

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

STUDY INTO ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – ‘NOT IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD - WEEK OF ACTION’

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 FEBRUARY 2010

Strategic Priorities : Safe City

Corporative Improvement Objectives : CI01,CI04

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an overview to the Scrutiny Committee on the ‘Week of Action’ which was held in support of the ‘Home Office ‘Not in My Neighbourhood Week’ of Action held between Monday 2nd and Friday 6th November 2009 in the Sunderland West Neighbourhood Police area.
- 1.2 This report has been submitted as part of the Committee’s study into the action being taken by the Safer Sunderland Partnership into anti social behaviour in to the city.

2. Introduction

- 2.1 In April 2009, the Home Office announced that in order to build on previous and similar campaigns held in 2007 and 2008, there was to be a ‘Not in My Neighbourhood Campaign’ between 2nd and 6th November 2009. The purpose of such campaigns is to bring short-term intensive multi-agency activities to designated local areas.

3. Background

- 3.1 The aims of the Week of Action were designed to: -
 - Increase awareness among the local community of what the police and local agencies do to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Increase public confidence in the work the police and local agencies are doing to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour and make communities safer.
 - Encourage the public to engage with the police and local agencies and play their part in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - Engage local and regional media and encourage them to support the work carried out locally.
- 3.2 Based on partnership consultation and local needs using the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group process (LMAPS), it was agreed to concentrate the activities in the Sunderland West Neighbourhood Police area.
- 3.3 Partners expressed their availability to contribute resources and time to their specialist roles and an ‘Action Plan’ was agreed. The area Northumbria Police Acting Inspector from the Sunderland West Neighbourhood Policing Team, acted as the operational lead on the exercise.
- 3.4 Home Office questionnaire forms were used daily in each area targeted and a post exercise survey was also completed in each target area to test the views of residents both during and after the partnership activities

3.5 The project was launched with partners on Monday 2nd November 2009 and photographs indicating elements of the week are available if requested.

4. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY AND RESULTS (SUMMARY)

4.1 Wide ranging multi agency activity was carried out in the West Police area between Monday 2nd and Friday 6th November 2009.

4.2 The activities were centred on the following areas and dates: -

- 2.11.09 Thorney Close
- 3.11.09 Grindon
- 4.11.09 Pennywell
- 5.11.09 The overall West police area
- 6.11.09 Eden Vale/Beachville Street

4.3 Partner activities included: -

- **City Council Environmental Enforcement Officers and Environment Agency staff with Northumbria Police** - Officers targeted suspected unlicensed waste carriers. A total of 30 vehicles were stopped and offences detected including waste licensing breaches, various road traffic offences and an arrest for disqualified driving was made by the police officers in attendance.
- **National Probation Service Northumbria** in partnership with the **City Council Community and Cultural Services Directorate** - provided 4 day's input using 7 supervisory staff working with 34 offenders carrying out unpaid work that equated to 204 hours of work.
- **Gentoo** – attended the “launch” of the initiative and participated in a neighbourhood patrol in the Thorney Close area. They also contributed to a secondary “launch event” on day 2 and supported a drop in advice session for local residents.
- **Victim Support – Sunderland** participated in the launch event and estate walkabout promoting their ongoing target-hardening project “Safe and Sound”.
- **City Council Environmental officers** - provided ‘dog and litter’ patrols throughout the week resulting in 3-fixed penalty notice issues.
- **City Council Anti Social Behaviour Team** supported the launch event and area walkabout and contributed throughout the week. They carried out area walkabouts looking for housing that may be prejudicial to health and advised Planning Enforcement Officers of a potential unlicensed property. Local residents were also advised as to Council powers in respect of housing conditions and evening patrols were also carried out to address reassurance. Officers also carried out post operation feedback visits to test the impact of the initiative.
- **Sunderland Youth Parliament** – hosted a debate with 8 young people and qualified youth workers. Partners assisted the young people to build a better understanding of other agencies including the police team who also supported. further similar discussions are requested.
- **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue** - fire officers visited 22 properties and contacted 60 persons on Day 1 advising on fire safety and fitting smoke alarms. 9 retailers were visited to carry out storage inspections in respect of Explosives Regulations. On day 3 crews carried out demonstrations in public of ‘chip pan fires’ and provided advice to the community. Illegal bonfires were monitored and advice given on the danger levels of these structures. This project was called Operation Ember and was assessed as successful.

