

Safer York Partnership Bi-annual Performance Report

Summary

1. This report provides a brief overview of the detailed data contained within the Safer York Partnership bi-annual performance report as produced by City of York Council's Policy and Performance Team attached at Annex A.

Overview

2. Whilst some crime levels are increasing in York in line with National trends, it has always been accepted that significant reductions in crime could not be sustained. However, York remains one of the safest cities within the UK and its overall low levels of crime are testimony to the well developed partnership arrangements and embedded multi-agency problem solving delivered through Safer York Partnership. Further strength has been given to the partnership by the development of the multi-agency community safety hub, bringing partners together to work more effectively and efficiently.

Violent Crime

3. Whilst violent crime has increased in the city, this is largely attributable to the range of incidents which fall within the Home Office Crime recording category of 'violent crime'. Violent crimes are those where the victim is intentionally stabbed, punched, kicked, pushed, jostled, etc. or threatened with violence whether or not there is any injury. The vast majority of violent crimes recorded in York fall within the lower levels of severity and do not indicate an increase in serious violence within the city.
4. As expected, the majority of these crimes are recorded within the city centre and are heavily linked to alcohol and alcohol related anti-social behaviour. This is being addressed by Safer York Partnership through the Alcohol and Violent Crime in the Night Time Economy (AVANTE)

multi-agency problem solving group and includes the delivery regular operations such as Operation Erase.

5. Operation Erase is once again running throughout the summer with licensees, rail providers, police, local authority, universities and British Transport police all on board. This summer has the added benefit of the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team being able to utilise both local authority and police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. Feedback on this joint approach has been excellent with evidence of issues being addressed more quickly and utilising the appropriate powers.

Anti-social Behaviour

6. Anti-social behaviour is managed through the Community Safety Hub based in West Offices. This includes six police officers, an anti-social behaviour (ASB) team, tackling high risk ASB cases and associated crime and a neighbourhood enforcement team focusing on environmental ASB and crime. The ASB team utilise a range of tools and powers designated through the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act combined with additional powers given to the Neighbourhood Enforcement Team by the Chief Constable through the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme.
7. The team manage all cases on E-CINS – an electronic case management system that allows them to share information on cases between themselves and with other key partners such as Housing, the voluntary sector and Mental Health support within the NHS. Cases managed within the hub are identified and risk assessed through daily interrogation of incidents reported within North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council. These are then tasked for action either within the Hub itself or to the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams.
8. The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team works across the city in geographical area aligned to the police safer neighbourhood teams (SNT). Officers carry police radios, allowing direct tasking from the force control room and work with the SNTs to carry out joint patrols and deliver operations aligned to issues identified through local intelligence gathering.
9. Joint working between the Community Safety team and police SNTs has strengthened through the introduction of monthly tasking meetings where joint initiatives can be discussed and resources and support requested to

assist with particular operations and initiatives. This has resulted in some strong partnership operations such as operation Tasca (targeting illegal waste carriers and involving many agencies alongside the police and community safety team) and a joined up response to long term/seasonal problems in the city centre.

10. North Yorkshire police are currently rolling out the 'hub' model to other areas of the force, building on some of the good practice which has been observed in York. This demonstrates a long term commitment to this approach going forward.
11. The Community Safety Unit has seen a significant increase in calls for service, demonstrating that community confidence to report issues has increased alongside the ability to ensure calls previously reported to the police are now reported to the local authority when they fall within local authority services' remit. However, the unit is not a reactive resource and acts as a filter to ensure that issues are routed to the correct agency or service to deliver a response. The unit's remit is one of combined early intervention and prevention – facilitating partners to work together to prevent issues from escalating to resource intensive levels; and enforcement – utilising legislative powers when all other options have been tried. The unit works through a model of staged approaches underpinned by daily analysis of calls for service, weekly multi-agency meetings and ad hoc problem solving meetings to address certain issues.

Drug Related Crime

12. It is difficult to create a statistical and trend picture of drug-related crime as police forces do not capture this information within crime records and even if this process was in place would only be able to provide information for "detected" crimes. There is a "drug" incident closure classification which can be applied to records of anti-social behaviour, but this has only been used in 134 and 142 records in 2015/16 and 2014/15 respectively. This is less than 1% of all records and suggests that this classification is not regularly used and therefore not useful for analysis purposes.
13. Previously Safer York partnership has used Probation OASYS criminogenic studies which give an indication of the motivation of why individuals commit crimes. Data capture, manipulation and processing of this information can be a difficult and time-consuming process and Safer

York through the councils Business Intelligence Hub will be looking to see if these studies can be made available in 2016/17.

14. In addition to the data issues described above, the Drug Action Team now reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board rather than Safer York Partnership. This means that data previously reported to SYP on treatment services is not as regular.
15. It should be noted that Safer York Partnership does not deliver actions directly to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. From the annual Joint Strategic Intelligence Analysis, the partnership identifies themes on which it will focus over a twelve month period. Officers in the Community Safety Unit facilitate and co-ordinate a multi-agency approach to tackling these thematic priorities. Issues like alcohol and drugs are invariably a common thread through a number of themes and also impact heavily on the case work that the unit becomes directly involved with. Rather than directly tackling 'drugs' as a theme, the unit co-ordinates the contribution of relevant partners to work with those individuals and communities affected.

Other Information

16. Reporting on Serious acquisitive crime is a legacy of previous performance management systems required by the Home Office. Due to the change in policing style in North Yorkshire to focus more closely on levels of Harm, threat and risk, issues such as burglary, cycle theft and vehicle crime are now dealt with through routine policing activity and do not form the basis of sustained multi-agency response. However, it should be noted that the information, toolkits and advice packs produced through Safer York Partnership still provide the basis of information provided by SNTs to victims of crime and this advice is still available via the Safer York Partnership website www.saferyorkpartnership.co.uk Crime prevention advice is also still provided by SYP through bus advertising and media campaigns aligned to the partnership's priorities and in response to emerging issues discussed in the monthly tasking meetings.

Recommendations

17. There are no recommendations as this cover report is for information only.

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) N/A

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: N/A

Annexes:

Annex A - Safer York Partnership Bi-Annual Performance Report

Abbreviations:

ASB – Anti-social Behaviour
NHS – National Health Service
SNT – Safer Neighbourhood Teams