

**Report of Director of Environment and Housing**

**Report to Safer Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 10th March 2014**

**Subject: Overview of the Crime and Disorder Joint Strategic Assessment**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: 10.4 (7) Appendix number: Appendix 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides the Board with an overview of the annual Crime and Disorder Joint Strategic Assessment; a summary of Safer Leeds strategic priorities for 2014/15 and an indication of key challenges.
2. Despite reductions in overall recorded crime and improvements in local perceptions reported, there remain key offending, safeguarding and ASB issues that have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of residents of Leeds.
3. A number of key factors contribute to demands for service relating to crime and community safety, understanding these can assist in directing limited resources, identifying appropriate responses and engaging suitable partners.

**Recommendations**

4. Members are asked to:
  - (a) Note the content of the JSA and covering report
  - (b) Consider the areas for improvement, advising SLE of any recommendations that could be included in the refreshed Safer Leeds Plan and
  - (c) On production of the Plan consider which areas of business require further scrutiny.

## **Purpose of this report**

1.1 This report provides the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board with:

An overview of the annual Crime and Disorder Joint Strategic Assessment  
A summary of Safer Leeds strategic priorities for 2014/15 and  
An indication of the key challenges

## **2 Background information**

2.1 The Safer Leeds Executive (SLE), the city's statutory Community Safety Partnership, undertakes a Joint Strategic Assessment (JSA) annually. This 'restricted' document seeks to:

Outline and improve understanding of the medium to long-term issues affecting community safety in Leeds  
Identify existing or emerging risks, threats and harms and  
Inform partnership prioritisation and decision making for the forthcoming year

2.2 The JSA was presented and approved at the SLE in late January 2014 (attached in appendix 1 for information) and is used as an evidenced based document to inform and advise the following:

Safer Leeds:

Planning and resource allocation  
City and locality action plans  
Partnership needs assessments

West Yorkshire Police:

Strategic assessments and control strategy  
Safer Neighbourhood plans  
Resource decisions

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner:

West Yorkshire needs assessment  
Police and Crime Plan refresh

## **3 Summary of Performance**

3.1 The JSA highlights a number of performance risks concerning a range of crime types. This summary provides an update from the position in the JSA document.

3.2 Data from iQuanta (Home Office crime comparison figures) shows that in Leeds, Recorded Crime fell by 4% in the year to December 2013 when compared with the previous year. Reductions in Burglary Dwelling, Criminal Damage and Other Thefts (including Frauds) account for the greater numeric volume of this drop.

3.3 Burglary Dwelling fell by 14% in the year to December 2013. The rate of offences per 1000 households is now below the Core City average and for the 12 months to December Leeds ranks better than four of the eight authorities in the group, thus improving by two places since the last assessment.

- 3.4 Burglary Other than in a Dwelling was 1% higher in the year to December 2013 than in 2012. Leeds performs worst in the Core City group and despite a longer term reduction in offences there has been no improvement relative to the Core City group average.
- 3.5 Vehicle Crime fell by 2% in the year to December 2013, continuing the trend reported in previous assessments. Leeds has a rate of offences per 1000 population that is higher than the Core City group average. Differentiating between Theft of and Theft from Motor Vehicle shows a 3% fall in Theft of Motor Vehicle offences and a 2% increase in Theft from Motor Vehicle. This difference in performance is reflected when looking at the Core Cities group where Leeds has the third lowest rate for Theft of Motor Vehicle and the second highest rate for Theft from Motor Vehicle.
- 3.6 Shoplifting increased by 10% in the year to December 2013, continuing a trend noted in previous assessments. Leeds has a rate of offences per 1000 population lower than the Core City group average and ranks fourth lowest in the group.
- 3.7 Theft from Person increased by 2% in the year to December 2013, this is a continuing long-term trend. Leeds ranks in the middle of the Core Cities group and has a rate of offences that is just higher than the average.
- 3.8 Robbery fell by 2% in the year to December 2013, with evidence of some levelling out of the long-term reduction trend. Although ranking fourth in the Core Cities group, Leeds has a rate of offences per 1000 population that is significantly lower than the group average. Separating Business and Personal offences, shows Business Robberies were 31% higher in the year to October 2013, largely because of a pronounced peak in between December 2012 to March 2013, since when numbers have dropped to previous levels. Personal Robberies were 6% lower in the year to December 2013 than in 2012, despite an isolated peak in offences in September 2013.
- 3.9 Violence against the Person fell by 3% in the year to December and after a long period of decline, annual offence totals now appear to be stabilising. Leeds ranks second best in the Core Cities group and has a rate of offences per 1000 population that is significantly lower than the group average.
- 3.10 Sexual Offences increased by 21% in the year to December 2013. Leeds is placed in the middle of the Core Cities group with a rate of offences close to the group average. The large increase in offences includes a significant peak in reporting of historic cases following widespread media attention, as observed throughout England and Wales. However not all the increase can be attributed to reporting of historic offences as there is a marked increase in reporting of recent (under a month old) offences.
- 3.11 Despite reductions in overall recorded crime and improvements in local perceptions reported, there remain key offending, safeguarding and ASB issues that have a significant impact on the safety and wellbeing of residents of Leeds.