- **City Council Attendance Officers with uniformed Police and Community Support officers** contacted 4 young people who were out of school. It was confirmed that 1 of these persons was truanting. Officers were accompanied on one occasion by an HMI for schools in the capacity of an observer. Advice was provided to those contacted on fixed term exclusions and elective home education.
- **Northumbria Police –**
- Provided the West Neighbourhood Poling Team which consists of 1 x Inspector, 2 x Sergeants, 17 constables/CSO's. Various operations were undertaken and warrants executed resulting in arrests.
- A civilian Support Officer with extensive Neighbourhood Watch and Community experience attended the target areas in a marked police vehicle providing advice to the community and provided reassurance.
- Traffic and neighbourhood officers supported other initiatives including the environmental waste patrols.
- Police dog and mounted branch officers on horseback also patrolled the target areas throughout the week to provide a preventive and reassurance profile.

5. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The table below indicates the number of crimes and youth-related disorder incidents* which occurred in the West Police area during the period covering the week of action 2009 and the corresponding week in 2008.

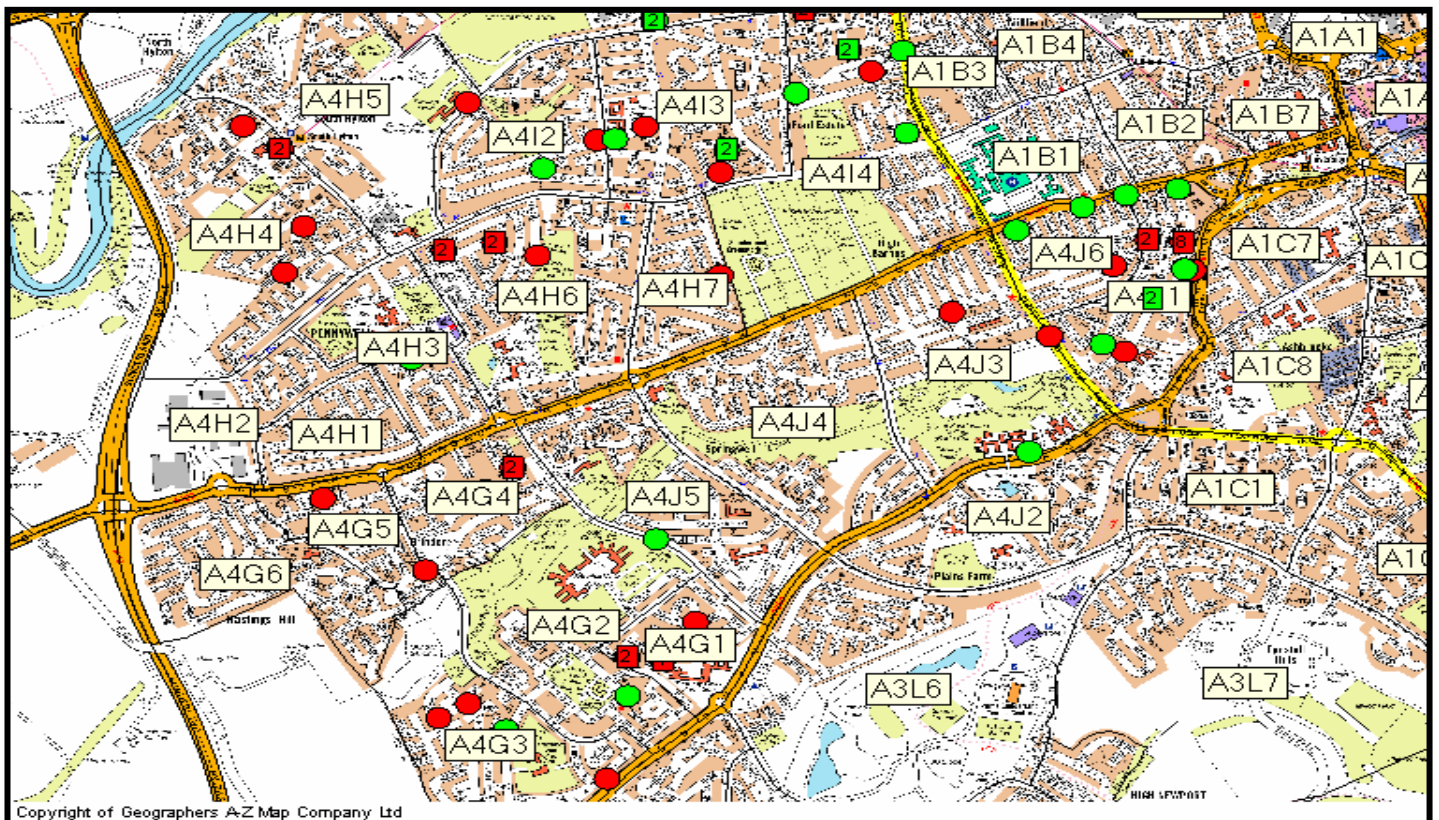
Analysis and Research
Intelligence Unit
Sunderland Area Command



