

PRIORITY 8

WE WILL CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES AND REDUCE CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

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In **Priority 8** we say that we will **create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour**. This means that:

- People feel safer;
- We will tackle / reduce crimes that have the greatest impact on our communities;
- An holistic approach is taken to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour;
- There is better support for victims of crime and
- We have an effective rehabilitation system.

Challenges 2014/15

Our focus this year will be to:

- Effectively implement the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014;
- Address crime and anti-social behaviour through effective partnership working;
- Support the effectiveness of substance misuse treatment in conjunction with health.
- Campaign and raise awareness of our community safety priorities as well as new emerging issues;
- Work with partner agencies to ensure resources are targeted at the greatest need.

Context

In the last 10 years, overall crime in Blackpool has fallen by 30%, as detailed in the table below.

| Financial Year | No of crimes |
|----------------|--------------|
| 2003/4 | 22,196 |
| 2004/5 | 23,810 |
| 2005/6 | 22,159 |
| 2006/7 | 21,638 |
| 2007/8 | 18,863 |
| 2008/9 | 18,256 |
| 2009/10 | 16,649 |
| 2010/11 | 16,643 |
| 2011/12 | 16,876 |
| 2012/13 | 15,552 |
| 2013/14 | 15,692 |
| 2014/15* | 11,568 |

*Source: Police CORA Crime File – 2014/15
data includes April 2014 – December 2014*

Although certain crime categories have increased during 2014/15, overall crime is down by 6% and further reductions have been achieved within many crime categories. For example, so far this year reductions have been achieved in the following crime categories:

Figures are for the period 1st April 2014 – 31st December 2014:

| Crime Category | Reduction |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| All Crime | 6% |
| Domestic Abuse | 5% |
| Domestic Violence Assaults | 11% |
| Domestic Burglary | 4% |
| All Burglary | 7% |
| Assault With Injury | 9% |
| All Drug Offences | 19% |
| Drug Possession | 17% |
| Assault Police | 28% |
| Drug Trafficking | 29% |
| Public Fear, Alarm and Distress | 21% |
| Possession of Weapons | 4% |
| High Impact Acquisitive Crime | 8% |
| Shoplifting | 15% |
| Theft from a Vehicle | 22% |
| Sexual Violence (exc. Rape) | 7% |
| Non-Domestic Burglary | 9% |
| Public Order Offences | 4% |

Current Activity

Effectively implement the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act:

In October 2014, the new Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act came into effect, bringing with it a series of new tools and powers to be used by local authorities, the Police and other delegated bodies to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB).

The Community Safety Team has been working alongside partners to successfully implement the new legislation and the ASB Coordinator has been involved in a Lancashire-wide group which has facilitated this work. The contributions of Blackpool and Preston were highlighted within the group as pivotal to ensuring that every local authority in the county was ready to use the new tools and powers.

Arrangements to facilitate the Community Trigger have been put in place between the Council, Police, Clinical Commissioning Group and Blackpool Coastal Housing. This provision will give victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent ASB and to have a say in the way their complaints are dealt with. Work is also ongoing with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) in relation to the Community Remedy provision, which will require the PCC to consult victims and the public on the menu of sanctions available for those committing low-level crime and ASB.

Two of the new tools and powers, Criminal Behaviour Orders and Injunctions, have not yet been implemented as there are still some outstanding issues in relation to Legal Aid. Until the Injunction tool is implemented in 2015, the Anti-Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) will remain in use.

Training sessions for internal staff and partner agencies have been carried out in order to ensure that the transition to the new legislation is as seamless as possible. A briefing paper has been developed and distributed to all Elected Members informing them about the new Act, and also of how to deal with any requests for a Community Trigger by a member of the public. A Community Trigger toolkit has been put together for staff who will be directly involved in the Community Trigger process.

Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through effective partnership working:

The Community Safety Team has continued working with the Police and the other BSafe Blackpool partners agencies to implement local campaigns around emerging issues, problem-solve complex ASB cases, establish multi-agency meetings, carry out visits to perpetrators and victims, provide crime prevention advice and target hardening for vulnerable people, implement working groups such as Azure and Aquamarine, and run street surgeries to increase public reassurance. All Crime is showing a reduction of 6% for April to December 2014 when compared with the same period last year.

A number of projects have been developed and implemented by the Community Safety Team since April 2014, including:

- Securing a number of ASBOs for those begging and harassing people in the town centre;
- Improved lighting in the town centre to increase safety, reassurance and the quality of CCTV footage in the area;
- Supporting the Kathleen House project which supports victims of sexual violence;
- Supporting Doris House which assists high risk victims of domestic violence;
- Provide the Safer Taxi scheme which is used to safeguard vulnerable people within the night time economy and reduces the risk of sexual assaults and rape;
- The Bike Coding project, which aims to reduce the number of bicycles stolen; and
- Supporting the implementation of the Optimal Forager project to reduce domestic burglaries.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) process is tailor-made to support vulnerable victims and protect them from serious harm. The process still has positive buy-in from partner agencies and continues to be an effective tool which the Community Safety team continues to implement as a victim-centred approach. Between October and December 2014 some 30 referrals were received and in January there were 35 live cases. These included some cases where the victims were extremely vulnerable, but the ASB Coordinator, with the assistance of the relevant partner agencies, was able to support them and ensure that their safety was improved.

Support the effectiveness of substance misuse treatment in conjunction with health:

The Council's Public Health directorate tendered the Horizon drug and alcohol treatment services in 2014/15. Contracts were awarded and the new service delivery commenced from the 1st September 2014. The services only had a short period of time to implement the changes, and this was successfully achieved. The key focus for the integrated drug and alcohol treatment service is to support clients achieving recovery.

