines exceeding £5000. In cases triable either way (in either the magistrates' court or the Crown Court) the offender may be committed by the magistrates to the Crown Court for sentencing if a more severe sentence is thought necessary.

2.6 Lisa Shotton, Legal Advisor at Sunderland Magistrates Court will attend the meeting to outline the work the work of the Court.

3.0 Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note and comment upon this report.

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

XL YOUTH VILLAGE - UPDATE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20 APRIL 2010

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To receive a report from Andy Neal, Youth Development Group Manager on the progress and achievements of the XL Youth Villages.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 XL Youth Villages is a new method of delivering activities and services to young people by creating a high energy festival style atmosphere. They are designed to engage young people who are most disadvantaged and difficult to reach in response to ongoing demand from young people, parents and communities for more and better places for young people to go.
- 2.2 XL Youth Village provide facilities that are delivered mainly at weekends on Friday and Saturday evenings that can best meet the needs of young people in areas experiencing high incidents of anti social behaviour, such as underage drinking. Set up on a field or hardcore area enclosed by security fencing, they provide a safe environment that is highly visible and can be delivered in areas of greatest need and where young people want it. The concept has also been extended to indoor based activities during the winter months.
- 2.3 A strong focus on multi-agency partnership work is being fully developed with the formalising of multi agency steering groups for each of the XL Youth Villages. These groups will include Key Stakeholders and partners such as Youth Development Group, Police, Gentoo, Members, Youth Offending Service, young people and a range of Service providers.
- 2.4 Andy Neal will attend the meeting to provide a presentation the work of the XI Village and the challenges ahead.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 Members are asked to note and comment upon this report.

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

April 2010

Performance Report Quarter 3 (April – December 2009)

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 2009. This quarter the report includes:

- Progress in relation to the LAA targets and other national indicators.
- Progress in relation to the Fear of Crime Policy Review Recommendations.
- Results of the annual budget consultation which took place during October/November 2009

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Members will recall that a new national performance framework was implemented during 2008/2009. This includes 198 new National Indicators which replaces previous national performance frameworks. As part of this new framework 49 national indicators have been identified as key priorities to be included in the Local Area Agreement (LAA). Performance against the priorities identified in the LAA and associated improvement targets have been reported to Scrutiny committee throughout 2009 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. The LAA priorities are a key consideration in CAA in terms of the extent to which the partnership is improving outcomes for local people.
- 2.2 CAA was introduced in April 2009 to provide an independent assessment of how local public services are working in partnership to deliver outcomes for an area. The first results were reported on the Oneplace website (www.oneplace.direct.gov.uk) on 9 December 2009. Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee considered the findings of the draft Area assessment report in January 2010.
- 2.3 Members will recall from previous performance reports that the CAA lead plans to adopt a Risk Assessment Matrix which will be the primary tool against which the Sunderland Partnership will be assessed. The Matrix will incorporate those issues that were identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having the most potential to become red flags and green flags. Once the Risk Assessment Matrix has been agreed, the CAA Lead will use it to monitor progress against the agreed performance trajectory (up until the end of September 2010) for each issue to arrive at his final area assessment judgement for 2010. Progress will be monitored through the Council and the Sunderland Partnership's performance management and reporting arrangements.

- 2.4 As part of ongoing improvement planning the Sunderland Partnership's Delivery Plans have refreshed to ensure that the work programme is targeting the right issues, and outcomes can be demonstrated, minimising the risk of areas for improvement becoming red flags in 2010. These Delivery Plans were presented to Scrutiny committees in February 2010.
- 2.5 The annual budget consultation took place during October/November 2009. 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 purpose of the workshops was to prioritise approaches to addressing the budget priorities that had been drawn from the survey results and also provide attendees with:
- A better understanding of the issues that have to be addressed in the budget setting process and information about the budget priorities
 - An opportunity to hear the viewpoints of others when making judgements about budget priorities

The findings helped to inform the Council Revenue Budget for 2010/2011 which was approved on 3 March 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 xx

- 2.6 As part of the development of Scrutiny particularly in terms of strengthening performance managements arrangements, Policy Review recommendations have been incorporated in to the quarterly performance report on a pilot basis. The aim is to identify achievements and outcomes that have been delivered in the context of overall performance management arrangements to enhance and develop Scrutiny's focus on delivering better outcomes both as part of CAA requirements and future partnership working. Progress in relation to the Fear of Crime Policy Review is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 2.7 **Appendix 2** 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 new national indicator set.

3.0 Findings

In relation to Safer Communities no issues have been identified in the first year of the CAA area assessment as having potential to become red flags

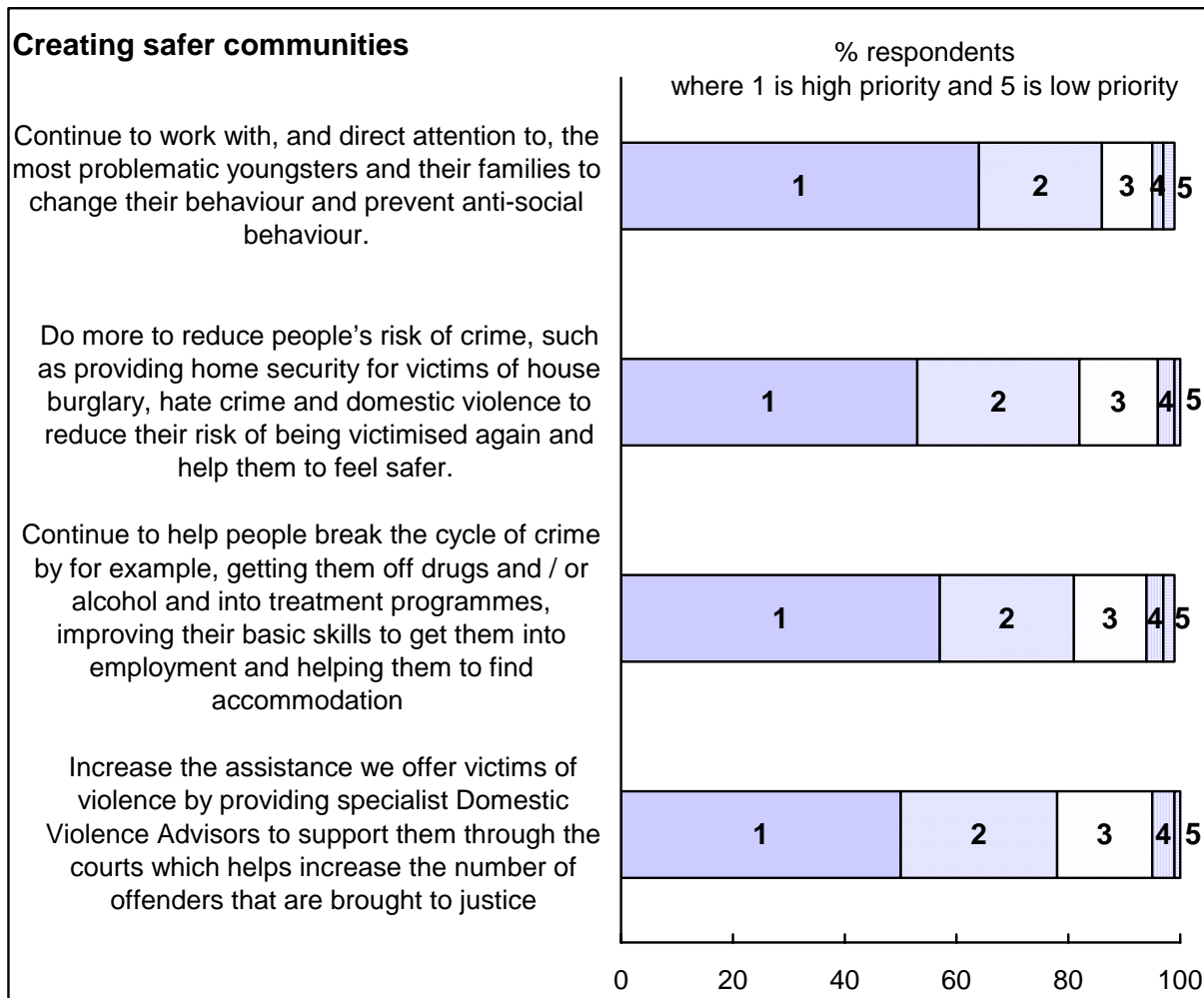
- 3.1 In relation to Safer Communities six national indicators are priorities identified in the LAA. An update is available in relation to 3 Nis in relation to the period April to December 2009. An overview of performance can be found in the following table.

| Ref | Description | 2008/09 Outturn | Latest Update | Trend | Target 2009/10 | On Target |
|-------|--|-----------------|---------------|-------|----------------|-----------|
| NI 19 | Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders | 0.96 | 0.5 | ▲ | 1.1 | ✓ |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|------|------|---|--------------|---|
| NI 20 | Assault with injury crime rate | 8.84 | 5.62 | ▲ | -5 reduction | ✓ |
| NI 32 | Repeat incidents of domestic violence | 34% | 30% | ▲ | 34% | ✓ |

There are no key risks in relation to the LAA at this stage

- 3.2 As part of the budget consultation a survey questionnaire was completed by 1075 Community Spirit panel members (a response rate of 67%). Of those who expressed an opinion, the majority of respondents (72%) believe that community safety has stayed the same in their local area over the last 12 months. A further 15% think it has got better and 13% believe it is worse.
- 3.3 The vast majority of respondents considered all of the approaches to improving community safety presented to be a priority (ranked them as 1 or 2) as shown on the graph below. Working with the most problematic youngsters and their families to change their behaviour and prevent anti-social behaviour was most important relatively.



