

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES	Agenda Item No. 5
13 JANUARY 2014	Public Report

Report of the Strategic Manager: Safer and Stronger Peterborough

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CRIME AND DISORDER IN RURAL AREAS

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Commission for Rural Communities on the current position in relation to crime and disorder across rural areas, as well as to report upon the strategies employed to reduce crime and disorder.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the committee to scrutinise current levels of crime and disorder and to consider and comment upon the crime reduction strategies.

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 Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan, which sets out the statutory community safety partnership's approach to reducing crime and disorder across the local authority area, contributes directly to the Community Strategy priority of Creating Strong and Supportive Communities.

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 across the local area.
- 4.2 The Crime and Disorder Act specifies 'responsible authorities', and in the case of the Peterborough Unitary Authority area these are specified as: Peterborough City Council; Cambridgeshire Constabulary; The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group; Cambridgeshire Fire Authority; and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust.
- 4.3 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 Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service, Peterborough Racial Equality Council, HM Prison Peterborough, the Director of Public Health and The One Service.
- 4.4 In addition, legislation places a *mutual duty of co-operation* upon the Partnership and the elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
- 4.5 The Safer Peterborough Partnership is one of the partnerships that form the Greater Peterborough Partnership.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Community Safety Partnerships were formed as a result of legislation produced in the late 1990s and are an acknowledgement that crime and reducing crime is not the remit of the police alone.
- 5.2 In Peterborough, the partnership set out its strategy to reduce crime and disorder in its three year strategic plan (2011-2014). That plan agreed one single target for the three year plan – to reduce victim based crime by 10% by the 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 The partnership's approach to its responsibilities is scrutinised in law by the Strong and Supportive Communities Scrutiny Committee in their capacity as the Crime and Disorder Act Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.5 Whilst crime and disorder is not the remit of the police alone, clearly the Constabulary play the leading role in visible enforcement and prevention across our area.
- 5.6 The strategy for policing across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is set out within the County's Police and Crime Plan. Cambridgeshire's Policing and Crime Commissioner and the County's Chief Constable both acknowledge the rural aspects of policing within the plan. The plan is appended to this report for information.
- 5.7 For clarity, the Peterborough local authority area comprises a distinct district policing unit under the command of a policing superintendent, the constabulary having taken the decision in 2011 to align its policing boundaries with that of Community Safety Partnerships. It is pertinent to say at this point however that specialist policing services do not fall within the remit of the local policing commander; some services are Cambridgeshire-wide and others are now collaborated under formal arrangements with Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.
- 5.8 Peterborough's local policing command are clear in their priorities and equally clear that they provide a service to all those living, working or visiting the area, irrespective of whether that is the urban or rural elements of its area of responsibility.
- 5.9 The local policing priorities are as follows:
- Keeping People Safe in their homes
 - Protecting the Vulnerable
 - Maintaining Order.
- 5.10 In order to meet the unprecedented challenges of austerity and demand the police use a system of 'threat, harm and risk'.
- 5.11 A threat, risk, harm matrix is used to identify priorities. In simple terms, this is a means by which to identify the negative issue (threat), against the likelihood of it happening (risk), and against the impact it will have on the community or on a specific group of people (harm).

- 5.12 This does not mean that where there has historically been little or no reported crime that police will not patrol or respond; it merely allows the intelligent deployment of resources where their impact is likely to be at their most effective. It also acknowledges the harm factor that may be different for varying groups across our geographic area; for example an exposed rural community may feel more vulnerable to a reported burglary than an inner-City street. The Partnership support this deployment model.
- 5.13 The use of neighbourhood panels and identified local policing officers ensures that issues of local concern are not ignored but are prioritised and dealt with by the right organisation from across the partnership.
- 5.14 In addition to work carried out by the Police; the wider Partnership deliver a variety of initiatives to drive down crime across the Peterborough area. In this current its focus has been as follows:
- 5.15 We will continue on our three year journey to reduce the number of victims of crime by supporting our partner agencies in delivery of their core roles and will prioritise our partnership work as follows:

Vulnerable People and Groups

The Partnership will ensure that vulnerable people and groups, and those at risk of becoming vulnerable, are identified and supported appropriately and not disproportionately suffer as victims of crime.

This theme is led by Wendi Ogle-Welbourn (Assistant Director, Children's Services, PCC) and Adrian Chapman (Head of Neighbourhoods, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Prioritising a role within the partnership delivery team to lead and co-ordinate services for victims within the City. This role will link with the Cambridgeshire-wide work being conducted by the Office of the Policing and Crime Commissioner in readiness for the commissioning of victims services from 2014 onwards.
- Prioritising work within the partnership delivery team as Connecting Families Programme 'Connectors'. Both of the above roles will work alongside the City's Anti-Social Behaviour team ensuring that victims of ASB are included in such support work.
- Ensuring the Partnership actively contribute to the work led by Adult Social Care (Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults) and Children's Social Care (Safeguarding Children).
- Ensuring that the Partnership have more visibility and active involvement in supporting the work around Child Sexual Exploitation by the appointment of a Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Co-ordinator who will also lead on this area of work for the partnership delivery team.
- Developing a solid understanding of the potential impact of welfare reform upon crime and the effect this may have on performance and regularly reporting this as part of the Partnership performance framework.
- Ensuring that the Partnership strengthens its work and support of Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups and associations in order that those vulnerable in the community have greater support.
- Forge greater operational links across the various programmes with colleagues from Children's Services, in particular the Youth Offending Service.
- Scrutinising shoplifting as a specific theme as an indicator of the potential impact of

welfare reform.

- Work together with businesses against crimes, including the Business Against Crime Scheme, to help develop and deliver the most effective strategies for gathering knowledge of shoplifting and its perpetrators.
- Work together with soon to be established Credit Union and other charitable organisations to ultimately mitigate any increasing trends of shoplifting arising from the impact of welfare reform.

Anti-Social Behaviour /Quality of Life and Road Safety Services

The Partnership will prioritise work around ASB and quality of life issues within the City; cognisant of the 'broken window theory'. Analysis has shown that there are clear correlations between ASB, criminal damage, alcohol related issues and deprivation; in addition looking more holistically at quality of life incidents, as opposed to looking at these issues in isolation, provides the opportunity to make real savings in terms of the time taken by different teams to address problems which may have been identified to more than one agency.

This theme is led by Paul Phillipson (Executive Director Operations, PCC) and Councillor Irene Walsh (Cabinet Member for Safety and Cohesion, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Developing a City-wide anti-social behaviour strategy and development plan led by the Board.
- Continuing to develop robust case management of individual cases and an intelligence led approach to the identification of emerging trends.
- Improve and develop data sharing as a priority.
- The ASB task and finish group should be reinstated and be the lead group for developing the approach to ASB
- ASB will be a standing performance item at monthly board meetings.
- Continuing to deliver Road Safety Services within the Partnership delivery team to ensure that the numbers of those killed or seriously injured on the City's roads are reduced.
- Developing the City's road safety services through a specific road safety task and finish plan that is reported to the Board on a quarterly basis or at whatever other intervals the Board feel necessary.

