



**Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate**

**Meeting: South (Inner) Leeds Area Committee**

**Date: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**Subject: South Leeds Divisional Community Safety Partnership Update Report**

<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b>  Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)		<b>Specific Implications For:</b>  Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>	

**Executive Summary**

This report identifies a range of activity which has been undertaken in the first three quarters of 2008/09 to address community safety issues in Inner South Leeds.

**1.0 Purpose Of This Report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update from the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator on crime levels in inner south Leeds. It includes information about crime in each ward and actions taken or ongoing to tackle those issues. It provides an update on the structures that have been introduced in order to maximise partnership resources. Finally it sets out some of the key priorities for 2009/10.
- 1.2 This report supports the Area Committees enhanced role to influence and be consulted on and to develop the delegated function of Neighbourhood Wardens. It also supports the Area Committees enhanced role relating to PCSOs and multi agency crime and grime operations.

**2.0 Crime Figures and Related Activity**

**2.1 Crime statistics and crime reduction activity for inner south Leeds**

- 2.1.1 The attached spreadsheet (appendix one) shows the numbers of offences under the main crime types and is broken down into the three wards in inner south. It covers

the last two quarters of 2007-2008 and the first three quarters of 2008-09. It should be borne in mind that the figures for City and Hunslet ward include the figures for the city centre and therefore the levels of crime appear higher than in other neighbourhoods. It has not been possible this time to disaggregate the data. A request has been made to Safer Leeds for this information to be made available and will be circulated to Members when it is received.

2.1.2 The following summarises current performance across key areas in all three wards.

## 2.2 **Beeston and Holbeck ward**

2.2.1 Burglary in Beeston and Holbeck ward showed a steady decrease during 2008 but has peaked during the third quarter to almost double the level of the previous quarter (from 59 to 121 offences). This is a serious concern and is the focus of the Burglary Reduction group. The Cardinals area of Beeston is being prioritised for multi agency activity in the form of a day of action during February 09. Neighbourhood Wardens carried out door to door leafleting in the Cross Flatts area during December 08 to encourage residents to ensure their properties and belongings are secure.

2.2.2 Criminal damage is showing a slight decrease in the ward and has the lowest level in inner south. Drugs offences are higher in Q3 this year than in the same period last year though have reduced from a peak of 34 in quarter one. Far Beeston and Holbeck had an Operation Champion each this year which may have contributed to these reductions.

2.2.3 Theft of and theft from motor vehicles have both reduced which is pleasing. The ward has benefited from regular patrols of Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs taking details of cars with belongings on show and passing them onto Safer Leeds so that crime prevention letters can be sent to the registered keeper. The use of "VCrats" (the name of the form used to record the vehicles details) is an integral part of daily patrols and areas are selected through the intelligence package produced for the multi agency Tasking meetings.

2.2.4 Violent crime has also decreased although robbery has shown a slight increase. The figures for Quarter three in both years are higher than in other quarters so this is likely to be a seasonal increase linked to Christmas.

## 2.3 **City and Hunslet ward**

2.3.1 Burglary dwelling figures in this ward have remained fairly steady, but shown a marked increase in quarter three of 08/09. The level is comparable with Beeston and Holbeck, so if the city centre figures are removed is likely to be lower than actually shown. The Joint Strategic Assessment that was presented to the Safer Leeds Executive in December 2008 states that: "*the main problem types for burglary dwelling are apartment blocks, low quality terraced housing in Beeston Hill and 2 in 1 offences (residential burglaries with the theft of a motor vehicle)*". As Beeston Hill is within the INM area it has benefited significantly from the resources of the Neighbourhood Safety team. Actions to tackle burglary have included installing Birmingham bars to strengthen door frames in the Garnets, the use of capture houses, the use of anti climb paint and other security measures for clients of the Neighbourhood Safety Officers.

2.3.2 Criminal damage and drugs offences have both shown slight increases during the period. Action taken to reduce criminal damage has included gating schemes in

Disraeli Terrace and ongoing work to install gates in Bismarck Street, Disraeli Terrace and Northcote Green. Criminal damage is linked with Anti Social Behaviour and also with secondary fires. It is therefore disappointing that the overall figures show an increase when a significant project to reduce the damage associated with bin yard fires has been running during 2008. Fire Service data showed a reduction of 25% of secondary fires in inner south Leeds with a 100% reduction in the Woodviews area as a result of the yards being cleared of accumulations of rubbish. Therefore it is likely that the ward statistics may be reflecting trends in the city centre rather than in neighbourhoods. Activity in the Hunslet area of the ward has included Operation Champion, joint evening patrols by Wardens and PCSOs to provide reassurance and gather intelligence. The intelligence gathered was used with other information from Ward Members to guide a series of police actions during the summer months.