3.4 To explore the issues raised by the survey a series of workshops were held where participants were asked to prioritise a range of approaches to addressing the budget priorities that emerged from the survey results. The top two priorities identified during the consultation in relation to safer communities were the:

- The Family Intervention Project
- Reviewing the way in which we identify people who are highly vulnerable

During 2010/2011 the council will allocate the following additional resources to these priorities:

3.5 A sum of £98,000 will be allocated to the Family Intervention Project, which was previously funded through grants. This will involve intensive work (e.g. parenting support and one-to-one work) with the most problematic youngsters and their families to break the cycle of offending, change behaviour and reduce re-offending.

3.6 Additional funding of £79,000 from the Home Office will help to improve the way in which we identify people who are highly vulnerable due to their personal, social or economic circumstances and are at high risk of becoming victims of crime and anti-social behaviour. This will involve training for staff across partner agencies and improvements to processes and procedures as well as providing support to witnesses and victims of anti social behaviour.

3.7 The recommendations agreed to reduce Fear of Crime in Sunderland as part of the committees Policy Review will deliver a range of improvement activity. A full overview of progress is attached as appendix 2, the table below provides a summary of the number and percentage of each policy reviews recommendations that have been achieved, are on schedule to be achieved or are not on schedule to be achieved.

| Policy Review | Rag Key | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | ★ Green (Recommendation achieved) | ● Amber (On schedule) | ▲ Red (Not on schedule) |
| Fear of Crime | 6 (32%) | 13 (68%) | 0(0%) |

Recommendations achieved to date include; development of a single Safer Communities survey across Tyne & Wear, guidance and training for Safer Sunderland partnership members to ensure clarity in roles and responsibilities, feedback postcards and crime and justice newsletters and also use of Partner and Communities Together meetings to improve marketing and communications by promoting action to address local concerns

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 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.

| Fear of Crime Policy Review Recommendations - Progress Report April to December 2009 | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|------------|-----|--|
| RAG Key | | | Current Performance | | | |
| ★ | Green - Recommendation achieved | | 6 Recommendation (32%) | | | |
| ● | Amber - On schedule to achieve recommendation | | 13 Recommendation (68%) | | | |
| ▲ | Red - Not on schedule to achieve recommendation | | 0 Recommendation (0%) | | | |
| Ref | Recommendation Description | Action | Owner | Due Date | RAG | Commentary |
| PRR01 | Surveys such as Fear of Crime Survey and the MORI reports provides a good deal of useful information on fear of crime. However, we do feel that it is important to further and develop the questions being asked of the public in order to be clearer as to why people feel as they do and the factors affecting fear of crime at the neighbourhood level; | 1.1 Rationalise consultation exercises | Smith, Julie | | ★ | Since the scrutiny review, a single safer communities survey has been developed across Tyne and Wear by key partners on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (including the Safer Sunderland Partnership) and the Local Criminal Justice Board (e.g. police, councils, probation etc). This collaborative working is cross boundary and cross partnership and was agreed through the Tyne and Wear Public Services Board. This now avoids separately asking the same questions of the same community at different times about what they want in relation to crime, policing and justice. The single survey benefits are: A reduction in duplication of effort amongst community safety agencies undertaking similar work; More questions are included on when and where people feel safe and unsafe and what affects their confidence in the police and council in tackling the crime and ASB issues that matter most locally. The provision of a more consistent view of residents' opinions; Long term financial savings; Reducing the burden on the public to respond to several agencies about the same issues (and survey fatigue / low response rates); and A coordinated approach so agencies are working from one reliable data source thus avoiding conflicting priorities. Data is available at a police sector level (previously just area framework level) Data are available quarterly rather than annually so impact of crime and ASB interventions on perceptions and feelings of safety can be identified more ea |
| PRR02 | If we are to make a significant and long lasting impact on crime and fear of crime it is important that the work of all of the partners is coordinated and focused. It is also important that the partners and the public should be clear on their respective roles and duties; | 2.1 SSP to ensure that work is coordinated and resources maximised | Susan, Kellie | not set | ★ | Safer Sunderland Partnership is an intelligence led partnership and has clear guidance and training for all of its partners to fully understand their role in tackling crime and fear of crime. Work through its Crime and Justice Programme is raising public awareness and will continue throughout 2010/11. |
| | | 2.2 Home Office Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Programme | Susan, Kellie | 31/03/2010 | ● | Work through the Home Office Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme is raising public awareness on action taken to tackle crime and ASB and will continue throughout 2010/11. |
| PRR03 | We support the proposals for a new Magistrates and Crown Court in the city and would urge the Council to do what it can to accelerate its development; | 3.1 Support the development of the proposed court complex | Susan, Kellie | not set | ★ | The Council and Safer Sunderland Partnership fully support the development of the proposed Court complex and the benefits it will realise for victims and witnesses in Sunderland. The development is being led by Her Majesties Court Service. |
| PRR04 | We feel that it is important that the Court continues to actively communicate their work to the general public. Providing information and feedback on issues such as sentencing and rehabilitation should help to build confidence in the criminal justice system. It is important that SSP partners are involved in the use made of resources for marketing; | 4.1 Formalised links with the LCGB Engagement & Communications group | Susan, Kellie | 31/03/2010 | ● | The Safer Sunderland Partnership has formalised links with the LCJB Engagement and Communications Group to ensure any marketing to raise public confidence is co-ordinated across a variety of partners. A Northumbria wide protocol between Northumbria Police & Northumbria LCJB is being drafted to promote sentencing outcomes to ensure continuity across pioneer areas. |
| PRR05 | We feel that tackling low level crime and anti social behaviour is a key factor in improving feelings of safety within local communities and we recommend the expansion of initiatives such as the use of Neighbourhood Wardens; | 5.1 2010/11 Scrutiny Review of anti social behaviour | Bill, Blackett B | 31/03/2010 | ● | The 2010/11 Scrutiny review of responses to anti-social behaviour is exploring this recommendation in more detail. The ASB Strategy and Delivery Plan has been produced (awaiting endorsement of the SSP Board) and the Delivery Plan has an action which states: 'Consider benefits of the scheme in relation to ASB reduction and public re-assurance, and Opportunities to expand to other areas'. |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|------------------|------------|---|--|
| PRR06 | We need to more closely monitor low level anti social behaviour indicators such as litter, graffiti and noise disturbance and the role it plays in promoting fear of crime; | 6.1 Neighbourhood helpline, use of LMAPs and enforcement activity | Douglass, Stuart | not set | ● | The Neighbourhood Helpline covers problems that require a council response such as litter, noise nuisances, graffiti and vandalism and data has been analysed based on those areas of interest to the Partnership covering ASB and enviro-crime. |
| PRR07 | We feel that the Community Payback scheme has great value in helping to raise confidence in the criminal justice system. We feel that the scheme has the potential for dealing with local environmental concerns - itself a major factor in fear of crime. We support the promotion of unpaid environmental work and people having a say in what work should be undertaken. | 7.1 Publicity locally for the Community Payback scheme | Douglass, Stuart | 30/04/2010 | ● | As part of the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme promotion of Community Payback will continue to be co-ordinated through the Safer Sunderland Partnership Marketing Group. Communication will include raising awareness on how the public can nominate areas for the scheme. |
| PRR08 | We feel that it is important that appropriate facilities are available for young people to socialise on an evening and would like to see the further development of the Mobile Youth Village Scheme. | 8.1 XL Youth Village Pilot | Bill, Blackett B | not set | ● | The XL Youth Village pilot has being rolled out across the city and is flexible to the changing needs of young people in areas experiencing high incidents of ASB. It has responses to local demands for increased access to positive activities for young people at weekend particularly those that are most vulnerable and hardest to reach. A mobile provision is also in the process of being developed to provide additional outreach support to those more inaccessible areas. |
| PRR09 | We feel that there is potential for the Council's new Area Committees arrangements to have a greater role in finding solutions to local crime related issues. Tackling crime and fear of crime successfully depends on working with and listening to the views of local residents. | 9.1 Area committee programmes | Smith, Julie J | not set | ● | The Area Committees have placed a high priority on the safe theme in 2010/11 and are progressing a number of actions to deliver this. |
| PRR10 | A lot of good work is going on in marketing and communicating the key messages regarding fear of crime. However, we feel that the Council and it partners need to make fuller use of the publications and websites to keep people informed of action being taken in the local community publicise to combat crime and anti-social behaviour | 10.1 Local publicity from Area Committees | Douglass, Stuart | not set | ● | |
| | | 10.2 Safer Sunderland Partnership Webpages | Smith, Julie J | 31/05/2010 | ● | The Safer Sunderland Partnership WebPages have been reviewed and updated to ensure the content is more relevant to residents and not just to partner agencies. The SSP web address is now added to all SSP publications as a central hub for information on crime prevention and what the SSP is doing to tackle local priorities. Further work is still required during 2010-11 to add a stronger resident focus to the web pages and this work is on-going and should be completed by the end of quarter 2. |
| | | 10.3 Feedback Postcards | Smith, Julie J | 31/10/2009 | ★ | A new template has been provided for LMAPS to record successes on so that these can be transferred into 'feedback postcards' to be delivered to residents experiencing repeat crime and ASB problems. This includes the SSP web address, the non emergency police number and the council's neighbourhood helpline details. |
| | | 10.4 Crime & Justice Newsletters | Smith, Julie J | 28/02/2010 | ★ | The Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme has produced crime and justice newsletters for each area of the city to keep people informed of action being taken in the local community to combat crime and anti-social behaviour. A series of evaluation forms have been produced and are being completed by residents during their Partner and Communities Together (PACT) meetings (spring 2010) to gain feedback on the newsletter's content, style, frequency, relevance and impact on confidence. Results should be available by quarter 2 of 2010-11. |
| | | 10.5 Partners & Communities Together (PACT) | Smith, Julie J | not set | ★ | The Police are making good use of the existing Partner and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to promote action taken to address local concerns. |