## 4 Service Demand

- 4.1 In the last 12 months there were over 200,000 recorded calls for service to the police, 75% relating to community safety issues (public safety/ welfare, crime, and ASB/ nuisance).

**Public safety/ welfare** are calls where personal safety or welfare was the primary concern or where the caller witnessed potentially criminal behaviour. The qualifiers most commonly associated with personal safety or welfare are “mental health” and “alcohol related”. Where the caller has witnessed suspicious behaviour, youth related, drugs involved and alcohol related are common qualifiers. This category also includes domestic abuse with insufficient evidence to record a full criminal offence.

**Crime** related calls for service reflect incidents that have an initial indication of criminal activity, the most common being: thefts, burglaries, violence against person (including domestic abuse) and damage to property.

**Nuisance** related calls involve incidents that range from local concerns, noise, deliberate or even hate related anti-social behaviour. Common incident qualifiers in this category are youth related incidents, accounting for over a quarter of records; alcohol related incidents; and at lower frequency, mental health, racial prejudice, or drugs involved.

- 4.2 A number of key factors contribute to demands for service relating to crime and community safety, understanding these can assist in directing limited resources, identifying appropriate responses and engaging suitable partners.

## 5 Identification of Reoccurring Themes

- 5.1 There are a number of reoccurring themes, risks, threats and harms that were identified in the JSA, these are summarised below.

Dangerous or prolific offenders linked to various crimes and safeguarding issues

Opportunistic stealing and disposal of stolen goods

Individuals, families and communities deliberately targeted through harassment, ASB and crime

Neighbourhoods having concomitant low level nuisance, ASB and crime issues

Young people becoming involved in criminal behaviour; new and emerging offenders

Intolerance and aggression leading to abuse or violence

Alcohol, drugs or mental health issues resulting in increased susceptibility as both victim and/ or perpetrator.

Complex needs requiring partnership problem solving, intervention and case management

Pressures on organisations to deliver appropriate services

Differences in knowledge and understanding

5.2 Dealing with such issues will not only address concerns around crime and disorder, but also improve levels of satisfaction and confidence.

## 6 Key Priorities

6.1 SLE agreed the following as priorities for partnership attention, as listed in the table below:

Threats to Property & Ownership	Threats to Individuals & Communities	Social Risks & Harms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∨ Burglary</li> <li>∨ Vehicle Related Crime</li> <li>∨ Robbery &amp; Personal Theft</li> <li>∨ Commercial Crime (inc. shop lifting and fraud)</li> <li>∨ Disposal of Stolen Goods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∨ Anti-Social Behaviour</li> <li>∨ Youth/ Neighbour Nuisance</li> <li>∨ Hate Crime &amp; Tensions</li> <li>∨ Domestic Violence &amp; Abuse</li> <li>∨ Sexual Exploitation</li> <li>∨ Cyber Crime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>∨ Alcohol Related Violence &amp; Nuisance</li> <li>∨ Drug Production &amp; Supply (especially cannabis)</li> <li>∨ Mental Health Issues</li> <li>∨ Organised Criminal Groups</li> <li>∨ Offending Behaviour</li> </ul>

6.2 As part of these priorities a number of areas for improvement have been highlighted for consideration as part of the renewed plan.

## 7 Areas for Improvement

7.1 Creating safer and stronger localities:

Shared understanding of issues within localities and communities, including quantitative and qualitative analysis of cohesion, tolerance, respect, safety and security.

Tailored Safer Neighbourhood Area delivery plans to create consistent measures of success between different areas/ issues.

Processes for review of delivery through partnership mechanisms and publication/ dissemination of outcomes and performance.

Routes for an 'active community voice', where people can get involved and respond directly or indirectly to disorder or concerns in their neighbourhoods.

Clear justification for resource allocation to areas of most concern or risk with identified measures of success formulated at the start of any projects.

7.2 Supporting victims of crime and anti-social behaviour by treating people with respect and sensitivity:

Identifying the most vulnerable people and groups, including intelligence mapping of changing and emerging communities to inform partnership tasking.

Offering appropriate support to victims through services working with voluntary groups to improve efficiencies and relevant support agencies included in tactical responses.

Preventing future victimisation by raising awareness towards specific issues through planned communication and media projects that are justified and value for money.

Pro-active and planned work with community, resident and faith groups to promote personal and community safety.

Promoting positive role models and inclusive neighbourhood groups so that communities and victims feel empowered to take suitable actions against inappropriate behaviours.

### 7.3 Addressing public safety by managing known offenders and those at risk of offending:

Assessing and challenging the evolution and changes within offending behaviour and MO's.

Devising solutions to address both organised and opportunistic offending.

Tackling youth nuisance and crime through early identification and interventions.

Ensuring that a suitable mixture of support, deterrent and enforcement activity is used to motivate offenders to change their behaviours.

Promoting partnership activity focused on reducing family dysfunction and community breakdown.

Identifying and preventing causes of aggressive and intolerant behaviours, low levels of victim empathy, and use of violence and abuse by offenders.

