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**Item no:**

**Report from: Safer and Stronger Communities Board**

**Report to: Partnerships Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 25 February 2013**

**Subject: Progress and summary of the work of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board**

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## **Executive Summary**

The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is one of the 5 city Strategic Partnership Boards. It has responsibility for the aspects of community safety, community capacity, community relations, street cleaning, parks and green spaces in the city priority plan.

In its first 18 months it has made significant progress on its agreed 4-year priorities and has established joint working in key areas with other boards.

### **1.0 Purpose of this report**

**1.1** To provide background information on the history and development of the Safer and Stronger Communities Strategic Partnership Board and sub-boards.

**1.2** To present information which will assist the Scrutiny Board in assessing strengths and areas for development for the Partnership Board in respect of the three key questions:

- What contribution the Partnership Board is making to tackling poverty and inequality, and the progress being made against this?
- How successful are the Board's partnership arrangements?
- To what extent are significant benefits being seen from partnership working? How has partnership working ensured increased pace of change to address the issue in hand?

### **2.0 Background information**

**2.1** The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has met 6 times since its inception in September 2011.<sup>i</sup>

**2.2** It is chaired by Cllr Peter Gruen, as portfolio holder for Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Housing and supported by a third sector vice-chair Bishop John Packer of the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds.

**2.3** It has 15 members: 11 partners and 4 politicians (2 portfolio holders and 2 opposition representatives), and is supported by 4 Leeds City Council Officers:

<b>Politicians:</b>		
Cllr Peter	Gruen	(Chair) Exec Member - Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services (Labour)
Cllr Jonathan	Bentley	Leeds City Council (Liberal Democrat Group)
Cllr Les	Carter	Leeds City Council (Conservative Group)
Cllr Mark	Dobson	Exec Member - Environment (Labour)
<b>Partners:</b>		
Adrian	Curtis	Groundwork Leeds
Bishop John	Packer	For Leeds Migration Partnership (Vice-Chair)
CS Paul	Money	West Yorkshire Police
Dr Ian	Cameron	Director of Public Health - NHS Leeds / Leeds City Council
Hanif	Malik	Hamara
Maggie	Allen	Foundation Housing - for Third Sector Leeds
Mike	Love	Together for Peace
Neil	Moloney	West Yorkshire Probation
Nick	Smith	West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Steve	Hunt	East North East Homes for ALMOs and BITMO
<b>Supported by:</b>		
Neil	Evans	Leeds City Council - Environment and Neighbourhoods
Liz	Jarmin	Leeds City Council - Community Safety (Safer)
Rachael	Loftus	Leeds City Council - Leeds Initiative (Stronger)
Helen	Freeman	Leeds City Council - Environment and Neighbourhoods (Cleaner-Greener)

**2.4** The Board has 2 major supporting partnerships: the Safer Leeds Executive and the Stronger Communities Partnership. Both of these partnerships also support additional partnership working on specific workstreams.

**2.5** There is also a workstream that reports directly to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board on cleaner-greener issues. See Fig 1 – Safer Stronger partnerships structures for more information.

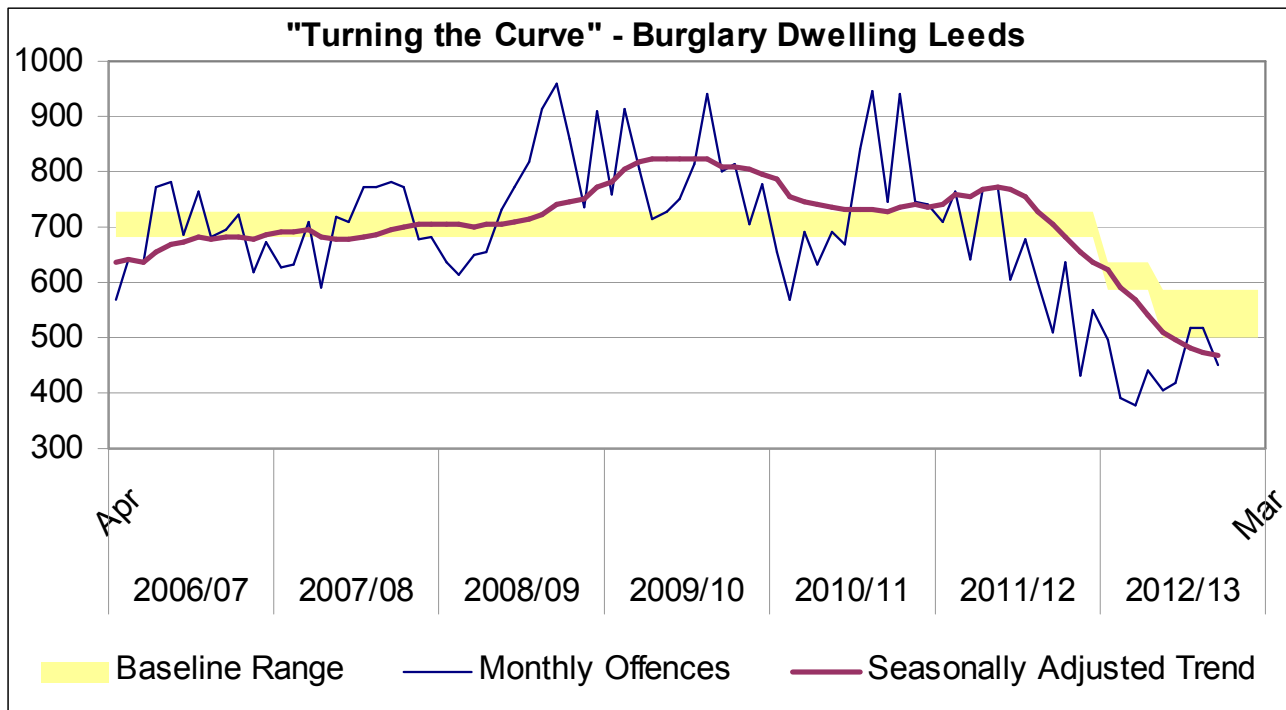
**2.6** The Board has 4 priorities in the City Priority Plan:

- Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds
- Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities
- Ensure that local neighbourhoods are clean
- Increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities

Fig 1. Safer Stronger Communities Board and supporting structures

<p align="center"><b>SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES BOARD</b>                      Chair: Cllr Peter Gruen, LCC      Vice Chair: Bishop John Packer, LMP</p>													
CITY PRIORITIES	Reduce crime levels and their impact		Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour		Increase the sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities			Ensure local neighbourhoods are clean					
BOARD WORK PROGRAMME	- Families First (joint with Children's) - Restorative Practice (joint with Children's) - Alcohol Harm Reduction (joint with Health and Wellbeing)												
CROSS-CUTTING	Impact of Welfare Reform TBC: Poverty Truth Commission												
SUB-BOARD	<p align="center"><b>SAFER LEEDS EXECUTIVE</b> Chair: Neil Evans, LCC</p>				<p align="center"><b>STRONGER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP</b> Chair: Cllr P Gruen, LCC Vice Chair: M Love, T4P</p>			<p align="center"><b>Cleaner Greener Workstream</b> Lead: Helen Freeman, LCC</p>					
PARTNERSHIP WORK PROGRAMME	<p align="center"><b>Commitments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reducing levels of crime and its impact across Leeds</li> <li>- Effectively tackling and reducing anti-social behaviour in communities and neighbourhoods</li> <li>- Improving safeguarding and reducing vulnerability for individuals, families and communities</li> </ul>				<p align="center"><b>Focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Defining the conditions required for stronger communities</li> </ul> <p align="center"><b>Working with all communities and with targeted communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with third sector to support communities and community sector</li> </ul>			<p align="center"><b>Focus:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring local neighbourhoods are clean</li> <li>- Improving access to and quality of green space in the city</li> </ul>					
SUPPORTING PARTNERSHIPS	<p align="center"><b>INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD</b> Chair: N Moloney- WY Probation</p>	<p align="center"><b>BURGLARY TASKING GROUP</b> Chair: D Oldroyd- WY Police</p>	<p align="center"><b>ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOURBOARD</b> Chair: S Hunt, ENE Homes</p>	<p align="center"><b>*LEEDS ALCOHOL MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP</b> Chair: Dr I Cameron, NHS Leeds</p>	<p align="center"><b>AREA COMMUNITY SAFETY P'SHIPS x 5</b> Chair: WY Police Divisional Commanders</p>	<p align="center"><b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STRATEGY GROUP</b> Chair: Vacancy</p>	<p align="center"><b>* FAMILIES FIRST BOARD</b> Chair: Cllr J Blake, LCC</p>	<p align="center"><b>* SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES</b> Lead: D Jackson, LCC</p>	<p align="center"><b>LEEDS MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP</b> Chair: Bishop John Packer, Diocese Ripon and Leeds</p>	<p align="center"><b>BME CHALLENGE FORUM</b> Chair: Cllr G Hussain</p>	<p align="center"><b>* ROMA GYPSY TRAVELLER P'SHIP</b> Chair: R Middleton, NHS Leeds</p>	<p align="center"><b>* THIRD SECTOR PARTNERSHIP</b> Chair: Cllr L Yeadon, LCC</p>	<p align="center"><u>NOTES:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Alcohol Management P'ship – also reports to Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>* Families First Board – also reports to Children's Trust Board</li> <li>* The 5 Area Community Safety Partnerships are: East North East, West North West, South and South East, City Centre and University</li> <li>* Safeguarding Communities – across Safer and Stronger priorities</li> <li>* Third Sector Partnership – also reports to LI Board</li> </ul>

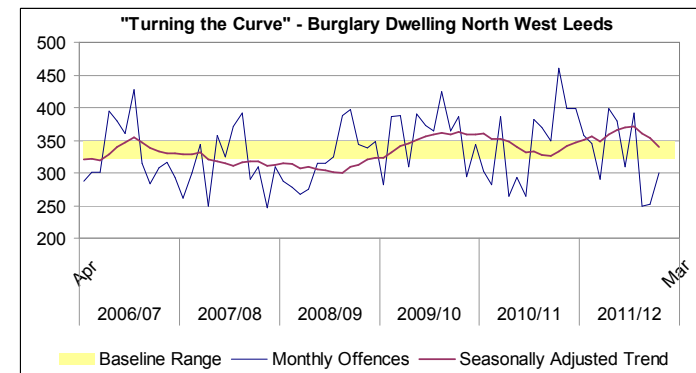
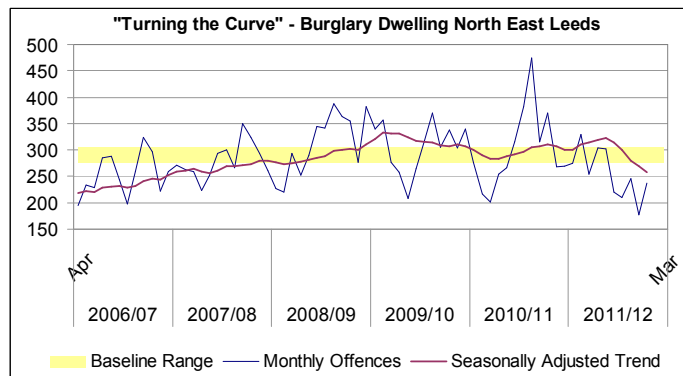
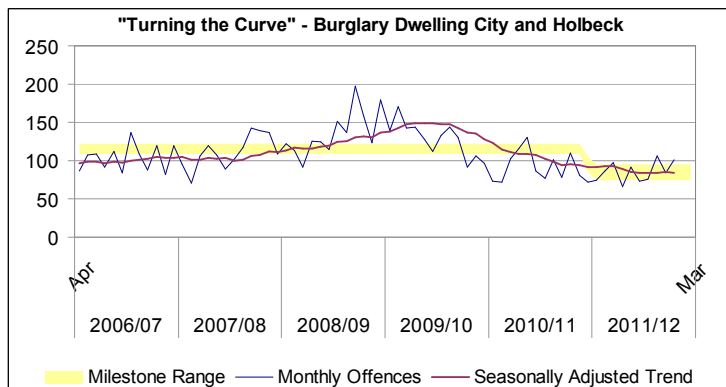
Fig 2 – (Priority 1) Turning the Curve – burglary offence patterns for Leeds overall and by police division 2006-2013.



**GOOD PRACTICE IN BURGULARY DETERRENT:**

The “immobilise.com” property marking and recording system, which aids the recovery of stolen goods, continues to be promoted locally.

It also featured in the 2012 CrimeWatch programme based in Leeds.



**2.7** Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds – Overall Progress – [Green Box] (see fig 2)

2.7.1 Burglary has been a particular problem in Leeds for some years, and seeing a reduction in this across the city was chosen as they key indicator for reducing overall crime. The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has an oversight, but the devolved work of the Burglary Tasking Group has been the significant driver in bringing the city's main crime reduction and prevention agencies into a highly collaborative approach.

