

Report of: Neil Evans Director of Environment & Housing

Report to: Inner 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 which 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).
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 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 previously are now reflected in the figures.

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 Inner South Partnership Working Area, a team which consists of Ward Officers and PCSO's. We are 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. Despite the figures produced by Safer Leeds showing an increase in offences over the eighteen month period, it is worth pointing out that in recent months, serious and acquisitive crime offences have actually decreased across all three wards of the Inner South. This is mainly due to the arrests and charge of several very active offenders who have been given custodial sentences following them being identified as being responsible for numerous vehicle crimes.
6. We have executed several drugs warrants from which we have recovered drugs and paraphernalia and charged those responsible. We continue to obtain and develop intelligence, assisted by our partners, and have had convictions for cultivation and supply. We have taken part in the 'Walkabout' days along with LCC colleagues and others in an attempt to reassure the residents in those areas.
7. We are still committed to patrolling Holbeck daily as a part of the Managed Approach to Sex Working and enforcement action around offences of public indecency and soliciting have increased.
8. Two Op Champion days of action have taken place during the last few months firstly at Beeston and then in the Middleton area. This was a joint operation between the police, VOSA and Customs and Excise departments targeting vehicles which are not fit for purpose for a number of reasons. Numerous vehicles were stopped and tested for the correct fuel and to make sure the vehicles were safe to be on the roads. The police deployed the pro laser speed device in the area as well as a vehicle fitted with an ANPR camera. Several offences were identified. The next one is currently being planned to take place in Hunslet next month.
9. The Leeds Off Road Motorcycle team are working closely with LCC Parks, especially in the Middleton area, in order to identify and seize those off road bikes which are causing ASB and pose a threat to other motorists, and have issued warnings to riders and seized several bikes. They have also set up the 'Bumpy' scheme to provide youths with legal and legitimate supervised access to motorbikes and discourage illegal use."

10. The table at Appendix 2 shows a breakdown of the 217 cases investigated in the Inner South area during 2015/16. All anti-social behaviour (ASB) cases are managed within the team from 'reporting to outcome, 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 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. During the last year the processes for tackling noise nuisance have become firmly embedded within the Leeds Anti Social Behaviour Team (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.

City & Hunslet Ward

11. The team continue to work with a range of agencies to tackle the issues around begging in the city centre. Those involved in this activity present with complex support needs, and high levels of vulnerability. A key aspect of this work is multi agency engagement with support and outreach services to try and encourage those involved in asb to engage with services. If there is no engagement with services, and begging continues these cases are escalated to a multi-agency Strategy and Enforcement Group for discussion and agreement on the best course of action to stop the behaviour.

Beeston & Holbeck Ward

12. During the year the team have undertaken concentrated work within Meynell Heights, following an increase of asb reports from residents. Problems reported were around drug dealing, people sleeping rough and taking drugs in the communal areas, rowdy behaviour, threats, and properties being used for sex work. Joined up work with police, housing and other agencies was met with a number of successes within a two week period. The team obtained a Premises Closure Order for one property, further work with a private landlord led to a drug dealer being evicted. A vulnerable tenant being preyed on by sex workers was re-housed at his request. And an Injunction was taken out against a highly volatile drug user who was using the communal areas to take drugs and sleep in. Since this action was taken complaints have reduced.
13. The other area of focus is youth nuisance in the Cardinal, Parkwood, and Waincliffes. The team continue to work closely with housing, police, youth services, youth offending and support services to tackle the asb/criminal activity in the area. Where the youths are linked to tenancies, action has been taken against the tenants of these properties. In cases where support has failed and asb behaviour continues, the use of Anti-social Behaviour Injunctions and Criminal Behaviour Orders is explored.

Middleton Park Ward

14. As the 'case type' statistics above show, Hate Crime reports are the highest in this ward area. Work continues to encourage reporting and tackling this problem. The

team are actively involved in the ongoing Hate Crime operation in this area, and take part in a range of action days. Where there is evidence of Hate Crime a zero tolerance approach is taken. ASB case officers have close links with the Hate Crime Co-ordinator for the area, and refer Hate Crime cases in to, and are part of the Hate Crime Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, chaired by Safer Leeds.

15. A further area of concern is speeding cars and motorbikes. The Team as attended meetings with agencies to explore ways of identifying those involved in this dangerous behaviour. If policing teams identify those involved, they will refer the details into the team. The team will visit those involved to warn them of action that could be taken if we have evidence speeding/causing nuisance around the estate.

Customer Satisfaction

16. 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 is shared with the team to enable learning, and the sharing of good practice.
17. 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%

Conclusion

18. Due to the changes in Home Office recording changes it is difficult to make comparisons with the previous year and draw accurate conclusions.

Recommendations

19. Community Committee is requested to note the report and raise any questions

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.

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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
Beeston & Holbeck	144	212	47%	207	189	-9%	456	530	16%	36	63	75%
City & Hunslet	31	33	6%	444	354	-20%	485	508	5%	89	106	19%
Middleton Park	147	127	-14%	98	102	4%	556	564	1%	29	24	-17%
Inner South	322	372	16%	749	645	-14%	1497	1602	7%	154	193	25%

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
Beeston & Holbeck	225	268	19%	50	94	88%	587	1206	105%	2695	3765	40%
City & Hunslet	374	392	5%	71	89	25%	1246	2165	74%	8614	9637	12%
Middleton Park	91	88	-3%	52	68	31%	510	1038	104%	1980	2719	37%
Inner South	690	748	8%	173	251	45%	2343	4409	88%	13289	16121	21%

Appendix 2

New Cases 1/4/15 - 31/3/16				
ASB Type	Beeston & Holbeck	City & Hunslet	Middleton Park	Total for Inner South
Alcohol related	1	2	2	5
Animal related problems			2	2
Criminality	1			1
Domestic Violence	1			1
Drug/substance misuse/dealing	4	5	6	15
Hate Crime: Disability		1		1
Hate Crime: Race	1	2	11	14
Hate Crime: Sexual Orientation			1	1
Litter / rubbish	1	2		3
Misuse of Public Space			2	2
Noise	19	21	18	58
Nuisance Vehicles	1	1	2	4
Rowdy Behaviour	11	10	16	37
Sexual Acts & Prostitution	3		1	4
Threats/Actual Violence	7	8	29	44
Vandalism / Damage to Property	2		8	10
Verbal Abuse	3	4	8	15
Grand Total	55	56	106	217