

## **Safer Sunderland Partnership**

### **Annual Report 2014-2015**

This report provides a high level summary of progress against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan 2014/15 and the headline recorded crime data for the 12 month period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015.

#### **1. Recorded Crime 2014-2015**

Below is a summary of the changes on key recorded crime categories for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015.

- Total crime has increased by 3% during 2014/15. There had been a rise in the number of crimes from 14673 to 15090, an increase of 417 crimes.
- In 2014-15, Sunderland had the 3rd lowest total recorded crime in its Most Similar Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership group (out of 15 partnerships). The 3, 6 and 12 month projection data show an increase in crime.
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership is in the 3rd lowest family group for burglary dwelling, with an 11% reduction for the year (April-March 2015) compared to the previous year. The 3, 6 and 12 month projection data show a decrease in burglary dwelling.
- For Criminal Damage, the Safer Sunderland Partnership is the 6th Lowest in family group with a 4% rise for in 2014-15. Future trends based on the last 3 and 6 and 12 data points show a rise.
- Theft from Motor Vehicles has fallen by 8% and is 3th lowest in the family group. Projection data show a decrease based on the last 3 and 6 and 12 data points.
- Theft of Motor Vehicles has risen by 11% during 2014-15 but is still 2nd lowest in its family Group. There is a projected fall based on the last 3 data points and a rise based on 6 and 12 data points.
- Serious Acquisitive Crime has fallen 6% in the last financial year and projection charts show a projected decreased based on 3, 6 and 12 data points. Sunderland is 3rd lowest in its family group.
- The Theft and handling trend data show a projected decrease based on the last 3, 6 and 12 data points. There has been a 7% fall for the year (April – March 2015).
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership is the 2nd lowest in its family Group for Violent Crime. However, the 23% rise in 2014-15 is a significant change. The same is seen for 'Violence against the person'. In terms of Most Serious Violence, the Partnership is the lowest (i.e. best performing) out of the 15 partnerships in its group. Projection indicate a rise for both Violence Against the Person when looking at the 3, 6 and 12 month historical data trends. Robbery has also experienced a rise for the Year To Date of 14%, but is also the lowest in the group.
- For Shoplifting, the Safer Sunderland Partnership is 8th lowest in group. The projections indicate a decrease based on 3, 6 and 12 data points and there has been a 5% fall for the year 2014-15.

Table 2 below has been included to illustrate how the recorded crime stats have changed in 2014/15.

<b>Table 2: Change in Recorded Crime in Sunderland 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015</b>				
	2014/15	2013/14	% change	Variance
Total Crime	15090	14673	+3%	+417
Violence against the person - with injury	1640	1360	+21%	+280
Violence against the person - without injury	913	715	+28%	+198
Robbery	81	71	+14%	+10
Sexual offences	393	219	+79%	+174
Burglary dwelling	618	691	-11%	-73
Burglary OTD	1041	1028	+1%	+13
Theft From Motor Vehicle	909	970	-6%	-61
Taken Without Owners Consent (motor vehicles)	228	200	+28%	+14%
Criminal damage	3257	3085	+6%	+172%
Shoplifting	1894	1994	-5%	-100
Serious acquisitive crime	1836	1932	-5%	-96
Racially or religiously aggravated offences	103	98	+5%	+5
Anti Social Behaviour - Youth	3965	4538	-13%	-573
Anti Social Behaviour- Non Youth	10286	9589	+7%	+697
Anti Social Behaviour Total	14320	16941	-15%	-2621

## **2. Summary of Key Achievements Against the Safer Sunderland Partnership's Delivery Plan for 2014-15**

Below is a high level summary of progress against key improvements actions in the Safer Sunderland Delivery Plan and is structured around the priority work areas that the Partnership had in place during 2014-15.

