

Communities Select Committee meeting 30 March 2015

Scrutiny of the SoSafe action plan 2014/15 and proposed action plan for 2015/16

Priorities – 2014/15

For the current year, priorities were agreed as follows:

- domestic abuse (DA)
- acquisitive crime
- violent crime / alcohol / drugs
- hate crime
- reassurance
- antisocial behaviour (ASB), criminal damage, deliberate fires.

1. Domestic abuse (DA)

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- embedded DA action plan through multi agency strategic steering group and operational working groups
- Herts Change perpetrator programme started in Stevenage (two cohorts of 12 people completed with no reoffending to date)
- five year data analysis exercise completed
- awarded £30000 from police and crime commissioner to pilot a multi agency standard / medium risk DA panel, and NSPCCs DART¹ programme
- provided funding for Evolve to deliver workplace training, and pilot a counselling programme for working women
- DA 'champions' identified across the Council
- Safe Lives (formerly CAADA) DASH² risk assessment training undertaken by front line council staff.

The annual strategic assessment (2015) records an increase of 12.2% in DA related crime. This makes Stevenage 10th in the county rankings (1st being the best, 10th the worst); a situation which has remained consistent for several years. It should be noted that the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of the Constabulary (HMIC) conducted a review into reporting and recording procedures this year. Recommendations resulted in a change to those procedures in Hertfordshire. As a result, all districts have seen increases in domestic abuse recorded crimes (some as much as 150%).

More recent data suggests that Stevenage increases have stayed quite stable (+18.4% in Q3), suggesting that our work around this issue for several years has been consistently empowering victims to come forward.

At the end of Q3, of the six expected outcomes for this priority, three were complete and three were on target to be completed.

2. Acquisitive crime

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- supported Shop Watch through SBC and police licensing
- street meets – coordinated by police and attended by other partners when required

¹ DART – Domestic Abuse: Recovering Together.

² DASH – Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour based violence risk assessment.

- high visibility police officers and PCSOs in town centre
- use of social media for quick distribution of relevant information – Twitter, Facebook, OWL messaging
- worked with local retailers to deter shoplifters
- Operation Scorpion – police operation which targets burglars, robbers and those involved in drug and vehicle related crime
- Operation Scrod – police led operation targeting the illegal scrap metal trade
- Operation Twist – police led seasonal operation targeting shoplifters and purse dippers.

The annual strategic assessment (2015) has recorded:

- burglary dwelling – decrease of 9.1%, 1st in county rankings
- vehicle crime – increase of 26.3%, 7th in county rankings.

More recent data for Q3 shows:

- burglary dwelling – decrease of 26.6%
- vehicle crime – decrease of 26.9%

Partners have worked on a range of approaches this year, to target the different types of acquisitive crime; including developing crime reduction action plans with local businesses and licensed premises, and target hardening shops in the neighbourhood centres. Several undercover operations have taken place at night, in order to counter a spate of garage break-ins and vehicle related crimes.

At the end of Q3, of the eight expected outcomes for this priority, three were complete and four were on target to be completed. One expected outcome was removed from the action plan (2.2). This was a campaign focussed outcome around tackling shoplifting. It became clear quite early on that lack of time and resources made this unachievable, and the Responsible Authorities Group decided to remove it from the action plan.

3. Violent crime, alcohol and drugs

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- continued employment of taxi marshals in the Old Town
- No More project – for alcohol and drug related offending – adults with complex needs
- Blue Light events in the Old Town
- supported Pub Watch through SBC and police licensing – PubWatch online started
- multi agency action planning with licensed premises
- alcohol awareness week activities
- Operation Scorpion – disrupting serious crime including drug dealing and manufacture
- Op Advisory – night time economy engagement to prevent sexual assault
- Project Ex – working with young offenders.

The annual strategic assessment (2015) has recorded:

- serious violent crime – decrease of 5.3%, 10th in county rankings
- drugs – decrease in possession Class A of 6.3%, 9th in county rankings

More recent data is not available at this time.

The partnership has worked very closely with businesses in the night time economy this year; and has worked on reducing street drinking and associated crimes through the No More project. Several events have increased engagement, particularly with young people enjoying the night time economy. Partners have been working proactively with the Op Scorpion team to share intelligence and information.

At the end of Q3, of the 17 expected outcomes for this priority, 13 were complete and four were on target to be completed.

4. Hate crime

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- information sharing and engagement with Stevenage Mosque
- joint work regarding concerns about houses of multiple occupation
- tension monitoring returns completed weekly and shared with counter terrorism and harm reduction unit
- successfully managed a demonstration by the British National Party
- Prevent training undertaken by Members, SBC and partners' staff
- regular CSP representation at Counter Terrorism Tactical Action Group meetings
- local police officers trained as Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for each protected characteristic.

The annual strategic assessment (2015) has recorded a decrease of 7.6%, 9th in county rankings.

More recent data is not available at this time.

Hate crime has become easier to identify and target through the use of the SafetyNet ASB database, and potentially vulnerable people are discussed at ODG to ensure quick action and intervention. SBC has undertaken to become a third party reporting site for hate crime. This will enable members of the public to gain help and assistance in order for their report to be escalated to the correct services; offering an alternative to approaching the police directly.

At the end of Q3, of the four expected outcomes for this priority, three were complete and one was on target to be completed.

5. Reassurance

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- several targeted action days
- National Personal Safety Day event
- Operation Sabre – high visibility Herts Fire & Rescue Service (HFRS) and Police ASB prevention initiative
- several Silver Street Meets
- social media – providing positive messages
- Operation Night Owl
- street meets
- Police and Members local priority setting meetings
- engagement with local press and Bob FM.

The 2013 Stevenage resident's survey recorded that:

- 42% of people feel unsafe after dark
- 7% of people feel unsafe during the day
- 84% of residents selected tackling crime and anti-social behaviour as a priority.

Partners regularly organise multi agency engagement events, in order to promote personal safety messages and reduce the fear of crime. Street Meets and Silver Street Meets have been well attended this year and have enjoyed the support of local councillors, providing residents with a chance to understand how partners work together.

At the end of Q3, of the seven expected outcomes for this priority, four were complete, one was on target to be completed and one was incomplete. The incomplete action related to an event, for which officers were not available to coordinate. One expected outcome was removed from the action plan after consultation with RAG (5.2), as the potential for heightened fear of crime was deemed to be too risky.

6. ASB, criminal damage and deliberate fires

Activities and outcomes 2014/15

- SafetyNet case management database utilised by police and other partners
- mobile CCTV – moved frequently to hot spot ASB areas
- Operation Sabre - high visibility HFRS and Police ASB prevention initiative
- Family Intervention Project (FIP) – referrals from several partner agencies including Thriving Families
- Box Clever and Life Project – through HFRS
- ASB mentors and youth forum – ex clients of FIP
- Section 30 Dispersal Orders – used successfully at The Hyde; and for Sonisphere
- partnership / prevention work with other agencies, like YMCA, Pod 53, North Herts College.

The annual strategic assessment (2015) has recorded:

- ASB – decrease of 27%, 7th in county rankings
- criminal damage – decrease of 7.5%, 10th in county rankings
- deliberate fire – 5 fewer incidents, 9th in county rankings.

More recent data for Q3 shows:

- ASB – increase of 16.4%
- criminal damage – decrease of 0.3%
- deliberate fire – increase of 69%

Although the partnership has seen good results in this area in the past, current figures suggest a rapid increase in ASB and associated deliberate fires. Some of this can be directly attributed to the increase in youth ASB in the Shephall area. ASB still remains the highest crime concern for Stevenage residents across the town. The partnership continues to address this issue through appropriate prevention and intervention, and will increase strategic activity around ASB this year through the employment of an antisocial behaviour coordinator.

