

Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and Chief Superintendent North Yorkshire Police

**SAFER YORK PARTNERSHIP: CRIME AND DISORDER
REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP FOR THE CITY OF YORK**

Summary

1. This report advises Members of how Safer York Partnership (SYP) is working to reduce crime, disorder and the harm caused by substance misuse in the city of York and the future challenges SYP faces.
2. Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Background

3. The York Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership was established in 1999 following a statutory requirement contained within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for the police and Local Authority to work in partnership to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour. Since that time, various legislative changes have increased the number of statutory partners to include Primary Care Trusts, Fire and Rescue and the Police Authority.
 - 3.1 In 2004, in line with a stance taken by many Unitary Authorities, the Partnership widened its remit to become a merged Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP)/Drug And Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). Whilst it is widely recognised that there are strong links between the two organisational agendas, this report will address each agenda separately. The rationale for this is that the two organisations have matured at very different rates and whilst the CDRP is well established, the DAAT is still in a period of transition and change.
 - 3.2 The Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced a number of significant changes that have impacted on CDRPs across England and Wales. These included the implementation of Neighbourhood Policing and recommendations from a major review of the Crime and Disorder Act, which introduced a set of National Standards for CDRPs.
 - 3.3 Performance Management frameworks have varied throughout the lifespan of the CDRP. The common feature is that all have been aligned to Home Office

funding to ensure that resource is placed to address those issues of crime and disorder which impact most significantly on the city. The current performance arrangements focus on the Local Area Agreement, which contains 10 indicators related to community safety.

- 3.4 To support the York CDRP the City of York Council and North Yorkshire Police jointly fund a Safer York Partnership Team (SYP Team), headed by a Director, and based at the York Centre for Safer Communities at Lower Friargate. The Director of the SYP is line managed by the Assistant Director (Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety).

Focus on Crime Prevention

4. Since 2005, Safer York Partnership team has utilised the National Intelligence Model as a means of identifying crime and disorder priorities and allocating resource to develop solutions. The model focuses on three key elements: Victim, Offender and Location. Multi-agency tactical problem solving groups have been established to focus on the key crime and disorder issues identified through a robust data analysis process known as a Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. This is where data from all agencies is combined with Police data, evaluation information and horizon scanning to identify the partnership's focus for each 12 month period. Tactical Task groups have been established for:

Burglary, Vehicle Crime, Cycle Theft, Anti-social behaviour, Alcohol related violence linked to the Night-time Economy.

- 4.1 Each task group uses data analysis to identify up to three mini-zones or hot-spot areas. Partners then agree an action plan to implement long term measures aimed at tackling these issues. These measures are derived from analysis of National evaluated good practice and largely focus on Crime Prevention. Examples include: Alleygating to reduce all crime types, Promotion of secure cycle locks, use of Designated Public Place Orders and Dispersal Orders to tackle Anti-social behaviour and the development of the Cumulative Impact Zone to restrict the number of licensed premises within the city centre.
- 4.2 The task groups also focus on the top 10 offenders for each key crime type, working very closely with the police and probation through the Prolific and Priority Offender Programme to work intensively and seek opportunities to reduce offending behaviour.
- 4.3 All task groups are well attended by relevant partners and the action plans are strictly monitored by the Director of the SYP team and key actions reported bi-monthly to the CDRP Board. This approach has proven success and impacted significantly on the achievement of a 38% reduction in crime between 2005-2008 against a target of 24.1%. The partnership has continued to demonstrate reductions in crime against a rising National trend and this is regarded as a result of the close collaborative working facilitated between all key agencies that is facilitated by the Safer York Partnership Unit at Lower Friargate.

Combating Crime Linked to Substance Misuse

5. The offender profile for York shows that whilst some crimes are committed to fund a drug addiction problem eg. Shop lifting, theft etc. alcohol plays a far more significant part in relation to offending behaviour. This includes the impact of alcohol on violence and anti-social behaviour linked to the night time economy, under-age drinking and domestic violence. However, whilst there are well established pathways of support for those offenders who have a substance misuse problem related to Drugs, tackling alcohol issues is far more complex.
- 5.1 Since 2002, Safer York Partnership has supported a Prolific Offender Programme in York. Dedicated Police and Probation Officers have worked closely with the most prolific offenders released on license from Prison to provide additional support in addressing their substance misuse problems, seeking employment, training and housing. Since the introduction of a national Prolific and Other Priority Offender scheme in 2004, the programme has evolved to incorporate the Government Funded Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and Spotlight – a mainstreamed version of the Prolific Offender Programme across York and North Yorkshire. Figures from Spotlight have been impressive with 47% reduction in reoffending by those on the programme.
- 5.2 From January 2010 work with offenders will be greatly enhanced through the implementation of Integrated Offender Management in York. This will see dedicated police and probation teams working to provide much of the support already existing through Spotlight to a larger cohort of offenders.
- 5.3 Whilst reduction of harm through drugs is subject to substantial Government Funding, this is not the case for Alcohol. Services providing support to tackle alcohol addiction are generally voluntary and under-resourced to cope with demand. However, whilst there are opportunities through arrest referral schemes to signpost drug using offenders to seek support, no such scheme exists in relation to alcohol and due to the subjectivity and the need for offenders to be willing to seek help, such schemes tend not to be successful.
- 5.4 Tackling alcohol related night-time violence is a National issue. In York, the introduction of the Cumulative Impact Zone to restrict numbers of licensed premises has proved a success in keeping figures low. However, a combination of changes to Home Office counting rules for violent crime combined with a national culture of binge drinking, make this issue far more difficult for the partnership to resolve.
- 5.5 The Nightsafe task group is well established and brings together police, local authority and licensees to look at ways in which night time alcohol related violence can be reduced. Last year, the development of Operation ALTN8 (A 14 week education and enforcement programme aimed at reducing binge drinking) resulted in a 36% reduction in violent crime in the city. This operation

is currently running throughout the summer and will be fully evaluated in September.