Not in My Neighbourhood Week (2nd - 6th Nov)

Between 02/11/08 – 06/11/08:

- There were 52 youth disorder related incidents in A4. (indicated by **RED** circle)
- There were 26 crimes. (indicated by **GREEN** circle)



Crimes

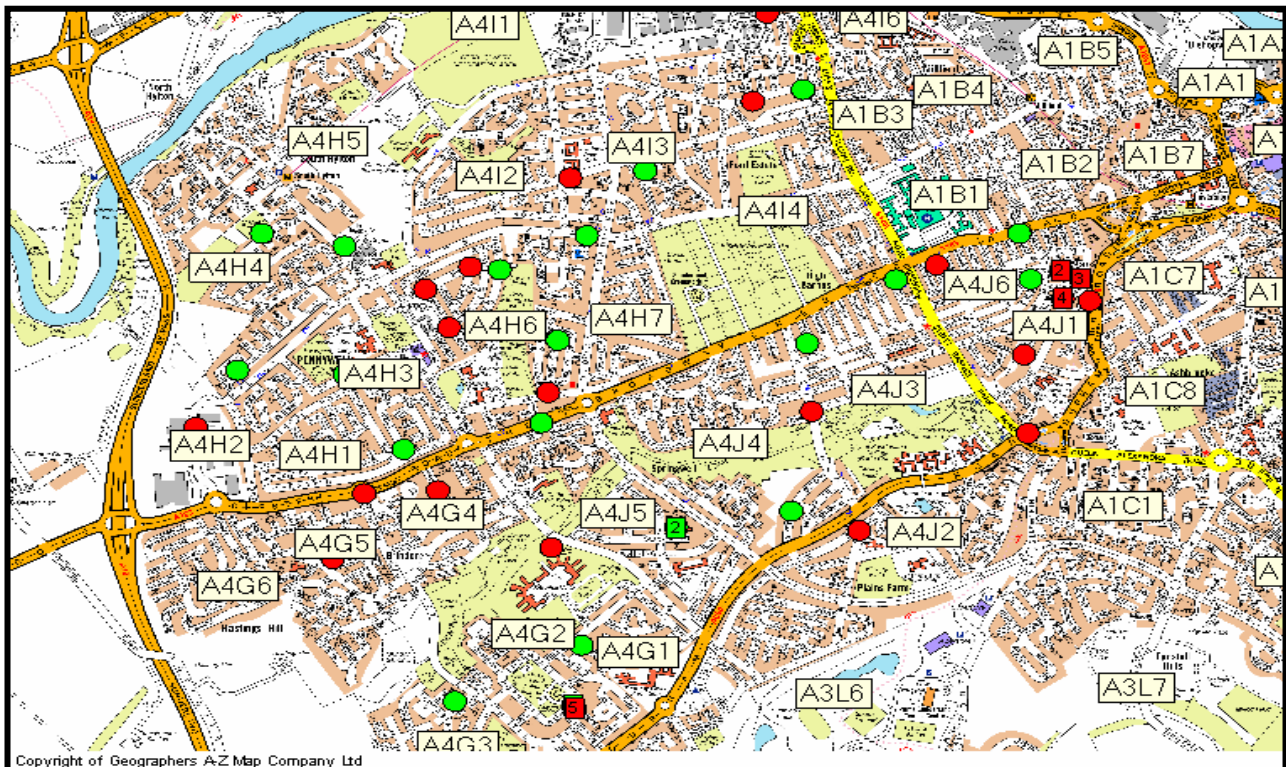
Sector/Beat	HO Class	Total
A4I4	Burg Otd	1
	Twoc	1
	Theft other	1
	Criminal dam otd	2
A4J1	Assault	2
	Criminal dam otd	1
	Affray	1
A4I3	Theft other	2
	Damage m/veh	1
	Public order	1
A4J6	Burg Otd	1
	Theft from m/veh	1
	Damage m/veh	1

A4J3	Arson	1
	Damage m/veh	1
A4H3	105/01	1
A4I2	Burg Otd	1
A4G4	Damage Otd	1
A4G2	Damage Otd	1
A4I5	Shoplifting	1
A4G3	Damage dwelling	1
A4I1	assault	1
A4J5	Damage dwelling	1
Grand Total		26

Not in My Neighbourhood Week (2nd - 6th Nov)

Between 02/11/09 – 06/11/09:

- There were 33 youth disorder related incidents in A4, a decrease of 19 or (36.54%) on previous year.(indicated by **RED** circle)
- There were 29 crimes an increase of 3 or (10.54%) on previous years. In A4 (indicated by **GREEN** circle)