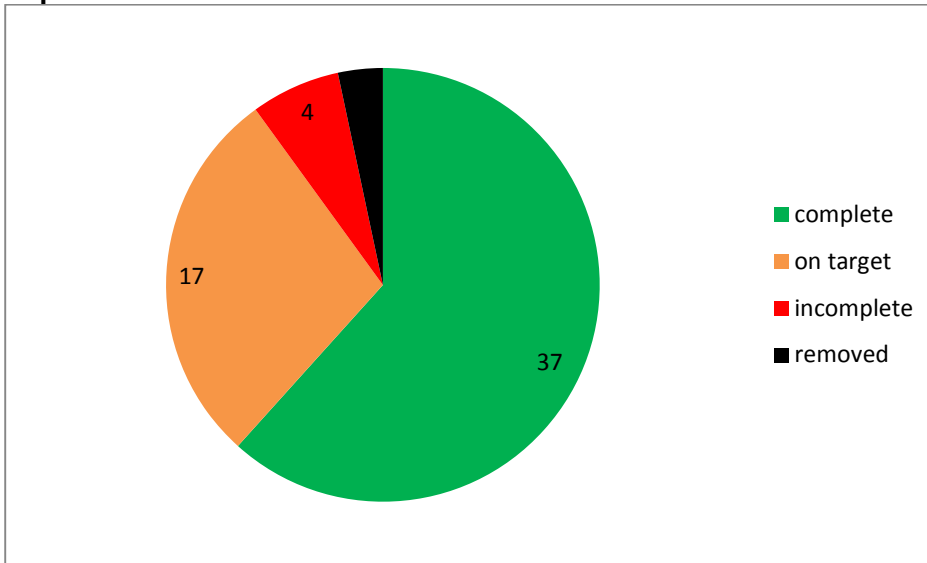
At the end of Q3, of the 18 expected outcomes for this priority, 12 were complete, four were on target to be completed and two were incomplete. Of the two incomplete outcomes, one relates to good news stories regarding CCTV and will be carried over to the new financial year (as part of a wider communication and engagements programme); the other relates to a 5% target for ASB reduction, which has not been met due to the unexpected increase in ASB this year.

To address the ASB increase, particularly in relation to young people, the Council will be employing a coordinator (on a two year contract) to take a strategic overview of this issue; working with partners to develop a programme of actions for 2015/16 and beyond.

Conclusion - 2015/16

At the end of Q3, of the 60 expected outcomes within the community safety action plan 2014/15, 37 were complete (61.7%), 17 were on target for completion (28.3%), four were incomplete (6.6%) and two were removed from the action plan (3.3%).

Expected Outcomes – status at Q3



The Community Safety Partnership continues to work well together, towards shared goals in terms of reducing and preventing crime. Although we have been operating within a difficult financial environment, and this has meant that some minor elements of the action plan have not been completed, partners are committed to building on our progress. Both RAG and ODG have developed strong partnership relationships through innovation and imagination. Our partners are passionate about creating safe environments for our communities.

Moving forward into 2015/16, we are committed to reinforce and expand our partnership networks to fully involve our health partners in information and intelligence sharing; and to ensure that we are reaching the harder to reach elements of our community.

Action plan process 2015/16

The priorities for 2015/16 were identified predominantly through the Annual Strategic Assessment. The assessment provides an overview of the risk associated with a variety of crime types, backed up by relevant data. Data is recorded and collected for the period 1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014.

When planning for the forthcoming year, the partnership has also taken into account:

- current and emerging issues
- data from Q1, Q2 and Q3 2014/15
- actions discussed at the annual action planning workshop
- Stevenage resident's survey
- overarching aims of the SoSafe community safety strategy 2015/18.

The plan also has due regard to:

- relevant county strategies (domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol)
- the Probation service's reducing reoffending strategy
- changes in legislation and Home Office guidance, in particular additional responsibilities for community safety partnerships
- Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) crime and policing plan.

Overarching priorities and objectives for 2015/16 were agreed by the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) in January 2015, resulting from the revision of SoSafe's three year strategy. The action plan provides details about how the priorities are addressed by SoSafe. It records actions that are

conducted through partnership working, which are documented through the Operational Delivery Group (ODG). The plan does not record the work of individual agencies in tackling the priorities.

The action plan is updated quarterly by the lead officers for each action. It is a 'live' document and is assessed regularly by ODG in light of shifting priorities and emerging issues. The RAG receives quarterly updates on progress against the plan; and as the community safety grant provider, the PCC receives twice yearly reports.

The action plan for 2015/16 is in draft 1 stage. This is included in **Appendix A** for Member's information. Further consultation is currently being undertaken with partners. The action plan will be signed off by the chair and vice chair of RAG by 31 March 2015; and will be ratified at the next RAG meeting on 20 April 2015.

Priorities for 2015/16

This year, the action planning workshop resulted in partners identifying priority themes. This means that the action plan will be structured differently to previous years, with a focus on what the CSP believes to be the highest priority SMART³ actions. In light of continued pressure on staff and resources, this will ensure that activities are specific, targeted and outcomes focussed. Outcomes may refer to quantitative or qualitative data; or personal outcomes and achievements for individuals and groups. We anticipate that this will involve drafting several case studies, in order to help publicise our achievements, show how individuals can prosper with help, and demonstrate value for money. The priority themes for 2015/16 are:

1. children and young people
2. reassurance
3. domestic abuse
4. health and mental health.

³ SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, timely.