
**Meeting of Executive Members for City
Strategy and the Advisory Panel**

6 June 2007

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services

COMMUNITY SAFETY YEAR END PERFORMANCE 2006/07

Summary

- 1 This report:
 - a) sets out how local and national community safety structure work together,
 - b) flags up work being done to clarify future reporting mechanisms in light of the agreement of a Local Area Agreement (LAA),
 - c) presents a picture of 2006/07 crime figures in key crime categories,
 - d) presents a picture of the latest crime perception figures among residents,

Background

- 2 This report provides an overview of performance on community safety related indicators that have now been brought within the remit of the Director of Neighbourhood Services following the restructure of Neighbourhood Services.
- 3 Community Safety activity is not represented in a single council service plan. Safer York Partnership coordinates, drives and influences a range of work undertaken by a range of agencies including the council. Therefore this report provides performance feedback around the national crime targets within the current Community Safety Plan 2005-2008.

Community Safety: Plans and Structures

- 4 Work on crime and community safety done by the range of partners is governed by a complex set of plans and targets set out within a number of documents. We report to central government (Home Office and Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside) on progress against York's Community Safety Plan and the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. Locally there are a number of indicators on crime and perception measures (e.g. LPSA2 targets, council priority and council plan indicators). National and local reporting timescales are different.

- 5 Nationally we report to Home Office and Government Office for Yorkshire and Humberside on targets within the Community Safety Plan 2005-08. Targets relating to six priority crime areas (below) were agreed and act as the focus for community safety work in York:
- Burglary
 - Violent Crime
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Vehicle Crime
 - Misuse of Drugs
 - Road Safety
- 6 The first four areas are national crime priorities – while misuse of drugs and road safety were added as important local issues. Within each of the first 4 areas above we have agreed national crime reduction targets as part of York’s Public Service Agreement. Under this agreement, York has agreed a national target to reduce crime by 24.1% by 2007/8 (compared with 2003/4 levels) across a range of crime categories.
- 7 The last two areas were included in the Community Safety Plan as issues of specific local interest and benefit from equivalent delivery structures. However the framework of measures and targets is not as strong, and the delivery is more focused around coordinating actions and initiatives.
- 8 As additional structures have been added they have kept up the focus on the six priority areas above – and in particular the four areas of national interest. So for example a number of Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) targets were agreed in 2005 around vehicle crime, violent crime, burglary and anti-social behaviour. In addition the council adopted a corporate priority in 2006 (championed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services) around fear of crime and anti-social behaviour:
- ‘Reduce the actual and perceived impact of violent, aggressive and nuisance behaviour on people in York.’*
- 9 Progress against all six priority areas within the Community Safety Plan is monitored by the Safer York Partnership board. Each month, SYP provides detailed crime data around the crime types pertinent to the national target areas. These crime areas are also reported to the Home Office on a six-monthly basis. Progress impacts on our funding position.
- 10 We also have a statutory duty to report on a number of community safety performance indicators in the council’s annual Best Value Performance Plan. This must be published by June each year, and these indicators must have three-year targets attached to them. The community safety related indicators that will be published in this year’s BVPP are set out in Annex 1. These include statutory and local performance indicators.
- 11 Due to the national focus on four of the areas and the strong reporting mechanisms within these areas, this report will focus on the four national priority areas of burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Local Area Agreement

- 12 York's Local Area Agreement (LAA) went live on 1st April 2007. The LAA incorporates national priority targets and LPSA2 targets. It is likely that a future replacement Community Safety Plan will include new targets agreed with the Home Office on national priorities (which may also be renewed) and it is likely that these would then be reflected in York's LAA. The LAA will therefore be the driver for community safety actions.
- 13 The Director of City Strategy (DCS) is currently working to finalise an appropriate reporting mechanism for the LAA. However it is likely that progress against the LAA will be reported to the LSP, and to central government, and progress on the community safety elements of the LAA will continue to be reported to the SYP Board. DCS is also finalising how the LAA would be reported to the Council's Executive, and whether the relevant sections of the LAA should be reported through the relevant EMAP meetings – and if so which meetings would receive which information.

Delivery mechanisms

- 14 Each of the priorities in the Community Safety Plan has been taken forward by a multi-agency task group – with the lead in each case being the agency most relevant to that particular issue. The working groups' role is to own the actions and the delivery of the targets within their area of interest. Each task-group reports progress to the SYP Board.
- 15 City of York Council's direct input was to chair the anti-social behaviour working group to take forward a range of integrated initiatives on nuisance behaviour.

