

## **The Partnership Strategic Assessment 2012**

### 1. BACKGROUND

Attached is a copy of the fifth Partnership Strategic Assessment. The assessment has been prepared by the Community Safety team in conjunction with the Police analysts. As mentioned at the previous meeting the production of this document had been delayed following the departure of the Community Safety Partnership Analyst.

This report provides members with a brief summary of the key findings as well as an update of the progress made following last year's recommendations.

The report also provides a number of recommendations for the forthcoming strategic period for members to consider.

### 2. PROGRESS ON LAST YEAR'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Detailed below are the recommendations that were generated following an in-depth discussion between all partners of SSP at the December 2011 meeting along with the progress made during the strategic period.

#### **I. Consider whether Other Theft should remain the focus of the emerging issues priority or if this would be better including other types of acquisitive crime that seem to be increasing, or whether to change the scope to just metals thefts which seem to be to main issue:**

It was agreed that this action would be amended to look at reducing repeat offending among the most prolific offenders. This would track their progress throughout the year, as the majority of acquisitive crime offences was carried out by this cohort. It was agreed that this would provide the partnership with more meaningful information, detailing the impact the IOM approach was having in Stockton.

#### **II. Assess all current targets within the Community Safety Plan and re-set for 2012-13:**

This exercise was carried out with all of the theme leads of the Community Safety Plan and all changes were reported to the SSP in May 2012 and have been monitored through the quarterly reports submitted to the partnership.

#### **III. Look at first time offenders and try to establish their motivation for offending. Explore the possibility of a pilot study to question first time offenders in custody, especially those receiving drug tests when arrested for trigger offences:**

This has been looked at during the year and it was agreed that Durham University would assist with carrying out a piece of research. Meetings have taken place with colleagues from the Police and Probation and we are now in the process of identifying a suitable list of first time offenders to contact. There have been delays to this process due a number of factors. Over the past few months there has been reduced capacity within both the Police

and Community Safety team analysts, in addition to this some of the offences were still going through the legal process and as such would be unsuitable to include in this piece of work. There is also the issue of data protection to consider and it has been agreed that a letter would be sent to the identified cohort from the Police asking participants to agree to their details being shared with the University who will then make contact. It has been agreed that this is an important piece of work and should remain in the proposed recommendations for this strategic period. It is hoped that through this work we may be able to identify some additional support measures or deterrents to prevent first time offenders reoffending. For example signposting first time shoplifters to other support agencies such as Food Banks, C.A.B., Credit Unions, Counselling etc.

**IV. Prioritise offenders committing burglary offences as they have the highest rate of repeat offending:**

This continues to be a priority and will continue to be prioritised during the next strategic period as repeat offending for burglary and other theft remain the highest rate of repeats. As part of the PPO selection process, individuals arrested for repeat burglary are always prioritised.

**V. Explore possible reasons for the changes to crime and deprivation levels within Parkfield and Oxbridge ward:**

A problem profile was completed and reported to SSP in May 2012. The profile highlighted that the levels of crime and deprivation had improved since the PSA was produced and that there was no clear explanation for the decline during the previous strategic period.

**VI. Re-establish and agree the terms of reference for the Drugs 'Reducing Supply' Group:**

There was an agreement at the meeting held on 8/2/12 that the purpose/objective of future meetings should focus around reducing the wider harms drugs cause therefore the group would aim to use new and existing mechanisms and resources to reduce the harm that drugs cause to communities, individuals and their families. New terms of reference were agreed at the meeting held on 4th April 2012. These new terms of reference have been applied to this group until November 2012 when it was then agreed to amalgamate this group with the Integrated Offender Management Strategy Group. This decision was made to avoid any duplication of reporting within these groups as they had representation from the same partners at each group and it allowed for some streamlining of activity. The terms of reference for this new group have yet to be agreed but some agreement has been made that the aim/focus of this group should be around reducing reoffending and reducing harms caused through substance misuse which includes alcohol and the impacts on these through housing, employment and family relationships.

**VII. Seek to raise the profile of alcohol and assess the role of all current alcohol related working groups within SSP and DAAT as well as current procedures to ensure that nothing is being missed:**

A Meeting was held with the respective chairs of the current alcohol related working groups within SSP and DAAT. It was agreed that all respective groups were picking up the issues within Stockton although it was suggested that it may be prudent to further assess the role of the Alcohol Crime and Disorder Group and establish whether this could be merged within the existing Violence Group as there is some duplication.

**VIII. Maintain the promotion of Domestic Violence services across the Borough, especially in more affluent wards / neighbourhoods where services are not currently utilised as frequently as other areas:**

The promotion of Domestic Violence Services is continuing with literature appearing in the Customer Contact Centre and at key public buildings across the borough.

**IX. Look at the current transition processes between youth and adult services for both offenders and drug / alcohol misusers to ensure that people are not dropping out of treatment / support:**

Following initial concerns about the increasing number of 18 and 19 year olds in treatment some additional analysis has been carried out.

There are very few young people that go through the transitional process towards adult treatment and the substances in question are largely alcohol and cannabis with a smaller number of amphetamine users. This requires less time in treatment than opiates or crack and therefore although the NTA data shows year to date in treatment, the quarterly growth does not include exits from treatment. Colleagues within the DAAT are exploring all current 18 & 19 year olds in adult treatment to understand if there are any improvements that can be made to the transition between youth and adult services. They are largely satisfied with the level of co-ordination between service providers but there is a need to explore access into youth treatment as there are currently more referrals from the YOS service in Stockton than the national average and far fewer from social care than expected. The consequence of this is that young people are already caught up in criminal and anti-social behaviour before their drug/alcohol use is known.

