

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

3RD APRIL 2012

PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 3 (OCTOBER – DECEMBER 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 for the period October to December 2011.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Performance reports provided to Scrutiny Committee prior to March 2011 were based on performance indicators from the previous government's national indicator list, with a particular focus on those prioritised within the Local Area Agreement. In October 2010 the Coalition Government announced the deletion of the National Indicator set and also announced that from April 2011 there would no longer be a requirement for council's to produce an LAA. Both announcements signalled a move towards self regulation and improvement with more flexibility to report against local priorities using a set of locally determined measures.

For 2011/12 and beyond the Council's aim is that performance reporting should be focused on the key priorities for the people, place and economy of Sunderland. This new approach will be reflected in the performance reports and evolve and develop over 2011/12. Performance reports will include former national performance indicators reported to scrutiny committee adopted into the local performance framework for 2011 – 2012 (and those that continue to provide performance reporting relevant to the key issues and priorities for Sunderland will continue be part of the reporting framework for 2012 – 2013). In addition as part of the Council's annual planning arrangements, consideration is also being given to identifying new localised performance measures which will also be needed to support a robust performance framework tailored to local needs. These will be reported to the relevant scrutiny committee as appropriate and some of these new measures will be reported in 2011/12, where information is available and adds value to the review of performance. Members should also be aware there are also some former national indicators that are no longer available and have therefore been removed from the performance framework.

Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract of the basket of indicators that the Council has identified within the self-regulation performance framework for 2011-2012 that demonstrate progress against priorities that fall within the remit of this committee.

3.0 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The following section contains a summary of performance in relation to anti-social behaviour, crime, reducing re-offending and perceptions of crime (feelings of safety).

Anti-Social Behaviour

3.1 There were 4514 anti-social behaviour incidents during quarter 3 of 2011/12. This is an improvement on the previous quarter, down from 4929 and a reduction of 415 incidents. There has been a significant fall in anti-social behaviour for year to date (April-December), down from 20356 to 14515, a reduction of 29%. There were 671 Alcohol related ASB incidents during Qu3 of 2011/12, a rise from 636 in the previous quarter. The highest number of incidents took place in December, with more occurring during the Christmas period. A number of anti-social behaviour initiatives have contributed to these reductions in anti-social behaviour. These include:-

- A 25% reduction in ASB fires during Bonfire Night in November 2011 achieved through partnership activity including poster campaigns, uplifts of bonfire materials, comprehensive schools education programme and the promotion of legal organised bonfires.
- Partnership work with Balance (the North East Alcohol Office) during Alcohol Awareness Week in November which included promoting the e-petition and the 'Sam's campaign' key messages around availability, accessibility and affordability of alcohol.
- New tactics to help tackle motorcycle disorder including intelligence gathering via residents, targeted operations and positive marketing of the outcomes, education in schools and education / awareness raising through posters in targeted areas as well as literature for parents and young people.
- Deployment of resources to ASB hotspots based on intelligence gathering from regular meetings between police, Gentoo, the council's ASB team and the Youth Development Group.
- The implementation of Operation Choice in 2011, (following on from the successful Operation Horizon in Washington) that involved the deployment of the Horizon teams and youth workers to tackle youth related disorder with a focus on primary and secondary school engagement. To date compared to the same period last year youth related anti-social behaviour has further dropped by 16%.
- The Middle Hendon and Long Streets Selective Licensing Scheme has helped tackle tenants causing anti-social behaviour. Since July 2010 there have been 105 requests for service of which 68 cases have been resolved and 37 are being actively pursued.
- Continued partnership activity through LMAPS and Area Committees such as the Phoenix project and Kickz.

3.2 Despite a fall in anti-social behaviour incidents in the quarter, young people drinking/being rowdy was a key concern raised by residents in the Safer Communities Survey for the same period (see section on perceptions of crime). There were 197 youth related alcohol incidents during quarter 3 October-December, which is a reduction on the previous quarter down from 266, and a 26% fall. 73% of respondents of the survey thought that the Police and Council were dealing with ASB and crime issues that mattered in their

area (the same as the force average, with no significant change from the previous survey). This has remained the same as the previous quarter.