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|--|------------------|------------|---|--|
| PRR11 | We feel that the visible presence of security staff and the police is a key element in making people feel safer. We need to encourage people that public transport is safe. The more people who use public transport, the safer people will feel and the safer it will become; | 11.1 Supporting public transport operatives through a variety of initiatives | Douglass, Stuart | not set | ● | Safer Sunderland Partnership will continue to support public transport operators through a variety of initiatives. |
| PRR12 | It is important that respect is maintained in the criminal justice system and that low level crime such as a lack of respect for enforcement officers or the vandalising of public property does not undermine its effectiveness | 12.1 Pathfinder Crime & Justice Programme | Susan, Kellie | 31/03/2011 | ● | Safer Sunderland Partnership will continue to implement its Pathfinder Crime and Justice Programme to improve public perception in relation to the criminal justice system. |
| | | 12.2 Neighbourhood Crime & Justice Programme | Susan, Kellie | 31/03/2011 | ● | Safer Sunderland Partnership will continue to implement The Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme to improve public perceptions and confidence in relation to the criminal justice system. In addition the Council will continue to improve high standards of environmental maintenance with improvements through local service standards. |
| PRR13 | We would suggest that more research is undertaken into the reasons behind the higher than average levels of fear of crime on public transport in Sunderland. | 13.1 SSP and Nexus Focus Group Work | Smith, Julie J | 30/06/2010 | ● | The SSP marketing group has worked with Nexus and commissioned a series of focus group work with passengers and non passengers to identify factors that impact on feelings of safety and security on public transport. The focus group top line results were received in April 2010 and have been considered with the findings and actions are being developed and included within the marketing group's action plan of activity to improve feelings of safety on buses and metro. |

| Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee | | | | | | | | Comments |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-------------------------------|--|----------|
| Ref | Description | 2008/2009 Outturn | Latest Update | Time Period | Trend | 2009/2010 Target | On Target | |
| Strategic Priority - Safe City | | | | | | | | |
| Outcome - By 2025 feelings of safety will be at their highest level | | | | | | | | |
| Local Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| LPI | % of residents who feel safe in Sunderland | 66% | | Annual | | Not Set | | |
| Outcome - By 2025 levels of repeat incidents of domestic violence and assault with injury will be at their lowest levels. | | | | | | | | |
| Local Area Agreement Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| NI 20 | Assault with injury crime rate | 8.84 | 5.62 | April to Dec | ▲ | -5 | ✓ | |
| NI 32 | Repeat incidents of domestic violence | 34% | 30% | | ▲ | 34% | ✓ | |
| National Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| NI 33a | Arson incidents (primary fires) | 15.6 | 10.80 | April to Dec | ▲ | 15.1 | ✓ | |
| NI 33b | Arson incidents (secondary fires) | 77 | 54.5 | | ▲ | 74.7 | ✓ | |
| NI 34 | Domestic violence - murder | 0 | | Annual | | Not Set | | |
| Outcome - By 2025 more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children | | | | | | | | |
| National Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| NI 22 | Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area | 22.2 | | Annual | | Not Set | | |
| Outcome - By 2025 residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime and perceptions of anti social behaviour will be at their lowest level and better than the national average | | | | | | | | |
| Local Area Agreement Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| NI 17 | Perceptions of anti-social behaviour | 23.5 | | Annual | | Not Set - next target 2010/11 | | |
| National Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| NI 15 | Serious violent crime rate | 0.66 | 0.51 | April to Dec | ◀▶ | Not Set | | |
| NI 16 | Serious acquisitive crime rate | 12.45 | 7.93 | | ▲ | | | |
| NI 21 | Dealing with local concerns about ASB and crime | 27.70 | | Annual | | | | |
| NI 27 | Understanding of local concerns about ASB and crime by the local council and police | 28.7 | | | | | | |
| NI 28 | Serious knife crime rate | 0.56 | 0.37 | April to Dec | ▲ | | | |
| NI 29 | Gun crime rate | 0.06 | | Annual | | | | |
| NI 41 | Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem | 32.7 | | | | | | |
| NI 42 | Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem | 30.6 | | | | | | |
| NI 49a | Number of primary fires per 100,000 population | 252.6 | 197.2 | April to Dec | ▼ | | 245.8 | ✗ |
| NI 49b | Number of primary fire fatalities per 100,000 population | 0.71 | 0 | | ▲ | | 0 | ✓ |
| NI 49c | Number of primary fire non-fatal casualties per 100,000 population | 7.5 | 4.6 | | ▲ | 7.1 | ✓ | |
| Local Indicators | | | | | | | | |
| BV 218a | Abandoned vehicles-investigate | 95.86 | 98.39 | April to Dec | ▲ | 90 | ✓ | |
| BV 218b | Abandoned vehicles-removal | 94.74 | 92.86 | | ▼ | 95 | ✗ | |
| LPI 29 | Average days to remove graffiti | 1.91 days | 9.38 days | Oct to Dec | ▼ | 2 days | ✗ | |
| | | | | | | | Data source has changed so direct comparison between April - Sept 2009 and Oct - Dec 09 cannot be made. Graffiti jobs no longer managed via Mayrise, now entered onto lizuka System. Report module for graffiti is being developed, average working days for period Oct - Dec based on manual calculation. Outturn for Q3 affected by a number of jobs taking more than 10 days to complete (24 out of 132 jobs). 40.15% of jobs (53) completed withn target time of 2 days or less. | |

| Outcome - By 2025 there will be the lowest ever levels of drug related (Class A) offending and proven re-offending by adult and young offenders | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------|---------------|---------------|----|---------------|---|
| Local Area Agreement Indicators | | | | | | | |
| NI 19 | Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders | 0.96 | 0.5 | April to Sept | ▲ | 1.1 | ✓ |
| NI 30 | Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders | 1.1 | 16 (offences) | April to June | ▲ | 17% reduction | ✓ |
| NI 38 | Drug-related (Class A) offending rate | 1.08 | 1.13 | April to Sept | ◀▶ | 1.01 | ✗ |
| Q1 performance for 2009-10 is 1.08 therefore just above target. Cohort size is 116, predicted outturn was 133.7 and actual for Q1 was 144 | | | | | | | |
| National Indicators | | | | | | | |
| NI 18 | Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision | 3.85% | 8.81% | April to June | ▼ | Not Set | |
| Outcome - Hospital admissions due to alcohol will be within the 20% best performing local authorities across the country and there will be fewer repeat substance misusers accessing treatment | | | | | | | |
| National Indicators | | | | | | | |
| NI 40 | Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment | 812 | 813 | April to Dec | ▲ | 931 | ✓ |

**COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
20 APRIL 2010**

STUDY INTO ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – DRAFT FINAL REPORT

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City
CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services,
CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver ‘One City’.**

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To receive the draft final report on the Committee’s review into the action being taken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to tackle anti social behaviour and perceptions of anti social behaviour in the city.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 On 15 June 2009, the Committee agreed to undertake an investigation into the action being taken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to tackle anti social behaviour and fear of anti social behaviour in the city.

2.2 The Committee felt that it was important to look into this issue in view of the impact anti social behaviour can have on the quality of life of residents and the high priority accorded to it by both the Council and the Safer Sunderland Partnership.

3.0 Terms of Reference

3.1 The terms of reference for the study were to:-

- develop a clearer understanding of what actions constitute anti social behaviour (ASB);
- understand the legislative, policy and performance context of ASB;
- gain a better understanding of the approaches of Council and its partners in tackling anti social behaviour and ensure that a strategic approach is being adopted;
- identify any gaps in provision and suggest any improvements for service delivery.

4.0 Membership of the Committee

4.1 The membership of the Committee consisted of Councillors Robert Heron (Chair), Ellen Ball (Vice Chairman), Rosalind Copeland, Paul

Maddison, Anthony Morrissey, Kevin O'Connor, Bernard Scaplehorn, Derrick Smith, Mel Speding, Eric Timmins and John Walton.

5.0 Methods of Investigation

5.1 The following methods of investigation were used for the review:

- (a) Evidence from relevant Council officers and our partner organisations, including Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Gentoo, Nexus, Sunderland Magistrates Court;
- (b) Visit and discussions with police officers from the Central and East Area Police Areas;
- (c) Visit to the Council's CCTV Control Centre;
- (d) Participation and consultation with the Safer Sunderland Annual Forum;
- (e) Visit to the XL Village event held at Redhouse School;
- (f) Visit to G4S based at Washington in order to view the operation of the tagging system.

6.0 What Do We Mean By Anti Social Behaviour

6.1 From the outset, we felt that it was important to clearly define what we mean by the term "anti social behaviour"; as the phrase is often used to cover a wide spectrum of actions from minor neighbour disputes to more serious criminal activity and harassment.

6.2 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provides us with a helpful starting point, defining anti-social behaviour as:

"Behaviour that causes or is likely to cause harassment, alarm and distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator."

6.3 In practice this can include a wide range of actions including:-

- Harassment, threatening language and behaviour;
- Nuisance caused by people drinking alcohol, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs in public places;
- Rowdy behaviour;
- Hoax calls to emergency services;
- Vehicle nuisance;
- The dumping of rubbish and littering;
- Uncontrolled pets and fouling of public areas;
- Nuisance neighbours;
- Arson and secondary fires;

- Criminal damage and vandalism (including graffiti).

6.4 Before looking in detail at the action being taken by partners, we first considered the national legislative framework and the local policy agenda.

7.0 National and Local Policy Framework

National Framework

7.1 For more than a decade, tackling anti social behaviour has been a major priority for the Government. This has been reflected in a raft of legislation, including the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Police Reform Act 2002, Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, Housing Act 2004, Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.

7.2 The main consequence of this legislation has been to provide the police, local authorities and partners with an array of policy tools for tackling anti social behaviour. These include ASBO's, Fixed Penalty Notices, Drink Banning Orders, Acceptable behaviour Contracts, dispersal orders and premises closure orders.

7.3 During recent months, anti- social behaviour has taken on an even higher profile and priority. October 2009, saw the Home Office announce a package of new measures to improve the collective response to anti social behaviour, particularly services to victims, tougher action on ASBO breaches and the introduction of minimum service standards. There has been a commitment to ensure local action focuses on tackling and not tolerating ASB. The Government is clearly committed to seeing police and local authorities using their powers in a way that is effective and responds to peoples' needs at the right time.

Local Framework

7.4 In April 2008, the Safer Sunderland Partnership published a fifteen year strategy for the period 2008-2023. The strategy identifies a number of high level outcomes to be achieved by 2023 but also includes a number of key shorter term strategic priorities for the period 2008-2011, one of which is to 'reduce anti-social behaviour and people's perceptions of it'. Of particular relevance are:

- Creating a Safe Environment - Sunderland will have an environment that promotes safety and feelings of safety. By 2023 no one will feel very unsafe in their neighbourhood.

- Being Free from Crime, Disorder and Substance Misuse - people in Sunderland will be free from crime, disorder, and substance misuse. By 2023 residents will enjoy a city with its lowest ever recorded crime rate and perceptions of anti-social behaviour will be at their lowest level and be better than the national average
- Creating a Supportive Family Environment - people in Sunderland will have the supportive family environment they need to help them stay free from harm and crime and disorder. By 2023, more people than ever will perceive that parents take responsibility for the behaviour of their children.

7.5 The SSP has also been developing an Anti Social Behaviour Strategy and Delivery Plan that is being presented to the SSP Board meeting of 30th April 2010, to seek its endorsement. **We feel that it is important that findings of this Committee should be reflected and incorporated into the Strategy and would stress the importance of the Strategy in coordinating the actions of partners.**

8.0 GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERY

8.1 The Safer Communities Team, (SCT), co-ordinate partnership action to address crime, disorder, and substance misuse issues and support the delivery of the ASB Strategy on behalf of the SSP.

8.2 The Safer Sunderland Partnership Board brings together the key public, private, community and voluntary sectors to deliver the Safer Sunderland Strategy. These include the City Council, Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust, Northumbria Probations Service, Sunderland Youth Offending Service, Sunderland Victim Support, Gentoo, Nexus and Wearside Women in Need.

8.3 The ASB Delivery Group brings together representatives from agencies across the Safer Sunderland Partnership who are involved in addressing anti-social behaviour in order to develop and implement multi-agency solutions. Time limited Task and Finish Groups are formed as and when required from the membership of the group (and beyond, depending upon the expertise required), to address issues that require more detailed consideration to obtain a resolution.

8.4 It also provides a link to the eight Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) delivery groups and considers LMAPS trends across the City.

8.5 The LMAPS provide a specific locality and neighbourhood approach to addressing problems of ASB as well as other problems. Chaired by the

Inspectors from the Neighbourhood Policing Teams the groups bring together local frontline agencies responsible for key safer communities services. These agencies include the police, environmental services, cross tenure housing providers and regulators of the private rented sector, youth offending and fire service. In addition an elected member representative attends to provide a community perspective.

8.6 The purpose of LMAPS can be summarised as:

- To identify, analyse and effectively resolve crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues at a local/area level.
- To provide an accessible forum for local interests and residents to feed in relevant concerns
- To exchange information and practice between all eight LMAPS groups and relevant delivery groups within the SSP governance structure.
- To improve public confidence in the SSP
- To improve public satisfaction in our services and
- To reduce demand on our services.

8.7 In order to qualify as an LMAPS issue, the matter must be a 'community safety' matter, be seen as an ongoing or repeat problem, require multi agency resolution and therefore not simply be a single event, which is resolvable by one agency.

8.8 **During our study, feedback from the Police, Gentoo and other key players indicate that LMAPS are operating particularly well across the city and are an important forum for tackling anti social behaviour problems.**

9.0 **Anti Social Behaviour in Sunderland**

9.1 Anti Social Behaviour is measured by the Local Area Agreement Indicator "NI17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour".

9.2 The Place Survey tells us that resident's perception of anti social behaviour as a problem has improved considerably in Sunderland. Out of those surveyed 23.5% of residents perceived anti-social behaviour to be a problem in their area compared to 30% in 2006 and 51% in 2003.

9.3 The SSP recognises that it will become increasingly difficult to keep making such significant reductions against this measure and has therefore agreed upon a 2 percentage point reduction against the 23.5% place survey baseline for the remaining term of the LAA agreement.

10.0 Action Being Taken by Partners to Deal with Anti Social Behaviour

10.1 During the course of the study, we have examined the action being taken by partners to tackle anti-social behaviour and the fear of anti-social behaviour and also highlight examples of good practice. This evidence is summarised across a number of the broad categories of anti social behaviour; and key issues including neighbourhood relations and housing, environment, transport and fire service. **This reflects what was immediately apparent to us – that no one agency has the power or expertise to tackle issues of anti social behaviour on their own and that the most deep seated problems can only be successfully addressed through joint coordinated action.**

Anti Social Behaviour Related to Neighbourhood Relations and Housing

10.2 In the course of our study, we spoke to two key agencies involved in the tackling anti social behaviour at the neighbourhood level – the Council's Anti Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Relations Teams and Gentoo, the city's largest Registered Social Landlord.

10.3 The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour and Neighbourhood Renewal Teams work closely with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour in all housing tenures but with particular focus on the private rented sector. Their work therefore reflects the strong link between anti social behaviour and sub standard or mismanaged property and empty properties.

10.4 Alan Caddick, the Council's Head of Housing attended the Committee to provide details of the work of the team. This includes:-

- working with private landlords to develop good practice initiatives for reducing anti-social behaviour in the private rented sector;
- working with local communities to build up trust and encourage reporting of anti-social behaviour;
- identifying perpetrators of anti-social behaviour and developing appropriate interventions, in partnership with other agencies including, sending early warning letters to perpetrators regarding their alleged anti-social behaviour, undertaking and implementing and monitoring Acceptable Behaviour Agreements;
- addressing anti-social behaviour with young people at an early stage to prevent their behaviour from escalating;
- taking forward applications for Anti-social Behaviour Orders and monitoring the effectiveness of the ASBO on an annual basis;
- supporting victims and witnesses including accompanying to court, acting as third party witness and engaging witness protection services.

- 10.5 The Anti Social Behaviour Unit is also responsible for carrying out 'vetting checks' on behalf of landlords who are members of the City Council's Accreditation Scheme.
- 10.6 The Unit encourages all Registered Social Landlords working in Sunderland to adopt and sign up to the Respect Standard for Housing Management.
- 10.7 In partnership with Gentoo, the Unit also commissions a mediation service to help resolve disputes involving neighbours, landlords and tenants. This service is available to all citizens of Sunderland.
- 10.8 The unit also commissions a Family Intervention Project (FIP), that deals with the most challenging families displaying anti-social behaviour and uses a persistent approach to assist families to modify their behaviour.