### **2.1 Substance Misuse**

- Following poor performance in adult substance misuse treatment since August 2013, the public health commissioning team worked intensively with the treatment providers to improve the performance around successful treatment completion measures. This included a rapid review process in June 2014 followed by an intensive period of improvement activity and weekly performance monitoring. A process of re-commissioning is now underway in 2015-16 and an Improvement Board has been established to oversee the re-commission.
- A number of time-limited multi-agency meetings were pulled together to problem solve issues around (i) the use and availability of new psychoactive substances; and (ii) rises in anti-social behaviour, underage drinking and sexual exploitation. This work has continued in 2015-16.
- Meeting were held with A&E to review data on alcohol related assaults reported to A&E. There have been improvements on data input, quality and location of assault. Feedback from partners found some useful information has already been identified. In the first dataset, a licensed premise that had previously not appeared to be a cause for concern

stood out as being a place where a number of injuries had occurred. Following a police intervention, as second dataset shows a marked decline in problems at the premises. Work is still on-going to further improve data collection on the exact location of the assault. This alcohol-related assault data from A&E is now being received on a routine basis which was proving to be very useful to licensing, public health and the police on areas that are showing as problematic and was helping the police focus their activity.

- Progress was made in relation to the actions from the Scrutiny Review into alcohol control and licensing which was reported on to Scrutiny in April 2015. In terms of considering any evidence of a need for a Cumulative Impact Policy in any part of the city, a 'booze debate' involving partners took place in October 2014 where the impact of alcohol on Sunderland was discussed and a licensing workshop was used to gather wider views. Consideration was being given to historical police crime data to determine whether an increase in antisocial behaviour can be linked to an increase in the number of premises. Licensing also delivered presentations on licensing law and licence reviews to the Place Boards in order to facilitate the assistance of residents in pursuing their rights to apply for the review by the Council of the licences of premises that they feel create problems for the community.
- Work began on gathering data and intelligence as to the extent of the problem of legal highs.

## **2.2 Domestic Violence and Abuse**

- Funding was secured through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to roll-out, citywide, the successful Washington pilot whereby a dedicated response unit (unmarked car) of police officers called to any domestic abuse incident were accompanied by specialist domestic abuse workers (from Wearside Women in Need - WWIN). This successfully engaged with victims at the time of the incident to encourage a wider take up of specialist support services. This approach was also deployed on England's World Cup match days. The pilot found that apart from one individual, WWIN had no previous contact with any of the victims, which meant that a group of victims of domestic violence, have had personal contact with a specialist support service. Actions that resulted from this increased contact have included: additional home security installed in their homes; engagement in group work, one to one appointments or telephone support; a safeguarding referral being made for a man; and WWIN staff accompanying victims to court. Added value of this pilot was the 'on the job' training provided to police officers to share learning from both organisation perspectives which has ultimately improved partnership working
- The Police's "Kick Off" domestic violence campaign was launched and ran throughout the Football World Cup. Partner agencies supported this campaign by distributing and displaying the helpline numbers.
- Funding was secured from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner grant (to match fund the council's budget) to develop and deliver a campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst older people. The need for this work came from the findings of Sunderland's first Domestic Homicide Review and also from research by WWIN with a group of older victims. The former found that staff had not recognised that the victim could have been a victim of domestic abuse because of her age. There is also low reporting of domestic abuse by older women. A task and finish group was set up to progress the work and campaign concepts were developed and tested. The public-facing element of the campaign launched in December 2014 and ran for approximately 6

months to June 2015. This will be followed up in 2015-16 with messages and training aimed at key frontline staff, especially those working in health and social care.

