

SCRUTINY COMMISSION - 7 NOVEMBER 2012

SAFER COMMUNITIES COMMISSIONING PLAN 2012/13 - PERFORMANCE

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present current performance against the Safer Communities Commissioning Plan.

Previous Decisions and Background

2. The Safer Communities Commissioning Plan was approved by the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board in January, and performance of the plan is managed by that board.
3. The Commission received a report on the Safer Communities Commissioning Plan in May 2012. It was agreed that further information in relation to performance against the targets of the Plan be reported to a future meeting.
4. The Safer Communities Priorities for Leicestershire in the Commissioning Plan are:
 - (a) Reduce re-offending, with a particular focus on earlier intervention with troubled families and those at risk of becoming troubled families;
 - (b) Protect the most vulnerable in communities, particularly previous and repeat victims of crime;
 - (c) Continue to reduce anti-social behaviour, particularly in those areas with the highest levels of incidents;
 - (d) Increase public confidence, particularly user satisfaction with local crime and disorder services, especially in priority areas.

Plus the two further priorities within the Community Budget Substance Misuse programme.

- (e) Reduce substance-related crime and disorder;
- (f) Reduce the costs by optimisation of all interventions and service delivery.

Safer Communities Performance

5. An overview of performance against the key priorities and performance measures for Safer Communities is provided in the dashboard at Appendix A. More detail on the key points is provided in the remainder of this report.

Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour

6. Anti-social behaviour and criminal damage have continued to reduce, with 573 less criminal damage incidents than this time last year, an 18% reduction. Reports of anti-social behaviour have reduced by 21%, (1,574 fewer incidents). In local surveys, less people are reporting having been a victim of anti-social behaviour and more people have confidence that the Police and local agencies are tackling crime and ASB effectively.
7. Partnership working in the County on key messages regarding anti-social behaviour has developed, with an overarching joint approach to a 'Safer Summer' campaign across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - promoting positive behaviour and looking out for your neighbours. This campaign has generated much public interest and a forward programme of targeted partnership media campaigns targeting specific risks has been put into place, including a similar joint prevention and awareness approach for Halloween.
8. The Twenty:Twenty mentoring scheme for young people at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour has been rolled out across the County and is currently mentoring 51 young people and working to match another 31 to mentors. Social Return on Investment evaluation of the Twenty:Twenty mentoring scheme identifies that it delivers £3 of social value for every £1 put in, provides significant benefits for young people to improve relationships and deal with difficult situations and reduces the cost of ASB and young people not in education, training or employment.

Reduce Re-offending

9. Adult re-offending rates remain low at around 20% of offenders re-offending within one year. Young people's re-offending has been reducing over recent years, however the most recent local data (2011-12) shows an increase, with the rate of re-offences per offender going up 18% from 0.77 to 0.91. However, both adult and young people's re-offending rates are better than the national and regional averages.
10. The number of first-time entrants to the Youth Justice system has seen an increase of 7.6% in the first quarter of this year compared to the same quarter the previous year. This is the first increase in any quarter for a number of years, but follows significant reductions over the last six years and a reduction of 27% in the last financial year. It remains better than the national and regional averages.
11. Analysis has identified that the increase in young people's re-offending is predominantly amongst those subject to Youth Rehabilitation Orders (YROs).

Following further analysis a plan has been put in place to address this including developing a single intervention plan and targeted group work programmes.

12. Overall crime continues to reduce in Leicestershire and is 12% lower than last year (2,078 fewer crimes). The main item of note is an increase in domestic burglary of almost a third (31%), 266 more crimes compared to last year.
13. Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are working to address burglary through targeted activity and focussed awareness and prevention campaigns. Cocoon campaigns are being used in response to burglaries that occur, which provide information, awareness and practical support to those affected by the burglary and those living nearby to prevent further burglaries in that area. In addition our partnership work with offenders to prevent re-offending through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is being focussed towards burglary, including cross-border work with the city.

Protect Vulnerable People

14. An appropriate measure of crime against vulnerable people is still being developed and a broader piece of work reviewing our partnership approach to vulnerable people has been commissioned by Leicestershire Together.
15. Domestic abuse reporting has reduced by 6% at quarter 1 compared to last year, continuing the reduction last year, which was the first since 2005. This trend is not reflected in other areas around Leicestershire and referrals to domestic abuse support services in the county have increased. Partners are working together to analyse and understand these trends, so that appropriate action can be taken.
16. Hate crime reporting has also reduced in the County, despite work focused on increasing people's confidence to report such incidents. The Hate Incident Steering Group is looking into these trends, and will be working to raise awareness further and review the role of the reporting centres across the county.
17. The Keep Safe Place scheme launched at the start of October across the whole of the county. This engages local organisations and businesses in communities and town centres to provide safe places for people who are feeling vulnerable or upset to go to. Shops, community centres, libraries and other venues across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have signed up to be Keep Safe Places.

Reduce Substance Misuse Related Crime and Disorder

18. Assaults have reduced by 14.1% compared to this time last year (337 fewer offences). Further work is being done by partner agencies to identify hotspots for alcohol related crime, and the most robust measure of progress in reducing this.

19. Our enforcement approach to inappropriate sale of alcohol has been strengthened by increased training and capacity in the police force regarding licensing, and by increased test purchasing of licensed premises to prevent underage sales. Last year 3 cases involving the sale of alcohol to under-18s resulted in more stringent alcohol licensing conditions being applied. Further reduction in alcohol-related crime and disorder is expected through current work to develop a joint approach to licensing and enforcement across all areas of the county.

Future Commissioning

20. The Safer Communities Strategy Board has continued planning for future commissioning with the introduction of an elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) from November 2012.
21. The Social Return on Investment evaluation of key elements of the Safer Communities Commissioning plan is nearing completion. This evaluation is identifying the social value and main beneficiaries and benefits of these schemes. This is supporting the partnership process of prioritising outcomes, approaches and activities for future commissioning as a partnership and with the PCC.

Recommendation

The Commission is asked to note the performance against the Safer Communities Commissioning Plan as set out in the report and appended quarter 2 dashboard.

Background Papers

Leicestershire Safer Communities Board Commissioning Plan 2012/13 – Scrutiny Commission – 20 May 2012

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

22. None

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Safer Communities Quarter 2 dashboard

Equal Opportunities Implications

23. The reduction in domestic abuse mainly affects women. The reduction in Hate Incidents affects individuals with protected characteristics.