**X. Ensure problem profiles and more in-depth analysis is commissioned for specific issues throughout the year:**

Two problem profiles were completed during the last strategic period, due to the long term absence of the Community Safety Analyst no further profiles were presented to the partnership. It is proposed that this remains as a recommendation for the forthcoming strategic period.

**3. PARTNERSHIP STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT 2012 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The sixth annual Partnership Strategic Assessment has been jointly produced by analytical staff of the Local Authority and Cleveland Police on behalf of the Safer Stockton Partnership (SSP). The assessment centres on six key thematic chapters, which use a victim offender and location methodology where appropriate and looks at a 12-month strategic period of 01/10/11 – 30/09/12.

Performance management for Stockton shows that total crime has increased by 4% (+415 offences) compared to the same strategic period last year. However, it can be noted that from April 2012 crime has been following a decreasing trend and crime has reduced by 7.2% and we have seen some good reductions for serious violence, robbery, theft of and interference with vehicles, other theft and criminal damage. Performance against set targets is generally going well, and Stockton remains the safest place in the Tees Valley and outperforming in comparison to peers in most crime types.

Levels of ASB reported to the police continue to reduce whilst reports to the Local Authority are showing an increase of 49% compared to the last assessment. Key themes remain consistent with the last assessment with incidents relating to noise, youth disorder and alcohol related ASB. ASB remains interrelated to deliberate fire setting; young males continue to be responsible for most of these incidents occurring on weekend evenings and clustered within the same areas.

Alcohol and drug related crime are two of the key priorities for SSP, with alcohol continuing to be an integral part of violent crime, and apparent within domestic violence. Drug offences have reduced slightly (-1%) and drugs litter has also reduced, as have positive drug tests on arrest for trigger offences. There remains a high level of drug treatment penetration, but females, young people, stimulant users and those from the BME community remain under-represented with treatment.

There are some serious health concerns in relation to alcohol consumption within the Borough with the Local Alcohol Profile for England (LAPE) showing that Stockton is performing worse than the national average across a range of alcohol specific illness and mortality rate, as well as hazardous binge drinking levels.

Offences of violence have increased by 11.7%, with violence accounting for 19% of total crime; DV offences have increased by 5.3%. Racially or religiously aggravated crime causing intentional alarm or distress has seen a significant increase from 7 to 25 in this assessment period which is an increase of 257%.

Acquisitive crime remains a concern and accounts for 57% of total crime. Metal thefts in this period are showing a decrease in comparison to the last assessment. Male offenders continue to dominate this crime type, and Stockton Town Centre still features as the main ward for this crime category.

As reported in the previous assessments there is a strong link between crime / ASB and deprivation and 18 census output areas have been identified as particularly vulnerable. The top five wards for crime have remained the same but Parkfield and Oxbridge has risen from 5th worst to 2nd. These top five are also the top five for deprivation, and Stockton Town Centre (highest for all crime and ASB) is now the 17th most deprived ward in England, falling from 25th previously.

The offending population in Stockton is very much male dominated, even more so in relation to the most prolific and problematic offenders. Shoplifting and fraud offences are favoured among female offenders. There have been some good reductions in relation to youth offending. When compared to the same period last year, first time entrants have reduced by 6%. Repeat offending is fairly common, with those who commit burglary the most prolific in their offending behaviour. Substance misuse continues to be a key feature within the offending population and most offenders live in the most deprived high crime neighbourhoods.

There are likely to be some key challenges continuing into the forthcoming year, in relation to the current economic state. Reduced funding to key public sector agencies will impact upon service delivery and financial pressures could lead to a change in the behaviour of our residents and visiting population which in turn may impact on the profile of crime in the area.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been proposed for the forthcoming strategic period:

1. To merge the current elements of the Alcohol Crime and Disorder Group into the existing Violence Tactical and Reducing Reoffending groups to effectively tackle alcohol crime and disorder.
2. Explore why there is low representation in drug and alcohol treatment services of females, young people and the BME to determine whether further outreach work is required to work with these minority groups.
3. Assess and analyse A & E data from NT&H Hospital on alcohol related assaults that is missing from this strategic assessment, and to consider whether males are under reporting violence.
4. Continue with the first time offenders research during the next strategic period and explore what additional measures can be put in place to support offenders and prevent repeat offending. In addition to this it is recommended that an additional piece of analysis is brought to a future SSP meeting exploring whether there continues to be an increase in first time female shoplifting.
5. Assess all current targets within the Community Safety Plan and re-set for 2013-14.

6. Continue to provide problem profiles and more in-depth analysis for specific issues throughout the year including alcohol and shoplifting.
7. Establish an operation task group for Domestic Violence to further assess repeat victims of DV and to fully utilise the DV Conferencing group and existing procedures.
8. Continue to monitor the transition process between youth and adult services for both offenders and drug/alcohol misusers to ensure people do not drop out of treatment / support.
9. Continue to prioritise offenders committing burglary and shoplifting offences as they have the highest rate of repeat offending.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Safer Stockton Partnership approve the recommendations for this strategic period.