

Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee

6th December 2011

Performance Report Quarters 1&2 (April – September 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 April to September 2011.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Performance reports provided to Scrutiny Committee throughout 2010/11 as part of quarterly performance monitoring arrangements were heavily dependent on performance indicators from the previous governments national indicator list, with a particular focus on those prioritised within the Local Area Agreement,
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 For 2011/12 the Council's aim is that, in future, performance reporting should be an honest appraisal of the situation resulting in actions. It should cover the main strengths, areas for improvement, outstanding risks and how these are being addressed. This is a move away from simply reporting all performance indicators with no value judgement or weighting to reflect their relative importance to the Council. Instead, the aim is to draw attention to the areas that matter most and maximise improvement to deliver Value for Money.
- 2.4 It is envisaged that in 2011/12 Scrutiny will have important role to play in the authority's revised performance management framework. This will include regular challenging of heads of service and senior officers on ongoing performance issues focussing on particular areas of concern.
- 2.5 The following criteria have been taken into consideration by Heads of Service and service managers in establishing performance indicators for 2011/12
 - **Council priorities** (including a City that is Prosperous; a Learning City; Healthy; Safe; and Attractive & Inclusive
 - **Service priorities**
 - **Service/operational needs**
 - **internal management information** (including corporate health measures)
 - **Value for money** – economy efficiency effectiveness
 - **customer expectations**

- **ability to benchmark** against our peers (e.g. other local authorities) – For some services sector led consultation has been carried out through various benchmark groups to establish an agreed set of indicators which could be shared.

2.6 The more of these criteria that an indicator can match the more useful it can be. Any indicator would still need to meet the standard criteria of being robust and fit for purpose without being onerous to collect.

2.7 Suggested Performance Indicators for Community and Safer City for 2011/12

2.8 Attached at Appendix 1 is an extract (produced by performance plus the council's performance management software system) from the full set of indicators that have been reviewed and the Council has identified so far as essential for local self-regulation and which would fall within the remit of this committee. These indicators are a mixture of former national indicators (NI's) where these are thought still to be appropriate, and locally determined indicators. *For those indicators that relate to the Safer City element these have been developed through the Safer Sunderland Partnership*

2.9 The report shows our actual performance for the first two quarters (April-Sept 2011) against each indicator together with the proposed targets for 2011/12 (and 2012/13 in some cases)?. The last full year's (2010/11) performance is also shown for comparison purposes.

2.10 Members should note that this is work in progress and a more detailed version should be available for the next performance report for quarter 3 performance.

