



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 14th September 2006

Subject: Operation Apollo

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley

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 members with information about Operation Apollo, which is a multi agency crime reduction / prevention initiative.

Operation Apollo, a 3 day multi-agency operation took place on the 24th -26th May 2006 and focused on the Wyther Park and Raynville estate in Armley. The purpose of Apollo is to undertake a planned intelligence led operation within the Pudsey Weetwood Police Division, aimed at tackling issues of crime and disorder, whilst making visible environmental improvements. The aim of the Apollo operations is to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the targeted area.

1. Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is to provide members with detailed information of the Apollo 17 operation. The report includes information on activities undertaken, results, and feedback from the partner agencies involved in the 3-day multi-agency operation.

2. Background Information

The geographical area to be targeted was agreed, following a West Leeds multi agency problem solving meeting where issues in relation to crime and anti-social behavior were raised by partner agencies in relation to the Wyther and Raynville estate in Armley. The operation was structured in three stages;

2.1 Phase one

- Neighborhood Policing Team - Execution of warrants to search under the drugs/theft act. PCSOs on high visibility patrol working with Crime Reduction Officers in visiting addresses and giving out crime prevention advice.
- A mobile Crime Prevention Display Vehicle was sited at on the Wyther estate and Bramley Shopping centre and advice and information given to a number of callers, including free light timers.
- Leeds magistrate's courts warrants officers – Attend addresses to execute non-payment of fine warrants.
- West Yorkshire Fire Service - Identifying and arrange removal of potential fire hazards, promoting home fire safety checks.
- Street Scene – Clean up Campaign, refuse and graffiti.
- Leeds West Homes undertaking tenancy enforcement visits in relation to unkempt gardens, rent arrears, and identifying vulnerable tenants
- Leeds Watch Mobile CCTV.

2.2 Phase two

- Anti social Behavior Unit – Dedicated Teams of ASB officers and police visiting targeted addresses issuing anti social behavior warnings.
- Leeds West Homes undertaking tenancy enforcement visits in relation to unkempt gardens, rent arrears, and identifying vulnerable tenants
- PCSOs on high visibility patrol working with Crime Reduction Officers in visiting addresses and giving out crime prevention advice
- Leeds Watch Mobile CCTV.
- Street Scene – Clean up Campaign, refuse and graffiti.
- Army Recruitment Facilities

2.3 Phase Three

- Neighborhood Policing Team – Target and arrest outstanding suspects living in identified area
- Leeds magistrates' courts warrants officers – Attend addresses to execute non-payment of fine warrants.
- Leeds West Homes undertaking tenancy enforcement visits in relation to unkempt gardens, rent arrears, and identifying vulnerable tenants
- Street Scene – Clean up Campaign.
- Environmental Health, identifying properties in disrepair, and areas for concern such as illegal dumping.
- Education Leeds attending Raynville and Hollybush Primary school to give talks to year 5 pupils on personal safety and anti-social behavior.
- Army Recruitment Facilities

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 Over the 3 days, staff from Pudsey Weetwood NPT performed 325 hours of high visibility patrol in the identified areas using Constables and PCSO's.