Gentoo – Registered Social Landlord

- 10.9 Gentoo is the largest Registered Social Landlord in the city. They provide neighbourhood relations services to address anti social behaviour and are an active partner on the LSP.
- 10.10 In order to obtain an insight into the work of Gentoo on anti social behaviour, we invited Michelle Meldrum, Managing Director of Gentoo (Sunderland) to speak to the Committee. She referred to their Neighbourhood Safety Strategy 2008 -2011 which sets four strategic objectives for tackling nuisance and anti-social behaviour. These are to:-
- prevent and minimise ASB and perceptions of it by taking a long-term approach which combines prevention and early intervention, support and swift enforcement;
 - empower neighbourhoods to feel safe and secure, particularly where there are more vulnerable groups;
 - provide tailored support to victims as well as offenders;
 - engage fully with others to deliver coherent, long-term solutions and communicate our actions to our partners, other organisations and our communities.
- 10.11 **We are impressed with the way the Council and Gentoo work together in tackling anti social behaviour. We support the principal of a balanced approach to tackling these issues. Intervention and preventative measures has a vital role in tackling anti social issues.**

- 10.12 **The evidence of Gentoo has also demonstrated the importance of accurate data capture in identifying where issues are occurring and putting prevention measures in place. We feel that there is an important role for GIS systems.**
- 10.13 **We would therefore suggest that the ASB Delivery Group considers options for a more unified system of ASB data capture across the housing sector, to improve the partnership response to addressing ASB.**
- 10.14 Additional funding has recently been provided to Victim Support Sunderland to fund a Victim Support Officer based within the ASP Unit to provide victims support to the private rented and owner occupied sector

Anti Social Behaviour Related to Alcohol

- 10.15 Alcohol is a key driver of anti social behaviour and the problems of underage drinking and public drunkenness are major priorities for the public.
- 10.16 During evidence to the Committee, the Police referred to the wide range of tools available to tackle unruly behaviour caused by alcohol. For example, people who are drunk and carrying out ASB can be arrested as drunk and disorderly. ASBO's can be used to exclude someone from an area in which they have been causing a problem and also from areas where they can obtain alcohol - thereby effectively banning them from a licensed premises where they have been causing disruption and disorder. Drink Banning Orders, which came into force in August 2009, target individuals who have engaged in criminal or disorderly conduct and protects against further misconduct.
- 10.17 The Council and the Police can also apply to the Magistrates Court for the imposition of a Drink Banning Order (DBO). Voluntary courses are offered to anyone receiving a DBO to seek to educate the person about the serious impact of heavy alcohol consumption.
- 10.18 A Police Constable has the power to issue a direction to an individual to leave an area if their presence is likely to cause an alcohol related crime or disorder. This also applies to persons aged 10-15 years as well as those aged over 16. The police can also take a young person home or to a place of safety if they are issued with Directions to Leave and the police suspect that they are under 16 years.

- 10.19 The Policing and Crime Act 2009 has introduced legislation which makes it an offence to persistently possess alcohol in public places. Young people under the age of 18 can be persecuted for this offence if they are caught with alcohol in a public place on three or more occasions within a 12 month period.
- 10.20 The Committee considered in detail the circumstances and value of introducing Designated Public Place Orders. These allow the designation of areas with restrictions on the consumption of alcohol. The designation area does not automatically ban alcohol consumption but does give the police the power to request that an individual stops drinking alcohol in that area if a police officer believes that the drinking is likely to cause anti social behaviour.
- 10.21 In Sunderland, there are currently designated areas covering the city centre, sea front area, Council parks, play areas, cemeteries and metro stations.
- 10.22 We noted that the introduction of such Orders required lengthy consultation and a strong evidence base. The police do not recommend the extension of such orders in view of the extensive powers already available to them for dealing with alcohol related incidents of anti social behaviour.
- 10.23 **Clearly, there are a wide range of powers available to partners when dealing with alcohol related anti social behaviour. But we do feel that the public need to be confident that these powers are being used and the problems addressed.**
- 10.24 **We would suggest that the ASB Delivery Board looks at actions to:**
- **review enforcement tools as a priority to maximise sanctions against offenders where appropriate, and**
 - **the knowledge on use of tools and powers needs to be refreshed and suitable guidance and training for staff should be considered as a high priority for 2010-11.**
- 10.25 Linkages are also being established between the ASB Delivery Plan and the Alcohol Delivery Plans.

Role of Licensing and Trading Standards

- 10.26 The Council's Licensing Section administers and enforces the Licensing Act working closely with other statutory agencies. In so doing, it receives intelligence about anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol supplied from licensed premises, such as off licences and public

houses. This information is used to inform decision-making upon matters such as the grant of licences, variations of hours, the conditions imposed upon licences and the revocation of licences.

- 10.27 The Trading Standards Section has the responsibility for enforcing the law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to persons under 18. It also seeks to educate off licensees and their staff about avoiding such sales and, where appropriate, sends child volunteers into premises to attempt test purchases. Illegal sales can lead to prosecutions and reviews of offenders' licences.
- 10.28 Every encouragement is given to licensees to go beyond compliance with the law in reducing the potential for anti-social behaviour by delivering, in partnership with other agencies, a Best Bar None scheme.
- 10.29 The Licensing Section licenses also Hackney Carriages and, so, are involved in the arranging of the highly-regarded taxi marshal scheme in the City Centre. The feedback from both the taxi trade and the travelling public is that the scheme provides a safer and more pleasant transport experience.
- 10.30 We consider that the role of licensing is a very important aspect in the fight against alcohol and anti social behaviour. From the evidence received the Committee is concerned at the availability and proliferation of licences to sell alcohol.**
- 10.31 We recognise that this is a national issue requiring national legislation but we would call on partner and SSP to work to influence the Government in bringing forward legislation to provide greater regulation over the granting of licences for the sale of alcohol.**
- 10.32 In response to the above, we also suggest that the SSP delivery groups dealing with Alcohol and ASB work together to ensure that processes are joined up to help combat alcohol misuse and the anti-social behaviour that can arise.**

Anti Social Behaviour Related to Drugs

- 10.33 The possession and supply of controlled drugs is illegal and is firmly enforced by the police. Also, any tenant using drugs in a way that causes serious nuisance are breaching the terms of their tenancy agreement.
- 10.34 Civil measures such as ASBO's are available to protect the community from behaviour causing harassment. Intervention Orders are also

available through the Drugs Act and can be used to require individuals to comply with positive conditions that tackle their anti social behaviour.

- 10.35 In February 2008 the Government launched the new ten year national drug strategy entitled 'Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities'. As part of the delivery of the strategy it seeks to ensure action to tackle drug misuse is at the core of national, regional and local planning and the delivery processes of all departments and agencies that have a role to play in delivering the drug strategy.
- 10.36 The Safer Sunderland Partnership has a range of delivery groups which lead on various elements of the implementation of the drugs strategy. The Drug and Alcohol Strategy Manager, Leanne Davis outlined to us the work going on to tackle anti social behaviour relating to drugs.
- 10.37 Much drug related anti-social behaviour relates to people using secluded public areas as 'drug dens'. Any dens identified are discussed at the relevant Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group and partners proactively work with the drug users, remove rubbish and ensuring the area is cleared and unable to be used again for a similar purpose. The Drug Related Litter Group of the Safer Sunderland Partnership has also developed numerous leaflets and posters for areas where drug related litter, including needles and syringes, are found encouraging local communities to report these incidents and how to be safe if they find any equipment. The City now has approximately 15 pharmacies who offer a needle exchange facility which increases the safe use and return of injecting equipment and numbers of drug related litter finds remain low.

Environmental Anti Social Behaviour

- 10.38 Environmental ASB includes a wide range of unacceptable behaviour such as fly tipping, dog fouling, noise nuisance, and litter and graffiti.
- 10.39 In May 2009, a team of Environmental Enforcement Officers and a Local Environment Manager were established within the Council's Environmental Services Department to tackle and combat environmental crime across the city.
- 10.40 The team, consisting of 12 officers and a manager, enforce all elements of environmental crime ranging from dog fouling and household waste to illegal dumping and street litter control.

- 10.41 Officers have been allocated areas throughout the city to identify and target hotspots or 'grot-spots' within their own areas. Working with the local businesses and residents these areas will be targeted and those individuals or companies found to be adversely affecting the local area will be targeted with a range of environmental powers including legal notices, fixed penalty notices and prosecutions.
- 10.42 Education campaigns are undertaken in conjunction with any enforcement to highlight the nuisance caused by litter and waste to any area but also to raise awareness of the potential consequence of such activities.
- 10.43 Environmental Health also employs officers to deal with a range of duties including noise investigation. They deal with in excess of 2,500 direct requests and referrals from the Neighbourhood Relations Team and the Police.
- 10.44 The Committee supports the establishment of the Enforcement Team and the important work they are doing in tackling environmental anti social behaviour. Anti social behaviour is a high priority and a major concern for local residents and it is important that the response of the Council and its partners reflects this importance. However, the level of resources available is clearly limited for dealing with these problems. **The Committee therefore urges the Council and its partners to place a high priority on environmental enforcement.**
- 10.45 We would suggest that the ASB Delivery Board considers the following actions:-
- Provide an enhanced Environmental Services response to ASB issues such as graffiti, litter, abandoned vehicles and requests for needle syringes to be removed.
 - Consider ways to combat fly-tipping in hot spot areas to increase evidence available when fly-tipping occurs (e.g by use of CCTV)
 - Greater emphasis to be placed upon Responsive Local Services.

Anti Social Behaviour and Fire

- 10.46 Arson and secondary fires are important symptoms of anti social behaviour. In order to gauge the scale of the problem, together with the initiatives being taken to combat it, the Committee invited John Allison to review the work of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

10.47 Mr Allison noted that latest figures show the Sunderland District as being disproportionately high in relation to other districts with regards to deliberate and anti-social fires. These fires include deliberate property fires, deliberate vehicle fires and deliberate secondary fires (usually rubbish and refuse). Indeed, the Sunderland District is responsible for 37% of all deliberate fires within the Tyne and Wear area and the Sunderland East station area being responsible for 12% of all deliberate fires within TWFRS area. Significantly the Hendon ward alone accounted for 4% of all deliberate fires across Tyne and Wear.

10.48 A range of initiatives have traditionally been employed to tackle this problem including: -

- The **Phoenix Project** is an award winning partnership initiative working with young people known to be, or at risk of, offending between the ages of 12 and 17. Phoenix provides a basic work experience programme and all participants volunteer to go on the course, which seeks to foster the benefits of working within a disciplined uniformed team.
- **Operation Heat** is an initiative in partnership with Northumbria Police whereby any fire call to which TWFRS are despatched to the Hendon Ward, automatically results in a call to Northumbria Police (NP) Control and the subsequent despatching of a NP attendance.
- **Operation Charlie** is a multi agency initiative in collaboration with NP's Perception Campaign involving education and enforcement activities in the Millfield Ward.
- **Bonfire Campaign** - Following on from the successes of previous years, TWFRS, in partnership with many agencies, are running an extensive campaign each year aimed at reducing the incidences of anti-social behaviour in relation to bonfires and fireworks across Sunderland.

10.49 We are impressed with the range of initiatives being undertaken by the Fire Service in collaboration with its partners. We are also pleased by the recognition that only joint action by partner can make a sustained improvements in the incidence of anti social fires. We support the prevention campaigns being undertaken by the Fire Service.

10.50 We would suggest that the ASB Delivery Board consider actions to assess if additional referrals could be sourced for the Phoenix Project from those areas experiencing higher levels of ASB fires.

Addressing anti-social behaviour on public transport

10.51 Whilst serious crime is rare on public transport, fear of crime is relatively high. This is because passengers are exposed daily to very visible anti-social behaviour, low level disorder, graffiti and glass etching which have a cumulative effect in terms of feeling intimidated and threatened.

10.52 Ken Wilson, Head of Security, NEXUS outlined for the Committee the wide range of initiatives being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour and reassure the users of public transport in Sunderland. These include:-

- A Nexus Bus Station Manager is responsible for security at Park Lane, Hetton, Concord and the Galleries bus stations;
- CCTV cameras are located at all 4 bus stations, to deter anti-social behaviour and reassure passengers;
- A Private Security company is employed at Park Lane because of past problems of antisocial behaviour;
- Nexus has matched funded programmes with bus operators to install CCTV cameras on buses. All metro cars and stations have CCTV cameras;
- Infrastructure providers have a rapid repair and maintenance policy for damaged bus shelters to minimise the impact of anti-social behaviour;
- Metro employs a Graffiti Cleaning team to minimise the impact of graffiti on the Metro network;
- shelters to prevent youths standing on seats and damaging lights
- Nexus are striving to provide lighting and trailing CCTV in more bus shelters to deter anti social behaviour;
- Nexus are working with some Sunderland Primary Schools in the early part of 2010 to deliver an “**It’s Your Choice**” event which looks to convey key messages about the consequences of anti-social behaviour.

10.53 The Committee is impressed by the range of initiatives to tackle anti social behaviour on our transport system. We feel that the visible presence of security staff and the police is a key element in making people feel safer and eradicating anti social behaviour.

10.54 The Committee also feels that there is potential in introducing some form of security personnel on buses.

- 10.55 **That Committee also asks that the SSP look further at a pilot scheme being implemented in Gateshead which involves youth workers engaging with youths in bus shelters and seeking to involve them in alternative activities.**
- 10.56 **In response to the above, the ASB Delivery Plan includes actions to investigate the issues of security personnel on buses and youth engagement at bus shelters.**

Neighbourhood Helpline

- 10.57 In June 2006, the Northumbria Partnership launched a Home Office funded initiative, the 101 Non Emergency Helpline. Sunderland was one of 14 partners involved in the initiative along with other Local Authorities and the Police.
- 10.58 In March 2008, the Home Office withdrew the funding for the initiative. Two of the partners, Sunderland and Newcastle decided to continue what had become, a very successful Helpline.
- 10.59 On 1st April 2008, a new 'It's your Service Partnership' was formed and the 101 service transitioned into the 'Neighbourhood Helpline'. The Helpline is delivered in partnership by Sunderland and Newcastle City Councils. Liz St Louis advised the Committee of the operation of the Neighbourhood Helpline.
- 10.60 The Helpline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with Customer Service Advocates trained to handle a range of enquiries and requests for service. All requests for service are logged immediately onto the Customer Contact System and referred to Service Delivery Teams within relevant Departments. The arrangement allows for the direct dial into emergency services if required to ensure the appropriate level of response is provided, especially during unsociable hours
- 10.61 A breakdown of service request types shows rubbish and litter to be the most popular issue raised by the public.
- 10.62 Quite clearly, the Neighbourhood Helpline is a very popular service with residents with high levels of customer satisfaction. **The Neighbourhood Helpline is an excellent example of a front office shared service and demonstrates a robust partnership between Sunderland and Newcastle City Council's.** As calls are answered for and on behalf of each local authority, business continuity and resilience is an integral part of the service provision.

10.63 We also feel that the potential exists to expand to other similar service providers and / or out of hour's services in the future.

CCTV

10.64 As part of its study, the Committee visited the CCTV Control Centre based in the Civic Centre in order to view at first hand the operation of the system.

10.65 The CCTV system clearly has a very important role to play in tackling anti social behaviour in the city allowing a rapid response to incidences of anti social behaviour and close partnership working and collaboration.

10.66 City Security Service also provides a range of system to tackle anti social behaviour in the city. These include:-

- 3G Rapid Deployment Cameras, which can be deployed at short notice to monitor crime or ASB Hotspots.
- Flashcams, which can be deployed at short notice to combat Fly tipping, graffiti and ASB.
- CAEC (City Alarm and Emergency Centre) who currently monitor in excess of 600 CCTv cameras City Wide as well as property alarms, emergency support services, lone worker support, vehicular panic attack monitoring and response and Major Incident initiation on behalf of the Council and its partners.

10.67 We were most impressed by the very professional nature of the system and the staff involved.

10.68 The Committee commends the operation of the CCTV monitoring system and recommend its extension in the event of resources being available.

11.0 Support and Diversionary Activities

11.1 During the study, we received evidence on the range of services available to provide support and intervention to tackle anti social behaviour, including:-

- Family Intervention Project (FIP) – provides intensive support to problem families;
- Parenting Programmes - a range of targeted and specialist parenting provision;
- Targeted Youth Support – coordination of resources for young people (13-19yrs);

- Challenge and Support - which aims to stop poor behaviour in young people from escalating;
- Youth Offending Service – provides a range of services including which works with young people 8-13 who are beginning to become involved in Anti-Social Behaviour or who have siblings who already are susceptible to peer pressure;
- Youth Development Group – XL Village Events

Example of Good Practice - Winter Weekend XL Village at Redhouse School

On the evening of Friday 12 February 2010, Councillor Bob Heron, Councillor Ellen Ball and Councillor Rosalind Copeland visited the Winter Weekend XL Village Event held at the Red House Academy, Sunderland. The purpose of the visit was to discuss and view the innovative work going on to engage young people in positive activities and help reduce the incidence of anti social behaviour.

A wide range of activities were on offer including wall climbing, football, dancing, computer games etc.

Members commented on the valuable and innovative approach being taken at the event which included outdoor and indoor sport and leisure activities. The event attracted around 80 youngsters. The event made full use of the facilities available at the school which had been provided by the school free of charge. Members commented on the potential of extending the Village concept to other areas and other schools in the city. It was noted that the holding of such events had led to a significant fall in incidence of anti social behaviour on the evening the events were held. Members commented on the commitment of all of the staff involved and the potential to extend such events to other areas.

Victim and Witness Support

- 11.2 An integral part of improving perception of anti social behaviour rests on providing real and meaningful support for the victims of anti social behaviour and its witnesses and the Committee heard about the range of support being offered by a range of organisations.
- 11.3 All victims of anti social behaviour taking the stand in the Magistrates Courts will be offered help by the Victim Support Witness Service.
- 11.4 A network of 85 victims and witnesses champions has been established in priority areas across the country to stand alongside victims, delivering practical help to those taking a stand. This will include support in court

proceedings prior to, and when giving evidence and providing follow up assistance and support when the court case is over.

11.5 The Sunderland audit of anti-social behaviour services confirmed that witnesses and victims affected by ASB do not receive as much support as victims and witnesses of other crimes and there is a clear service gap. Funding of £10,000 was obtained in the summer of 2009 to:

- Improve the consistency/widen the support available to ASB victims and witnesses;
- Ensure ASB victims and witnesses are aware of the range of support available how to access and how to report ASB;
- Publicise the services through various marketing techniques to increase public confidence that local services are on the side of victims and witnesses.

11.6 The City was allocated additional funding of £5,000 in 09/10 and £20,000 in 10/11 to establish a Victims Champion role. The aim of the role is to quality assure, improve and design new systems, and it is intended that the role will result in:

- More victims and witnesses of ASB receiving support.
- Creation of a partnership wide service;
- Adding value to services to ensure they are joined up;
- Acting as a referral point for ASB teams for cases that need extra help.

11.7 The Committee heard evidence from Victim Support Sunderland on their work supporting the victims of anti social behaviour and other crimes. In doing so they work closely with key partners such as the Council, housing providers and the Northumbria Police. As well providing practical and emotional support to victims, they also access better security measures, deal with insurance markets, liaise with the police and other agencies, help in applying for criminal insurance compensation and provide support throughout the criminal justice process.

11.8 Gentoo already employs two Victim Support officers and are currently running a campaign to encourage people to report ASB. One of the positive impacts of the Victim Support Service is that customers feel much safer in their homes i.e. only 15% of customers felt very or fairly safe prior to receiving the service and this increases to 71% after receiving the service. It is also positive to note that 98% of customers felt the level of support they received was just right.

- 11.9 At the Safer Sunderland Partnership level we might also give consideration as to how we might better identify potential victims of crime and ASB. This could include giving consideration as to how we might engage with potentially at risk groups, e.g. Filipinos in the Health Service, Students at the University etc**
- 11.10 In response to the above, the ASB Delivery Plan acknowledges that there is an intelligence gap around victim profiles for different types of ASB. Information is known on geographical hot spots, but not about who is most likely to be a repeat victim and why. The agencies supporting victims of ASB should be asked to provide victim profile data for inclusion in future Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessments. The partnership should also continue to fully support and advertise those agencies and support services available to victims so that they can self refer crimes and anti social behaviour incidents.
- 11.11 Victim Support outreach workers have been actively researching which helping approaches work best in the recovery process. The ASB Delivery Plan recommends that this analysis be extended to identify which helping approaches impact most on improving feelings of safety.
- 11.12 The Delivery Plan also recognises that the care of victims should remain high on the agenda of the SSP to ensure that risks of victimisation are reduced and the right levels of support and feedback are provided once someone becomes a victim. Police are working with partners to implement a system to protect, reassure and empower vulnerable victims of crime and the use of a case conferencing approach to high risk victims of ASB is being considered.
- 11.13 Funding has recently been allocated for an additional Victim Support worker to be based in the Council's ASB Unit to work with victims of ASB in the Private Rented and owner occupied sectors.

12.0 Neighbourhood Action – Closer Engagement with the Public

- 12.1 The White Paper Protecting the Public emphasises the importance of tackling anti social behaviour and perceptions of anti social behaviour and highlights the importance of neighbourhood policing and joint working between partners.
- 12.2 Closer engagement between the police and local communities and better joint working between partners was seen as vital to improving the public's confidence in the criminal justice system. It was felt that the police are now much more involved in neighbourhood work and are more visible in local communities. It was important that recent falls in the

level of crime and anti social behaviour was matched by changes in the perception of local people and a reduction in the fear of crime and anti social behaviour.

12.3 During our visit to Sunderland Area Command, it was clear that officers are committed to Neighbourhood Policing which is provided by teams of Police Officers, CSOs and Special Constables with support from partners. The key objective in the Northumbria Police Strategy for 2008-2011 is 'to build trust and confidence in the community and reduce crime and disorder'. Policing priorities to support this key objective include:

- re-assure the public, reduce the fear of crime and ASB;
- improve public perception of the fear of crime and ASB;
- increase visibility of staff and community engagement, especially amongst those hard to reach communities;
- Engage and listen to the community and deal with those issues that affect the quality of life of community members;
- Keep the community and partners updated.

12.4 Events such as Not in My Neighbourhood Week can play an important part in raising awareness of action being taken to combat anti social behaviour in local communities.

12.5 As part of the Home Office Crime and Justice Programme, a number of further initiatives are designed to demonstrate to the public that the criminal justice system in their area listens to their priorities and acts upon them. These include:-

- The Policing Pledge (including PACT meetings) - the Pledge informs communities of the minimum standards of service they can expect from Northumbria Police;
- Highly visible Community Payback (Justice Seen, Justice Done Campaign) - scheme sets out to raise public awareness and increase confidence in community sentences;
- Community Crime Fighters Scheme - provides members of the public who are already active in their communities with training, information and support to work with neighbourhood policing teams and local authorities to help make communities safer;
- Minimum Standards of Service (ASB, Witness Charter);
- Victims Champion

13.0 Communication and Marketing

- 13.1 A key driver of the crime and justice programme is to ensure the public are aware of the support available and their individual rights when accessing criminal justice services. It is important to provide regular information to communities on what is being done to tackle ASB, including an expectation to publicise ASBOs to the local community residents on what action is being taken to tackle ASB.
- 13.2 The partnership works hard to tell people how it is making the City safer. Twenty-five plasma TV screens in community venues around the City are used to provide information to residents. Eighty-one per cent of residents generally feel safe in Sunderland.
- 13.3 Communities are kept updated on what is being done to tackle ASB in a number of ways. For example:
- ASB Officers from the Council's Neighbourhood Relation's Team are dedicated to particular framework areas and maintain contact with complainants in their particular area.
 - The SSP Marketing Group produce an ongoing series of 'You said...we did' postcards which publicise what action has been undertaken to tackle ASB and other issues.
 - When issues have been considered by LMAPS, feedback is provided to the complainant on the action that has been taken, before the item is closed.
 - The Police Authority regularly arranges Police and Community events to enable local residents to meet with the Police to raise issues of concern. A number of the Area Fora also include Police consultation as a regular agenda item at their monthly meetings.
 - The Safer Sunderland Partnership TV (SSPTV) system regularly includes information on what is being done to tackle ASB and how to report it.
- 13.4 Improving public confidence in the criminal justice system by engaging directly with communities is a key driver of the Neighbourhood Crime and Justice Programme. In October 2008 Sunderland was granted pioneer status to go further and faster in improving services for victims and witnesses of crime including anti-social behaviour. The Louise Casey review 'Engaging Communities in Crime' (2008) revealed that nationally the public want to receive more communication around action taken to tackle crime by the police and what has happened to offenders who have committed crime. Information to be publicised will include the name, age, and street name of those who have been convicted of an anti-social behaviour related offence. Work will continue throughout 2010 to ensure

community residents are actively engaged in action to tackle not tolerate anti-social behaviour.

- 13.5 The Safer Sunderland Partnership Annual Forum has been another method of raising the profile of action being taken by the partnership on issues such as anti social behaviour. Members of the Committee attended the last forum held on 23 October 2009 at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland. From that event, it was clear that anti social behaviour remains a key issue for residents and has been identified as a priority during the year and that community empowerment is a key factor in tackling anti social behaviour.

14.0 Conclusions

14.1 The Committee concluded:-

- Council and partners have developed a clear vision for defining ASB aspirations and objectives for preventing and tackling ASB. The ASB Strategy and Delivery Plan that has been produced (awaiting SSP Board endorsement), together with the SSP Governance structures, (including the ASB Delivery Group and the LMAPS), provides this. A review of ASB Services is planned to further develop the response.
- An effective communication strategy to inform residents of services dedicated to preventing and tackling ASB and feedback on action taken in individual cases is essential. It is recognised that this is in part provided via the work of the SSP Marketing group, initiatives such as the Policing Pledge and ASB Minimum Standards publicity. However a neighbourhood focus to ask people about ASB in their neighbourhood and actions being taken to resolve problems at a local level would be beneficial as it is important that residents have confidence in our response to incidents of ASB and feel that their concerns are being taken seriously.
- There is a need for a partnership wide system of capturing and recording reports of ASB and the action taken to resolve issues. Options for the development of such a system are being examined by the ASB Delivery Group.
- There is a need to be clear about respective partner roles to avoid duplication of service provision, at the same time ensuring that delivery is joined up. The review of ASB Services should help to develop this.

- As a result of Sunderland's balanced approach to tackling Anti Social Behaviour through prevention, early intervention, enforcement and support, there are a low number of ASBOs and CRASBOs occurring in the City.
- It is recognised that high levels of deprivation and disadvantage are associated with ASB and help in the creation of an alienated younger generation. Tackling anti social behaviour will not be effective in the long term unless action is also taken to tackle deprivation. Poverty of place refers to, for instance, the way the look of an area can increase fear of crime, can reinforce low aspirations, Poor environmental quality is linked to a perception that the social norms of wider society are breaking down (social norms being the reason why people don't litter, vandalise, graffiti and so on) where this is the case there can either be an actual or a perceived increase in anti-social behaviour and property related crime
- Public Agency Policies are important in that ASB can be designed out to be minimised at the planning stage of major developments. Estates that are designed with few amenities and public spaces are more conducive to anti social behaviour.
- It is recognised that a lack of trust between residents, young and old people, has resulted in a decline in the quality of life and diminished capacity to tackle ASB.
- It is important to note that while young people can be perpetrators of ASB they are also more likely to be the victims of crime and disorder than any other age group.
- It is recognised that anti social behaviour, combined with environmental factors such as graffiti and litter has a greater impact on how people feel than harder crimes like robbery.
- Public confidence in the criminal justice system can be improved. Residents need to know how to make a complaint, understand what the process is for dealing with it and believe that the issue is being addressed and have feedback on what action has been taken.
- The Committee is very impressed with the youth villages and would like to see a roll out of the Winter Village programme and look to expand to other areas;

15 Recommendations

15.1 The Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee has taken evidence from a variety of sources to assist in the formulation of a balanced range of recommendations. The Committees key recommendations to the Cabinet are as outlined below:-

- (a) That the comments and recommendations of this report be incorporated into the forthcoming SSP Anti Social Behaviour Strategy;
- (b) That the partnership considers the options for a more unified system of data capture, particularly across the housing sector, in order to improve the response of partners to ASB;
- (c) That the partnership investigate how we might better identify potential victims of anti social behaviour;
- (d) That the partnership review the enforcement measures available to partners and provide staff with guidance on the powers currently available for tackling ASB;
- (e) That the Council and its partners investigate options for improving the enforcement of environmental ASB and combat issues such as graffiti, litter and fly-tipping;
- (f) That partners investigate ways of expanding the operation of the Phoenix project in order to help tackle areas experiencing higher levels of ASB fires;
- (g) That partners investigate the potential of expanding the operation of the XL Village concept throughout the city;
- (h) That partners investigate the potential of introducing improved security on buses and the potential of the youth work pilot operating working with young people;
- (i) That the Council and its partners consider the extension of the CCTV monitoring system subject to the availability of resources,

