

STRONG AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
19 November 2013	Public Report

Report of the Strategic Manager: Safer and Stronger Peterborough

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SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2011-14

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee on the progress and performance of the Safer Peterborough Partnership's approach to Building Stronger and Supportive Communities in accordance with the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-14.
- 1.2 For the committee to scrutinise that progress and performance in accordance with its statutory responsibility as set out within the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by The Police and Justice Act 2006.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the approach, progress and performance thus far; to endorse the partnerships direction of travel and to make any comments or suggestions as appropriate.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy aims to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, through improving the quality of life for all. The Partnership Plan covers those aspects that fall within the Strong and Supportive Communities priority; this report covers progress towards part of that plan.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires that a Community Safety Partnership is formed, bringing together agencies who are responsible for crime and disorder in the local area. It is acknowledged that far more can be achieved to make Peterborough a safer place if agencies work together rather than in isolation.

The Crime and Disorder Act specifies responsible authorities as Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, NHS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire Fire Authority, Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust.

These responsible authorities also invite other agencies who are able to contribute to the work to *co-operate* and Cross Keys Homes (representing Registered Social Landlords in the city) is one of these organisations. Other agencies, particularly from the voluntary and community sector are also *invited to participate* in the work of the Partnership. At present these organisations are PCVS, Peterborough Racial Equality Council, HMP Peterborough and The One Service.

The Safer Peterborough Partnership is one of the partnerships that form the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