Count of Sector/Beat		
Sector/Beat	Crime	Total
A4J6	ROBBERY	1
	ARSON	1
A4J5	THEFT - SHOPLIFTING	1
	ASSAULT S. 47	1
	COMMON ASSAULT	1
A4J4	DMAGE OTHER	1
A4J3	BURGLARY OTD OTHER	2
A4J1	ASSAULT S. 47	1
A4I5	THEFT - SHOPLIFTING	2
A4I4	COMMON ASSAULT	1
	ARSON	1
A4I3	BURGLARY OTD OTHER	1

A4H6	THEFT OF PEDAL CYCLE	1
	PUBLIC ORDER SEC 5	1
A4H5	BURGLARY OTD OTHER	1
A4H4	THEFT FROM MOTOR VEH	1
	DAMAGE (MOTOR VEHICLE)	1
A4H3	PUBLIC ORDER SEC 4	1
	DAMAGE (DWELLING)	1
A4G3	POSSESS CANNABIS	2
	ARSON	1
	BURGLARY DWELLING	1
	POSSESS AMPHETAMINE	1
A4G2	POSSESS POINTED ARTICLE	1
	BURGLARY OTD OTHER	1
A4G1	DAMAGE (DWELLING)	1
Grand Total		29

6. Community Feedback

- 6.1 During the exercise, the Northumbria Police Civilian Support officer visiting the individual target areas and completed 61 public feedback forms, signed up 84 persons for the Northumbria Police Community Messaging Service and received 9 expressions of interest in joining Neighbourhood Watch schemes.
- 6.2 The results of the public feedback form across the week indicated that out of 61 completed: -
- 42 (67%) thought each event planning was excellent
 - 40 (65%) were aware of partnership activity in their area before attending the event.
 - 56 (91%) increased their understanding of the partnership working after attending the event.
 - 56 (91%) learnt more about becoming involved after attending the event
 - 49 (80%) were more likely to engage in partnership after attending the event.
 - 47 (77%) felt safer where they live after attending

7. Post Exercise Evaluation

- 7.1 Officers from the City Council's Anti Social Behaviour Team visited the key target areas with a questionnaire and visited a sample number of homes.
- 7.2 The majority of respondents, both personal and postal, although noticing police activity in the area, did not link this with any specific campaign, and would support another exercise that was advertised in advance to a greater level. This re-inforced the view that the moving of activity to different locations on a daily basis did not give partners sufficient time to impact significantly on each of those areas. However, the level of public reassurance seems to have remained stable without any increase in concerns or fear of crime during the week in all areas.

8.0 Conclusion and Next Steps

- 8.1 Based on the feedback forms from participating agencies and the statistical/anecdotal/questionnaire results, there is confidence that the 'Week of Action' concept has again produced positive results and maintained existing levels of community reassurance.
- 8.2 The operational element of the project was carried out with support from Northumbria Police and the Sunderland West LMAPS Group.
- 8.3 Anecdotal comment from local Northumbria Police Officers and partners, together with a formal analysis of crime statistics and questionnaires indicate that: -
- The levels of crime remained relatively unchanged over the single monitored week in the target areas compared to the same period in 2008.
 - A slight rise (+3) can be attributed to additional police presence and activity in the areas and subsequent arrests occurring due to police activity and organised raids, which formed part of the operational schedule.
 - There was a clear impact on disorder with a reduction of 36% (-19 incidents) compared to the same week the previous year.
 - There was positive response by residents who completed the daily reporting forms with excellent contacts established by Area Command staff to develop Neighbourhood Watch and other contacts.
 - The post operation questionnaires confirmed the suspicion that moving activities on a daily basis does not provide sufficient time to establish community links and significantly increase awareness of the exercise and daily schedules.
 - Post operation comments confirmed that the public would be supportive of further like activity but would appreciate increased pre- exercise publicity.
 - Although reassurance levels did not markedly increase, there was clear evidence that fear of crime remained at a stable level with those concerns expressed referring to low level youth disorder and nuisance, a response regularly experienced across the city.
 - There was a strong view of partners involved that the timing of the exercise was flawed, and that the 5th November placed in the middle of the exercise created organisational difficulties and in essence a full day was lost to agencies including the Police And Fire Service as a result of other more demanding priorities being present on 5th November (Guy Fawkes events).
 - Representatives of GONE within the SSP are requested to note this observation for the information of Central Government.
- 8.4 The proposed next step is to commend further 'Weeks of Action' as a response to local issues and to seek support of individual LMAPS Groups in the planning process.

9.0 Recommendations

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