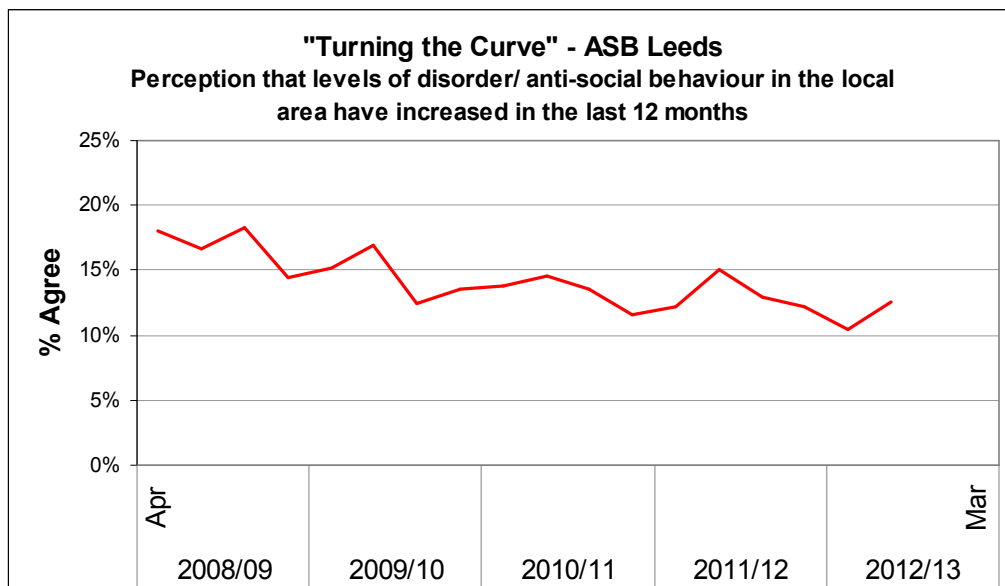
2.7.2 In September, Safer Leeds reviewed the 7,056 target for 2012/13 setting out a revised stretched target of a year end out-turn of 5,999. The seasonally adjusted performance is at the lower end of the Milestone Range and is consistent with achieving the target


2.7.3 The provisional figure for the 12 months ended December 2012 is 5634 offences, down 33% resulting in 2830 fewer victims.

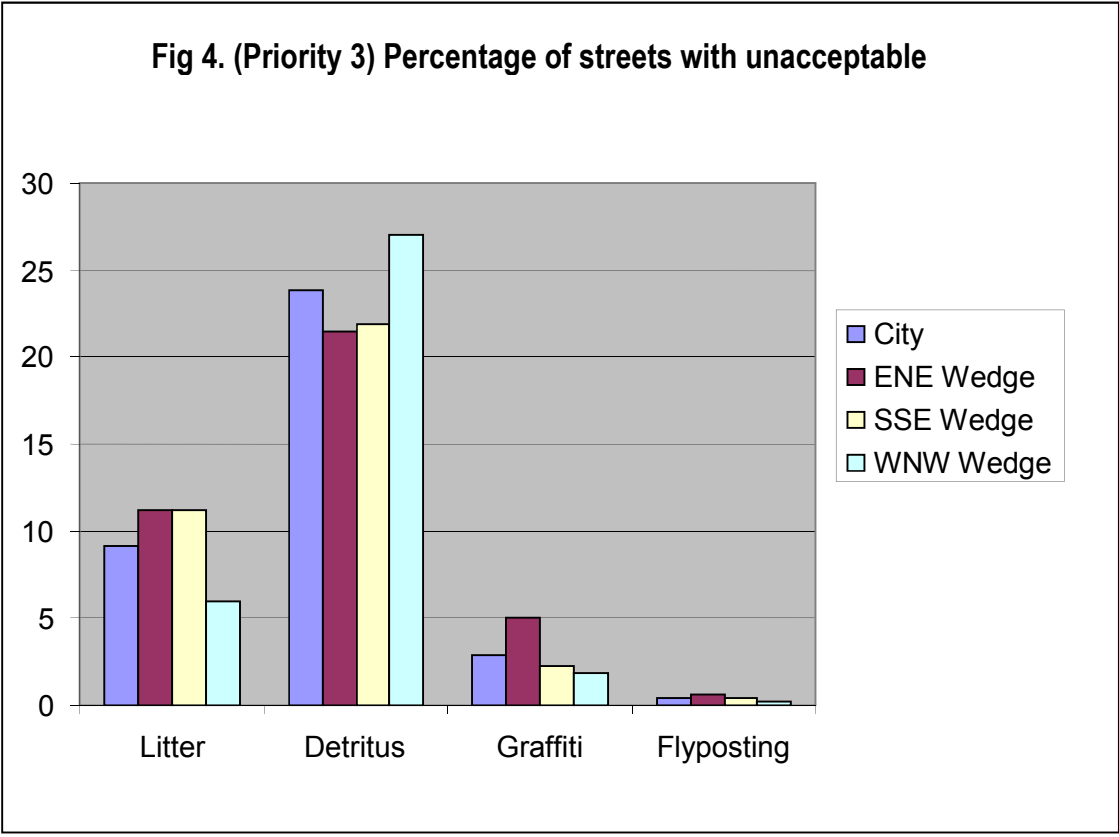
2.7.4 Figures to the end of July 2012, show that this positive trend is shared in all three policing divisions: All three policing divisions are on track to meet targets; North West Leeds down 21.5% (919 fewer victims); North East Leeds down 26.7% (995 fewer victims) and City and Holbeck down 10.4% (116 fewer victims). (See fig 2).

2.7.5 Similarly all wards of concern<sup>ii</sup> have seen a 12 month reduction, with the exception of Hyde Park & Woodhouse, but this ward has saw a significant reduction (-43.1%) in the 3 month period May – July 2012.