Integrated Offender Management

The Partnership will continue to support the view that a relatively small number of individuals have a disproportionate impact upon crime levels in the City and that targeted work with these individuals will have the biggest impact upon levels of recorded crime. Thus, the Partnership will continue to develop the integrated approach to offender management.

This theme is led by Mike Dyson (Assistant Chief Probation Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Trust)

We will do this by:

- Integrated Offender Management will continue to have its own task and finish group

reporting dually to the Cambridgeshire-wide CCJB IOM Strategic Group and to the SPP. The group will continue to work for opportunities for better case management tools and co-location.

- Ensuring continued work on the Performance Framework and more specifically on the Outcome Tool to assess which interventions are most effective and identify any gaps in meeting offender needs.
- Developing further the work with JobCentre Plus to address the impact of the welfare reforms for the offenders, and the potential impact on their offending behaviour.
- Supporting the work of the Probation Trust through proposed Government changes.
- The Partnership should ensure that the work being developed to ensure an increase in capacity for access to mental health services for victims and offenders continues.
- Performance of the Integrated Approach to Offender Management will be reported to the Board on a quarterly basis

Domestic Abuse

The Partnership will continue to prioritise, develop and improve the City's response to Domestic Abuse.

This theme is led by Paul Phillipson (Executive Director Operations, PCC) supported by Karen Kibblewhite (Safer Peterborough Manager, Cutting Crime, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Developing a joined-up City-wide approach to domestic abuse through the Domestic Abuse Governance Board.
- Increasing the capacity of the services in line with the Domestic Abuse Needs Audit 2012, and continue to review and develop services for both perpetrators, and for children and young people.
- Prioritising funding to employ a Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Co-ordinator to lead this work.
- Learning the lessons from any Domestic Homicide Reviews in order to ensure improvements in service delivery
- Undertaking further work with all partners to ensure that data they collect in relation to domestic abuse is in a compatible format so a clear picture to the extent of the issue in Peterborough can be developed.

Reducing the Harm caused by Substance Misuse

The Partnership will continue to support the development and delivery of high class modern drug and alcohol services for the City based upon the latest Government drug and alcohol strategies.

This theme is led by Gary Goose (Safer Peterborough Strategic Manager and Chair JCG) supported by Karen Kibblewhite (Safer Peterborough Manager, Cutting Crime, PCC)

We will do this by:

- Continually monitoring the performance of drug and alcohol delivery services within the City; holding them and ourselves to account for performance.

- Report back performance on a quarterly basis to the Board or at any other intervals they see fit.
- Develop services further through a comprehensive treatment plan reported to and agreed by the Board.
- Ensure that drug and alcohol providers are included in other complimentary harm reduction schemes such as IOM, ASB and Connecting Families

Dwelling Burglary

The Partnership will continue to prioritise burglary as a core indicator of levels of serious acquisitive crime. We will support work that drives down burglary further.

This theme is led by Dan Vajzovic (District Policing Commander)

We will do this by:

- Burglary offenders will continue to be prioritised within the Integrated Offender Management Scheme.
- Burglary suspects will be tested where appropriate for drugs at point of entry into the criminal justice system.
- The Partnership continuing to offer support as necessary to the police in support of the victims of burglary.

Violent Crime linked to the Night-Time Economy

The City will continue to prioritise its response to violent crime and in particular violent crime linked to the night-time economy.

This theme is led by the City Council's City Centre team.

We will do this by:

- Undertaking full analysis of violent crime to ensuring a proper understanding of the amount of violent crime linked to the night time economy, the use of the Police marker by the Constabulary to indicate violence in a licensed premise should be improved.
- Taking the lead role in ensuring that violence in the City Centre and otherwise linked to the night-time economy is reduced. That activity across partners is balanced and that the City compliments the need to improve the vibrancy and economy of the City Centre with the need for people to be safe and feel safe.

Racially Aggravated Offences and Hate Crime

The Partnership will continue to recognise the special impact of racially aggravated offences and hate crime in all its forms.

This theme is led by M J Ladha (Chief Executive of Peterborough Racial Equality Council)

We will do this by:

- Prioritising funding to appoint a new role to lead on Anti-social behaviour/hate crime and victim services.
- Carrying out further, in-depth analysis around all prejudicial incidents and crimes across

the city to provide more detailed insight. Developing a more comprehensive performance framework that is reported back to the Board on a quarterly basis or at intervals decided by the Board.

- Raising awareness of reporting – through Open Out Scheme/ effective network of reporting centres that in the victim's perception can be trusted.
- Improving our knowledge from schools.

Sustainability, Performance, Value for Money and Communication

The Partnership recognises the drivers that pose a potential threat to sustainability of current structures and will look to increase sustainability in order to maintain and improve the City's safety and feelings of safety.

This theme is led by Nick Leader (Governor, HMP Peterborough) and Gary Goose (Safer Peterborough Strategic Manager)

We will do this by:

- Continuing to work together as a cohesive partnership; one that is flexible, adaptable and responsive to changing need and demand.
- Looking at different operating models, including greater co-operation with other areas; in order maintain sustainability of service in the years ahead.
- Developing the partnership performance framework to include all available data and that where there are gaps in local data the Partnership influences closure of those gaps.
- The Partnership should continue to fund the specific partnership analyst post.

5.16 Current crime levels in rural areas

The following graphics indicate current reported levels of crime across our rural areas together with the percentage they represent of all our area's crime. They are split down into individual crime types and by village area.