Crime Levels and Public Perception

- 16 This section focuses on the four national priority areas in the community safety plan – burglary, vehicle related crime, violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Burglary

	2003/4 Baseline	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8 target
Domestic Burglary	2346	1094	1081	1642

- 17 Domestic burglary was reported by residents as their top crime concern during the development of the Community Safety Plan. The target in the plan was to reduce domestic burglary by 30% on the 2003/4 baseline by 2007/8. This equates to reducing the annual number of domestic burglaries from 2346 in 2003/4 to 1642 by 2007/8.

- 18 There were 1081 domestic burglaries or attempted burglaries recorded by police in 2006/7 – well below both interim and final targets. Success in this area is down to a good understanding of burglary data which provides the ability to target hot-spot areas, and positive policies and intervention – for instance the alleygating work in hot-spot areas.
- 19 Within York's LPSA2 agreement with central government, we agreed a 'stretched' target to reduce the number of burglaries to 1501 by 2007/08. This is a reduction of 36% on the baseline year. Again it is likely that this stretched target will be met.
- 20 Customer perception of domestic burglary has also improved. Our information suggests that the reduced incidence of burglary in the city has had a knock-on effect on people's perceptions - with 43% of respondents to the council's Resident Opinion survey reporting they were concerned about leaving the house empty – compared with 60% in 2003/4.

Violent Crime

	2003/4 Baseline	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8 target
Common Assault	1488	835	748	1339
Woundings	1018	2081	1800	916
Common Assault and Woundings	2506	2916	2548	2255

- 21 The Community Safety Plan target is to reduce common assault by 10% by 2007/8. This means reducing the annual number of assaults from 1488 in 2003/4 to 1339 by 2007/8. The actual number in 2006/7 was 748 – below both interim and final targets.
- 22 The other violent crime category is woundings. Safer York Partnership also has a nationally agreed target to reduce this type of violent incident by 10% over the period – from 1018 in 2003/4 to 916 in 2007/8. However 1800 woundings were recorded in York in 2006/7 – almost double the final target. This target is very unlikely to be met, despite a significant reduction on the figure for 2005/6.
- 23 Taken together Safer York Partnership's national target was to reduce violent crime (common assaults and woundings) by 10% to 2255 by 2007/8. In 2006/07 the actual figure was 2548 incidents of assault and woundings – just above the 2003/4 baseline figure of 2506. This is despite considerable success in tackling violent crime in the most visible settings such as through the Nightsafe scheme, and through the approach taken to the licensing policy within the centre of York. The

incidence of both assaults and woundings have both reduced from 2005/6.

- 24 York's LPSA2 agreement set out a target to reduce the number of incidents of violent crime to 2181 by 2007/08. This target is unlikely to be met.
- 25 Resident perception figures paint a confused picture. The proportion of residents concerned about going out alone has remained stable (27% in 2006/7 compared with 30% in 2003/4). However the proportion of residents concerned about physical assault has fallen considerably during the same period – from 26% in 2003/4 and 34% in 2004/5 to 19% in 2006/7.

Vehicle Crime

	2003/4 Baseline	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8 target
Theft / taking of vehicle	1066	970	660	746
Theft from vehicle (incl attempts)	3258	2083	2363	2281
Vehicle interference	544	770	492	381
Theft / taking of cycle	1854	1457	1414	1391

- 26 Four relevant targets were set out in the Community Safety Plan:
- reduce theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle (including attempts) by 30% by 2007/8
 - reduce theft from a vehicle (including attempts) by 30% by 2007/8
 - reduce vehicle interference by 30% by 2007/8
 - reduce theft or unauthorised taking of a bicycle by 25% by 2007/8
- 27 There were 660 cars stolen in 2006/7 – below the 2007/8 target. This represents a 38% drop from 2003/4. This improvement on 2005/6 is largely due to a significant reduction in the number of cars stolen by joyriders. Performance is improving and North Yorkshire Police have successfully targeted hotspots.
- 28 Thefts from a vehicle are slightly above target and are slightly worse than in 2005/6. There were 2363 incidents recorded in 2006/7 – just above the 2007/8 target. Despite some concerns, the 2006/7 figure still represents a 27% reduction on the 2003/4 baseline.
- 29 There were 492 recorded incidents of vehicle interference in 2006/7, above the 2007/8 target of 381. This is a crime type for which there is limited potential intervention available. However the figure is much lower than in 2005/6 and is about 10% lower than the 2003/4 baseline of 544 incidents per year.

