

Report of: Director of Environment & Housing

Report to: Outer South Community Committee

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To note

Community Safety Update Report

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on reported crime figures and anti social behaviour over the period 1st April 2015 and 31st March 2016.

Main issues

1. Appendix 1 provides crime data for the period 1st April 2015 – 31st March 2016 and shows an upward trend for most offences. This increase is replicated across Leeds and across the force area and can be attributed to two Home Office recording changes introduced in 2015. These changes have required that offences are recorded based on the victims' perception and houses in multiple occupation with more than one household are now recorded as separate offences. (For example if a burglary offence occurs in a house of multiple occupation with 4 occupants who each have a bedroom, 4 burglary offences would be recorded). Whilst the change in burglary recording does not impact on Outer South specifically, the changes about recording offences based on a victim's perception have impacted on all offences across Leeds.
2. Members will be aware that multi agency tasking arrangements were introduced in 2014, since that time Members have been invited to tasking to raise any concerns or issues from constituents and other members of the community. These arrangements have received positive reviews and allow partner agencies to deal effectively with issues before they escalate and ensure Members are kept up to date and reassured of the action taken to address community concerns.
3. The Change in Home Office recording standards has particularly impacted on violent crime figures as this is now victim perception based, low level incidents such as pushing that may not have been recorded as offences previously are now reflected in the figures.

Outer South Policing

4. During the last eight months policing in Leeds has seen a great deal of change with the implementation of the new operating model. The old NPT was replaced with the Outer South Partnership Working Area (PWA), a team which consists of Ward Officers and PCSO's. The team is currently stretched due to low staffing levels but continue to investigate crime, problem solve and proactively patrol to tackle crime and to safeguard our communities. There is currently a recruiting drive for both PCSO's and PC's.
5. The crime figures from the period highlighted an increase in total crime when comparing to the previous year financial year. However, the increase thus far in the current year is at 15%. Similarly, there has been an increase in certain crime types: a) Burglary Dwelling of 4%; b) Theft of motor vehicle of 23%. The increase in TOMV (theft of motor vehicle) may appear high but there has been an increase in all Partnership Working Areas (PWA) across the city, with Outer South being the third lowest increase. Some areas have seen significant increases in relation to burglary dwelling offences. Some of this increase can be attributed to the Home Office Counting Rules as already mentioned. Conversely, there have been decreases in crime types: a) Burglary Elsewhere shows a decrease of 16%; b) Theft from Motor Vehicle shows a decrease of 3%; c) Robbery by 5%.
6. In relation to the offences that have shown a decrease, the Ward Officers of Outer South have contributed to the decrease by conducting proactive operations utilising a number of Policing tactics to catch offenders and bring them to justice. Once such operation dealt with TFMV (theft from motor vehicle) offences and through effective deployment of our tactics the offender was caught red handed and was sentenced to custody. That same individual, upon release, altered his offending pattern to Burglary Other offences. Police Officers from the local team dealt with this individual and again he was sentenced to custody of 36 weeks and is still serving that sentence. Local Officers visited and interviewed him in prison and he has been reported for further offences of Burglary Other.
7. Police Ward Officers have also focused on the Force Priorities of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Missing Persons and protecting the vulnerable. A regular juvenile missing person was committing crime with those more criminally active. Intervention took the form of arresting the more criminally experienced person for offences which resulted in 28 weeks custody, The local Police Ward Officer worked with partner agencies through a multi agency meeting to support the juvenile and his family, warnings were issued to those that were assisting in the missing episodes and the meeting agreed to secure alternative schooling for the juvenile. With support from the local experienced Ward Officer, The juvenile has not been missing since.
8. Child Sexual Exploitation / Stranger Danger and Cyber-crime inputs have been made at a number of primary schools to highlight the dangers of the risks and the fact that offences could be committed by pupils unaware of legislation governing the plethora of social media apps. Parents have also been included in the inputs to highlight issues and increase awareness. This work has welcomed by schools and parents, work in this area will continue and other Partnership Working Areas in Leeds are looking at the work done in this area with a view to replicating such inputs and work.

Leeds Anti Social Behaviour Team (LASBT)

9. This section of the report presents an overview from the Team Leader of the activity of the Leeds Anti Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) in South Leeds. It includes numbers of cases, performance data, satisfaction levels and case studies of good practice in the area.
10. All anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases are managed within the team from 'cradle to grave', and ASB caseworkers cover areas by Leeds City Council Wards. The team works closely with a range of agencies to tackle ASB, provide support, and improve community safety within estates across all tenure types. The team also covers the City Centre, and works with agencies to tackle asb issues such as begging and street drinking.
11. During the last year the processes for tackling noise nuisance have become firmly embedded within LASBT. Officers have been trained to witness noise nuisance, install noise monitoring equipment, and are working closely with the Out of Hours Noise service to ensure that noise issues are dealt with in a joined up way.