Crime

- 3.3 Total crime for the quarter October– December 11 stood at 4471, down 1% on the previous quarter. There has been a 5% reduction for the year to date (April-December 11); down from 14226 to 13534, this is against a target of 2%. Sunderland currently has the 3rd lowest crime rate (out of 15 partnerships) within its peer group of similar community safety partnerships (iQuanta).
- 3.4 Many crime types have fallen during October to December 2011. Violent crime has fallen by 11% compared with the previous quarter and is down 14% for the year to date (April-December 11), down from 3051 to 2616. Criminal damage has also fallen by 11% for the year to date, down from 3228 to 2876. Assault with less serious injury has fallen by 21% during the quarter, down from 390 to 308.

The Safer Sunderland Partnership continued to support to Northumbria-wide 'Keys, Money, Phone Plans to get Home' campaign throughout December to promote the personal safety messages for young women in the night time economy (plus additional messages targeted towards men around staying in control of your night out). Added value partnership activity included funding additional radio coverage (for SunFM), social media, use of the Digivan, and posters were displayed in pub washrooms. Free radio advertising was also secured with Spark FM. External evaluation of the campaign has shown excellent recall of the safety messages by the target audience.

A range of initiatives operate in the city centre which help to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder. These include the Best Bar None scheme, Sunderland Street Pastors and the Taxi Marshalls. The Street Pastors have helped hundred of people who have found themselves in difficulty or vulnerable in the city centre after a night out. The marshalled taxi ranks help reduce the number of incidents of disorder and queue jumping.

- 3.5 There are some crime types that have seen increases in the current quarter. Serious acquisitive crime has seen a rise of 17% during the current quarter; however for the year to date there has been a small decrease of 1% down from 1830 to 1809. Most serious violence has also seen an increase for the current quarter, but a decrease of 20% for year to date down from 161 to 129. Vehicle crime has also increased in the current quarter from 332 to 432 crimes; however there has been a 4% decrease for year to date down from 1204 to 1155 crimes. Quarterly performance is shown in appendix 1. Changes from quarter to quarter can be a result of seasonal fluctuations and thus comparison is given in the appendix with the same period in the previous year.
- 3.6 Table 2 shows a summary of performance against the main recorded crime categories.

Table 2: Sunderland Crime April to December 2011			
Actual vs. Previous YTD			
Measure	Actual	Previous YTD	% Variance
Total crime	13,534	14,191	-4.6%
Violent crime (excluding PNDs)	2,532	2,950	-14.2%
• Violence against the person	2,353	2,776	-15.2%
• Violence against the person - With injury	1,166	1,566	-25.5%
• Most serious violence	129	157	-17.8%
• Violence against the person - Without injury	1,187	1,210	-1.9%
• Robbery	80	79	+1.3%
• Sexual offences	183	182	+0.5%
Vehicle crime	1,155	1,202	-3.9%
• Vehicle interference	65	116	-44.0%
• Theft From Motor Vehicle	843	782	+7.8%
• TWOC	247	304	-18.8%
Burglary	1,483	1,540	-3.7%
• Burglary dwelling	639	665	-3.9%
• Burglary OTD	844	875	-3.5%
Criminal damage	2,902	3,264	-11.1%
Drug Crime	859	781	+10.0%
Other Crime	4,519	4,367	+3.5%
Shoplifting	1,635	1,506	+8.6%
Theft from the person	83	84	-1.2%
Serious acquisitive crime	1,809	1,830	-1.1%
Racially and religiously aggravated crime	78	94	-17.0%

