

Domestic Abuse & Drug Related Crime

Summary

1. This report provides an update on domestic abuse and drug related crime.

Overview

2. Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee have asked for specific reports on domestic abuse and drug related crime. This report addresses both issues, outlining work that is being delivered through Safer York Partnership.

Domestic Abuse

- 3.1 Year End data for 2015/16 showed a 4% increase on the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported during 2014/15. Figures for 2016/17 are projected to be higher than those reported in 2015/16. The first 3 Quarters of 2016/17 have already seen an 8% increase in the number of incidents of domestic abuse reported, with a total of 2,371 incidents reported between April and December 2016, in comparison to the 2,182 reported during the same period in 2015/16. Increases in reporting are positive as they demonstrate that victims have the confidence to report and are seeking support.
- 3.2 Of the incidents of domestic abuse reported between April and December 2016, 29% were reported to have had children present. There has not been a domestic homicide recorded in York since 2008/09.
- 3.3 Core Services to support victims of domestic abuse are commissioned through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and monitored by a Joint Co-ordinating Group (JCG) for York and North Yorkshire. In addition a range of services are commissioned locally and for the county from a range of funding sources. The JCG is now working to simplify this process with an aim that all commissioned services will be aligned by April 2018. This will ensure best use of funding, cost savings by having

one commissioned contract that is multi-faceted and ensure that the best support is provided across the city and county for victims.

- 3.4 The JCG is working to produce an Annual Report which will reflect both the quantitative statistics but also relate it to the performance of service providers in providing support to victims. This report will be available by April 2017. In addition, the police are producing an updated problem profile which will include all partners' information and data on domestic abuse and assist in the drafting of a new strategy for York & North Yorkshire. It will also support the work to rationalise the commissioning process and ensure there are no gaps in service provision.
- 3.5 Discussions regionally have identified that the number of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors in York and North Yorkshire are considerably higher than most other areas. This combined with the commissioned early intervention and perpetrators programmes demonstrates that there is a high level of commitment and support available for victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.6 Domestic Abuse features within the draft community safety plan under the priority of Protecting People from Harm. In 2015 it was agreed that the two community safety partnerships (CSP) for York & North Yorkshire would provide the strategic governance for domestic abuse with the JCG leading the operational/tactical multi-agency delivery. Links to the children and adult safeguarding boards and Health and Wellbeing Board are through representation on the CSPs ensuring consistent reporting at all levels. In addition York has a Vulnerable People Strategy group (internal CYC) at which domestic abuse is also a standing agenda item and reflects the input of all key services within the local authority.
- 3.7 Full Domestic abuse figures for York are attached at Annex A.

Drug related crime

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 Drugs feature across the broad spectrum of community safety issues. They often are the basis of criminal and or anti-social behaviour committed to fund a substance addiction. However, it is the crime which is addressed primarily through multi-agency work carried out under Safer York Partnership's remit. However, substance misuse support services are provided to offenders as part of rehabilitation when they are in the criminal justice system.
- 4.3 The education aspects relating to drugs fall outside the remit of Safer York Partnership but are delivered in schools and widely within communities by education and health service provision.
- 4.3 Work is driven through North Yorkshire Police to tackle serious drug offences linked to organised crime. A serious Organised Crime Partnership Board has been established for York and North Yorkshire which will link in to the Safer York Partnership Board and includes representation from City of York Council. A local group will be established through Safer York Partnership to ensure that local intelligence and information is feeding from partners to North Yorkshire Police and beyond into regional initiatives targeting travelling criminals. This will ensure a more joined up approach to tackling organised crime groups across a range of offences and assist in providing protection for our communities from the activities of these groups. Serious organised crime is complex but impacts significantly through the multi-faceted nature of linked crimes. These can range from doorstep selling to cyber fraud, human trafficking and modern slavery which may support larger drug related criminal activity.

Recommendations

5. Members are asked to note the information contained within this report.
- Reason: To update the Committee on domestic abuse and drug related crime.

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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 – Domestic Abuse figures for York