**2.8** Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities - Progress [Green Box]

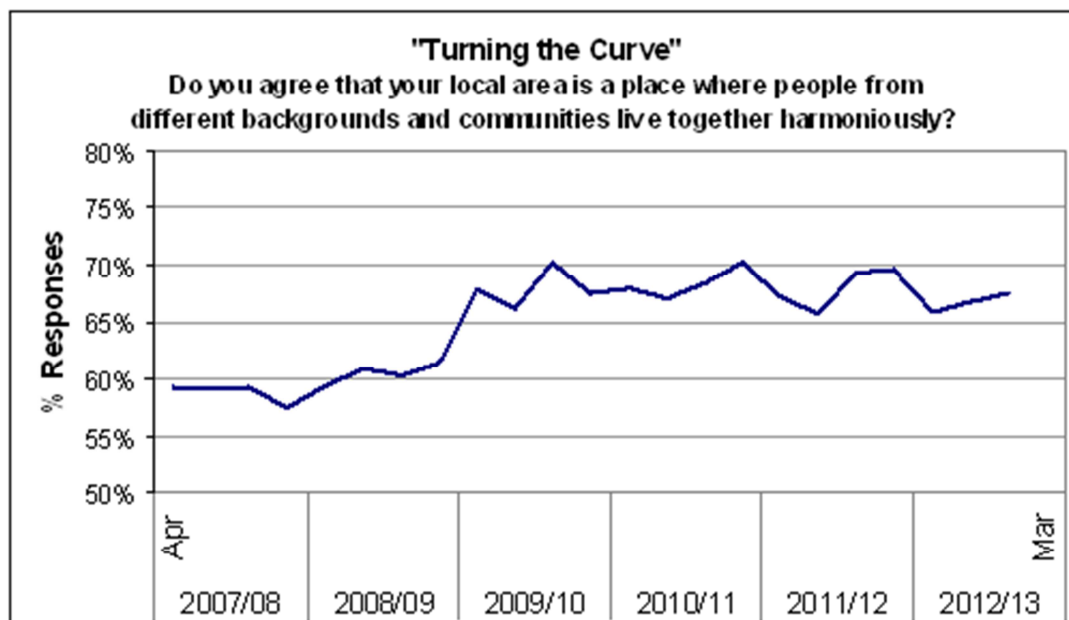


- 2.8.1 Improving satisfaction rates for reported anti-social behaviour (ASB) was chosen as the key indicator to improved tackling and reduction of ASB in communities. Work to improve this is led by the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Board.
- 2.8.2 Since April 2011, Leeds had a multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Team (LASBT) that have been responsible for dealing with all incidents deemed to be ASB in Government guidance. The team includes Council, ALMO and Police staff.
- 2.8.3 The number of ASB calls logged with West Yorkshire Police during 2010/11 was in excess of 42,000. Following the introduction of a revised and more accurate ASB grading system introduced in September 2011, (e.g. removing reports of abandoned vehicles) data to the end of March 2012 shows the police received 29,228 ASB related calls during 2011/12.
- 2.8.4 During 2011/12 LASBT opened 1248 new cases, a 21.8% increase on 2010/11 figures.
- 2.8.5 The multi-agency approach adopted by Leeds has been instrumental in lowering average “case completion” from 241 days to 150 days is now seen as a model of good practice both regionally and nationally, receiving numerous visit requests from a number of local authorities and community safety partnerships.
- 2.8.6 Fig.3 shows the trend in perceptions of anti-social behaviour taken from the West Yorkshire Police Authority survey, and are not reflective of service provision. In the last 12 months they have surveyed 6,073 households across Leeds.
- 2.8.7 The 2008/09 baseline range was 16.94% of respondents indicated that ASB had increased in the last 12 months. The current level is 12.62% (to the end of Sept 2012). The overall trend is therefore improving, although there is some variation in quarters and between localities.
- 2.8.8 The focus for 2013/14 will be on extending this approach to anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance, and supporting the Families First work.
- 2.9** Ensure that local neighbourhoods are clean – Progress 
- 2.9.1 Leeds City Council has a statutory responsibility for street cleansing and ensuring its own and others' land is kept clean and in reasonable order. In order to achieve a more locally responsive service, in the last year the decisions on how some environmental services<sup>iii</sup> are run have been delegated to Area Committees<sup>iv</sup>.
- 2.9.2 The City Council is the prime service provider in the city and does this via an in-house workforce. The service provides a range of activities on a routine/scheduled basis including mechanical and manual street cleaning, litter bin emptying and fly-tip removal.
- 2.9.3 Services are also responsive to local issues such as events, fetes and galas etc as well as the needs of local communities as expressed via Elected Members or via residents themselves. Performance data shows that Leeds performs well against other 'core city' comparators with a relatively low level of spend per head of population. This is against a



backdrop of external funding losses, which presents a continuing challenge to maintain service standards in this context.

- 2.9.4 Perceptions of street cleanliness, reported anecdotally, improved in the last two quarters of 2011/12. Figure 4 shows the relatively low amount of streets with unacceptable levels of street litter – although some areas within wards suffer from persistent problems.
- 2.9.5 A sustained campaign of partnership action to clean up the streets of Headingley and Hyde Park has helped improve one such area. Littering, poor parking and anti-social behaviour have been targeted as part of a sustained operation to engage and educate residents in their responsibilities, and take action where necessary.
- 2.9.6 The focus of this priority however is not purely around street cleanliness, it is also about improve access to and the quality of green space in the city
- 2.9.7 In July 2012, Leeds had 6<sup>v</sup> of its parks awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award, the national standard for parks and green space. Leeds also undertakes its own internal assessment of its other green specie sites against the green flag standard on a 3 year rolling programme. In 2011/12, 38 of the 143 sites met the national standard, which at 26.6% was a small increase on the target of 26.2%.
- 2.9.8 Leeds Parks and Green Space Strategy has set the aim that all 62 community parks will reach the green flag standard by 2020.

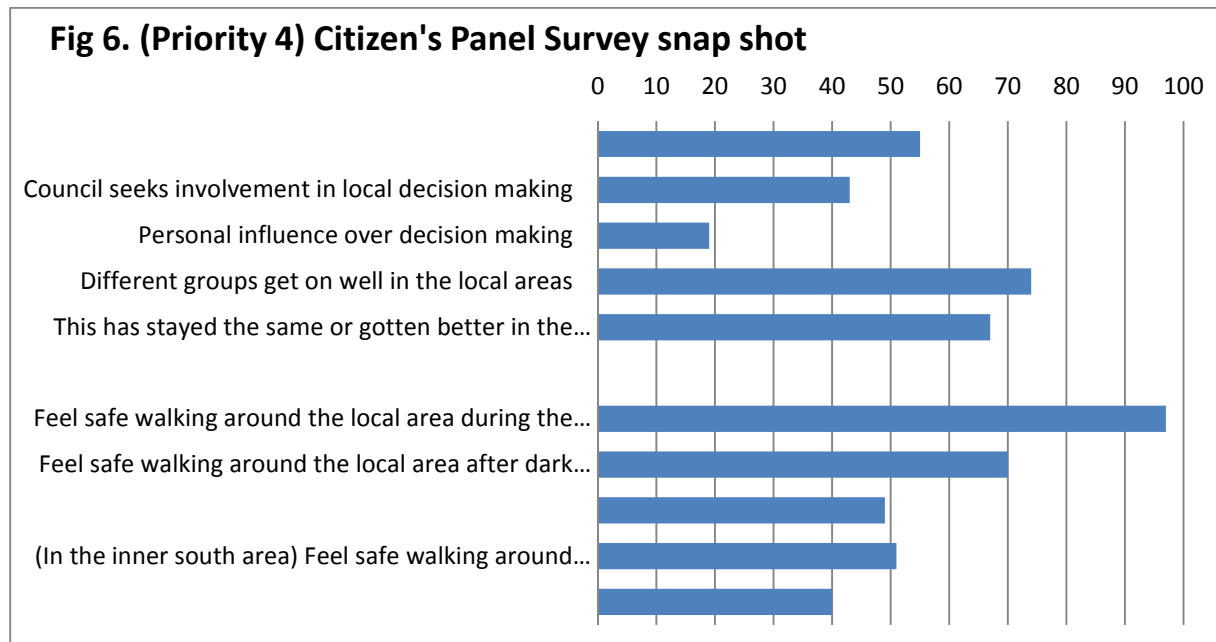


**Fig 5 – Turning the Curve Measure – from West Yorkshire Police Authority household survey**

- 2.10.1 Leeds has one of the most diverse and changing cultural populations in the UK. The majority of our black and minority ethnic and newly arrived communities are however concentrated in the inner city and less affluent areas. This has created some tension in communities where the impact of new arrivals or changing demographics has been felt more keenly.
- 2.10.2 Whilst the overall picture is that Leeds communities are generally resilient and tolerant, the significance of intercultural tensions in some of our communities must not be underestimated. The picture nationally is that tensions between different communities of identity are increasing, and Leeds is conscious of staying ahead of that trend.
- 2.10.3 The Stronger Communities partnership maintains a broad overview of the factors required to strengthen communities and is working hard with partners to develop the right community infrastructure and support in all communities in the city – this will be a key factor in determining a refreshed work programme for the partnership to 2016.
- 2.10.4 The partnership has also focused on some key areas that historically have provided challenges to maintaining good community relations, Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities and migrant communities as well as a sophisticated approach to hate crime and data through the safeguarding communities approach.
- 2.10.4.1 The Gypsy Roma Traveller partnership has progressed work to develop a Roma Needs Assessment and a Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment to bring together work in health and social care and to direct resources appropriately. The needs assessments combined spell out the need to better co-ordinate our actions across Council, agencies and the third sector to address the significantly poorer outcomes for people from these backgrounds.



- 2.10.4.2 The Migration Partnership is currently exploring options of how best to mitigate the combined impact of significant cuts to the third sector supporting migrant communities including asylum and refugee support as well as the impact of cuts in the public sector. The partnership has focused on looking at the unintended consequences of changes in immigration practice – including destitution and forced labour and has been working hard to smooth the rocky transition to a regional private sector contractor for housing asylum seekers and has supported the innovative Welcome to Leeds volunteer project. The partnership has also supported work to prevent hate crime in newly arrived communities and is looking to support more collaborative working to provide the right conditions for integration including community English language classes and volunteer coordination. The Migrant Access Project continues to deliver high quality training to volunteers and is getting key messages from key services across the city to migrant communities, using the skills and expertise of migrants themselves. The partnership has also led in supporting the Leeds City of Sanctuary movement to promote a culture of welcome and hospitality to sanctuary seekers in Leeds, challenging stereotypes and reaching out to the ordinary citizens of Leeds to better understand the reasons why people seek sanctuary in the UK and their everyday experience of life in Leeds.
- 2.10.4.3 Safeguarding Communities: figures for 2012/13 show a slow, but steady rise in the spread of areas of concern around tensions; however, the actual levels of risk have generally remained “low”. In terms of numbers of recorded hate incidents – although these have risen slightly – these have mainly been in the “concern” (isolated name calling, abusive language) or “moderate” (repeat harassment, threats, intimidation) categories, which may be indicative of increased reporting levels. And the actual levels of incidents in the “High/ Severe” (physical violence, damage to property) have decreased. Work has also progressed to develop community mapping which will support in understanding and identifying inter-community tensions.
- 2.10.5 The citizens’ panel completed a survey to find out how residents of Leeds feel about some important aspects of the Safer and Stronger Communities agenda, specifically how people feel different groups get on in their area, and how this changes over time, feelings of personal safety, and awareness of and involvement in a range of community activities.
- 2.10.6 The Panel responded that just over half of respondents felt aware of ways to get involved in local decision making, but only 43% feels the Council involves them when making decisions, with just under 1 in 5 believing that they have influence. Nearly 3 in 4 people feel different groups get on well in their area, but with 1 in 3 saying they felt this situation had become worse in the last year.
- 2.10.7 Ensuring that community partners are in a position to engage and deliver where action is needed to support communities and influence behaviour is a key challenge in the current economic climate. A national increase in incidents of hate crime and inter community tension is noted as a risk for Leeds, and we need to ensure that we learn from the experiences of other cities where civic unrest has been more evident than in Leeds.



2.10.8 The current “turning the curve” measurement of good community relations is the data extracted from the quarterly West Yorkshire Police Authority household survey data. This provides a regular measurement but does not provide accurate data below the level of divisional command areas. The measure is also significantly limited in its scope and does not provide an accurate feedback measure for progress. The partnership will adjust this measure during the refresh of the work programme and will also look at a range of proxy measures that can better reflect the breadth of work undertaken in the Stronger Communities agenda.

### 3.0 Main issues

#### 3.1 Safer and Stronger Communities Board – joined up work programmes

3.1.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has chosen to focus on a few areas of work that join up the spectrum of Safer and Stronger Communities priorities, and also to work jointly with other boards on priority programmes. These are:

3.1.2 **Restorative Practice** – In partnership with Hull Centre for Restorative Practice Leeds has been driving forward and developing a training programme to embed restoratives practices throughout the workforce that deals with children and young people.

3.1.3 This restorative approach will improve outcomes for the children, young people and families and relationships between services and agencies. It will increase effectiveness and efficiencies and will improve across a range of baseline data, for example:

- § Youth offending and arrests rates
- § Care referrals and child protection plans
- § School behaviour, attendance and exclusions

- 3.1.4 A coordinated and concise approach is strategically led and regularly reviewed in line with the needs analysis. The Leeds strategy includes how RP interfaces with Family Group Conferencing, the Family Learning Signature, and the Common Assessment process to ensure empowerment for families when receiving interventions from services.
- 3.1.5 In recent months training in Restorative Practice has begun to be implemented in the children's services clusters, various single agencies such as residential homes, Youth Offending Service, Safer Schools as well as city-wide multi-agency training.
- 3.1.6 Although still in early days in relation to measuring outcomes there have been marked improvements in some teams working on this agenda. There have also been some significant reductions in absence rates from schools in the clusters and senior leadership teams have started to develop approaches to high challenge and high support through fair process.
- 3.1.7 The implementation of restorative practice across Children's Services is progressing well, the challenge to the Safer and Stronger Communities Board is how to ensure that the restorative approach now reaches across criminal justice, community support and other areas relevant to the broader Safer and Stronger agenda.
- 3.1.8 **Families First** – Leeds has secured up to £8 million over the next 3 years for a major programme to work with families to reduce offending and anti-social behaviour, improve school attendance and support parents to move into work.
- 3.1.9 The programme is funded through the Government's Troubled Families scheme. Following consultation it will now be known locally as Families First Leeds.
- 3.1.10 Leeds is an early adopter of the programme which will provide additional support to a significant number of families in the city over the next 3 years. The £8million includes a £2.3 million injection up front for Year 1 and the scheme aims to build on existing good practice across the city.
- 3.1.11 It will aim to bring all agencies and council services together to ensure effective, joined-up support for our most vulnerable families and therefore benefiting communities across the city.
- 3.1.12 The programme will integrate and support priorities and plans across the council and will play a major part in contributing to the council's ambition for Leeds to become the best city and to develop stronger communities and restorative approaches.
- 3.1.13 A programme board has been established, chaired by Councillor Judith Blake, Executive Board member for Children's Services.

- 3.1.14 **Alcohol Harm Reduction** – Leeds Alcohol Management Partnership works across Children’s Trust Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer and Stronger Communities Board to deliver the 4 year strategy to reduce the harm and negative impacts of alcohol in Leeds. The 2011 Leeds Adult Alcohol Needs Assessment, the Children & Young Peoples Alcohol Needs Assessment, the NHS Leeds Alcohol Admissions Data Analysis<sup>vi</sup> and the report on the Leeds Economic and Social Cost of Alcohol-related Harm have all informed the plan and underline the need for joint intervention and action.
- 3.1.15 The links between alcohol and safer-stronger priorities are undisputed: reducing alcohol-related violent crime, anti-social behaviour, street drinking and other offences will have a positive impact on crime statistics as well as the individuals and families affected by alcohol related offending. In particular concern is being raised that the long term problem of under-age drinking is not being significantly reduced and incidences of alcohol related anti-social behaviour are remaining high, not just in the city centre but in many areas of the city.
- 3.1.16 In order to work together effectively to tackle the negative impacts of alcohol, the following 4 year strategic priorities have been agreed by all partners:
- § Partners work together towards achieving the Vision for Leeds by tackling the impact of alcohol on local people and communities
  - § People of all ages who consume alcohol do so within nationally recognised safe limits
  - § Fewer people experience alcohol-related violent crime and anti-social behaviour in our communities
  - § Fewer people experience alcohol-related ill health
  - § Fewer children and young people’s whose lives are adversely affected by their parents drinking including neglect, physical and emotional abuse
  - § Fewer under 18 year olds develop drinking habits which impact on their health, school attendance, personal safety and achievement
- 3.1.17 **Welfare reform** – the Safer and Stronger Communities Board July 2012 meeting received reports from West Yorkshire Police, ALMOs, LCC Council welfare staff and input from the voluntary sector on the impact of welfare reform on the safer and stronger agenda, and revisited this again in February 2013 meeting to ensure that work to protect the most vulnerable is upheld.
- 3.1.18 It is clear that there are multiple concerns and factors that could impact on some of the prevention work that has been in place in recent years.
- 3.1.19 A key response to joining up action and planning on welfare reform has been to commission the Leeds Poverty Challenge, jointly chaired by the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Chair and Vice-Chair:
- 3.1.20 **Leeds Poverty Challenge** – at the December 2012 Leeds Initiative Board meeting the Safer and Stronger Communities Board proposed to work on the Leeds Poverty Challenge.

- 3.1.21 Based on the successful work of the Scottish Poverty Truth Commission which brought civic leaders together with people directly experiencing poverty to better understand the impact of poverty and explore real solutions to it, the Leeds Poverty Challenge will seek to get under some of the pervasive aspects of poverty in the city and work out how we can better create solutions by co-producing action with people most directly concerned.
- 3.1.22 The Challenge has begun Phase 1 and is currently recruiting up to 30 people directly experiencing poverty in Leeds who will meet together with some support over the next few months to develop their ability to express and articulate their own experience of poverty, as well as to begin to explore their own views on how to effectively tackle poverty long term. This group will be speaking from their own experience rather than as representatives of any kind, but we anticipate that their lives will be representative of many others'. (See fig 7)
- 3.1.23 When this group is ready they will choose up to 15 people from their own group and invite 15 strategically chosen civic and business leaders to join them:
- to progress a mutual understanding of the different aspects of poverty in this city;
  - to unpick some of the routes into poverty: and better protect and progress routes out of poverty understanding why things do and do not work in practice;
  - to identify the 2 or 3 strands of work<sup>vii</sup> that through the group's enhanced understanding they believe can be progressed significantly by joint action; and
  - to open opportunities to co-produce workable and sustainable solutions.

## **3.2 Safer Leeds – changes to the Safer Leeds Executive role following the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill**

- 3.2.1 The Safer Leeds Executive is the Leeds community safety partnership that was embedded as part of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. It brings together the “responsible authorities<sup>viii</sup>” and “co-operating bodies<sup>ix</sup>” to:
- Align relevant service delivery to the three commitments
  - Ensure value for money through cost effective deployment of services
  - Manage risks, threats and harms
- 3.2.2 Leeds has seen steady and sustained reductions in total crime over the last 10 years and the partnership work of Safer Leeds has been crucial to this success e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour teams, drug intervention programmes, burglary reductions, safer schools partnership, joint-funded PCSOs<sup>x</sup>.
- 3.2.3 The funding for work to date has come from a variety of sources (Leeds City Council – 76%, Home Office grants 14%, Income generation 10%) but has been allocated to commitments set by the Safer Leeds Executive. These are outline in fig 7.

Fig 7. Leeds Poverty Challenge Timetable

# Phase 1: Recruitment of the Challengers (Feb- Sept 2013)

## Stream A: Expert Witnesses

Recruitment: using networks of support providers, churches, personal contacts etc. Up to 30 people. (Feb-March 2013).

Preparation: *sample activities: 1-2-1s, workshops, meals, creative arts etc (March – July 2013).*

Support: group work to prepare for what working with the wider group will be like. 15 chosen by the group to work on Phase 2. (April – August).

## Stream B: The Influential and Powerful

Recruitment: using a wide reference group to identify up to 15 influential/ powerful people in a position to make and take forward recommendations from the Challenge (March – July 2013).

Preparation: brief meetings to prepare people for working in the Challenge ethos. (July – August 2013)

# Phase 2: The Challenge

Launch: September 2013 – official public launch of the joint group of Challengers – up to 30 people

Joint working to determine a set of inquiries into what are the challenges it believes it can progress thinking and action on

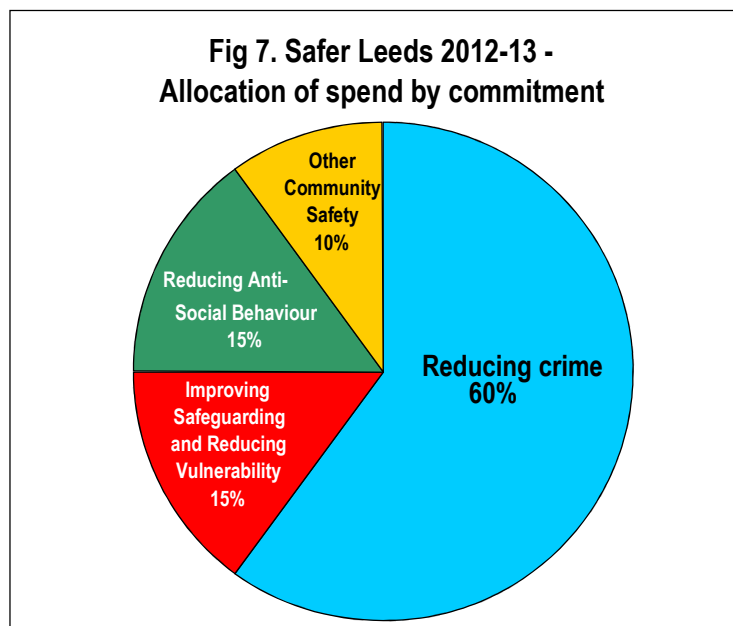
# Phase 3: The Actions

Enable action-focused spin-out projects which utilise the energy and enthusiasm of participants to get things done on the ground.

Findings of a report to identify, protect, value and enhance what is currently working to lead and keep people out of poverty in the city.

3.2.4 In order to manage budget pressures caused by grant and funding reductions in 2011-12 and 2012-13, Safer Leeds reviewed and renewed its priority actions: neighbourhood operations, anti-social behaviour team, CCTV and PCSOs.

3.2.5 From 1 April 2013 new funding and decision making arrangements will be in place with the introduction of the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs).



3.2.6 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 made way for directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners to become responsible for police governance locally and holding the local Police service and Chief Constable to account. In Leeds, this will largely replace the role currently held by the West Yorkshire Police Authority (WYPA) including the responsibility to recruit and if necessary dismiss the Chief Constable.

3.2.7 One of the main differences is that the PCC will also be responsible for funding community safety services. From April 2013 all Home Office community safety funding (currently £1.38m for Leeds) will be pooled in the PCCs West Yorkshire budget.

3.2.8 Chief Constables will retain responsibility for operational matters.

3.2.9 Councillors on Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) will have responsibilities to scrutinise and support the decisions of the PCC, and PCPs will be the joint responsibility of the 5 West Yorkshire Local Authorities.

3.2.10 The Police and Crime Panel will be made up of 12 local councillors (from: Leeds 3, Bradford 3, Calderdale 2, Kirklees 2, Wakefield 2) and 2 independent co-optees.

3.2.11 The duties of the panel will include:

- § requesting reports from the PCC, and their attendance at PCP meetings
- § requiring the PCC to respond to any concerns they have
- § making recommendations on the crime plan and annual reports
- § vetoing the PCC's appointment of the chief constable and the level of local tax (the precept level)

§ seeking a professional view from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding potential dismissals of the Chief Constable

3.2.12 Wakefield Council will be the lead authority for the PCP in West Yorkshire. The Association of West Yorkshire Authorities will provide administrative and scrutiny support to members of the panel.

3.2.13 Currently a number of Safer Leeds service programmes (Anti-social Behaviour Team, Burglary Reduction, Drug Intervention and PCSOs) rely directly on the funding received from the Home Office grant, including the contributions from West Yorkshire Police. This will now be decided by the PCC rather than the Safer Leeds Executive.

3.2.14 Safer Stronger Communities Board would like the Scrutiny Board to note this change and offer any support and guidance as necessary as these changes are implemented.

### **3.3 Stronger Leeds – joined up working on conditions for stronger communities**

3.3.1 Recent meetings of the Stronger Communities partnership have focused on better understanding what we mean by “stronger communities” and identifying the conditions required to build on and improve stronger communities working in Leeds.

3.3.2 The key strands identified to improve were in joining up:

§ Our ambitions for a “minimum offer” for every community in Leeds – access to facilities, opportunities and basic support for joint community action, a basic infrastructure for different parts of communities to identify their own strengths and needs and capacity to act on their own initiative.

§ Our ambitions to understand the needs of and support vulnerable individuals and groups in our communities – good relations with and between minority or vulnerable communities, action to prevent or minimise vulnerabilities in communities (hate crime, exploitation etc) and reliable data to understand more about our changing communities.

§ Our ambitions for a thriving community and third sector – understanding where and how we are investing in the third sector, and what kind of investment will be required to ensure all parts of the third sector (community sector, voluntary sector, small and medium social enterprises etc) are supported and can thrive.

**3.4** The following statement was agreed:

We want to see all Leeds’ communities being strong and resilient: communities that can influence and shape the decisions that affect them; communities that can identify their own strengths and vulnerabilities; communities that mediate their own solutions to problems and know where to go to for help; and communities that are capable of withstanding the unanticipated when it occurs.

