

Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 12th February 2009

Subject: Community Safety Issues, Inner West Leeds

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <p>Armley Bramley and Stanningley</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report introduces Inspector Mark Bownass from West Yorkshire Police who will give an update on Community Safety Issues in Inner West Leeds over the past 8 weeks. In particular Inspector Bownass will provide an update on the four day burglary and vehicle crime initiative in Armley and Bramley funded by the Area Committee, the planned reassurance mapping for the Wyther estate in Armley and the launch of the police pledge focusing on local priorities within Neighbourhoods in Inner West. Inspector Bownass will also discuss proposals for a Dispersal Order for the Cedars in Armley and give a brief overview of the police initiatives over the Christmas and New Year period.

1.2 Burglary & Vehicle Crime Initiative

During the Operation there were a total of 9 arrests (the majority were targeted active nominals) the offences detected ranged from Conspiracy to commit Burglary, burglary and armed robbery.

One offender of note, is a prolific vehicle crime offender throughout the Bramley and Armley area. Due to the funding the 'capture car' was deployed in a specific area, and the offender was caught breaking into the vehicle.

This arrest had a significant impact on the crime figures for the area, which went from 10 offences the previous night, to zero after the arrest. This male is pending court at this stage.

Out of the 9 arrests 4 were detained in custody over the Christmas period (the rest were released on bail with strict conditions), which again has seen a significant decrease in offences over this period.

Overall the operation was a great success, which in turn has had a positive impact on the residents of Bramley and Armley.

2.2 Dispersal Order – Cedars Armley

The Inspector for the Inner West Neighbourhood Policing Team have put forward papers for the Area Committee to support a Dispersal order for the Cedars in Armley under the Dispersal of Groups and the removal of under 16s from area, Section 30 Anti-Social Behaviour Act.

Over the last 6 months there have been growing concerns and complaints in the Cedars about large groups of youths engaged in under age drinking, Anti-Social Behaviour, damage and fighting in the street on a daily basis. The youths do not live locally, but are visiting the area on a regular basis. A number of statements received from local residents have highlighted a feeling of intimidation, harassment and distress due to these activities. The crime statistics show that Anti-Social Behaviour and associated crime is almost double to that in other areas of the division. If an order is granted, this would be for a 6 month period.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The North West Divisional Community Safety Partnership is responsible for delivering actions to reduce crime and disorder in the West Wedge. It is made up of representatives from key statutory agencies.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Community Safety is one of the priority areas for the Area Committee. Regular reports are received from West Yorkshire Police on key issues and activity in the Inner West Area.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 Tackling crime and disorder and addressing the fear of crime is a top priority for the citizens of Leeds as evidenced by previous consultation undertaken on a citywide and local level.

4.2 The citywide community safety partnership, Safer Leeds, has identified a number of key priority themes for 2008 – 2011 these 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;

Locally delivered actions will contribute to these priorities. In addition Operation Champion has been rolled out throughout the city and will be targeting hot spot areas by Police division.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The West Area Management Team includes an officer with specific responsibilities for Community Safety who co-ordinates activity and acts as the link officer with West Yorkshire Police.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Crime and Community Safety is a priority for the Area Committee, and a representative from West Yorkshire Police, North West Division, attends the Inner West Area Committee meetings to provide a regular update on key issues.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the update from West Yorkshire Police
- 7.2 Support proposal for a Dispersal Order to assist the police in tackling Anti-social Behaviour and associated crime on the Cedars in Armley.

Background Papers

Police and Local Authorities Consultation Document for the dispersal of Groups and the removal of under 16s from the area. Section 30 Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 .