



Report of the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement

Meeting: Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board

Date: 20th April 2009

Subject: Performance Report Quarter 3 2008/09

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report discusses the key performance issues considered to be of corporate significance identified for each of the Directorates as at 31st December 2008.

2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present the key areas of under performance at the end of Quarter 3 (1st October to 31st December 2008).

3 Background Information

- 3.1 This 'highlight report' has been prepared in readiness for the Accountability process, which included the CLT meeting on 17th February, Leader Management Team on 19th February 2009 and the Scrutiny Boards in the March/April cycle.
- 3.2 The issues discussed in this report have been identified because performance in these areas impacts upon one of the following, the delivery of our corporate priorities, performance against the National Indicator set which will be reflected in our CAA judgement or the lack of assurance relating to data quality.

4 Environment and Neighbourhoods Performance Issues

NI 16 Serious Acquisitive Crime

- 4.1 Serious acquisitive crime reduced from 37,170 offences in 2003/04 to 20,289 in 2007/08, equivalent to a reduction of 45.4%. The target for 08/09, was set at a 2.3% reduction from the 07/08 baseline however current performance suggests that the target is unlikely to be achieved by March 2009 - analysis indicates that the out-turn for 2008/09 will be around 21,000 (around a 3.5% increase).
- 4.2 Domestic burglary continues to cause concern across the city. The long-term trend for reduction in theft from vehicles appears to have reversed with numbers increasing across all areas in Leeds. Increases in Robbery in the last quarter are beginning to have an impact on this target.
- 4.3 There is no single issue to explain the reason for this current performance. There is a body of research that supports the argument that during difficult economic times, there is a strong relationship with increasing levels of crime and disorder. Acquisitive crime is particularly vulnerable when levels of disposal income decreases, levels of property crime increase and in turn, this can magnify existing difficulties already experienced by marginalised social groups and create local tensions. *It is likely that the current economic climate will have an effect on performance and will present challenges throughout 09/10.*
- 4.4 Early indications suggest that changes in tenure patterns and movement of residents into and within the City may be having an effect on levels of acquisitive crime. Offender circulation within the community is also a likely cause. For example, the awarding of custodial sentences for these offences back in 2004/05 took a significant number of offenders out of circulation. Many of these offenders will now be back in the community and further offences of this kind are not receiving the same levels of custodial sentence. It is important, therefore that known offenders are tracked and managed. The Safer Leeds Partnership is actively engaging with the Local Criminal Justice Board to co-ordinate working practices and ensure that all partners support the delivery of Integrated Offender Model (IOM), including agreeing selection/ deselection criteria for the scheme that considers the seriousness of offending as well as number of convictions and extending the model in Leeds to include other non-statutory categories of offender.
- 4.5 Other activity already in place will continue, for example:
- Maximising the use of available technology, e.g. CCTV, ANPR, Smartwater etc to deter and detect crime and prioritise deployment of partnership resources.
 - Continuing with Operation Champion, revitalising the delivery at a local level by maximising partnership intelligence to inform choice of location, timing and activity.
 - Increasing burglary and vehicle crime reduction activities across the city, developing tailored partnership responses to acquisitive crime in identified problem localities.
 - ALMOs and Social Landlords reviewing their policy on target hardening, linking in closely with Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Area Management on delivery activity

4.6 In addition, the Police are pursuing actions agreed within the Leeds Strategic Burglary Plan which focus on such things as increased visibility, co-ordinated management of burglary offenders and blocking tactics to deny burglary offenders the use of the roads supported by the Regional Roads Policing Team. Since the introduction of these tactics, early indications (Jan & Feb 09) suggest that the activities deployed are having a positive impact.

LKI-CS8A Increase the number of reported incidents of domestic violence

4.7 As with racial incident reporting, at the time targets were set it was considered that an increase in reporting would signal an increase in confidence amongst victims of the support available to them and that reporting the incident would lead to a positive response. It was assumed that there were likely to be many incidents going unreported and as confidence grew more incidents would be reported, a view that seemed to be supported by a rise in the figures earlier in the decade. From 2006, however, this has not been borne out and this trend is reflected across the region. Some work has been done to review reporting arrangements and gain a better understanding of the reasons behind the numbers of incidents being reported but there doesn't appear to be any single explanation. Given the uncertainty around this issue and the difficulty in accurately assessing the situation, it is perhaps not appropriate to continue with the target as originally set. What is important is to continue to improve the confidence of victims to report incidents and for them to be aware of and confident of the support that is available to them to assist them in taking this step. This would need to involve targeted work with particular groups who may lack the confidence to report and ensuring that the mechanisms for reporting and responding to incidents are clear and robust across all the Police Divisions.

5 Recommendation

5.1 That the Environment and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board note the Quarter 3 performance information and highlight any areas for further scrutiny.

Background papers

None