FIGURE 1: Total Crime, Apr-12 - Nov-13

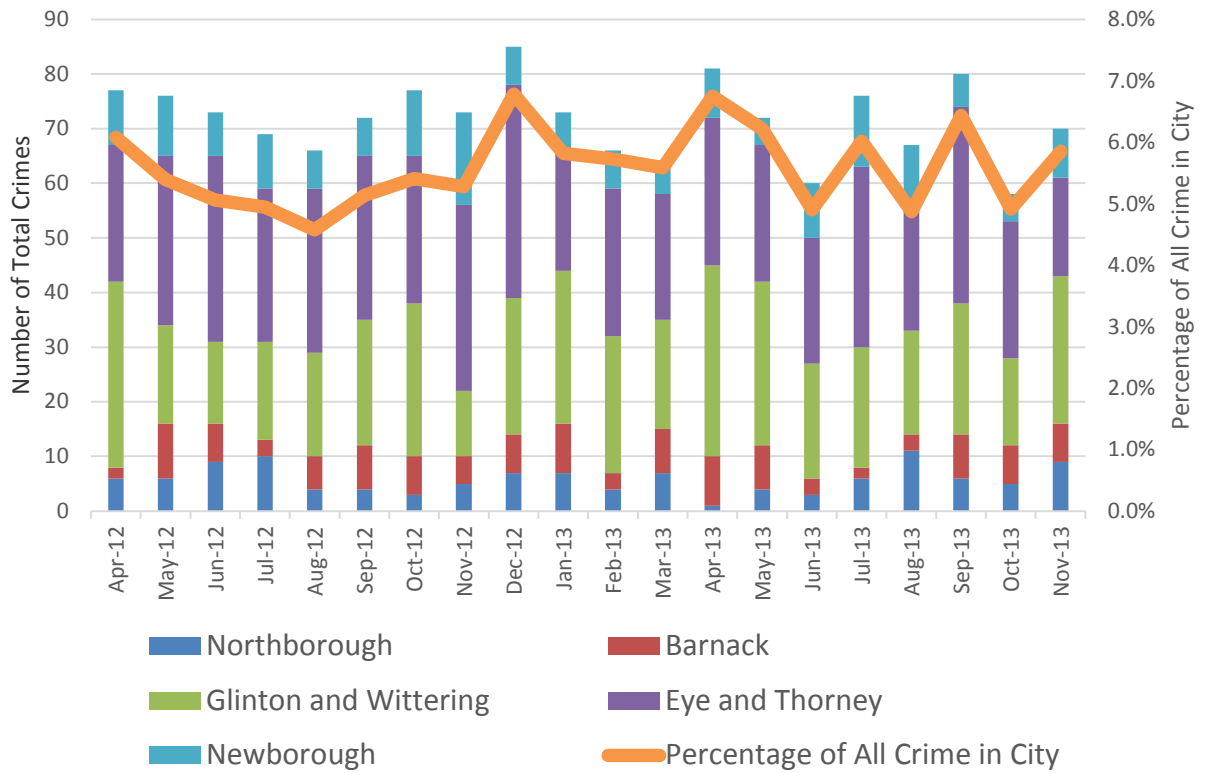


FIGURE 2: Victim Based Crime, Apr-12 - Nov-13

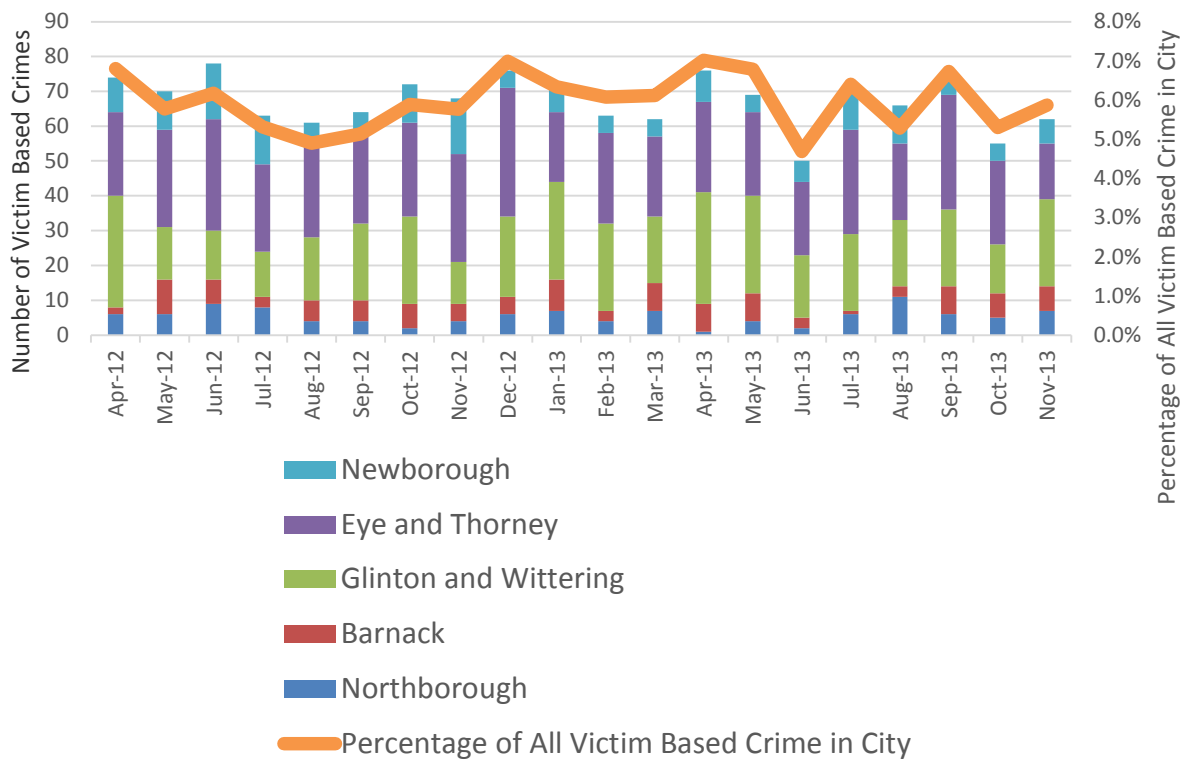


FIGURE 3: Serious Acquisitive Crime, Apr-12 - Nov-13

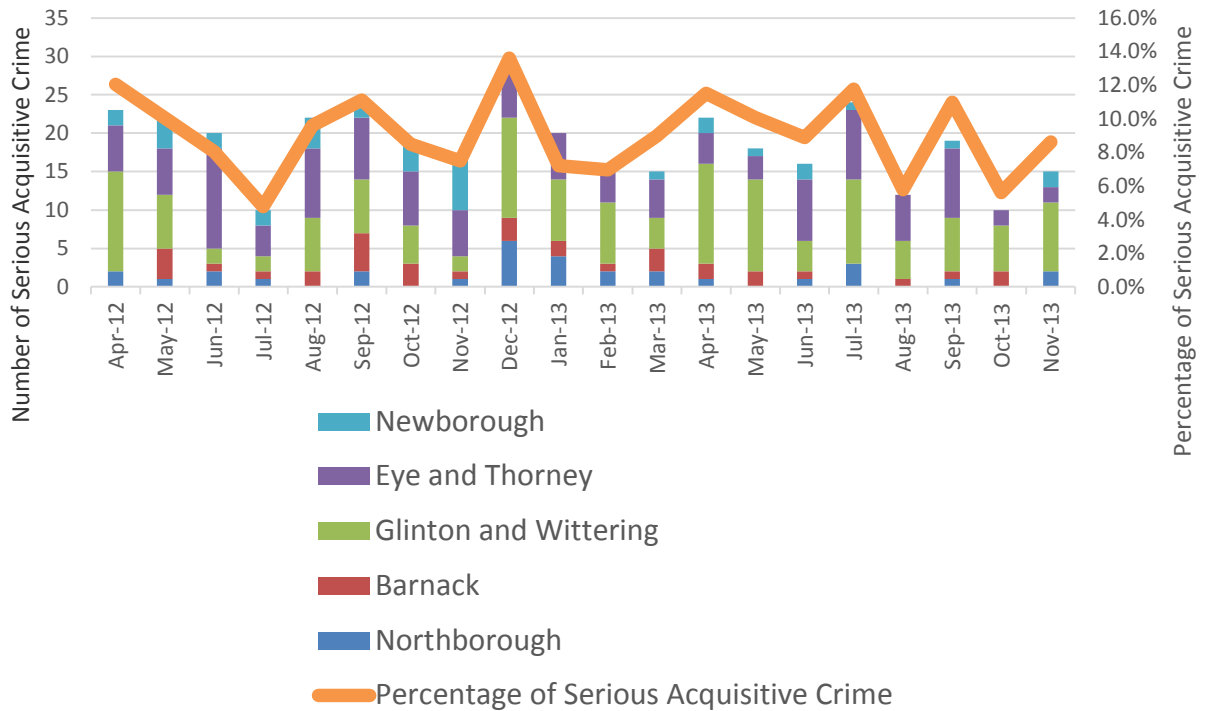


FIGURE 4: Burglary Dwelling, Apr-12 - Nov-13

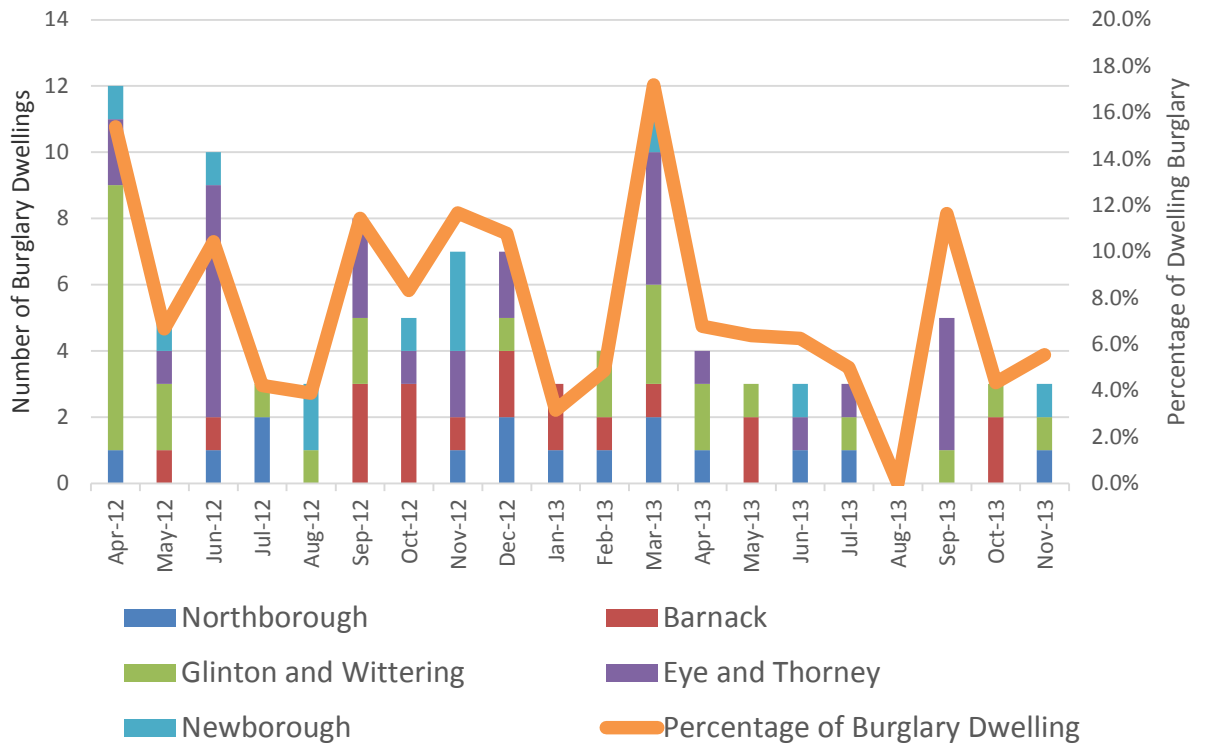


FIGURE 5: Burglary Non-Dwelling, Apr-12 - Nov-13

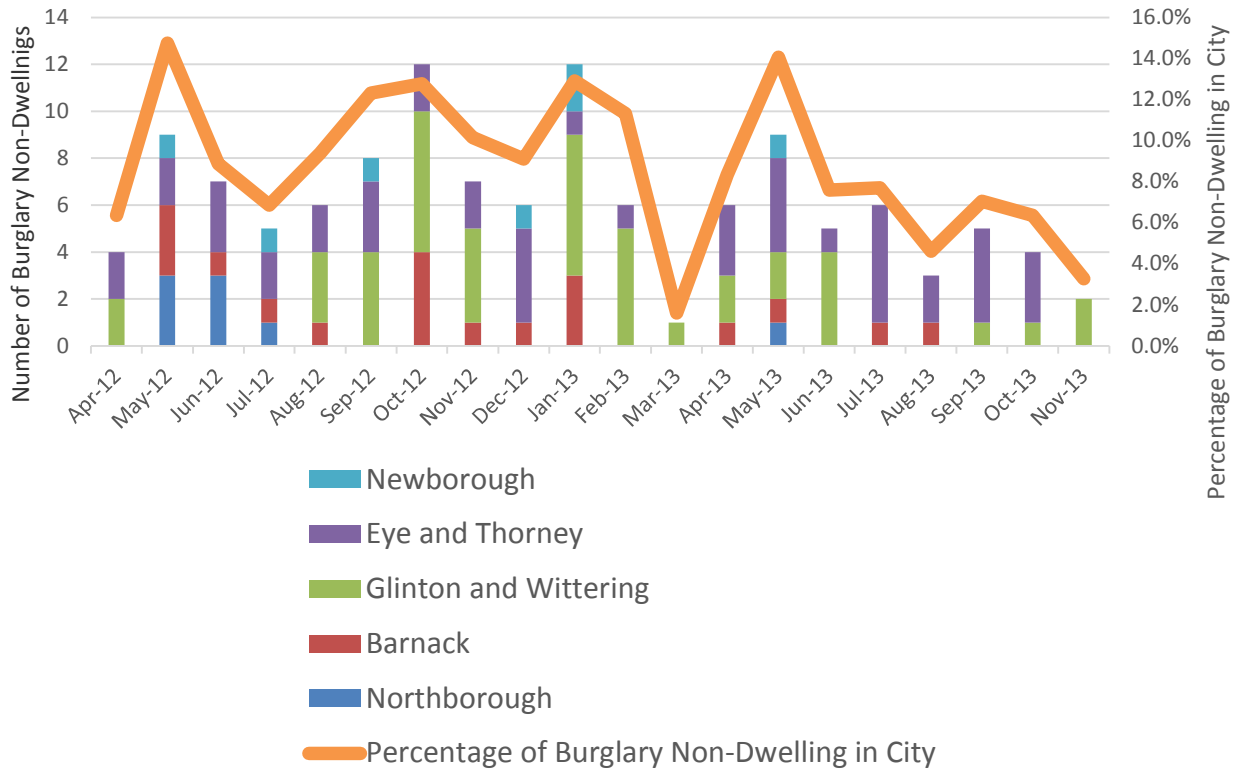


FIGURE 6: All Violent Crime, Apr-12 - Nov-13

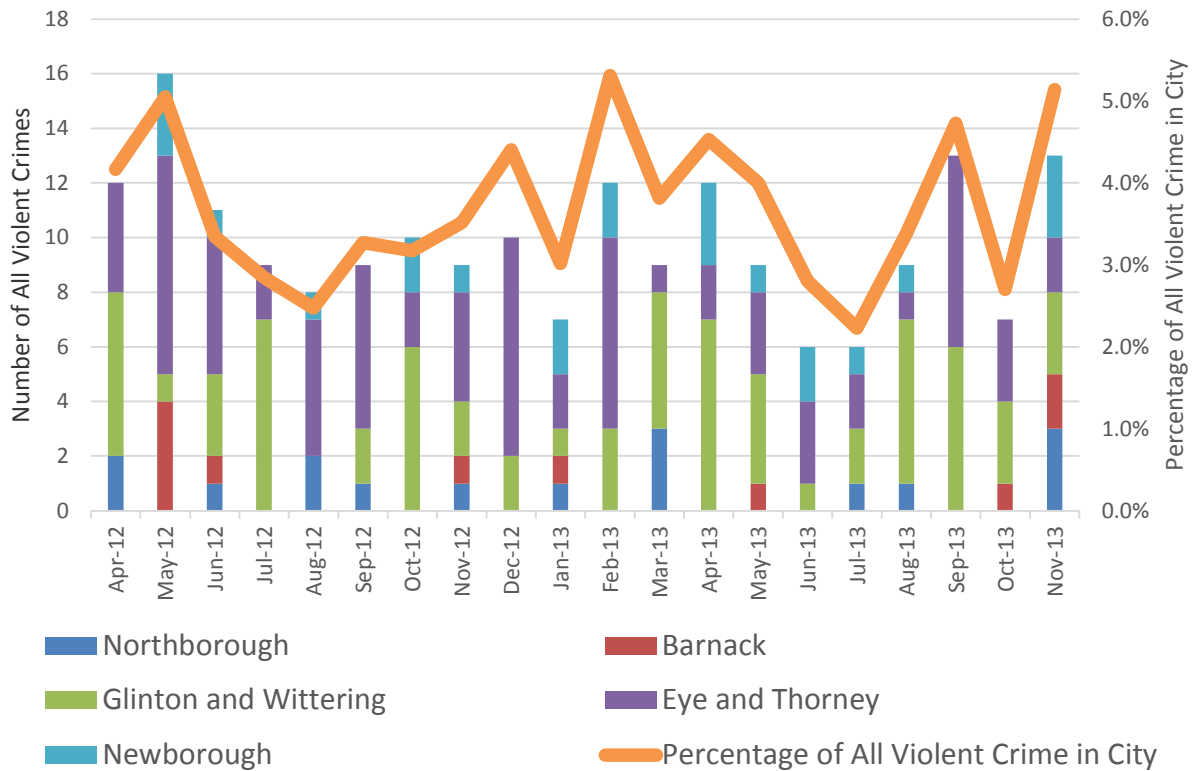


FIGURE 7: Robbery, Apr-12 - Nov-13

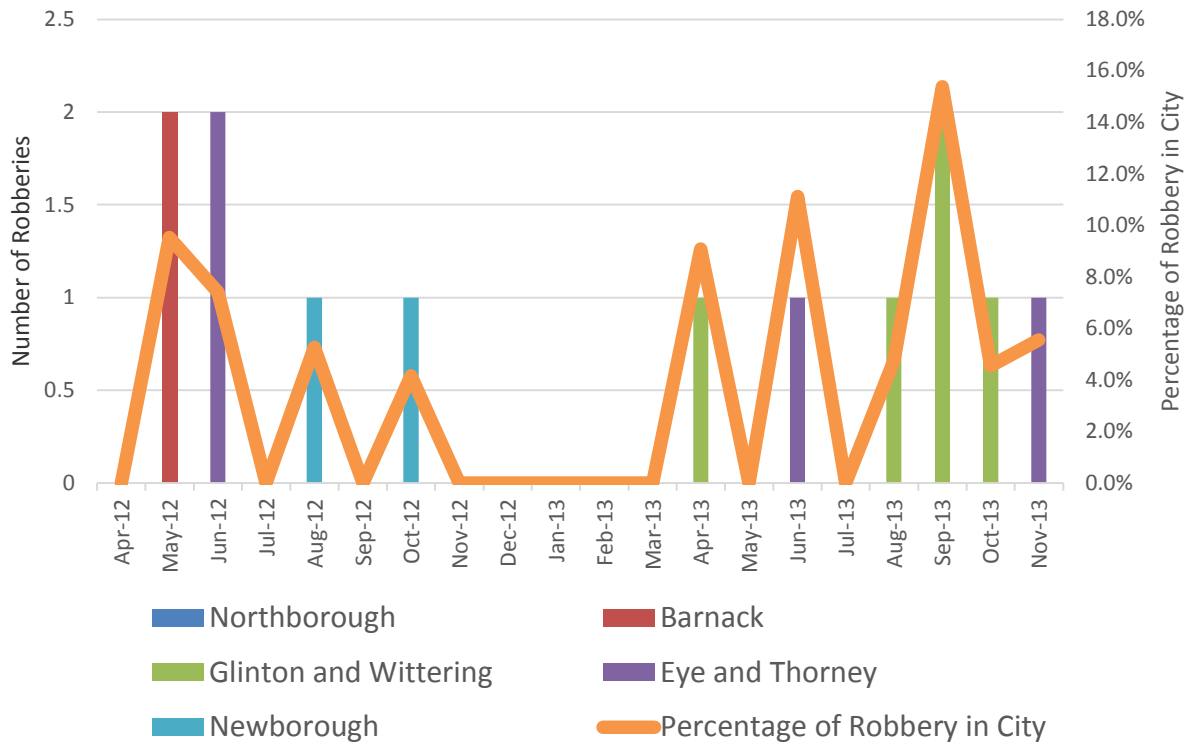


FIGURE 8: Vehicle Crime, Apr-12 - Nov-13

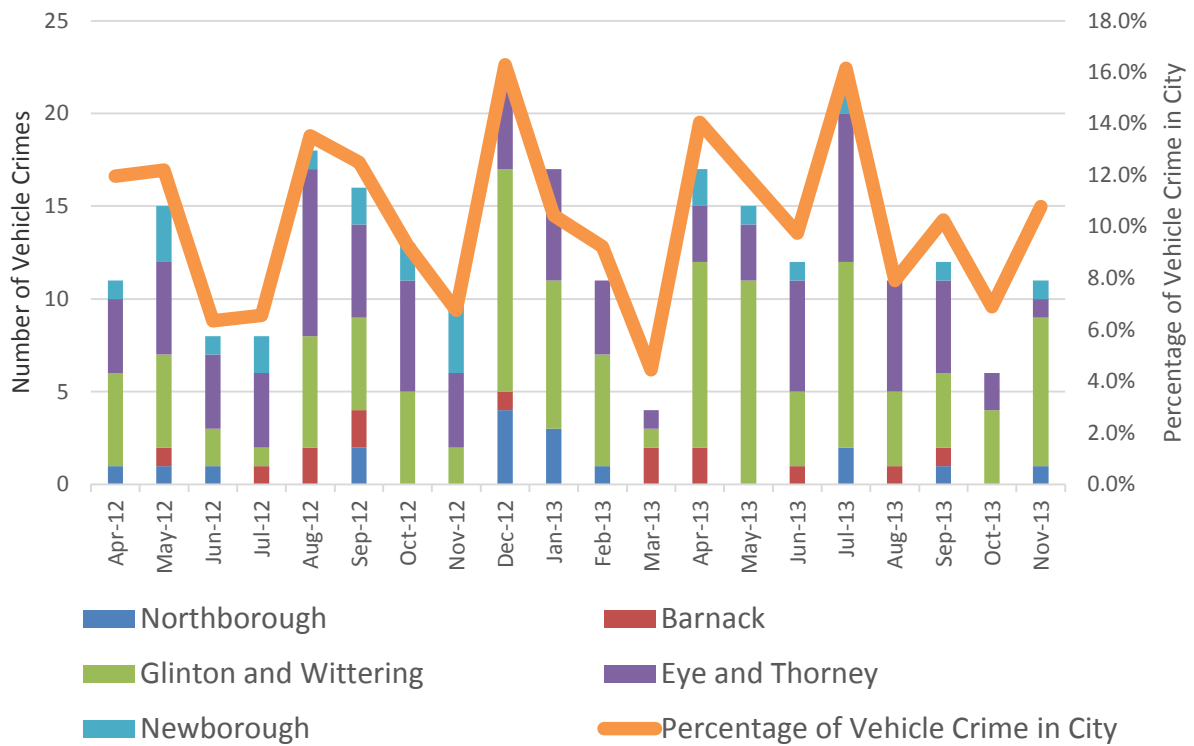


FIGURE 9: Pedal Cycle Theft, Apr-12 - Nov-13

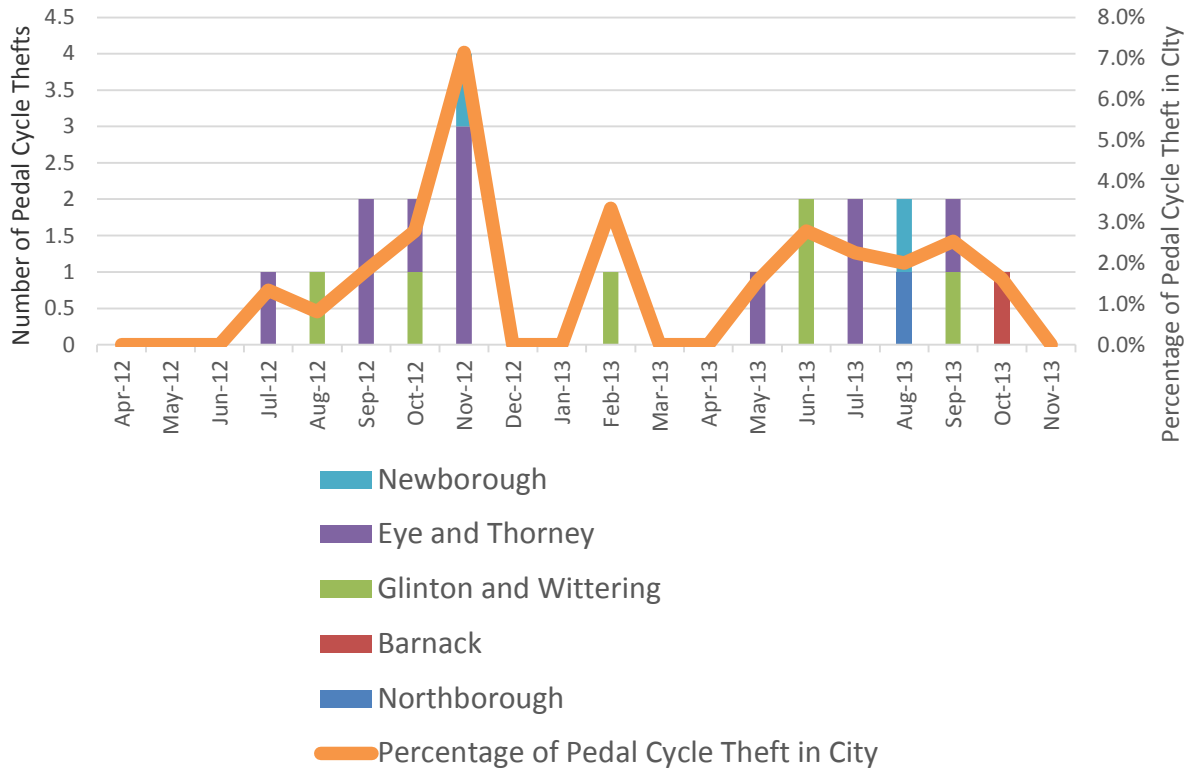


FIGURE 10: Theft from Shop, Apr-12 - Nov-13