Addressing complex needs, including where offenders have mental health, drug and/ or alcohol related issues.

### 7.4 The JSA supports the continuation of the current Partnership Commitments as outlined below, with the flexibility to focus further on areas for improvement:

Continue to reduce acquisitive crime and its impact across Leeds, especially domestic burglary

Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities

Improving safeguarding and reducing vulnerability for individuals, families and communities, with a specific focus on:

- Reducing domestic abuse
- Understanding and responding to child sexual exploitation

Reduce re-offending

Reduce the use of cannabis and legal highs

## 8 Partnership Challenge & Change

### 8.1 The challenge is to address underlying factors of crime and disorder through practical sustainable partnership working. This requires intelligence led co-ordination at strategic and operational levels, learning from experience (locally, nationally and internationally), and tailoring responses in an informed, appropriate and assessed manner.

- 8.2 Improvements require strategic commitment from partners, shared and open information exchange, and co-ordinated processes. The partnership agreed that when developing, reviewing or refreshing strategic and operational delivery plans it will seek to tackle the reoccurring themes collectively, in the short, medium and long term.
- 8.3 Following West Yorkshire Police organisational change, Leeds is now one policing division, led by one Chief Superintendent, a smaller senior management team and eleven Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. These new Safer Neighbourhood Areas are aligned to the Council's ten Area Committees, and the later will continue to be the main channel through which the council delegates its local decision making process. This provides opportunities for an integrated partnership workforce at a local level to deliver priorities and concerns of local people.

## **9 Key Concerns ~ Future Funding Implications**

- 9.1 The West Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) has agreed to extend the current Community Safety Fund arrangements to 30th September 2014. In his Police and Crime Plan 2013 he states he intends to commission the delivery of community safety, reducing re-offending and victim services directly through the PCC's commissioning framework. This will potentially impact on integrated service delivery across Leeds.
- 9.2 From 2014 most emotional and practical support services for witnesses and victims will be commissioned locally by Police and Crime commissioners. These support services will seek to address issues relating to: mental and physical health; housing; family, friends, and children; education, skills, and employment; drugs and alcohol; finance and benefits; outlook and attitudes; and social interaction
- 9.3 The PCCs 5 year Police and Crime Plan will be refreshed annually and must take regard of the priorities of each district Community Safety Partnership. In order to qualify for future funding, Safer Leeds Executive will need to ensure their local priorities are reflected in the Police and Crime Plan. To retain the support of the PCC, it is imperative that the city articulates its community safety priorities clearly, demonstrating the effectiveness of its activity and service delivery.

## **10 Next Phase**

- 10.1 The Safer Leeds Executive is now considering how to address these priorities and areas for improvement, ensuring cross-cutting themes have the right connections to other city priority plans.
- 10.2 SLE as part of its statutory requirements will prepare and implement a refreshed local Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, referred to locally as the 'Safer Leeds Plan'. This plan also forms part of the council's budget and policy framework.
- 10.3 As in previous years, the Safer Leeds Plan will be owned by the SLE, referred to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board and submitted to full Council for approval, subject to consideration and support by the Executive Board.

## **11 Corporate Considerations**

### **11.1 Consultation and Engagement**

11.1.2 This is a performance and intelligence report for the Board's information and as such there is no need for wider consultation. If the Board determines that any area requires further investigation, then it may be decided that the views of interested parties should be sought or that existing information reflecting the views of customers and others stakeholders should be provided to the Board.

### **11.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

11.2.1 This is not a decision-making report and as such there is no need for an EIA screening document to be completed.

11.2.2 The business of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board is to consider the extent to which Safer Leeds Executive is delivering City Priorities and also to review and challenge the Council's own performance in relation to the Safer/Stronger agenda. As part of this role, the Scrutiny Board will consider the extent to which the partnership board and the Environment and Housing directorate are addressing cross-cutting issues, including equality and diversity and cohesion and integration. This will be taken into account when determining the performance information the Scrutiny Board may require.

### **11.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

11.3.1 The information received by the Board allows it to assess and challenge performance in relation to the delivery of specific city priorities and priorities within the Best Council Business Plan.

### **11.4 Resources and Value for Money**

11.4.1 The Board has specifically asked that reports are based on information that is already available, and has determined that it will only require more detailed reports where it wants to examine performance areas in more depth, thereby ensuring that reporting arrangements remain efficient and effective.

### **11.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

11.5.1 The report is provided within the context of the formal role of Scrutiny Boards within the Council's constitution. There is no decision being made and there is therefore no call-in requirement.

### **11.6 Risk Management**

11.6.1 The provision of the information to the Board is designed to enable the Board to fulfil its role effectively and as such will minimise the risks of non-delivery of City Priorities and Best Council Business Plan Priorities. Care is being taken to make use of existing data rather than create an additional reporting burden.



## **12 Recommendations**

12.1 Members are asked to:

- (a) Note the content of the JSA and covering report
- (b) Consider the areas for improvement, advising SLE of any recommendations that could be included in the refreshed Safer Leeds Plan and
- (c) On production of the Plan consider which areas of business require further scrutiny.

## **13 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

13.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.