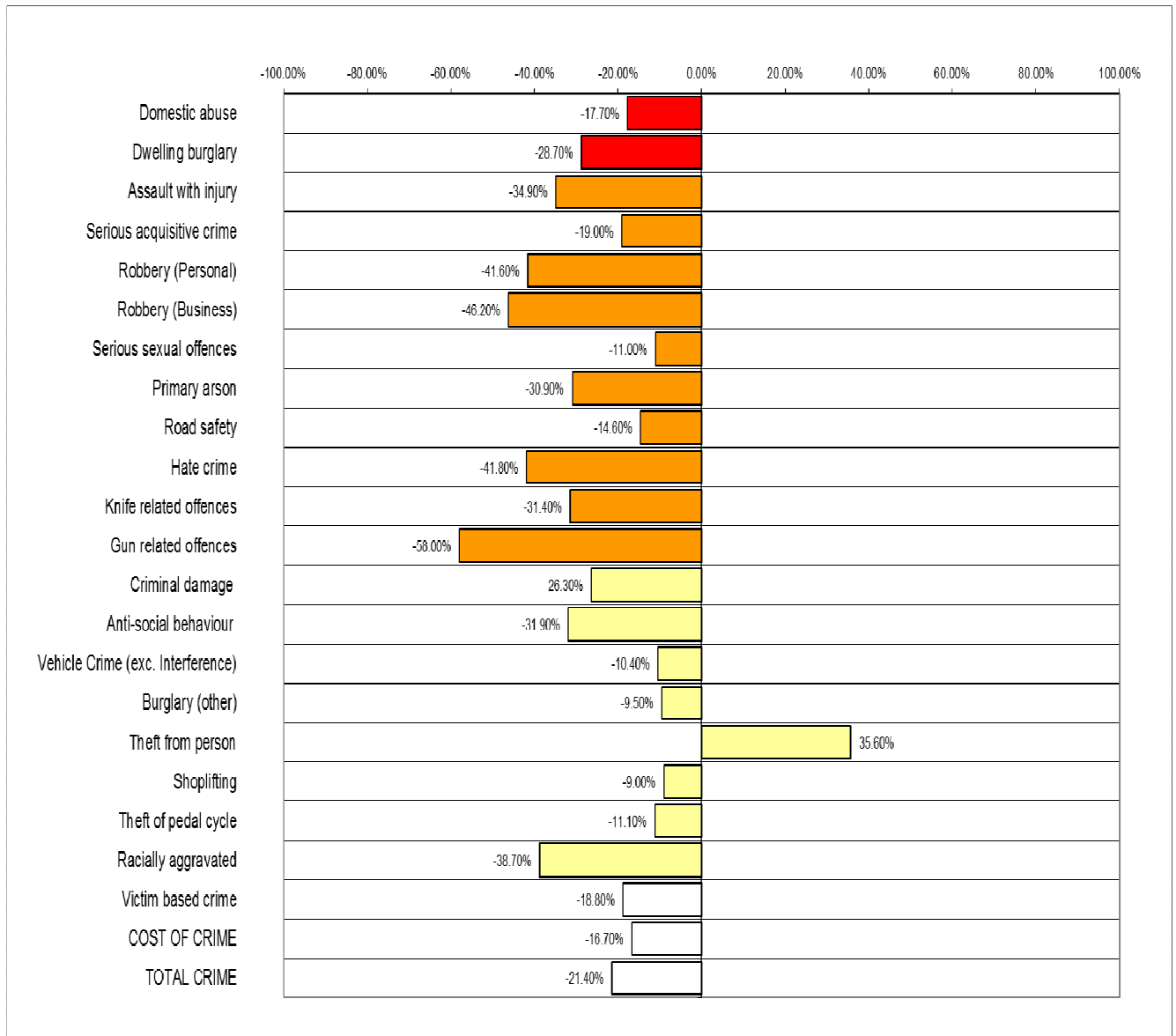
5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998, revised by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires that the Community Safety Partnership publish an annual Partnership Plan. The Safer Peterborough Partnership works to a three-year strategic plan (2011-14) and at its meeting of 4th June this committee reviewed the annual refresh of that plan.
- 5.2 The Safer Peterborough Partnership agreed one single target for the three year plan – to reduce victim based crime by 10% by end of March 2014.
- 5.3 In order to achieve this there were three identified priorities:
- Reduce Victim Based Crime
 - Tackle Anti-Social behaviour and Hate Crime
 - Build Stronger and more supportive communities
- 5.4 This report concentrates upon progress and performance in relation to Building Stronger and More Supportive Communities.
- 5.5 This report should be read in conjunction with the report being received later in this meeting from the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.
- 5.6 The Safer Peterborough Partnership take the view that sustainable reductions in crime and disorder cannot be achieved by the reactive response from services alone. Sustainable change comes from within communities where peer pressure makes crime and disorder socially unacceptable and is realised by behaviour change.
- 5.7 This element of work was historically co-ordinated by the Council's Neighbourhood Management Team and is now coordinated by the management of the Safer Peterborough team and the Community Operations team.
- 5.8 In order to progress towards such behaviour change the Partnership has taken the following strategic direction:
- To actively support and assist the development of residents groups and community associations;
 - To support and champion such schemes as Neighbourhood Watch, Business Watch, Allotment Watch, Neighbourhood Champions and Street Pastors, to name but a few;
 - To develop real citizen involvement in the management of prioritised areas such as the Operation Cando programme and its governance;
 - To increase its visibility of, and response to, quality of life issues that are often a pre-cursor to anti-social behaviour and crime;
 - To embrace the work of Professor Wilkstrom and the Cambridge University Institute of Criminology's work: Peterborough Adolescent and Young Adult Development Study (PADS);
 - To host the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioners Outreach Worker alongside the Safer Peterborough and Community Operations Team and to shortly offer the same facility to a Peterborough specific lead for victim support;
 - To lead continuing work around Community Cohesion through the Cohesion Board, and;
 - To ensure schemes for individual communities for those at risk of offending, where behaviour change is supported but poor behaviour challenged, are supported appropriately.

- 5.9 The very nature of this work is supportive to the aim of reducing crime/disorder and tackling anti-social behaviour thus no targets exist for its delivery, however a host of management information exists upon which to monitor its progress; these are largely reported through the Council's internal neighbourhood's performance regime and to the Safer Peterborough Board.
- 5.10 Some examples of work in relation to these areas include:
- The City currently benefits from 57 Community Associations, 33 Residents Groups and 26 Parish Councils; this is in addition to those hosted, for instance, by colleagues from housing providers such as Cross Keys Homes. Staff from either the Council's Community Operations team or the Safer Peterborough team regularly attend meetings, give talks and inputs around a range of subjects pertinent to individual areas. A Community Empowerment index is being developed to recognise those areas in need of additional support and resource.
 - Allotment watch was recently developed by the police and supported by the partnership in order galvanise the large number of people using the City's allotments and whom often are the victims of vandalism and theft.
 - Professor Wilkstrom's PADS study assists the partnership in looking at the causes of crime and ASB and provides valuable evidenced based assistance in deployment of staff and ways of addressing behaviours, for example the Police's Safer Schools Officers work with large communities of the City's children and young people and look where possible for restorative justice resolutions rather than criminal justice sanction.
- 5.11 For the future the Partnership continues to look at different operating models to ensure its sustainability in times of austerity. The remodelling of the City Council's directorates will forge ever closer links between the preventative work carried out within Children's Services and that carried out by the Partnership. Any model will look to build better links with the community it serves and encourage the development of additional community activism.
- 5.12 The next section within this reports indicates current levels of crime and anti-social behaviour; it is the view of the partnership that such performance is underpinned by good community engagement.