- 30 Overall performance on vehicle crime is mixed. All three categories are improving on the 2003/4 baseline, but only the 'thefts of' category appears likely to meet its national target in 2007/8.
- 31 Within York's LPSA2 agreement with central government, we agreed 3 vehicle crime targets:
- reduce theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle to 682 per annum by 2007/8 (reduction of 36% on 2003/4 base). The figure in 2006/7 was 660.
 - reduce theft from a vehicle (including attempts) to 2085 per annum by 2007/8 (reduction of 36% on 2003/4 base). The figure in 2006/7 was 2363.
 - reduce vehicle interference to 348 per annum by 2007/8 (reduction of 36% on 2003/4 base). The figure in 2006/7 was 492 recorded incidents.
- 32 Therefore the LPSA2 target on theft of a vehicle is likely to be met, and the target on theft from a vehicle will be at least partially met. The terms of the agreement suggest that we potentially would achieve about 75% of the reward grant available in this area.
- 33 In 2006/7 there were 1414 recorded thefts of pedal cycles – down from 1854 in 2003/4. This is just above the 2007/8 target of 1392. However since October 2006 the figure has fallen every month due to a series of targeted interventions that have proved successful. If this trend continues Safer York Partnership would expect to be well under the agreed target.
- 34 Customer perception of vehicle crime has improved in the last few years as the incidence of crime has come down. In 2006/7 46% of residents were concerned about car crime, compared with 60% in 2003/4 and 63% in 2004/5. Perception of cycle theft remained steady between 2005/6 and 2006/7.

Anti-Social Behaviour

	2003/4 Baseline	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8 target
Criminal Damage	5379	4381	4189	4034

- 35 Under the anti-social behaviour section of the Community Safety Plan just one overall target was agreed with the Home Office. This was to reduce the level of criminal damage by 25% by 2007/8. While criminal damage is the best measure we have of anti-social behaviour, it is accepted that it cannot measure all aspects of this complex problem.
- 36 A number of additional local annual targets are set out in the anti-social behaviour strategy for York. These targets are in the areas of behaviour, alcohol related crime, begging, noise nuisance and abandoned vehicles,

damage, and fire and rescue. Work continues in all these areas under a range of auspices and initiatives. The anti-social behaviour working group that coordinates activity between agencies has recently been reviewed and a new strategy is being developed.

- 37 The target within the Community Safety Plan was to reduce criminal damage by 25% by 2007/8. This meant reducing the annual number of criminal damage incidents from 5379 per year in 2003/4 to 4034 per year by 2007/8. The figure for 2006/7 was 4189 – just below the 2006/7 milestone target for this year but just above the final target. Overall this represents a fall of 22% on the 2003/4 figure.
- 38 York's LPSA2 agreement with central government included three targets on reducing anti-social behaviour. These focused on illegal sales of alcohol to under 18s, as well as the proportion of residents reporting that noisy neighbours are a problem, and the proportion of residents who believe that York is a safe city to live in.
- 39 It is likely that the target on reducing the proportion of shops illegally selling alcohol will be met. The LPSA2 target was to average 10% over the two years 2006/7 and 2007/8. The 2006/7 figure fell to 12.1% from 17% in 2004/5.
- 40 However the customer perception stretch targets appear unlikely to be met. These were:
- To reduce the proportion of residents reporting noisy neighbours causing a problem from 13% baseline in 2005/6 to 9% in 2007/8. The figure for 2006/7 was higher at 14%. While resident perception figures can fluctuate and the level of stretch is relatively low, it appears unlikely that this stretch will be achieved. This is felt to be due to the popularity of the night time noise service and the community becoming more aware of the availability of officers to resolve noise nuisances at weekends.
 - To increase the percentage of residents agreeing that York is a safe city to live in from 47% baseline in 2004/5 to a figure of 68% in 2007/8. The figure for 2006/7 is 53% - so while the trend is positive it appears unlikely that this stretch will be achieved.
- 41 In addition to the LPSA2 figures, City of York measures a number of customer perception rates relevant to nuisance and anti-social behaviour. These suggest that in general perception of nuisance being a problem is slowly reducing. 54% of residents are concerned about young people hanging around on the streets – lower than the 61% in 2003/4 or 67% in 2004/5. 70% of residents reported feeling able to report crime or anti-social behaviour – up from 55% on 2003/4 but lower than the 76% in 2005/6.

Overall Crime Reduction Target

	2003/4 Baseline	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8 target
Overall crime categories*	17948	14270	13304	13625

* Includes those set out above plus robbery and theft

- 42 Safer York Partnership is likely to meet its overall target to reduce crime in a specified group of categories by 24.1% between 2003/4 and 2007/8.
- 43 In 2006/07, under the relevant crime categories, 13304 crimes were recorded in York. This is against a target to reduce recorded crime to 13625 by 2007/08. SYP has exceeded the crime reduction target set for 2007/08 a year early. Across the piece recorded crime is 26% lower in 2006/7 than in 2003/4.
- 44 Continued targeted work is needed to ensure that crime levels fall in 2007/08 and that the overall target is met. There are a number of areas where Safer York Partnership has made significant improvement – eg burglary, and theft of vehicles. Areas of concern in relation to the targets and trends are around violent crime, criminal damage (as a high volume area) and theft from a vehicle (in relation to LPSA stretch).

LPSA2 – Forecast Position

- 45 The latest forecast on the four community safety LPSA2 targets is set out in Annex 1. This suggests that we are likely to achieve sufficient stretch on the four targets highlighted in this report to receive £686k out of a potential £1312k Performance Reward Grant.
- 46 Director of Neighbourhood Services has asked for a realistic appraisal of the potential to improve performance to be carried out in those areas where we appear unlikely to achieve the full stretch targets.

Crime Perception Information

- 47 While actual levels of recorded crime are a key measure of success for Safer York Partnership, it has also been an important focus to improve resident perception of community safety. Fear of crime can damage the quality of life for residents who have not experienced crime directly. Across all the crime areas, work is ongoing to reassure residents on crime and safety issues in order to reduce their level of concern.
- 48 The table below sets out latest information on public perception of the priorities within the Community Safety Plan. The table suggests that in general the community's perception of crime and community safety is improving in the medium term. There was a significant improvement between 2004/05 and 2005/06. The community's perception of safety

appears to have stabilised at a lower level in 2006/07 across most of the categories.

Measure	Indicator	2003/ 4	2004/ 5	2005/ 6	2006/ 7	Improving? 2003/4 – 2006/7	Improving? 2005/6 – 2006/7
General Perception Measures							
% of residents who feel that York is a safe City (LPSA2 target)	CC2	49%	47%	51%	53%	Yes	Stable
% of residents willing to report crime and anti-social behaviour	Coli28	55%	57%	76%	70%	Yes	No
% of people concerned about going out alone	Coli29	30%	27%	25%	27%	Stable	Stable
% of people concerned about leaving the house empty	Coli30	60%	55%	44%	43%	Yes	Stable
% of residents who think that their local area is a safe area	Coli92	new	new	67%	69%	N/a	Stable
Perception of specific crime issues							
% of residents concerned about street robbery	Coli97	47%	46%	23%	25%	Yes	Stable
% of residents concerned about physical assault	Coli98	26%	34%	17%	19%	Yes	Stable
% of residents concerned about car crime	Coli99	60%	63%	48%	46%	Yes	Stable
% of people concerned about cycle theft	Coli100	new	new	35%	36%	N/a	Stable
% of people concerned about young people causing a nuisance	Coli22	61%	67%	53%	54%	Yes	Stable
% of people reporting that noise is a problem in their area (LPSA2 target)	Coli104	new	new	13%	14%	N/a	Stable

- 49 If we were to take a trend between 2005/06 and 2006/07 almost all of the perception would be stable. If we compare 2006/07 with 2004/05 then overall a smaller proportion of residents have concerns over crime.
- 50 One area where perception went the wrong way in 2006/7 was in the proportion of residents willing to report a crime or anti-social behaviour. This dropped by 6% points on the figure for 2005/06.

Conclusions

- 51 Recorded crime in key categories set by central government is 26% lower in York in 2006/7 than in 2003/4.
- 52 Safer York Partnership is likely to meet its overall crime target agreed with the Home Office to reduce overall recorded crime levels by 24.1% over the period 2003/4 to 2007/08.
- 53 Significant progress has been made in a number of areas – particularly burglary (53.9% lower in 2006/7 than 2003/4), theft of vehicles (38.1% drop), theft from vehicles (27.5% drop) and criminal damage (22.1% drop).
- 54 Violent crime remains a stubborn problem in York – it has not moved from the level in 2003/4.
- 55 While progress is being made in the area of anti-social behaviour, further work is progressing to improve coordination of work and to adopt a strategy which is able to target issues more effectively.
- 56 Crime perception rates in the city have remained stable in 2006/7, following a positive picture in 2005/06. The proportion of residents concerned with a number of types of crime and safety issues are below the levels seen in 2003/04 and 2004/05.

Consultation

- 57 The report is primarily an information report for Members and therefore no consultation has been undertaken regarding its contents.

Options

- 58 The report is primarily an information report for Members and therefore no specific options are provided to Members.

Implications

Financial

- 59 The report provides details of the portfolio revenue and capital outturn and therefore implications are contained within the report

Human Resources

- 60 There are no significant human resources implications within the report

Equalities

- 61 There are no significant equalities implications within the report

Legal

- 62 There are no significant legal implications within the report

Crime and Disorder

- 63 The report provides details of the crime and disorder picture within the city, and therefore implications are discussed within the report.

Information Technology

- 64 There are no significant Information Technology implications within the report.

Property

- 65 There are no significant Property implications within the report.

Risk Management

- 66 The report is primarily a look back at service performance and therefore there are no significant risks in the content of the report.

Recommendations

- 63 That the Advisory Panel advise the Executive Member to note the report on community safety performance.

Reason – To update the Executive Member, in accordance with budgetary and performance monitoring procedures

Attached Annex

Annex 1: LPSA2 Community Safety forecast

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Report Approved



Date *17th May 2007*

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

Annex 1: Latest position on Community Safety LPSA 2 indicators

Deliverer	Measure	Baseline	2006/7 target	2006/7 actual	Performance at the Conclusion of LPSA2 (2008)		Comments	Reward grant available	Reward grant prediction (minimum of 60%)
					Without Stretch	With Stretch			
Safer York Partnership	Number of burglaries	2,346 2003/4	1,699	1,081	1,642	1,501	It is forecast that this encouraging performance will continue to the end of the LPSA agreement. It seems likely therefore that the performance stretch will be achieved in full for this target.	£327,919	100% £327,919
Safer York Partnership	Number of Incidents of violent crime	2,506 2003/4	2,344	2,548	2,255	2,181	It is forecast that it will be difficult to make further and significant reductions in this area and that there is a significant risk of failing to achieve performance sufficient to attract payment of reward grant.	£327,919	0%
Safer York Partnership	Theft or unauthorised taking of vehicle (inc. attempts)	1,066 2003/4	806	660	746	682	Projections for this indicator suggest that it is on track to qualify for payment of reward grant.	£155,762	100% £155,762
	Theft from a vehicle (inc. attempts)	3,258 2003/4	2,381	2,363	2,281	2,085	Despite an increase in the incidence of theft from vehicles in the summer months, projections for this indicator suggest that it is on track to achieve at least 60% of the performance stretch.	£155,762	60% £93,457
	Vehicle interference	544 2003/4	403	492	381	348	Whilst performance has improved year on year, this reduction looks unlikely to be sufficient to attract payment of reward grant. This indicator accounts for 5% of the reward grant available for the vehicle crime target.	£16,396	0%
Neighb. Services – Env. Health & Trading Standards	The percentage of illegal sales detected through Test Purchase Programme	17% 2004/5	N/A	12.1 (2006/7) 13.6% (average of 2005/6 and 2006/7)	20%	10% (average of 2006/7 and 2007/8)	Performance in this area is encouraging and it is anticipated will meet the stretch in full. This indicator is calculated by taking an average of the performance over the last 2 years of the agreement. Over the life of the LPSA a minimum of 160 test purchases will be conducted.	£109,305	100% £109,305
	The percentage of residents reporting that 'noisy neighbours or loud parties' in their area represent either a 'very big problem' or a 'fairly big problem'	13% 2005/6	11%	14%	13%	9%	Projections suggest that performance is unlikely to be sufficient to attract payment of reward grant.	£109,305	0%
	The percentage of residents that 'agree strongly' or 'tend to agree' when asked "Do you agree or disagree that York is a safe city to live in, relatively free from crime and violence?"	47% 2004/5	58%	53%	63%	68%	Projections suggest that performance is unlikely to be sufficient to attract payment of reward grant.	£109,305	0%