16.0 Acknowledgements

16.1 The Group is grateful to all those who have presented evidence during the course of our review. We would like to place on record our appreciation, in particular of the willingness and co-operation we have received from the below named:-

Chief Inspector Carol Parkes, Northumbria Police
Inspector Neal Craig, Northumbria Police
Inspector Mark Ord, Northumbria Police
John Allison, District Officer, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
Service
Michelle Meldrum, Managing Director, Gentoo Sunderland
Gillian Thirlwell, Branch Manager, Victim Support
Amy Anderson, Outreach Worker Victim Support
Liz St Louis, Head of Customer Services
Ken Wilson, Head of Security Nexus
Marion Dixon, Environmental Health Manager
Nicky Rowland, Local Environment Manager
Alan Caddick, Head of Housing
Stuart Douglass, Safer Communities Manager
Bill Blackett, ASB Strategy Manager
Alan Mitchell, Community Safety Coordinator
Leanne Davis, Drugs and Alcohol Manager
Barry Frost, Security and Emergency Planning Manager

END OF YEAR REPORT - 2009/10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**Strategic Priorities: Safer and Prosperous City
Corporate Performance Objective: CI01,CI04**

1 Why has the report come to the Committee

- 1.1 To seek the views of members on a report setting out the operation and achievements of the Committee over the last year.
- 1.2 The report, together with the comments of members, will be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2010. The report will then be incorporated into an Annual Scrutiny Report which is being prepared for the service as a whole.

2 Background

- 2.1 In June 2009, the members of the Scrutiny Committee agreed their annual work programme for the municipal year 2009/10. The Work Programme brought together the issues raised by members as the major priorities and challenges facing the city for the year ahead.
- 2.2 In drawing up the work programme, every effort was made to retain a degree of flexibility in the workload in order to allow the Committee to deal with issues of immediate concern.
- 2.3 The section that follows summarises the major issues by the Committee and sets out its main achievements.

3 Operation and Achievements of the Committee

The Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee is one of the Council's newly established scrutiny committees and this is its first annual report.

In setting our work programme for the year, the Committee was keen to build on the foundations provided by the former Regeneration and Community Review Committee, in particular its study into fear of crime in the city.

From the outset, we agreed to focus our attention on one of the key challenges facing the city – tackling the issue of anti social behaviour. The Committee has therefore conducted an in depth review of the action being taken by the Council and its partner on the Safer Sunderland Partnership (SSP) to combat anti social behaviour and the fear of anti social behaviour.

During the year, we have met with a wide range of our partners in order to review the action being taken and identify any gaps in provision or examples of good practice. This includes representatives from Northumbria Police, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, gentoo, Nexus, Victim Support and the Magistrates Court. We also received details of the impact of deprivation on the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Committee also attended the XL Village evening event held at Redhouse school in order to view at first hand the kind of activities on offer for young people and speak with the organisers and the young people themselves. We were particularly impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of the staff involved and the dramatic effect such events can have on incidences of anti social behaviour.

We also undertook a highly informative visit to Gilbridge Police Station in order to discuss the approach of the police to tackling anti social behaviour in the city. This was followed by a tour of a number of "hotspot" locations and visit to view at first hand the operation of the Partnership's CCTV centre based at the Civic Centre. The Committee also G4S offices based in Washington to discuss system of tagging for offenders.

The Committee has also looked at the work being done by the SSP to tackle violent crime in the city. At the beginning of the year, we received a report on a proposed pilot to introduce polycarbonate glasses into a number of pubs in the city centre. We were most impressed by the potential of the scheme to reduce incidences of crime and fear of crime and urged the SSP Board to identify additional funding for the pilot to be extended. Pleasingly, the SSP accepted out approach and we will continue to monitor the effect of the scheme in the year ahead.

What has been most pleasing during the year is the active level of support and commitment shown by our partners on the SSP. We feel it is important to continue to develop partnership working and strengthen the links with our partners.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues for their hard work and enthusiasm during the year and look forward to next year being equally rewarding and productive.

4. Recommendation

Members are asked to consider the operation, achievements and impact of the Committee during 2009/10;

That the report, together with the comments of members, be submitted to the Management Scrutiny Committee on 29 April 2010 and incorporated into the Annual Scrutiny Report.

5. Background Papers

CPA Action Plan
City of Sunderland Corporate Assessment

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

FORWARD PLAN – KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2010 – 31 JULY 2010

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20 APRIL 2010

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update members on the position with regard to the Executive's Forward Plan for the period 1 April 2010 – 31 July 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Forward Plan contains matters which are likely to be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Executive. The Plan covers a four month period and is prepared and updated on a monthly basis.
- 2.2 Holding the Executive to account is one of the main functions of Scrutiny. One of the ways that this can be achieved is by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and deciding whether Scrutiny can add value in advance of the decision being made. This does not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.3 Members requested that only those items which are under the remit of the Committee be reported to this Committee. The remit of the Committee covers the following themes:-

Safer Sunderland Strategy, Social Inclusion, Community Safety; Anti Social Behaviour; Domestic Violence; Community Cohesion; Equalities; Licensing Policy and Regulation, Community Associations, Registrars.

- 2.4 Members are asked to note that there are no items in the current Forward Plan relating to the remit of this Committee.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Committee note the report.

4. Background Papers

None

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COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

20 April 2010

WORK PROGRAMME 2009-10

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priority : CIO1, CI04

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 The report attaches, for Members' information, the current work programme for the Committee's work during the 2009-10 Council year.
- 1.2 The work of the Committee in delivering its work programme will support the Council in achieving its Strategic Priorities of Safer An City, support delivery of the related themes of the Local Area Agreement, and, through monitoring the performance of the Council's services, help the Council achieve its Corporate Improvement Objectives CIO1 (delivering customer focussed services) and C104 (improving partnership working to deliver 'One City').

2. Background

- 2.1 The work programme is a working document which Committee can develop throughout the year. The work programme allows Members and Officers to maintain an overview of work planned and undertaken during the Council year.

3. Current position

- 3.1 The work programme reflects discussions that have taken place at the Scrutiny Workshop and at the meeting of the Committee on 15 June 2009. The current work programme is attached as an appendix to this report.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The work programme developed from the meeting will form a flexible mechanism for managing the work of the Committee in 2009-10.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 That Members note the information contained in the work programme and consider the inclusion of proposals for the Committee into the work programme.

6. Glossary

n/a

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| | JUNE 15.6.09 | JULY 7.7.09 | SEPTEMBER 15.9.09 | OCTOBER 13.10.09 | NOVEMBER 10.11.09 | DECEMBER 8.12.09 | JANUARY 12.1.10 | FEBRUARY 9.2.10 | MARCH 9.3.10 | APRIL 20.4.10 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Policy Review | Proposals for policy review (Jim Diamond) | Scope of review – Anti Social Behaviour and Alcohol (Jim Diamond/Stuart Douglass) | Approach to review (JD) Impact of Deprivation – Visit) | Evidence Gathering | Evidence Gathering – Anti Social Behaviour and Housing (Stuart Douglass) Feedback from Conference (Members) Arrangements for Safer Sunderland Forum (J Diamond) | Evidence Gathering Tackling Deliberate Fires (John Allison) Neighbourhood Helpline (Liz St Louis) Safer Sunderland Forum – Feedback (Jim Diamond) | Evidence Gathering Nexus (Ken Wilson) Home Office Advice on Tackling Anti Social Behaviour (Bill Blackett) Environmental Enforcement Teams (Norma Johnson) | Evidence Gathering Not in my Neighbourhood Week – Feedback (Bill Blackett) Visit to City Police Teams (Jim Diamond) Visit to Youth Village (Andy Neal) | Evidence Gathering Tagging Visit (Claire Harrison) Victim Support (Gillian Thirlwell) LMAPS (Bill Blackett) Community Engagement and Progress on the Policing Pledge (Stuart Douglass) | Anti Social Behaviour - Final Report |
| Scrutiny | | Polycarbonate Drinking Vessels – City Centre Pilot (Stuart Douglass) | | National Drug Strategy (Stuart Douglass) Poverty of Place – Visit (Sal Buckler) | | Violent Crime – Delivery Plan 2009/10 (Stuart Douglass) | | | Reducing Reoffending (Stuart Douglass) | Magistrates Court (Lisa Shotton) XL Village (Andy Neal) |
| Scrutiny (Performance) | | | Performance Q1 (Mike Lowe) | | | | CAA Report and Performance (Gillian Robinson) Strategic Planning Process (John Beaney) | Annual Delivery Plan (Sal Buckler) | | Performance Framework Q3/Fear of Crime Update (Mike Lowe) |
| Ref Cabinet | | | | Gambling Act – Amendments to Statement of Principles (Norma Johnston) | | | | | | |
| Committee Business | Work Programme 2008/09 (JD) | | | Request to Attend Conference (J Diamond) | | | Review of Councillor Call for Action (Jim Diamond) | | | |

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|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CCFA/Members Items/Petitions | | | | | | | | | | |
| Information | | | | | | | | | | |