6 Safer Peterborough Partnership current performance.

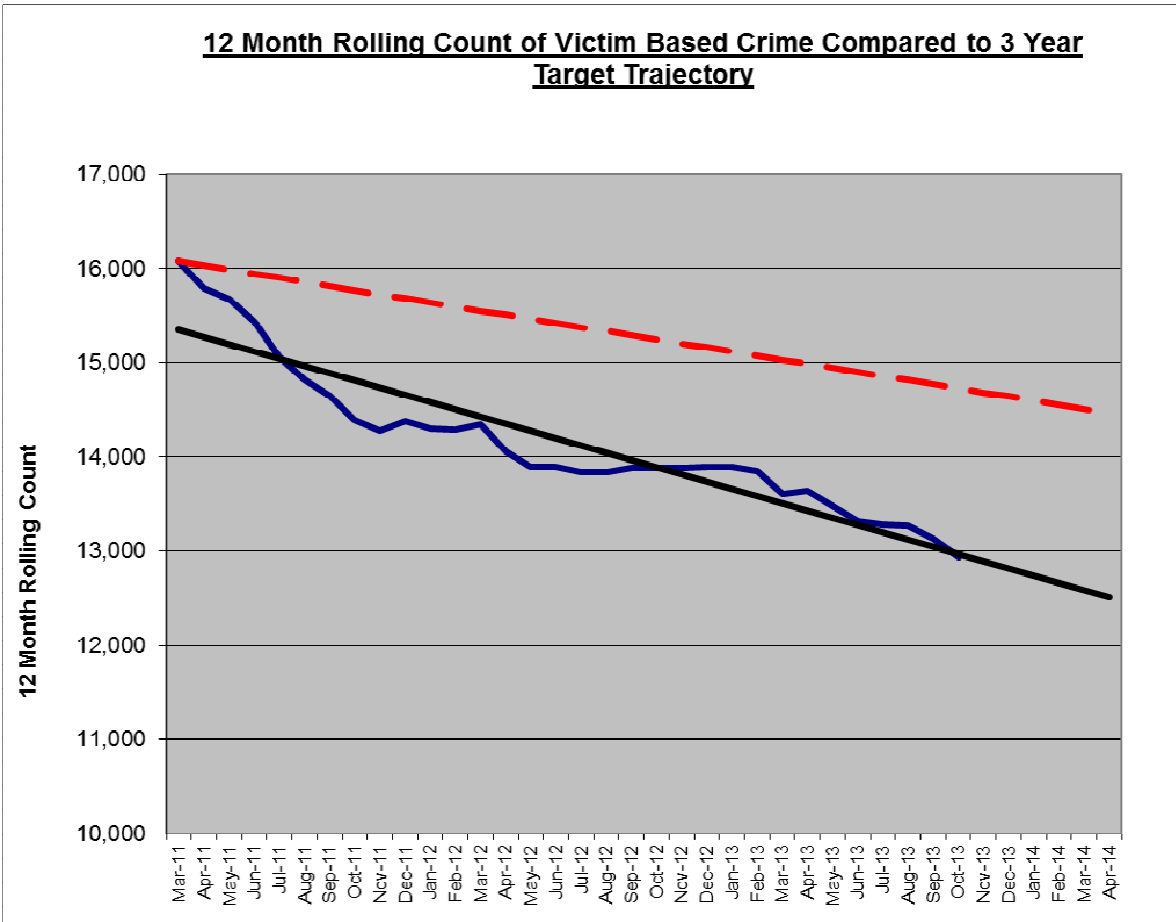
- 6.1 The partnership have a robust performance management regime which monitors performance on a monthly basis against the baseline set at the start of this three year period.
- 6.2 The one target, that of a 10% reduction in victims over the three year period, central to this framework.
- 6.3 The previous arrangements in place under the Local Area Agreement framework of central government imposed 'most similar areas' are not now being populated by government but this has allowed the freedom to compare more widely and nationally on a range of performance measures.
- 6.4 Current performance levels are as follows:



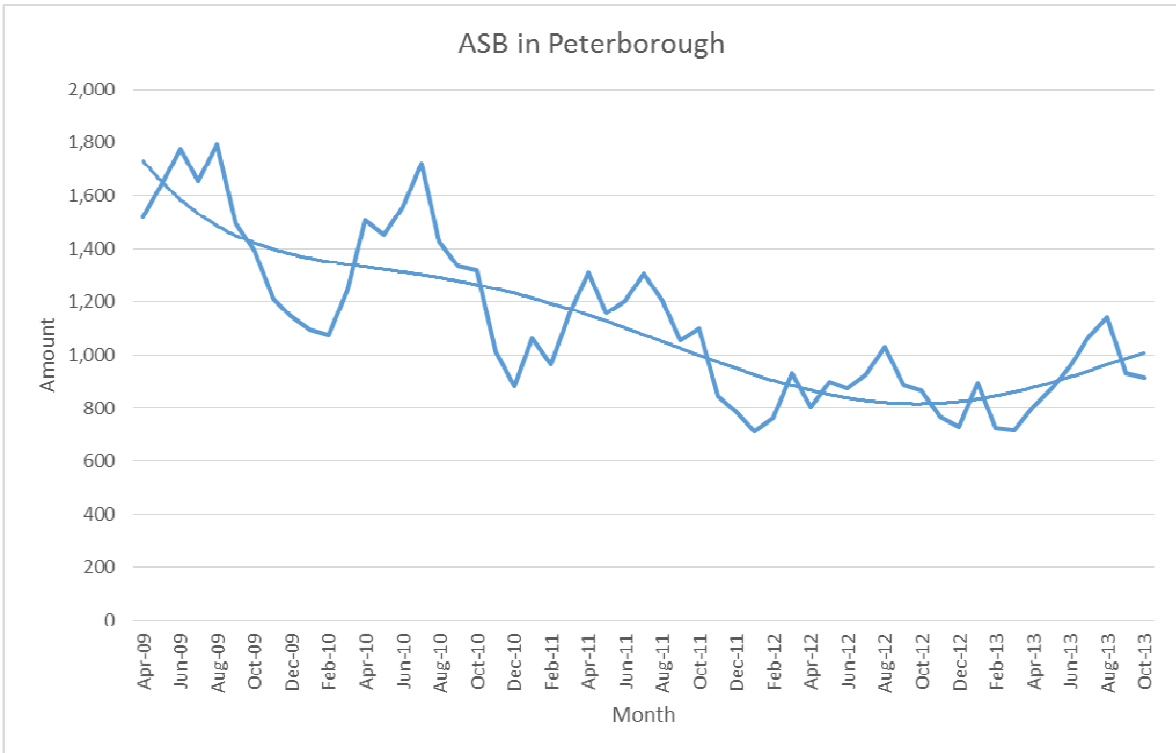
The table above shows the current levels of performance (Septembers figures) relating to our prioritised crime types.

All areas, with the exception of a category entitled 'theft from person' are showing significant downward trends from the 2010 baseline. In particular the category of house burglary is noteworthy, where offences are now hitting new lows. The reduction in assaults is also pleasing.

The reductions in crime from the baseline amount to over 3000 fewer victims of crime in our City, this can be seen from the next chart.



The final chart, below, shows the fluctuations in reporting of anti-social behaviour. Even given those fluctuations, always seasonal, the number of reports has dropped and continues to drop.



7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Fewer victims of crime are making the City safer.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 That the committee endorse the approach taken by the partnership in its efforts to reduce crime and disorder by building stronger and more supportive communities.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES