

Report of the Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods

West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 10th September 2010

Subject: Community Safety Issues, Outer West Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

This report provides the opportunity for Inspector Richard Cawkwell to provide the Outer West Area Committee with information on crime trends, partnership initiatives and future joint projects between Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police in Outer West.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

This report introduces Inspector Richard Cawkwell from West Yorkshire Police who will give an update on Crime and Community Safety Issues in Outer West Leeds since the previous Area Committee on 9th July 2010.

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.
- 2.2 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 Outer West Area

3.0 Main Issues

In the period since the last area committee meeting the focus has remained on issues of priority crime namely house burglary, vehicle crime and also tackling anti social behaviour.

3.1.1 Crime Trends - at the time of preparing this report there is a pleasing reduction in the numbers of house burglaries which are occurring in Outer West. As stated in previous reports, Operation Titan is the forces response to dealing with a sustained rise in house burglaries in Leeds witnessed first in 2009 and running into the first few months of 2010. Operation Titan has seen additional Police Officers coming into the division to supplement our own staff in the efforts to arrest and disrupt known offenders.

Unfortunately there has been a recent rise in vehicle crime in ward 28 Pudsey. This has been prominent since mid June. The offenders are known and are subject to disruption tactics and a positive approach to arrests when evidence is available. Recent weeks have seen reduced numbers of offences but the vigilance has to remain.

In terms of theft of motor vehicles and robbery these are at manageable levels and cause no concern as part of a wider trend of reduced crime numbers.

4.0 Initiatives

Operation Achnaba has been a sustained operation aimed at tackling known criminals in Inner and Outer West. This initiative commenced in June 2010 and is still ongoing. This Operation sees the combined efforts of NPT Officers working alongside Detectives until the early hours of the morning. There have been a number of key arrests of well known offenders and this has had the knock on effect of reducing the numbers of recorded burglaries.

4.1 Cottingley Springs engagement day

An multi-agency engagement day is to take place on the 24th August at Cottingley Springs Travellers site. The purpose of the day is to provide information about access to local services such as the dog chipping service, environmental waste, reporting crime as well as organising some fun activities for the children living at Cottingley Springs.

Positive activities for young people and Leeds Gate are providing a range of activities for young people to get involved with, and the Environmental Team are going to organise the young people in some environmental work. The police are also offering support to raise awareness of crime prevention advice/information and crime stoppers. Research has been conducted around Gypsy and Travellers and has identifies a variety of issues affecting these communities such as health and well being inequalities. This event aims to promote an awareness of partner agencies working in West Leeds and across the city and aims to foster positive relationships with the police with the travelling community.

4.2 Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

The Owlcotes Project is something that we can be proud of. Owlcotes terrace in April saw unprecedented levels of ASB which took the form of criminal damage, street drinking and disorderly conduct. Following good partnership work between the

Police/ASBU/WNW homes/TET and others the level of offending fell. This was due to arrests being made, enforcement action and low level ASB sanctions. Following the recovery then the long term neighbourhood management issues needed to be examined. At this time plans are in place to develop a neighbourhood garden in the location where local people can enjoy the facility.

The development of the garden will take place on 31st August and will involve the community with young people working alongside a range of partner agencies such as the police, West North West Homes, Youth Services, Groundwork and BVTC Community Safety and Area Management . Feedback from the event will be provided at the next Area Committee meeting.

5.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

5.1 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 by Safer Leeds and West Yorkshire Police on a citywide and local level.

5.2 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.

6.0 Legal And Resource Implications

6.1 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.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 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.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to note the update from West Yorkshire Police

Background Papers

No background papers were used in writing this report.