ASB Caseload

12. The table below shows a breakdown of the 123 cases investigated in the Outer South area during 2015/16.

Ward Boundaries	Number of Cases Investigated
Morley North	27
Morley South	30
Ardsley & Robin Hood	28
Rothwell	38

ASB Type	Morley North	Morley South	Ardsley & Robin Hood	Rothwell	Total for Outer South
Alcohol related		1			1
Animal related problems	1				1
Criminality		1		1	2
Domestic Violence	1			1	2
Drug/substance misuse/dealing	2				2
Hate Crime: Disability				1	1
Hate Crime: Race		2		2	4
Hate Crime: Sexual Orientation					
Litter / rubbish					
Misuse of Public Space	1			3	4
Noise	5	6	11	5	27
Nuisance Vehicles				2	2
Rowdy Behaviour	4	6	6	7	23
Sexual Acts & Prostitution					
Threats/Actual Violence	4	8	6	7	25

Vandalism / Damage to Property		2		3	5
Verbal Abuse	9	4	5	6	24
Grand Total	27	30	28	38	123

Legal Outcomes

13. During the last year LASBT has secured some excellent results for the victims of asb and our communities, and has fully utilised the ASB Powers available. The team has closed down properties using Premises Closure Orders, and have obtained a number of Possession Orders for council properties resulting in eviction. The team has secured Anti-social Behaviour Injunctions and, under the Noise Legislation, have served Section 80 Noise Abatement Notices, executed warrants to seize audio equipment, and prosecuted those who continue to cause noise nuisance. Throughout this work the team have supported both victims and accused parties utilising the case officers' skills and excellent links with partner agencies.

Performance Data

14. The performance data for 2015/16 evidences the positive performance the team has achieved throughout the year. The table below shows performance against our service standards for customer contact.

Service Standard	Performance 2015/16
Initial contact with customer (1/2 day)	95.3%
10 day customer contact	97.5%

Customer Satisfaction

15. Customer Satisfaction Surveys are undertaken and feedback from customers is one of the most important measures of what's gone well, and what needs to be done to improve the service for future. All outcomes from Customer Surveys are shared with the team to enable learning, and the sharing of good practice.
16. During 2015/6 customers in 274 cases were asked to complete surveys. 183 customers completed them, providing a high response rate of 66.8%. The table below shows the feedback from customers against each of the questions asked in the survey. It is pleasing that customer satisfaction remains high against all measures.

Customer Satisfaction (Closed Case)	Performance 2015/16
KPI1 Q5 Speed first made contact	92.0%
KPI2 Q8 Investigation into reported ASB	94.6%
KPI3 Q4 Consulted about action	99.5%
KPI4 Q6 Kept up to date	97.8%
KPI5 Q9 Outcome of case	91.3%
KPI6 Q10 Contacted prior to closure	97.8%

KPI7 Q7 Support offered	92.9%
KPI8 Q13 Overall service	95.6%

ASB work by Ward Area

17. This section provides a summary of some of the work that has been undertaken by the team during 2015/16. The team works with a range of agencies across the partnership to ensure that the team respond to anti- social behaviour swiftly and in a supportive, yet robust way.

Morley North

18. A number of complaints were made by residents about a property in the Morley North area. Incidents reported involved large groups gathering at the property, parties lasting for days, rowdy behaviour and drug use. The tenant was served with a Noise Abatement Notice but did not heed the warning, and the issues escalated. LASBT successfully secured a Premises Closure Order, and the property was closed down for an initial period of 3 months. The tenant breached the order and several people were arrested by the police, drugs were found on the tenant and he was also arrested. The tenant subsequently surrendered his tenancy.
19. We have dealt with a case involving a property where the asb involved incidents of rowdy behaviour, noise nuisance, and damage to property. During the case officers investigations he identified that the 19 year old tenant was vulnerable, and her property had been taken over by two nominals who were inviting people to the property. The case officer worked with the tenant and a range of agencies such as the police, housing, adult social care and the youth offending service. The tenant shared information that she was being made to sleep on the floor, her bank cards had been taken, money stolen from her, and she had been subjected to ongoing threats. The nominals were approached by the case officer and the police at the request of the tenant, the keys to the property were removed from them, and they were asked to leave. To ensure they do not return and to safeguard the tenant for future, an Anti-social Behaviour Injunction is being sought to keep them away from the area.

Morley South

20. Residents reported a number of incidents of rowdy behaviour, threats and noise from a property in the area. We worked with a range of agencies such as the police and social care as the tenant of the property was identified as vulnerable due to a disability. The tenant refused to work with us, or engage in any support. The incidents escalated further and a Premises Closure Order for a period of three months was secured. The tenant refused to surrender his tenancy and he threatened to return to the property and cause further problems. An application for Possession of the property was therefore made to the County Court and an order for the tenants' eviction was granted.
21. The police notified us of a tenant living in the area that had been convicted of the Importation of Class A drugs. The haul of 90kilos of Ecstasy had an estimated street value of £4.5 million pounds. Although the drugs were not seized in the locality of the tenants' property, due to the

seriousness of the offence we applied to the County Court for Possession of the tenants' property. The tenant was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment but his wife remained in their tenancy. In view of this the courts did not award an eviction order, but did make a Suspended Possession Order for the lifetime of the tenancy, prohibiting the tenants from having anything to do with the drugs in the property. It is rare that a 'life of a tenancy' order is granted, but this reflects the seriousness of the crime committed