- Funding was secured by Northumbria Police, via its successful Home Office innovation fund, to pilot a Respect accredited domestic violence non-statutory perpetrators programme in Sunderland. A consortium ('The BIG Project') comprising Impact Family Services, Barnardos, Gentoo and WWIN was commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver a 2 x 26 week rolling programme. Risk assessments have been used to identify serial perpetrators, specifically those suitable for inclusion on programmes.
- In 2014-15 Sunderland had trained over 50 Domestic and Sexual Violence Champions in a wide range of workplaces across the city with the aim of improving community and organisational responses to domestic and sexual violence. This number has increased further in 2015-16. They have an important role in being available for survivors and leading people towards help and guidance, as well as raising awareness in the organisation. Sunderland also became part of a Northumbria wide Champions Network.
- Albeit on a much reduced scale, the Home Security and Sanctuary Scheme continued to support very high risk victims of domestic abuse, but longer-term funding has been unavailable.
- A council front-line social worker was trained to be one of the 150 young people's violence advocates nationally (SafeLives programme). This was jointly funded by the Council and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner grant monies. The aim of the role is to raise awareness of teenage abuse and wider young people's violent crime issues (Honour Based Violence, sexual exploitation, on-line exploitation and cyber stalking); embed data collection at Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for 16-17 year olds; and develop clear and consistent care pathways to ensure child protection and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference processes work together. Once the role has been embedded it is hoped that the Young Persons Violence Advocate will help to: (i) increase the early identification of 13-17 year olds experiencing domestic abuse in their own relationships and (ii) protect those 16-17 year olds at highest risk through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference process. They will also help develop the right care pathway for young victims of abusive relationships to ensure young victims aren't falling through the gap between child protection and Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences and that the latter processes work together.
- The partnership-funded bodyworn cameras pilot was evaluated which showed a very positive overall effect, especially around early guilty pleas for domestic violence offence, a sharp increase in victimless prosecutions, and an increase in domestic violence arrests (proportionate to the number of incidents).
- Gentoo helped to set up the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) in September 2014 and this has now developed a nationally recognised set of standards for housing providers in tackling domestic abuse. The Safer Sunderland Partnership also worked with Gentoo on piloting the CAADA Insights data tool to gather robust performance measurement information on its work with domestic abuse victims, such as client profiles, client outcomes, service outputs and civil and criminal justice outcomes.
- A service specification for domestic violence training was developed and consulted on with the aim of procuring consistent citywide multi-agency training. Funding was secured from the Council and Strengthening Families Board to procure this in 2015-16 and 2016-17. The Independent Domestic Violence Adviser service has continued to support high

risk victims. Their involvement in supporting victims has led to: a high proportion of victims separating from their abusive partner; supported victims to move home; gained Occupation Orders; accessed refuge accommodation or had security measures fitted to their home. The support of the Independent Domestic Violence Adviser also contributed to offenders' being prosecuted and convicted and / or granted Protective Orders. Service users received interventions to improve their emotional or mental health; supported to improve finances; helped to access education or employment; and helped to build their support networks with family, friends or social activities which are important outcomes as abusers often isolate victims, control finances and damage confidence and self-esteem. There were also positive outcomes for children being protected from harm and in some cases, mothers were granted Residence Orders or Defined Contact Arrangements. Because the most effective domestic violence interventions are generally multi-agency, the Independent Domestic Violence Advisers facilitated contact with other support services most commonly including Police, Legal Services / Courts, Health Services, Children's Services, Housing, as well as the advisers providing support in court, representing and advocating for service users, assisting in making applications to court, and acting as McKenzie Friends as they represent themselves in civil court cases.

- A number of partners refreshed or developed their workplace policies on domestic abuse (e.g. Northumbria Police, Sunderland City Council, Gentoo etc.) and guidance and advice was sent to all Sunderland Domestic Violence Partnership members who didn't have a policy, to assist them in developing their own or refreshing their policy.
- Nationally, a domestic violence disclosure scheme and domestic violence protection notices/orders came into force in 2014-15 and partners were briefed. Training of police staff took place in May and June 2014 across all area commands. A corporate approach was agreed and Neighbourhood Police Teams now notify partner agency single points of contact of any granted orders to increase the chance of any breaches being identified.

### **2.3 Anti-social Behaviour**

- Joint working took place across the Anti-Social Behaviour leads in Northumbria to prepare for the new Anti-social Behaviour tools and powers. Twenty five police and council staff were trained around this in September 2014. An outcome of the training has been the production of a partnership procedure document and further in-depth training is to be rolled out to police neighbourhood teams and other relevant partners. The procedures were in-place by mid-October ready for commencement on 20th. Further training on local procedures took place following the overview training. This involved all neighbourhood teams, Anti-Social Behaviour officers and Gentoo enforcement officers. Public awareness of the community remedy and community trigger were published in the council's "Community News" which went to all household at the end of October 2014.
- The Council match-funded the £40,000 of Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner neighbourhood management grant to extend phase 1 of the Sulgrave and Concord programme from October 2014 to 31st March 2015 with a key focus on improving management committee standards and resident involvement. This grant funding contributed to the costs of the neighbourhood management team including (i) a specialist dedicated secondment of a full time Anti-Social Behaviour officer who has worked with tenants, landlords and the management committees to prevent Anti Social Behaviour using a number of prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement tactics; and (ii) a specialist dedicated secondment of a Probation Officer who worked with a number of high crime causers residing in the area. This mean the 'high crime causer' individuals who did not meet the criteria of the Prolific and Other Priority Offender cohort , but still needed to be

intensively worked (due to the harm being caused to local communities) were supported to help reduce their offending.