- 3.2 There were a total of 19 arrests, ranging from non-payment of fines warrants to disqualified driving, criminal damage, drugs possession and trafficking offences. Investigations are still ongoing into the trafficking, as well as proceed of crime offences. Over £300.00 was taken in payment for outstanding fines from 2 individuals. There was a large amount of intelligence gathered and over 40 individuals stopped/searched. There was a total of 7 vehicles towed away by DVLA (untaxed) and a further 3 owners made payments to the DVLA on the spot. 3 vehicles were seized under the no insurance scheme and 3 motorcycles were seized under s.59. In addition to the above, several drivers were reported for various traffic offences.
- 3.3 Leeds West Homes undertook 67 tenancies received warnings, as part of a letter drop, advising that they were in breach of their tenancy agreement for various reasons. These included, unacceptable garden conditions, rubbish dumped in the gardens. Cars parked in gardens without proper hard standings, properties being used for unsuitable business work, such as car repairs and storing scrap. Two referrals were made to other agencies, such as Highways, asking for their assistance with defects. Two properties were identified as requiring repairs and these were subsequently arranged.
- 3.4 An environmental audit of the area was carried out by an Environmental Health Officer. 4 properties within the area were identified as potential houses in multiple occupation. These will be followed up and hazard safety inspections carried out. Enforcement action will be taken if any actionable hazards are found and landlords will be made aware of their responsibilities under the recently introduced HMO licensing regime. 2 privately owned houses were found to be in serious disrepair. The owners will be contacted to discuss ways in which their properties can be improved. Owner occupiers may be eligible for Home Improvement Assistance. Repairs Notices may be served on private rented properties. Responsible Motorcycling leaflets were distributed throughout the area. Noise awareness posters were designed and distributed to the Neighborhood Housing Office for display in all high rise blocks. The blocks were targeted as they are a common source of noise complaints. The posters gave details of how to report noise nuisance and the potential penalties to offenders.
- Two officers provided a presentation to the Armley Helping Hands organisation. Over 20 members attended and advice was given on the Home Improvement Assistance Scheme, Energy Efficiency and Care & Repair Grants and how to report noise nuisance. The presentation was well received and further presentations to community groups on the work of Environmental Health are planned.
- 3.5 Other activities included the work of the Warrant Officers. 15 warrants were executed, 8 people put before the court and 7 paid totaling £700.00.
- 3.6 The Anti-social Behaviour Team identified 5 nominals from police information, 4 were served with ASB warning, 1 already open case who will later receive Acceptable Behaviour Contract. Attended 5 warrants being served, 4 for Drugs 1 for stolen property. Residents on the Wyther estate received a questionnaire drop, presently only 4 known returned, which are being looked into by housing / ASB for any possible action follow up.
- 3.7 The Neighborhood Warden carried out an environmental audit of the area and liaised with City Services for the removal of dumped litter/ rubbish on the Wyther and Raynville area. Groundwork in conjunction with Raynville Primary School organised a litter pick with pupils with 25 bags of rubbish removed around the Musgraves.

- 3.8 The fire service took part on all three days, delivered around 2200 leaflets and received around 60 appointments for Home Fire Safety Checks. A couple of representatives from the Community Fire safety Department attend with the crime prevention unit at Bramley shopping centre. These staff generated around 20 Hfsc referrals in addition to the other 60 i.e. 80 in total.
- 3.9 The Education Welfare Service and PC Lynne Kitchingman devised a one hour lesson on Risk Taking, Consequences and Safety to be delivered to primary age children in Year 5 & 6. The schools covered by the Apollo Operation this time were Raynville and Hollybush.
- 3.10 The lessons delivered by PC Kitchingman were particularly valued by the school because they provided an opportunity to directly challenge some of the pupils' attitudes to crime and anti-social behaviour

The children really enjoyed the litter pick – 25 bags of rubbish were removed from around the Musgraves and links have been made with Groundwork – the school would like to make this a twice yearly event to help pupils learn about taking responsibility for their environment.

4 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 This operation helps to fulfill the council's corporate plan by aiming to create better neighborhoods and confident communities.

5 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 This Apollo operation has concentrated on twin themes of prevention and enforcement. The police have proactively tackled a variety of issues including 19 arrests, executing drug warrants, and working with the DVLA tackling untaxed vehicles, whilst reassuring the public with a very visible police presence combined with advice and information on preventing crime.
- 6.2 The overall feeling of the school was that the Operation helped make the school feel more involved with the community and that schools in general would be willing to change or adapt the curriculum in order to incorporate some of the work done during the Operations.
- 6.3 To sustain the work carried out in the area, the Area Management Team continues to develop close links with the Youth Service, the Neighborhood Policing Team, Community Safety and Street Scene to make improvements to the area. Partner agencies are representative at the The Wyther Improvement Plan meetings to deliver joint actions to make visible improvements to the area.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That members note the content of this report