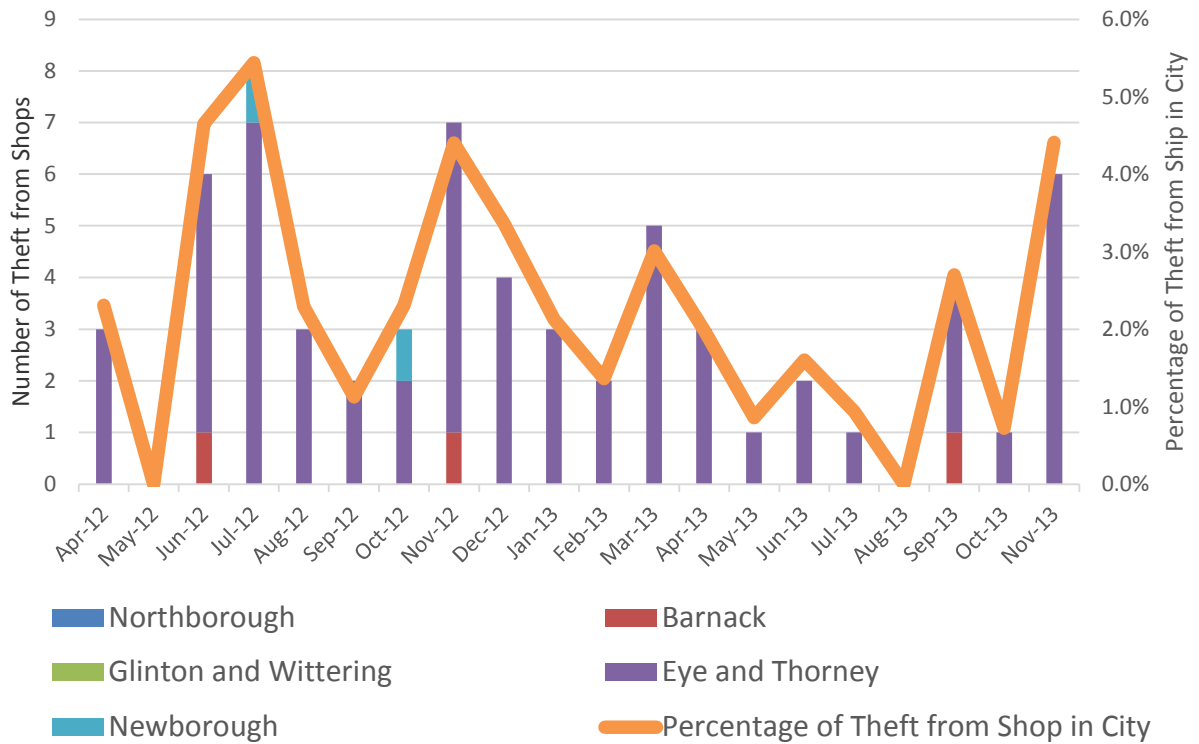


FIGURE 11: Criminal Damage, Apr-12 - Nov-13

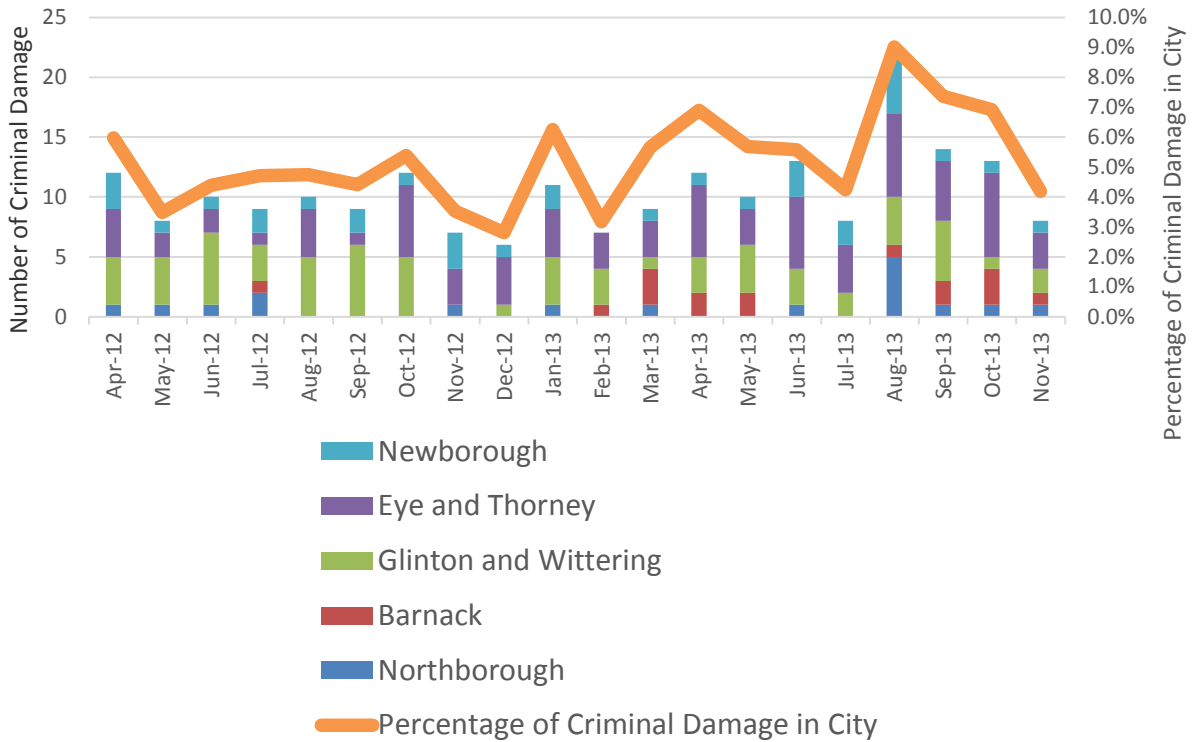


FIGURE 12: Domestic Violence, Apr-12 - Nov-13

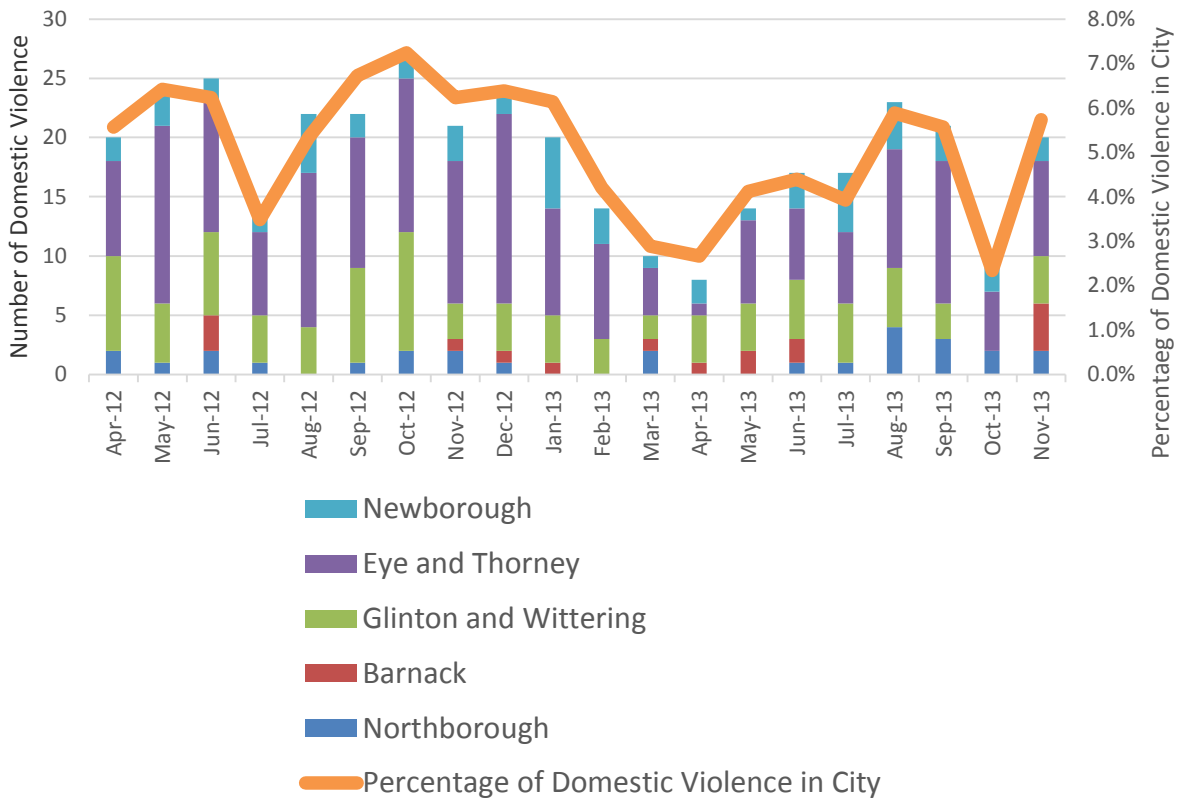


FIGURE 13: Alcohol Related Incidents, Apr-12 - Nov-13

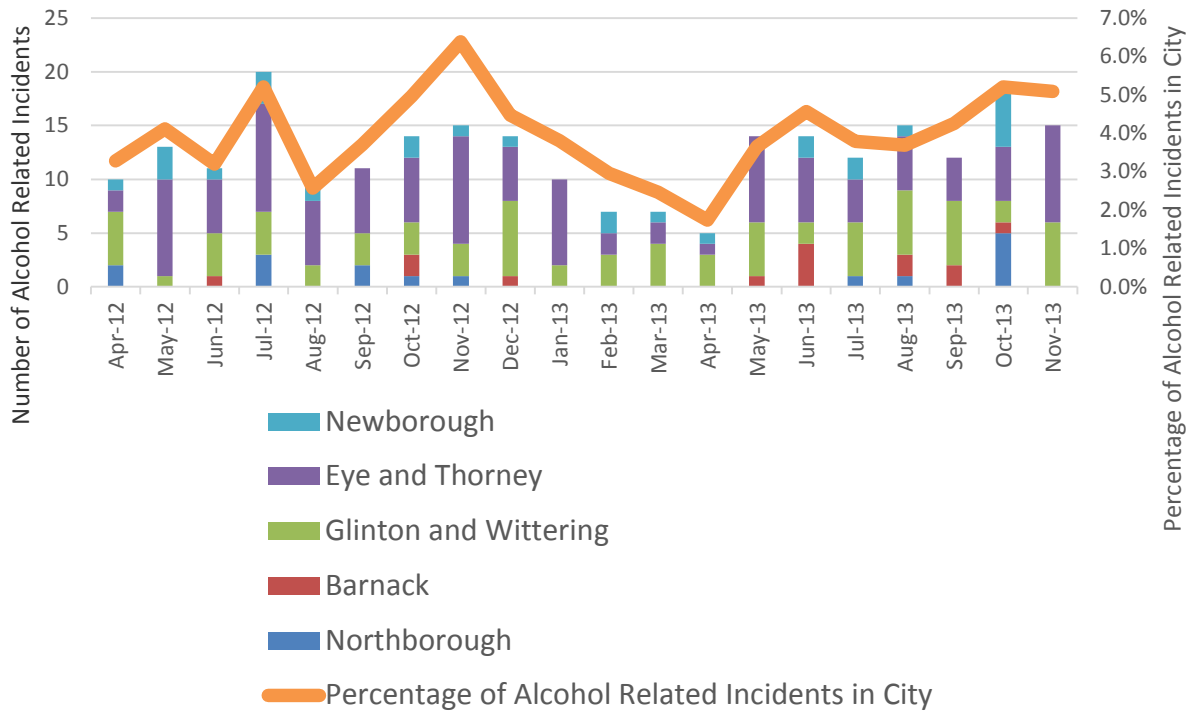
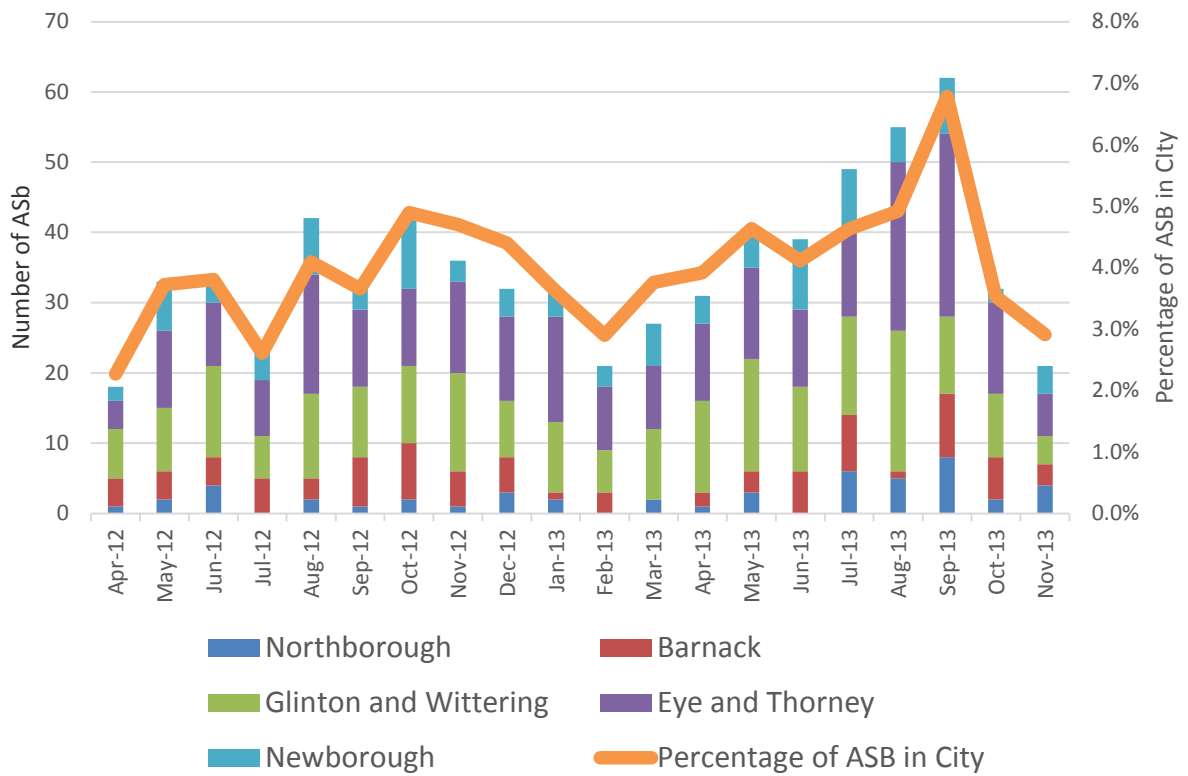


FIGURE 14: ASB, Apr-12 - Nov-13



6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Reported crime across the Peterborough area has continued to fall throughout the three-year reporting period of the current Safer Peterborough Strategic Plan. The strategy employed by that plan – to tackle root causes where possible rather than just the symptoms, to employ a multi-agency response where possible, to target resources where they can be most effective – is working.
- 6.2 Our rural communities benefit from this approach in the same way as the rest of Peterborough. The use of neighbourhood policing panels, Neighbourhood Watch and Countryside Watch ensure that a joined up approach to reducing crime continues to develop across our area.

7. IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial or legal implications for the Council as a result of this report.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The committee note and endorse the approach taken by the Safer Peterborough Partnership as a whole to tackling crime and disorder in our rural areas.

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2011-14 (13/14 refresh)
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Policing Plan

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