- LMAPS continued to meet, but reduced to a 10 weekly cycle and continued to tackle repeat problems across the city. All Place Boards received a presentation on LMAPS in October to ensure joined up working with area arrangements was embedded. Some of the LMAPS activity included:
  - Purchasing equipment to run a community speed watch scheme in Washington. Speeding had been identified as a priority for a number of areas through the PACT meetings. Volunteers were recruited and hotspots were identified.
  - The Council's security team took on the operation of the private CCTV system at the Sulgrave flats 24 hours a day. Washington LMAPS funded signage for the area to inform residents of the changes which has acted as both a reassurance tool for residents and a deterrent for offenders.
  - CCTV signage was purchased and installed for Seaburn following the installation of a pole to site a 4G camera following a rise in anti-social behaviour issues where up to 200 young people had been gathering in a residential area.
  - A partnership newsletter was developed for the West area following a fall in confidence identified through the safer communities survey. Analysts drilled down to a foot-beat level to allow the delivery of newsletters to be targeted. Officers knocked on doors and engaged with residents rather than a standard leaflet drop.
- The city's 3G network of over 20 moveable cameras (deployed via LMAPS and agreement on tactical deployment from the City Council and Northumbria Police) was enhanced with a trial of 3 new generation 4G cameras which allowed a greater level of operational capability including the ability of operators to play pre-recorded messages or speak directly to potential offenders or victims from the control base. This has obvious advantages of direct contact with the public whilst mobile resources could be deployed. This was funded through a £20,000 allocation from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners problem solving grant and match funding via the Business Improvement District action team. The City Council also provided match funded by picking up the deployment and installation costs for each move of the cameras in the trial locations. The talking camera will give recurring prevention messages in the first instance with a view to live messages being transmitted once control staff are fully trained in the systems.
- The multi-agency youth intelligence tasking and co-ordination meetings were re-launched, meeting every six weeks to ensure youth provision was being deployed in the areas of highest need.
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership supported the Sunderland Partnership community mediation team in carrying out their first 2 cases in Sunderland. The first case was an anti-social behaviour/tolerance issue in Washington. The process involved meeting with individual parties separately e.g. residents, young people, youth workers, agencies and then bringing them all together to discuss/agree a way forward. They agreed how an open space piece of land should be used and jointly designed a sign which Gentoo would display on the open space. Reports to Gentoo and police dramatically decreased as a result. The second case commenced in the West in early 2015 and is based on conflict between local residents, youths, youth workers and police.
- Work with the police commenced on the first community speed watch in Sunderland in an area of Washington. This was as a result of a number of reports of vehicles speeding and acting in an anti-social manner work.

- A task and finish group was set up to tackle issues around Park Lane, Mowbray Park and the Civic centre. There has been investment in enhanced CCTV for Park Lane and Mowbray Park; increased youth work in the area; a review of closing times for public toilets; increased police patrols; and increased maintenance and cleaning checks.
- Further engagement and promotion work took place with key agencies following the closure of Arch and the migration of all hate incidents into the Council's ASB team.