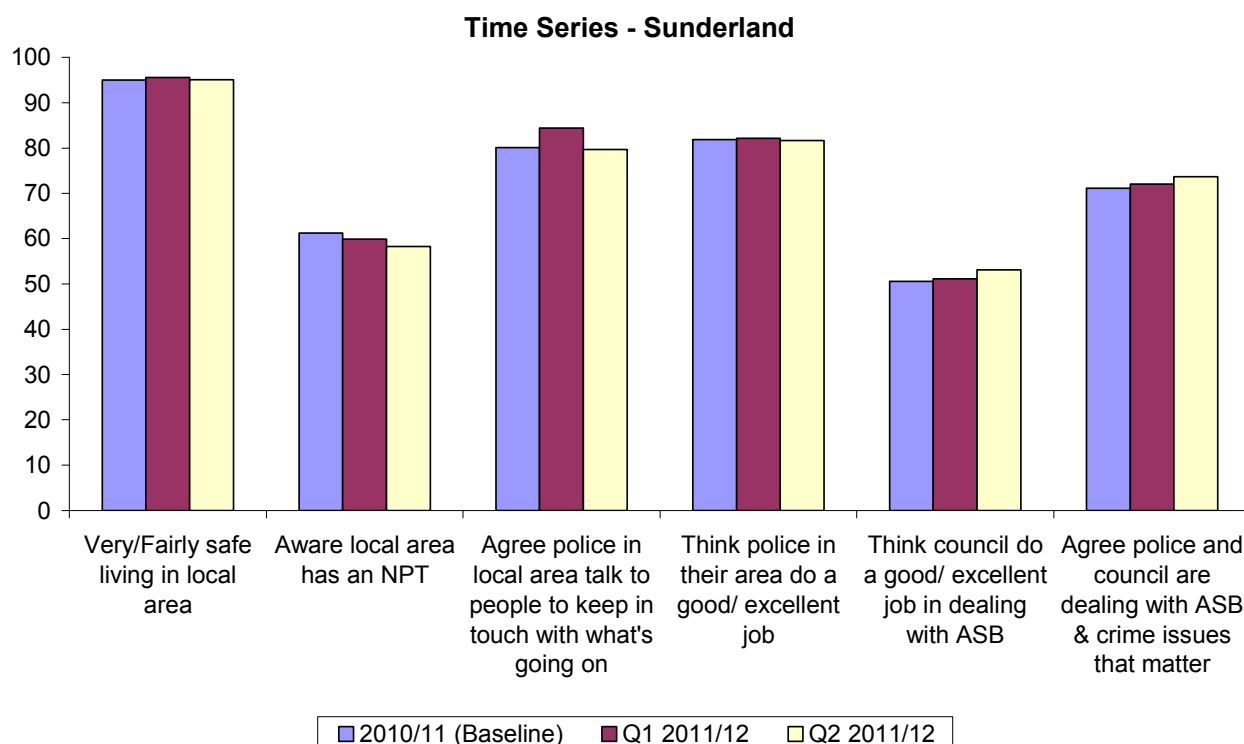
3.0 Performance Update

3.1 Total crime for the quarter July-September 11, stood at 4525, down 5% compared with the previous quarter. There has been an 8% reduction in total crime for the year to date (April-September) down from 9867 to 9063. Sunderland currently has the 3rd lowest crime rate within its peer group of similar community safety partnerships (iQuanta).

3.2 Many crime types have contributed to this fall serious acquisitive crime has fallen by 10% for the year to date and is down 2% for the current quarter. There were 567 crimes during July-September, compared with 581 for the previous quarter. Most serious violent crime has fallen from 43 to 41 crimes for the current quarter, and down 10% for the year date from 118 to 84 crimes during April-September 11. While Assault with less serious injury has risen for the current quarter, up from 339 to 390, there has been a fall for the year to date down from 458 to 390, representing a 15% fall.

- 3.3 *Vehicle crime has fallen 15 % for the current quarter down from 391 to 332 crimes. Theft of motor vehicles has fallen 30% down from 105 to 74 during July-September. While theft from motor vehicles has seen a small rise for the current quarter up from 228 to 236 (4%), there has been a fall for the year to date (April-September). Violent crime has fallen by 10% compared with the same quarter the previous year down from 1022 to 918 and 15% for the year to date down from 2108 to 1798. Criminal damage has also fallen, down 3% on the previous quarter from 978 to 944 and 13% for the year to date 2219 to 1922.*
- 3.4 Reducing re-offending - Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) (previously Ni30) is based on Qu4 of 2010-11 and is within target. For the 46 Prolific and Priority Offenders there has been a -31% reduction in the number of convictions. Of those young people who received a substantive outcome between Jan-March 11 there was a 15% rate of re-offending. Only one young person (10-17yrs) has received a custodial sentence between July-Sept 11. For adult re-offenders the re-offending rate was 15.96%, (to March 11) this was slightly below the predicted re-offending rate of 16.01 and a marked improvement from the last quarter when it was 0.21% above the baseline.
- 3.5 There was a 16% repeat incident rate for Domestic violence cases reviewed by MARAC.
- 3.6 There were 4929 anti-social behaviour incidents during quarter 2 of 2011/12, this compares with 6944 for the same quarter the previous year, representing a fall of 29%. There has been a fall of 30% for the year to date (April-September) with asb incidents dropping from 14374 to 10001 during the current year.
- 3.7 *There were 636 Alcohol related incidents during Qu2 of 2011/12, with a similar number the previous quarter (635). Young people drinking/being rowdy was a key concern raised by residents in the Safer Communities Survey. There were 266 youth related alcohol incidents during quarter 2 July-September, this is a slight fall on the previous quarter down from 281, and a 5% 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).*
- 3.8 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 was. 77% of respondents thought Sunderland was very or fairly safe, this was lower than the force average of 86%.
- 3.9 *Summary of key findings of Safer Communities Survey Qu2 (July-Sept 11):*
- *Residents of Sunderland are more likely to feel that crime has 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.*
 - *Whilst the majority of residents in Sunderland feel safe in their local neighbourhood, fewer believe Sunderland as a whole is safe compared to the force average.*

- Residents of Sunderland Central are far more likely to feel that their local area has got worse in the last 12 months. Conversely, this measure has fallen in Washington.
- Awareness of Neighbourhood Policing Teams is strong in Sunderland – whilst this measure is no longer higher than the area command average in Sunderland East, this sector's result is still by far the highest result of all sectors in the force area.
- Foot patrol visibility is also strong in Sunderland, with perceptions in Sunderland North having a positive bearing on the area command result.



3.10 Summary of key findings:

- The chart above demonstrates that across the six measures shown above, resident's perceptions in Sunderland have shown minor fluctuations over the last two quarters.
- However, there have been no significant improvements or deteriorations in any of these measures.
- This suggests these measures have remained stable over time.
- The fluctuations across these measures in Sunderland are similar to those observed at a force level.