22. We have investigated a complaint of noise in the Morley South area. Following initial investigations it became apparent that the noise reported was as a result of Domestic Violence, and the accused was actually the victim. We worked closely with Social Care as the victim had her children removed by them previously due to the risk posed by her partner. The case officer worked closely with the victim and she encouraged her to provide a statement to us so we could apply for an Injunction, to keep her now ex-partner away. The Injunction was granted, and her ex-partner was forced to move out of the house, and he is aware that the Injunction carries a 'power of arrest' should he breach the order. No further incidents have been reported, and as the victim worked with us to secure the Injunction, Social Care has re-instated supervised access for her to see her children now the risk from her ex-partner has been removed. She is also engaging in parenting classes, and is working towards having her children for unsupervised access in future.

Ardsley & Robin Hood

23. Following complaints of rowdy behaviour, damage to property and noise in the Ardsley area we opened a case for investigation. The tenant at the property refused to engage with us and the incidents escalated with the police having to attend the property on a number of occasions. We applied to the County Court for Possession of the property and successfully secured an order to repossess the property. The tenant moved out of the property prior to the date of eviction and we have not received reports of any further incidents since then.
24. We have been part of a steering group, for the Positive Families Programme, where victims of domestic violence were identified and encouraged to attend a programme delivered by the 'Together Women' project. The items discussed at each of the sessions were around child development, healthy relationships, boundaries and behaviour, and positive parenting. Our Victim Support officer delivered a presentation at one of the sessions and provided advice on how to report domestic violence and what support was available through their service. The programme worked to empower the parents to become 'Parent Champions' for their community. This entailed them undertaking further training so they could be a point of contact within the community, and share their knowledge of the services available for residents. Of the five parent champions volunteers, three have suffered domestic abuse. Through their own personal experiences and the training they've received, their advice, and signposting to agencies for residents in the community will be invaluable.

Rothwell

25. Further to reports of ongoing rowdy behaviour, verbal abuse and threatening behaviour we successfully obtained an Anti social Behaviour Injunction against a resident in Woodlesford. The accused party has been involved in further incidents, and the case has been returned to court for a trial. The accused party could face imprisonment for breaching the terms of the order.

26. Youth issues had been reported in the John O Gaunts area, but the identification of some of those involved was unknown. Those who were dealt with advised that there was a lack of activities for them in the area. Our officer attended a family fun day to promote the work of the team, and to encourage residents to report. Residents shared a lot of information on the day and this enabled us to identify further youths involved. Leeds City Council's multi sports coaches also attended the event, and further to the feedback from the youths the case officer asked if they could provide a pop up sports event in the area during the school holidays. Those youths identified as causing asb in the area were encouraged to attend the events, and feedback from the sports event was positive. In view of this we have asked if this area could be considered for the sports programme during future school holidays.

Conclusion

27. Due to the changes in Home Office recording it is difficult to make comparisons with the previous year and draw accurate conclusions. It is therefore, difficult to draw out if the increase in reported crime is due to a result of the changes or some other factor. Partnership working through tasking is now well embedded and is a strong vehicle to tackle some of the issues outlined in the report.

Recommendations

28. The Outer South Community Committee is requested to note the report and offer comments

Background information

It should be noted that there are a number of factors which impact on crime; these can be placed in 3 broad categories:

- A suitable target or opportunity - high value items which can be removed relatively easily; vulnerable premises or people; unlocked doors or windows, etc.
- A motivated offender - someone whose values or beliefs make stealing / violence acceptable, drug dependency, someone motivated by greed, etc.
- A low likelihood of getting caught - no police or security patrols, a neighbourhood with a culture of low reporting of crime, no natural street surveillance, properties obscured by overgrown bushes, etc.

The work undertaken by the multi agency partnership through tasking seeks to address these vulnerabilities to reduce crime. This maybe through awareness campaigns to ask drivers to keep valuables out of sight, advising householders to cut back hedges or through visits to potential offenders.

Appendix 1

Ward	Burglary Dwelling			Burglary Elsewhere			Criminal Damage			Robbery		
	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change
Ardsley & Robin Hood	54	64	19%	97	88	-9%	113	140	24%	9	8	
Morley North	77	120	56%	119	128	8%	149	218	46%	14	6	
Morley South	68	93	37%	168	127	-24%	229	218	-5%	12	10	
Rothwell	65	79	22%	80	100	25%	146	205	40%	10	13	
Outer South	264	356	35%	464	443	-5%	637	781	23%	45	37	-18%

Ward	Theft From Motor Vehicle			Theft Of Motor Vehicle			Violent Crime & Homicide			Total Crime		
	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change	2014/15	2015/16	change
Ardsley & Robin Hood	114	94	-18%	33	37	12%	149	329	121%	783	983	26%
Morley North	203	214	5%	53	45	-15%	197	382	94%	1358	1741	28%
Morley South	152	185	22%	32	50	56%	303	542	79%	1563	1946	25%
Rothwell	88	129	47%	18	48	167%	154	348	126%	825	1227	49%
Outer South	557	622	12%	136	180	32%	803	1601	99%	4529	5897	30%