2.3.3 Theft of and theft from motor vehicles has also increased over the period in question. The Hunslet area in particular has received extra attention from Neighbourhood Wardens in issuing "vcrat forms" to reduce theft from motor vehicles. The higher levels are connected incidents that have occurred in the city centre. The JSA states that: *"over a quarter of the Divisional total for theft from motor vehicle offences are in the city centre with most occurring in city centre car parks."*

2.3.4 Violent crime has decreased slightly.

## **2.4 Middleton Park ward**

2.4.1 Middleton Park ward has also shown a slight increase in burglary dwelling though it remains the lowest of the three wards. As with Beeston Hill, some areas have benefited from resources from the Neighbourhood Safety project including specific target hardening to vulnerable residents properties.

2.4.1 Criminal damage has increased slightly in the ward. Drugs offences have shown a more marked increase from 11 in quarter three 08/09 to 28 in the same quarter during 2009/10. There was a concentration of multi activity in the ward during the latter months of 2008. This activity included the launch of the Middleton Friday Night Project. The project is aimed at targeting young people on a Friday night with the aim of diverting them from ASB or criminal activity. There was also a repeat of last year's successful Mischief Madness event which attracted over 80 young people on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November. There were joint patrols between the Neighbourhood Wardens and PCSOs in hotspot areas of the ward in the two weeks around Bonfire Night when ASB and criminal damage tend to peak. Feedback from officers and residents was that these patrols helped to reduce the number of calls relating to ASB during that period.

2.4.2 Theft of and theft from motor vehicle offences have also increased though both are significantly lower than the other two wards.

2.4.3 A significant concern in the ward is the increase of reports of hate crime. The JSA states that: *"there appears to have been an increase in reporting from BME residents of attacks, criminal damage and ASB in the Belle Isle and Middleton areas."* The hate crime sub group of the DCSP is developing an action plan to accurately identify the concerns and develop a plan with short, medium and longer term actions.

2.4.4 A significant piece of work to tackle these and other crime issues in the Brooms lead to the granting of a Closure Order – this is believed to be the first time this legislation has been used anywhere in the country. The Closure Order was granted against a BITMO tenant who had been carrying out acts of ASB and allowing his property to be

used for anti social activity. The Order removes the tenant from the property for a period of three months. Additional enforcement action included the use of an injunction to prevent him returning to the Belle Isle area and steps have been taken by BITMO to take permanent possession of the property. Feedback from residents in relation to this initiative has been very positive.

2.4.5 A project to support community cohesion in the Middleton area is being developed as "Middleton Bright Ideas". The project uses a Participatory Budgeting approach whereby the local community will have the chance to vote to decide which local projects receive a share of £30K funding. The project is supported by the Inner South Area Committee, Aire Valley Homes and West Yorkshire Police. It will be launched mid February.

## **2.5 Other community safety activity**

2.5.1 A series of distraction burglary talks have been given to vulnerable residents in centres across inner south by Neighbourhood Wardens, the Neighbourhood Safety team and the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

2.5.2 From Sept 2008 West Yorkshire Police committed to the Safer School Partnership. The aim of the Partnership is to ensure that young people, staff, parents and visitors to schools in inner south Leeds and other areas across West Yorkshire have a safe environment in which to study, work and visit. The scheme was launched in January 09 with each school being allocated at least one dedicated, school based police officer. South Leeds High School has two officers and Cockburn High School has one officer. Their names (and the names of officers for outer south Leeds schools) are attached at appendix two.

2.5.3 The officers will be involved in a range of school based activity including:

- multi agency initiatives for intervention / diversion work for young people at high risk of becoming involved or further involved in offending
- undertaking targeted PHSE & citizenship inputs
- providing a visible and accessible presence within the school setting and its wider community
- joint truancy patrols with education welfare staff
- investigating & dealing with crimes from a base in the school in particular violence, bullying, drugs, theft etc
- assisting the school with developing approaches to behaviour management & conflict resolution.

2.5.4 This is not a definitive list and it is likely that individual schools will have different problems that will benefit from the Safer Schools Partnership officers.

2.5.5 Crime reduction information has been regularly distributed to local residents through generic media such as the YEP or at community events. There have also been targeted awareness campaigns via the Operation Champion newsletter, Aire Valley Homes newsletters and delivering leaflets door to door in key locations.