## **2.4 Reoffending**

- A 'Making Every Adult Matter' (MEAM) Co-ordinator was employed to support the MEAM Operational Group. The post, hosted by Lifeline, commenced in June 2014 for 1 year and the identification of the cohort was completed and the case load created. Links were made with the Safer Sunderland Partnership's reducing re-offending partners as both Probation and the Police are involved with MEAM.
- The Youth Justice Plan was refreshed in 2014-15.
  - There had been excellent performance against its local targets with First Time Entrants (FTEs) reduced by 45% in the 3 years (in particular early intervention approaches have contributed to a 21% decrease in FTEs).
  - Use of custody continues to be low (rate of 0.49) - a 14% reduction in the number of custodial disposals in the last 3 years.
  - Sunderland youth reoffending performance was better than the North East Average: there were strengthened links with partners including Anti-Social Behaviour, Police and Strengthening Families; successful implementation of youth cautions; and joint work with social care to consider the specific needs of Looked After Children who offend.
  - The Youth Offending Service had a successful inspection in relation to girls who offend.
  - The Youth Offending Service Family Intervention Programme team were embedded as the intensive delivery arm of the Strengthening Families model with a family approach throughout the service.
  - Around Restorative Justice, a Looked After Children Protocol was developed with the Police for young people who offended within children's homes, and embedded restorative justice approaches for out of court disposals.
  - The Liaison and Diversion scheme for young people was part of a successful national bid to deliver a combined youth and adult model of liaison and diversion. This is now working jointly with NTW(Mental Health Trust) and the Youth Offending Service shared their learning from the youth model. Training for Youth Offending staff took place in relation to sharing the learning about the health agenda from the project. The aim of the Adult Liaison and Diversion Scheme in Sunderland was to be an enhanced service with additional staff so that there is access to a mental health nurse for police and court 24/7; and ensure links are made to the Making Every Adult Matter programme. The scheme became operational in June 2014. However, the impact on reducing re-offending may take longer than the first year.

## **2.5 Cross Cutting – Safeguarding and Feelings of safety**

- Sunderland continued to deliver a co-ordinated community response to domestic violence through Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Independent Domestic Violence Advisers and the Special Domestic Violence Court. However, the number of cases coming through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences had increased significantly and a review of this was proposed by the Special Domestic Violence

Partnership to take place in 2015. There continued to be issues with Independent Domestic Violence Adviser capacity who were operating at half the staffing capacity in terms of the number of high risk victims. A Gateway funding bid and business case was developed and taken to the Clinical Commissioning Group for an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser to be based in A&E. This was successful and will be implemented in 2015.

- Co-ordinated marketing and communications activity continued to be delivered, examples of which included:
  - Promotion of the Sulgrave Neighbourhood management project
  - Promotion of the domestic violence response unit
  - Delivery of a whole-family safeguarding conference by the 2 safeguarding Boards, with support from the Safer Sunderland Partnership
  - The development of a domestic violence and older women campaign with articles in Community News and Gentoo's VIBE magazine
  - Various press releases e.g. crime prevention advice on wheelie bin fires; love where you live, and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- Crime prevention advice, which was specifically aimed at parents, was produced to raise their awareness around cyber bullying and other on-line dangers /internet safety to supplement the work already targeted at children. The guide for parents was distributed to approximately 15,000 parents across Sunderland.
- An audit of child concerns notices linked to domestic violence was carried out in order to improve practice around the consistency of recording. The findings will be reported on in 2015.
- In the 12 month period to September 2014, 85% of the victims referred to the Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Support officer took up the support offered. 43% of the referrals were deemed as high risk. Following the completion of the risk assessment matrix, the Victim Worker provided emotional support (37%); advocacy (38%); further information/advice (17%); signposting on to the necessary services (7%). Outcomes included significant improvements in victims' feelings of safety and worry about being a victim.
- Sunderland Counselling Service and Wearside Women In Need supported the operational work of the Northumbria Sexual Violence Strategic Forum to 'map the gaps' for services for victims of sexual violence. The forum is still in its very early stages
- The Safer Sunderland Partnership concluded its first statutory Domestic Homicide Review and received Home Office approval in July 2014. The executive summary was published on [www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/safersunderland). The Action Plan was developed and agencies have progressed well with their recommendations to embed the learning. For example: NTW promoted the use of the AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) 'Complicated Matters' toolkit and training with all staff; a briefing document was produced for agencies to share with all staff; a bespoke 'train the trainer' package is being developed; a domestic abuse and older women's campaign was developed; and the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group reviewed their falls assessment and trigger tools and have amended current documentation by adding either a specific question about domestic violence or staff prompts to consider domestic violence. Sunderland's second Domestic Homicide Review was submitted for Home Office quality assurance in March 2015.