Link Between Neighbourhood Management & Community Safety

6. Following the release of the Louise Casey and Sir Ronnie Flannagan reports last year, there is clear national drive to develop the neighbourhood management agenda, including the link to neighbourhood policing and community safety. In York this has been well embedded through the movement of the Safer York Partnership staff to line management with Neighbourhood Services, and the development of the community engagement process which links the Ward Committees and neighbourhood management unit with the police Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNT).
- 6.1 The Capable Guardian pilot developed the exchange of data and intelligence between agencies working in Westfield Ward. The evaluation of this project showed that the biggest benefit was the increase in contact between agencies and the opportunity to identify issues and work in partnership to tackle them. A post has now been created in the Neighbourhood Management Unit for 12 months to oversee the roll out of the scheme to other wards, which could benefit from this approach. The other wards are:
 - Clifton
 - Micklegate
 - Heworth
 - Huntington and New Earswick
- 6.2 Under the guidance aligned to the single Public Confidence Target, CDRPs are now required to produce a Community Engagement Strategy and localised Community Engagement Plans. This will consolidate the arrangements that already exist for consultation through the ward committees as well as provide clear ward based action plans for each SNT to carry out ongoing consultation.

7. Councillor Call for Action

- 7.1 Unlike many Local Authorities, scrutiny of Community Safety related subjects is not new for City of York Council. The scrutiny and overview team have already put mechanisms in place to strengthen this role in future.
- 7.2 North Yorkshire Police Authority is playing a key role in overseeing this process across the city and county of North Yorkshire and a training date for York has been set for 22nd September 2009.

8. Management Provision in relation to Partnership Working

- 8.1 The movement of the Safer York Partnership (SYP) to Neighbourhood Services has been of considerable benefit. The SYP staff are no longer detached from the Council and there has been a noticeable increase in the engagement of the Council across all strands of the partnership's work.

- 8.2 The changes implemented by North Yorkshire Police under their Capability and Capacity Review resulted in the realignment of all Police staff and the movement of all Police staff under line management of the Director Safer York Partnership. This has resulted in a much improved management structure.
- 8.3 The York CDRP has been chaired by the police Area Commander for the last three years. This has worked well and ensured Senior support for the partnership. The Vice Chair is the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods and Community Safety), who attends the CDRP on behalf of the York Chief Executive.

9. **Prevent**

- 9.1 PREVENT is a local strategy designed to combat violent extremism. Each local authority must have a PREVENT strategy and action plan in place. Performance is managed against National Indicator, NI35. The City of York Council lead for PREVENT is the Assistant Director (Neighbourhoods and Community Safety). A PREVENT strategy and action plan is being developed for York such that the "score" under NI35 (currently level 2) will be improved to level 3 within 12 months. The "Capable Guardian" post referred to in paragraph 7.1 above, will assist the Assistant Director in developing a sustainable PREVENT strategy and action plan for York.

10. **Challenges for the year ahead**

- 10.1 Safer York Partnership is in its sixth year of sustained crime reductions. This has bucked the National trend of rising crime. Sustaining these results in a period of recession is not easy. However, unlike previous recessions, the framework for partnership problem solving through the CDRPs is well established and the use of crime pattern analysis far more advanced.
- 10.2 North Yorkshire Police will be restructuring through their Toward 2012 Project. This will change the local delivery boundary from a combined York and Selby area to become one delivery unit for the City of York. It remains to be seen whether the proposed command structure will allow continuation of the same high level of involvement in the CDRP or what effect this will have on regular communication between the SNT and SYP. At this point, it is unclear what effect the restructure will have on police staff currently seconded to SYP.
- 10.3 All public sector budgets will be squeezed and this may begin to impact on service delivery if budgets are reduced. Although Area Based Grant was allocated for three years (2010 being the final year), it remains to be seen whether the Safer & Stronger Communities element will be reduced. Similarly, BCU fund has remained in place but administered through the Police Authority in 2009/10. It is unclear yet whether this fund will be available for 2010/11. SYP currently benefits from £30,00 from this fund for the delivery of projects to address local policing priorities.

- 10.4 The impact of the Councillor Call for Action is, at present, unknown. Potentially this could increase the workload of the SYP team if the scheme is used frequently.

11. **Corporate Priorities**

- 11.1 The work of Safer York Partnership impacts on the Safer City strand of the Corporate Strategy and the aim for York to be a safer city with low crime rates and high opinions of the city's safety record

Implications

12. **Financial**

None

13. **Human Resources (HR)**

There are no human resources implications

14. **Equalities**

None

15. **Legal**

There are no legal implications

16. **Crime and Disorder**

The main purpose of this report is to provide information on progress in reducing crime and disorder in York

17. **Information Technology (IT)**

There are no IT implications.

18. **Property**

There are no property implications

19. **Other**

Risk Management

20. There are no physical, financial or legal risks associated with the implementation of recommendations contained in this report.

Recommendations

21. That the Shadow Executive note the content of this briefing report.

Reason: To inform and update the Shadow Executive and help shape the effectiveness of future action.

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Report Approved

Date

24/08/09

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Specialist Implications Officer(s)

There are no specialist implications

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report