## **3.0 Changes to the Structure of the South Leeds Divisional Community Safety Partnership**

### **Thematic crime groups and multi agency area based tasking**

- 3.1.1 In May 2008 the South Leeds Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP) agreed to re-structure its sub groups. This decision was taken following discussions with Safer Leeds and other Divisions about how to achieve the best outcomes for the area. Two structure charts are attached at appendix three and four that show the new structure.
- 3.1.2 There are two area based Tasking meetings covering Belle Isle/Middleton and Beeston/Holbeck/Hunslet and Cottingley. The group is made up of representatives from agencies who have an in depth knowledge of issues and their service within the local area. They are chaired by the Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector and meet monthly.
- 3.1.3 There are four thematic groups that cover the whole of south Leeds. The groups tackle the following issues: burglary/robbery, drugs/alcohol/vehicle crime, hate crime, domestic violence. There is also a link to the ASB panel that convenes representatives from across the city to approve applications for Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs).
- 3.1.4 Each group receives an intelligence package from the Police Divisional Intelligence Unit (DIU). This allows the group to prioritise activity into the problem areas. The meetings are made up of representatives from a range of agencies. These agencies are also asked to bring details of problems to the table in order that the combined resources of each group can be used to address them. Each group has a performance management framework that allows for actions to be tasked, monitored and outcomes are recorded.
- 3.1.5 Each thematic and Tasking group reports back to the DCSP and in turn via a Highlight Report to the Safer Leeds Executive. There are also regular updates of activity to the Inner South Area Committee via the Area Managers Report. The link to the Area Committee has been strengthened in recent months with the introduction of a link Member for the DCSP. This link was enhanced at the November meeting with a pre-Area Committee community safety themed event.

#### **4.0 Key Priorities for 2009/2010**

- 4.1 The DCSP is in the process of developing its action plan for 2009/10. The plan will mirror the strategic outcomes of the Safer Leeds plan which are:
- Creating safer environments by tackling crime
  - Improving lives by reducing the harm caused by substance misuse
  - Supporting victims and reducing the risk of victimisation
  - Reducing offending and managing offending behaviour
  - Improving community confidence and public satisfaction

It will also develop a timeline that will allow for trends in crime types to be anticipated and plans put in place to address those issues.

- 4.2 The DCSP also recognises the need to continue delivering actions to tackle the increasing levels of burglary. The increase in burglaries is a serious concern in this area, other parts of Leeds and across the country. It is likely that the trend will continue to rise as economic conditions worsen. Furthermore, there are significant reductions in resources available locally to tackle the problem. NRF funding that supported proactive target hardening had been very successful in reducing repeat

incidents and this funding is coming to an end. There is a significant reduction in the INM allocation and this has led to one of the Neighbourhood Safety Liaison Officer posts being left vacant since the previous post holder left the role. The resource budget attached to the post has also been reduced therefore there will be fewer opportunities to deliver projects to tackle the issue.

- 4.3 In response to this, the South Leeds Burglary Sub Group is proposing a series of action days. Crime data will be used to identify problem streets that are being affected by burglary. A crime prevention audit will be carried out by the NPT Crime Reduction Officer to identify measures that can be taken to reduce the likelihood of burglary being committed. This approach will use the crime prevention model of victims, location and offender. Partner agencies will be asked to commit resources to addressing the problems which could include improving lighting, cutting back vegetation, distributing crime reduction messages. This activity will be supplemented by actions carried out at area based Tasking meetings where intelligence about target nominals is discussed by partner agencies to ensure enforcement action is taken on several fronts.

## 5.0 Area Committee Funded Activity

- 5.1 The Inner South Area Committee has funded the following projects through its wellbeing fund:

### Revenue Projects

08/09	Amount
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arson Reduction Project - Cleaning Binyards</li> <li>Operation Champion</li> </ul>	<p>2,000.00</p> <p>1,000.00</p>
07/08	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test purchasing</li> <li>Off road motorbikes project</li> </ul>	<p>2,200.00</p> <p>13,121.00</p>

### Capital Project

08/09

- Southleigh A frame to reduce nuisance motorbikes 1,500.00

## 6.0 Operation Champion

- 6.1 The results of Operation Champion have been presented as summaries in the Area Managers report throughout the year. A spreadsheet showing the collated results of all nine operations is attached (appendix five). There have been significant difficulties this year in collating these outputs. Staffing difficulties have meant that no formal output recording was done for the Holbeck operation in May. Furthermore, agencies are often not proactive in sending information in a timely fashion. The demands of other work priorities may mean that information is not collated and therefore shows as a nil return.
- 6.2 The DCSP has recognised that there are areas of concern with Operation Champion particularly around inconsistent input from key agencies and in information in the

form of results being returned to the Champion organiser. Delivery Statements are being agreed with each agency in order to ensure greater clarity about their obligations. In future, this should lead to more consistent reporting and improved outcomes.

## **7.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

7.1 No specific issues are identified.

## **8.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

8.1 No specific issues are identified

## **9.0 Recommendations**

9.1 The Committee is asked:

- a) To note the contents of this report and to make comments of the programme of work that has been delivered and the priorities for the coming year.

## **Background Papers**

None