Reducing Offending and Re-Offending

- 3.7 The reductions in the numbers of children and young people aged 10-17 offending for the first time (first time entrants) has been maintained in quarter 3. There were 58 young people who were first time entrants to the youth justice system between October and December 2011. This is consistent with the numbers of first time entrants (58) in quarter 3 of 2010 and a maintained low rate compared to previous years where the numbers of first time entrants was 81 for quarter 3 (October to December) of 2009 and 153 for quarter 3 of 2008. A key initiative that is considered to have contributed to sustaining a lower rate of first time entrants is the Arrest Diversion scheme, a partnership between Sunderland City Council, Northumbria Police and other partners under the Sunderland Youth Offending Service partnership. The scheme is delivered using national funding attracted as a result of the success of the former Youth Support in Custody and Triage schemes. It combines referral onto appropriate services through early identification of need with diversion from the youth justice system through the use of restorative justice.
- 3.8 In relation to re-offending, from April 2012 a new measure will be reported on based on new data published by the Ministry of Justice that aligns statistics on

youth and adult re-offending. The previous national indicator for youth re-offending (former national indicator 19) as measured by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales has now been discontinued. The latest available data for the former national indicator (previously reported to scrutiny) relates to the end of March 2011. Over a three year period of 2008 – 2011 there was 17.3% reduction in youth re-offending against the national three year target of 10.1%. It is expected that scrutiny will be provided with an overview of the first quarterly performance for youth re-offending for the new measure at the end of quarter 1 of 2012-2013 (April to June 2012).

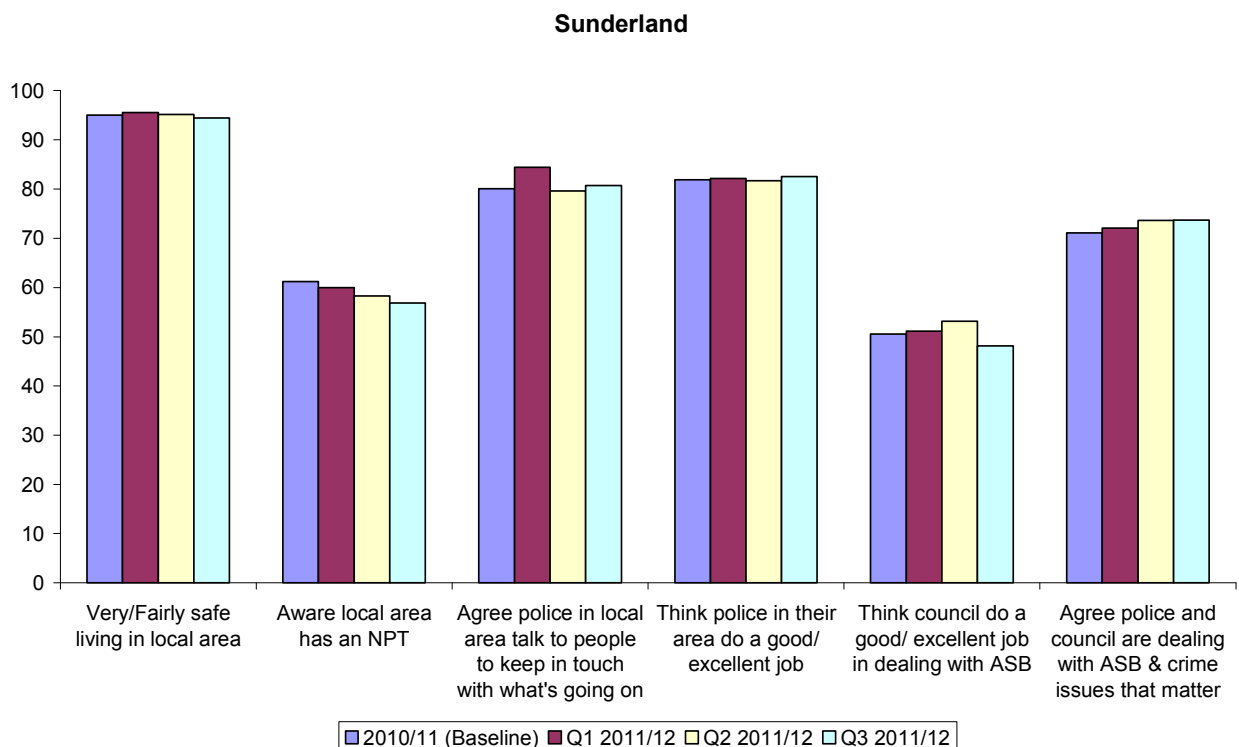
- 3.9 The former national indicator for adult re-offending (former national indicator 18) remains a current national measure of adult re-offending till end of March 2012. For the 12 month rolling period ending September 2011 Sunderland is performing well. The rate of re-offending rate was 15.92%. This is -0.33% below baseline. A number of interventions have contributed to the improvements in adult re-offending these include;
- The establishment of the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM) which utilises a multi-agency approach to target and support the most prolific and complex offenders. There was a reduction of 18% in total crime for the IOM cohort (drug or alcohol cases) between January 2010 and January 2012 and a reduction of 35% in total crime for PPOs between January 2010 and January 2012.
 - Stronger links have been developed with the prison service including Durham and HMP Northumberland to target short term prisoners and address the issue of the revolving door between custody and the community.
 - Relationships have been developed with housing officers, job centre plus and Sunderland University, to help improve housing, employment and training opportunities for offenders
 - Transitional pathways between the youth justice system and adult criminal justice system are being strengthened through the secondment of a Youth Offending Service Officer within the Integrated Offender Management Unit and two Youth Offending Service staff based within the probation service.
 - Community Payback continues to grow from strength to strength with adult offenders in 2010/11 completing 35,603 hours of payback the equivalent to providing £211,131 of unpaid labour invested in Sunderland communities.
- 3.10 There was a 12.9% repeat incident rate for Domestic violence cases reviewed by MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference - a victim-focused meeting where information is shared on the highest risk cases of domestic abuse between criminal justice, health, child protection and housing practitioners). Alcohol related domestic violence has risen for the year to date from 251 to 289, representing a rise of 15%. A task and finish group has been established to improve information sharing; identify domestic violence and alcohol misuse issues; and improve referrals to appropriate support for victims, perpetrators and problematic alcohol users. A problem profile detailing alcohol related domestic violence will be produced with key actions developed between the alcohol delivery network and the domestic violence partnership.

