

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

6th September 2011

Performance Report Quarter 4 (April – March 2011)

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 against the former national indicators relating to the period April 2010 to March 2011.

2.0 Background

Performance against the national indicators, particularly those identified as priorities identified in the former Local Area Agreement (LAA) have been reported to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of the quarterly performance monitoring arrangements. This report provides the end of year position.

In October 2010 the Government announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. In 2010/11 the Government also announced the demise of the National Indicator set and a move towards self regulation and improvement with an emphasis on reporting against local priorities.

As a consequence the performance framework of Sunderland City Council is being reviewed. A new framework is being developed that focuses on local priorities and the achievement of outcomes relevant to the people, place and economy of Sunderland. The new framework will form the basis of future performance reporting to scrutiny.

3.0 Performance Overview

3.1 Crime

There have been substantial reductions in recorded crime, ranging from a 1.9% reduction in serious violent crime to a 41% reduction in vehicle interference. Total crime reduced by 8% which equates to 1,637 fewer victims of crime. Table 2 shows a summary of performance against the main recorded crime categories for 2010/2011 when compared with 2009/2010.

Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	18,955	20,592	-7.9%
Violent crime (excluding Penalty Notice for Disorder - PND)	3,881	4,309	-9.9%
• Violence against the person	3,639	4,034	-9.8%

• Violence against the person - With injury	2,022	2,300	-12.1%
• Most serious violence	202	206	-1.9%
• Violence against the person - Without injury	1,617	1,734	-6.7%
• Robbery	113	132	-14.4%
• Sexual offences	249	229	8.7%
Vehicle crime	1,592	2,213	-28.1%
• Vehicle interference	140	238	-41.2%
• TFMV	1,050	1,463	-28.2%
• TWOC	402	512	-21.5%
Burglary	1,997	2,094	-4.6%
• Burglary dwelling	884	829	6.6%
• Burglary OTD	1,113	1,265	-12.0%
Criminal damage	4,468	5,192	-13.9%
• Criminal damage - vehicle	1,717	2,038	-15.8%
• Criminal damage - dwelling	1,529	1,727	-11.5%
• Criminal damage - other than dwelling	474	522	-9.2%
• Criminal damage – other	748	905	-17.3%
Drug crime	1,147	1,061	8.1%
Other crime ¹	5,750	5,637	2.0%
Shoplifting	1,959	2,363	-17.1%
Theft from the person	119	157	-24.2%
Theft of a pedal cycle	343	316	8.5%
Serious acquisitive crime	2,449	2,936	-16.6%
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	116	133	-12.8%
Anti-Social behaviour	25,322	26,012	-2.7%
• Youth ASB	8,303	9,593	-13.4%
• Non-Youth ASB	17,019	16,419	3.7%

As the table shows Most Serious Violence is showing a decrease of 1.9% compared to the previous year, reducing from an increase of 16.3% at the end of Nov 2010. However Burglary Dwelling 7%, Sexual offences 9%, Drug crime 8%, Theft of a pedal cycle 9% and Non-Youth ASB 4% are showing an increase when compared to last year. There has been an increase of 20 sexual offences Apr to Mar 2011 (9%). These crimes can be broken into rape, other serious sexual offences and other sexual offences. The increase is spread across Sunderland East, Sunderland South, Sunderland West, Houghton and Washington. A significant number of these crimes have related to historical offences.

There was a reduction of 13% Apr to Mar 2011 when compared with Apr to Mar 2010 in assaults involving actual bodily harm (NI 20). There has been a reduction of 274 assaults with less serious injury for Apr to Mar 2011 dropping from 2,093 to 1,819 offences. The crime rate in Sunderland 6.5 per 1000 residents for assault with injury is below the average (7.8) when compared with most similar Community Safety Partnership CSP.

¹ Other Crime e.g. theft of a pedal cycle, fraud and forgery, miscellaneous crime such as blackmail, perjury, bail offences etc.

The number of serious violent offences involving the use of a knife or other sharp instrument (NI 28) which is collected by Northumbria force area has fallen from 0.45 in March 2010 to 0.28 per 1,000 population reported in March 2011.

Repeat incidents of domestic violence managed by MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) (NI 32) has fallen from a 33.96% repeat rate in March 2010 to a 20% repeat rate reported in March 2011, which is also lower than the projected target for the year. The number of domestic homicide offences (NI 34) across the Northumbria force area has fallen from 0.01 per 1,000 population reported in March 2010 to 0.00 reported in March 2011.

3.2 Reducing Re-Offending

There was a 17.3% reduction against the national three year target of 10.1% for youth re-offending (NI 19) and this has been achieved through a reducing re-offending strategy aimed at tackling the risk factors that national research has shown to be linked to offending. These include having a suitable accommodation (former NI 46) and being actively engaged in education, training and employment (NI 45). Excellent performance has been achieved against both these indicators as at March 2011. The percentage of young people sentenced to custody (NI 43) continues to be maintained at a low level. The performance of 1.9% represents just 13 young people and for a second year the Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has written to the Chief Executive of Sunderland Council congratulating Sunderland on this performance. This performance has been achieved through the delivery of effective alternatives to custody such as the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Scheme that have the confidence of the local courts.

The latest available re-offending data for Prolific and Priority Offenders (NI 30) is based on Q3 2010 -11 and is within target. The cohort comprised 46 PPOs, with an average of 49.0 months on programme and 112 convictions. This represents a -45% improvement in number of convictions. An increased number of offenders under probation supervision are living in suitable & settled accommodation (NI 143), with 86% reported in March 2011 compared to 82% in the previous year. An increased number are also in employment at the end of their order (NI 144), with 46% reported in March 2011 against 39% reported in March 2010. Both measures have exceeded the projected target for the year. A number of positive actions have been taken to address adult re-offending including targeting of high crime causers, for example: 1) the monthly targeting meeting to identify problematic offenders at the earliest opportunity and take positive action 2) development of the drug recovery wing in Durham prison which will improve the links between prison and the community and address the issue of repeat offending.

Joint work has been undertaken between Sunderland Youth Offending Service and National Probation Services to recruit a YOS Officer within the Probation IOM to target high crime causes in the transitional age band.

3.3 Other

For 2010/11 the number of primary and secondary fires causing injury or fatality has reduced from 2009/10, with all targets achieved for the year. However, the total number of non-fatal fire casualties per 100,000 population (NI 49iii) has increased from 5.7 incidents in March 2010, to 6.4 incidents (per 100,000 Tyne and Wear population).

The speed at which abandoned vehicles are removed (BVPI 218b) has improved, with 100% of vehicles removed within 24 hours compared to 93.75% reported in the previous year.

The % of food establishments that are broadly compliant with food hygiene law (NI 184) has increased year on year, although has fallen short of its projected target of 89%. The National Food Hygiene Rating System was launched in June 2011 which may influence businesses to improve standards in the future.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of all performance measures collected within Community and Safer City.

4. Recommendation

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