3.11 As with other area commands, the issues that residents are prioritising in Sunderland are mostly quality of life issues rather than crimes. The top concerns for residents were:

- § Young people being drunk, rowdy or a nuisance
- § Speeding or dangerous driving
- § Rubbish or litter lying around
- § Noise nuisance
- § Young people hanging around.

- 3.12 *In common with other urban areas of Northumbria, 'Young people being drunk, rowdy, or a nuisance' is the top priority in Sunderland.*
- 3.13 *The top methods of communicating information to the public were 'Police/Council/Community Newsletters and Magazines' and 'Letters, Flyers and Leaflets' are by far the most preferred methods of communication.*

4.1 Improvement Activity

4.2 Adult reducing re-offending

- § Work is underway to consider the use of Restorative Justice Approaches with the IOM unit. Training has been scheduled for early November.
- § Policing task groups have been set up so that problematic offenders can be reviewed and positive actions taken
- § A housing panel has been set up with Gentoo to provide access to housing for offenders. The prison officer in the IOM is developing a Recovery wing in Durham prison.

4.3 Violent crime

- § The Safer Sunderland Partnership continue to deliver interventions to support continued development of this priority within the Violent Crime Delivery Group and other related Delivery Groups such as Alcohol and Marketing.
- § LGBT Domestic Violence training is programmed for November 2011-11-04
- § Research is planned to understand the number of retractions/failure to show at Court of domestic violence victims within the city.
- § Domestic Homicide Reviews came into force in April 2011 with work ongoing across Northumbria.

4.4 Alcohol Misuse

- § Northumbria Police and the Councils trading standards and licensing department are continuing to undertake joint operations to address issues relating to the night-time economy and Licensed premises. This work is ongoing through 2011-12
- § A questionnaire has been completed with Pubwatch members regarding the use of polycarbonate vessels to ascertain who is using the glasses and the potential opportunities for expansion of the scheme
- § The Best Bar None Scheme 2011-12 has been launched and includes best community pub for each of the 5 area regeneration frameworks. Assessments are now ongoing and the award ceremony is planned for the 8th January
- § Alcohol Concerns Alcohol Awareness Week was held from Monday 14th November. Alcohol concern will focus on second hand harm and the impact of alcohol misuse on the family and children in particular.

4.5 Drug Misuse

- § Co-location of all drug and alcohol services working with offenders has been completed and the emerging team includes PPO, DRR, ATR and DIP. Further proposals for great integration are currently under consultation.
- § Waiting times, planned discharges, care planning and healthcare assessment measures remain on target.

- § The Carers Network for Sunderland, Gateshead and South Tyneside has agreed their vision and are working under the name of Carers Drug and Alcohol Network with the logo 'Better and Stronger Together'. A Carers Conference on information sharing is planned for 2nd December and they are also working with GPs to highlight carers of substance misuse issues and to encourage referrals to the range of services available to carers

4.6 Anti-Social Behaviour

- § LMAPS (Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving) groups continue to meet every 5 weeks to address locally identified persistence problems, the majority of which relate to ASB. 'Extra-ordinary LMAPS' can be arranged within the 5 week period when a case of ASB is deemed high risk
- § LMAPS Groups have moved to 5 meetings to mirror the Council Area Regeneration Frameworks and all have a dedicated contact from the People and Neighbourhoods Team.
- § Northumbria Police are to launch the implementation of a 101 number for all non emergency calls including ASB calls. Work is underway in relation to the marketing of this and how information will be shared with the Councils Neighbourhood Helpline
- § The Safer Sunderland Partnership is currently working closely with the national charity Groundwork North East to develop a specialist pilot project titled 'Turning the Corner' with the aim of reducing youth related anti-social behaviour in community hotspots.

4.7 Feelings of Safety

- § Northumbria Police, with support from the SSP, continued to promote personal safety (in the night time economy) messages aimed at women through the "keys Money Phone, Plans to Get Home" campaign was promoted during the summer. bank holiday. This included radio advertising on SunFM, and additional campaign posters displayed on washrooms in licensed premises in the city centre.
- § Local sentencing outcomes continue to be published on Northumbria Police website
- § The Safer Homes Initiative continues to operate and is improving the home security of victims of crime
- § The Safer Sunderland Partnership web pages have continued to be updated with all relevant press releases. Other elements of the site, including related links and the latest news sections have been revamped and refreshed.
- § A range of community safety press releases have been written and sent out on various topics included: domestic violence and community payback.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 Members note the progress made and for the agreed indicators review and challenge progress against targets which have been set for 2011/12.