We want each of Leeds’ communities to be able to determine their own individual identity; to be confident of where they relate to the wider city, and to buy in to the shared Leeds



values of: community spirit, neighbourliness, tolerance and celebrating difference. This applies equally to communities of place and communities of identity.

“Stronger communities” will come when we work together to achieve these aims.

**3.5** It was agreed that this working definition would inform the forward work programme of the Stronger Communities Partnership, around grouped priorities of:

- building community capacity and resilience
- supporting communities to establish their own identity and how this relates to Leeds (defining how we work with minority/ marginalised/ isolated communities)
- promote a Leeds-wide buy in to shared community values and to what this means in practice: community spirit, neighbourliness, tolerance and celebrating difference

**3.6** At the same time some work has been underway in different forums to look at what is needed in Leeds for an approach to working with and supporting communities more generally. This has been looked at through a variety of lenses: through the locality working “design principles” and through attempts at developing a community development strategy.

3.6.1 Work is now underway to refine our definition of “stronger communities” and to develop a “best city for communities” framework that can better support the overlaps and complexities on working with communities in Leeds so that we can make clearer investment decisions and more readily identify vulnerabilities.#

### **3.7 Cleaner Greener – achieving the green flag standard for inner city community parks**

3.7.1 There has been good progress on improving many of the city’s community parks and we are only just short of our 2011/12 mid-point progress target of 40% of the 62 community parks meeting Green Flag standard, with a 100% target to meet by 2020.

3.7.2 However, of the 24 that currently meet the standard, 17 of these are in the outer city areas, with only 7 of the inner city parks meeting the standard. As investment in parks tends to rely heavily on funding from Section 106 planning gain funds for areas “in or near” the area of development, the outer areas (with more development scope) are more likely to benefit.

3.7.3 An investment plan to enable better targeting to help more community parks meet the standard is currently being drawn up.

## **4.0 Conclusions**

4.1 The Safer and Stronger Communities Board has a broad remit across community safety, community capacity, community relations, street cleaning, parks and green spaces and there has been some benefit in bringing together these aspects of the city priority plan.

- 4.2** The current working arrangements for community safety work well and smart work programmes that have been developed and honed with partners on a focused crime reduction agenda are achieving results.
- 4.3** Work to bring together partners on the stronger communities agenda is much more challenging as funding is precarious, the inter-relation of factors affecting communities is complex and there are not clear duties or programmes that align to our ambitions. Achieving this alignment and clarity will be the focus of Stronger Communities in the next 12 months.
- 4.4** Working arrangements for Cleaner-Greener priorities are largely set and delivered by the Council through its statutory responsibilities and delegated functions. The work programme remains responsive to the Board's oversight however and the Board is anxious to develop more partner involvement, particularly as the agenda to promote more community involvement in cleaner spaces develops.
- 4.5** The Safer and Stronger Communities Board is satisfied that it is making progress where it can and is robustly identifying the areas that need to be improved. The Board is working jointly with other Strategic Partnership Boards on relevant areas and also taking responsibility for supporting cross-cutting priority work.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1** That the Partnerships Scrutiny Inquiry accepts this as a report of the progress of the Board to date.
- 5.2** That the Partnerships Scrutiny Inquiry notes the contents, and offers constructive advice and critiques the partnership's activity to date.

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<sup>i</sup> Meetings have taken place on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2011 (focus: setting the Board agenda); 27<sup>th</sup> January 2012 (focus: restorative practice, tackling alcohol jointly with the Health and Wellbeing Board); 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 (focus: after the riots, tackling troubled families with the Children's Trust Board); 16<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (focus: reducing re-offending together, preventing violent extremism, understanding welfare reform and its impact on the Safer-Stronger agenda, working with the Sustainable Economy and Culture Board on improved economic conditions for all communities); 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (focus: safeguarding communities, understanding the financial situation for Leeds, working with the Housing and Regeneration Board); and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 (focus: engaging local communities in the environmental agenda, welfare reform, setting the board agenda for the next 2 years).

<sup>ii</sup> "Wards of Concern" are where burglary levels are persistently the highest in the city. These are the following wards, with their percentage change in the last 12 months to May 2012: Hyde Park and Woodhouse (-27%); Burmantofts and Richmond Hill (-17.6%); Headingley (-43.1%); Armley (-38%); Gipton and Harehills (-28.8%); Killingbeck and Seacroft (-20.8%); Kirkstall (-41.0%) and Chapel Allerton (-47.1 %) and of special note, Bramley and Stanningley (-65%) have made significant improvements in the last 12 months, moving out of the top 10 wards.

<sup>iii</sup> Delegated services: street cleansing (mechanical & manual litter picking), leaf clearing, litterbin emptying, dog warden services, littering & fly tipping regulation, domestic and commercial waste (storage & transportation

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issues), highways enforcement (abandoned vehicles, nuisance vehicles, a-boards on pavements, mud on roads & placards on street furniture), graffiti enforcement and overgrown vegetation controls.

<sup>iv</sup> Area Committees: There are 10 Area Committees, each covering a different part of the city. Every Councillor is on the Area Committee which covers their ward.

<sup>v</sup> The 6 successful in the Green Flag Award are Roundhay Park, Temple Newsam, Golden Acre Park, Chevin Forest Park, Kirkstall Abbey, Pudsey Park.

<sup>vi</sup> Reynolds B. Alcohol Admissions Data Analysis. 2010. NHS Leeds

<sup>vii</sup> Strands that have emerged from consultation so far are: Implementing the Living Wage; Addressing uptake of Free School Meals/ aspects of nutritional poverty (i.e. including obesity/ malnutrition); Debt and financial inclusion – making the most of money, accessing it smartly; Family-care/ kinship care including grandparent carers; Other suggestions also include: Destitution where there is no recourse to public funds; Poverty in care leavers.

<sup>viii</sup> Responsible Authorities – Leeds City Council, Leeds City Council Executive Member, NHS Airedale, Bradford and Leeds, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Police Authority, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, West Yorkshire Probation Trust.

<sup>ix</sup> Co-operating Bodies – Leeds Children’s Trust Board, Leeds Safeguarding Children Board, Youth Offending Service, Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs), HM Prison Leeds.

<sup>x</sup> Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are full members of the police service but some posts have been joint funded by the West Yorkshire Police Authority and Leeds City Council. West Yorkshire has the largest number of PCSOs in England and Wales outside of the Metropolitan Police.