Perceptions of Crime (Feelings of Safety)

3.11 95% of respondents of the Safer Communities Survey felt very or fairly safe living in their local area of Sunderland. This is comparable to the Northumbria Force average of 96%. Results were lower when respondents were asked how safe they felt their council area as a whole. 77% of respondents thought Sunderland was very or fairly safe, this was lower than the force average of 86%. Other key findings were:-

- Residents of Sunderland are more likely to feel that crime and anti-social behaviour have fallen in the last 12 months.
- However, they are also more likely to perceive young people being drunk/rowdy as a problem – this issue has seen an increase this year both at an area command level and specifically in Houghton.

3.12 Following the last report to scrutiny a query was raised regarding comparisons with other areas. A response was circulated that confirmed the only comparison available was with other Tyne and Wear authorities. Both Sunderland and Gateshead were below the Tyne and Wear average for feelings of safety in relation to the council area as a whole. Once a full year's worth of data has been collated, it is intended that further analysis will be done on reasons for the higher feelings of safety at a local level.



3.13 The chart above demonstrates that across the six measures, resident's perceptions in Sunderland have shown minor fluctuations over the last three quarters. The fluctuations across these measures in Sunderland are similar to those observed at a force level.

Other

- 3.14 There were no fire fatalities during quarter 3 of 2011/12, this compares with 1 in quarter 1 (April to June 2011) and 1 in quarter 2 (July to September 2011). Both of these were a result of accidental fires in dwellings.
- 3.15 The speed at which abandoned vehicles are removed continues to perform well, with 100% of vehicles removed within 24 hours. Similarly, the speed in which abandoned vehicles are investigated has increased from 92.65% in December 2010 to 97.18% in December 2011 and is ahead of the 90% target for the year end.
- 3.16 87% of food establishment premises were broadly compliant with the local authority's standards as at the end of December 2011, which is an improvement on 84% recorded last year. It is considered that the National Food Hygiene Rating system introduced in 2011 has influenced businesses to improve.

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.

Contact Officer: Kelly Davison-Pullan
Title: Lead Officer for Corporate Performance
Telephone: 0191 566 3048 / 07795 238 059