It is important to note that recovery is what an individual wishes to attain in order for them to be fully integrated within the community. The treatment service takes a holistic approach by providing clients with help and support to resolve their housing issues, employment,

training, education needs and to support their family in the community. Current performance in Blackpool is comparable with the North West region and nationally in most aspects, and better in others. A recent service user consultation event has highlighted that the clients are satisfied with the new service and feel that the programme offer has improved.

Work with partner agencies to ensure resources are targeted at the greatest need:

Following the Annual Strategic Assessment, which identifies the priorities for BSafe Blackpool each year, regular monitoring takes place with the assistance of the Police analyst in order to monitor any changes in crime and ASB levels. The resources available therefore are used to target the priorities as identified by the Strategic Assessment, or any other emerging issue.

With regards to the victims of ASB, the ASBRAC process ensures that those most at risk and most vulnerable receive intensive interventions in order to prevent further and more serious harm. The BSafe Blackpool Strategic Partnership Group also makes multi-agency decisions at a strategic level regarding funding and direction of resources.

Campaign and raise awareness of our community safety priorities as well as new emerging issues:

Since April 2014, the Community Safety Team, with the support of a number of partner agencies, has developed and implemented the following campaigns:

- **Priority: Sexual Offences** – Alcohol Changes You Campaign
- **Priority: Sexual Offences** – School Sexual Offences Campaign
- **Priority: Assaults** – Alcohol Changes You Campaign
- **Priority: Domestic Abuse** – White Ribbon Campaign
- **Priority: Antisocial Behaviour** – Operation Impression Campaign

The Public Protection division also regularly carry out enforcement operations to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the community. Some examples include:

- **Scam Alerts** - officers of the Advice and Education team have started issuing scam alerts via social media. This proved to be the most popular use of social media by the Council, with the first alert being shared over 400 times and reaching over 20,000 people.
- **Gambling Test Purchasing** - operations have been performed by officers along with the Gambling Commission, using underage volunteers. Of the premises visited, four have been submitted for Licence Review following repeat failures, whereas six more have been put on notice by written warning following the failure of one incident.
- **Operation Wellbeing** - officers are now working every day in the town centre alongside Police Officers to reduce crime / anti-social behaviour and to tackle street crimes ranging from begging, street trading, thefts and commercial waste. Amongst the issues already tackled are a Licence Review, bogus charity collectors being reported for prosecution, notices being issued over commercial food waste and street traders being reported for prosecution regarding sales of fake vodka and whisky relating to major public health concerns.

- **Takeaway Enforcement** - there is a programme of repeat inspections to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour occurring around takeaway food premises, including those after the licence hour of 05.00. Along with Police colleagues, officers target premises on a risk and intelligence basis looking at issues around food hygiene, health and safety and commercial waste. Multiple offences have been uncovered, including drugs related issues.
- **Legal Highs** - a joint operation has been undertaken with the Police to tackle the problem of legal highs. Samples of legal highs on sale in the town have been tested by the Drugs Unit at Hutton Police Headquarters and Community Protection Notices have been served on five premises. The Notices ban the traders from selling or offering for sale any psychoactive substances, research chemicals or legal highs.

Strategic Risks Related to this Priority

The following risks are being monitored through the Strategic Risk Register to ensure that the necessary controls are put in place to effectively manage each risk.

| Strategic Risk | Type | Risk Level |
|---|----------|--------------------|
| Failure to protect vulnerable children and adults | Local | High |
| Climate change | National | Activity Necessary |
| Civil emergency | National | Activity Necessary |
| Crime and corruption | Local | Low Priority |




Details of the specific actions being taken to mitigate these risks can be found in the Strategic Risk Register.








Key Actions & Performance Indicators for this Priority

Details of the key actions and performance indicators for this priority can be found below.

Priority 8 Key Actions

Key – Overall Progress:

| | | | | | |
|--|----------|---|---|---|---|
|  | On track |  | Not on track but being managed by the department to bring back on track |  | Not on track and needs support from outside the department to bring back on track |
|--|----------|---|---|---|---|

| Objective | Key Action | Milestones | Deadline | Dept | Team | Overall Progress |
|--|--|--|-----------|------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act | Ensure the Council and the relevant partners are aware of the requirements created by the Act, particularly in relation to the Community Trigger process | Community Trigger process agreed and in place ready to be used by members of the public by Autumn 2014 | Sept 2014 | PL | Community Safety |  |
| | Organise and facilitate the delivery of training on the new tools and powers to the required officers within the Council | Training completed and new tools and powers used | Sept 2014 | PL | Community Safety |  |
| Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through effective partnership working | Continue supporting partner agencies involved with BSafe Blackpool in addressing crime and anti-social behaviour | Effective initiatives developed by Blackpool Council in partnership with BSafe Blackpool partners | Mar 2015 | PL | Community Safety |  |
| | Develop and implement projects and initiatives aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in line with PCC priorities | Successfully secure available funding and deliver against PCC priorities | Mar 2015 | PL | Community Safety |  |
| | Support victims of crime and ASB, particularly victims of Domestic Abuse, in line with the PCC Victims Strategy | All victims supported through ASBRAC, MARAC, Community Trigger and other victim-related initiatives | Mar 2015 | PL | Community Safety |  |
| Support the effectiveness of substance misuse treatment | New contracts awarded to the providers part of the Horizon drug and alcohol treatment services | Establish a more 'recovery' focused culture within the treatment services | Mar 2015 | PH | Public Health |  |
| Campaign and raise awareness of community safety priorities | Undertake high visibility multi-agency operations to raise awareness and tackle crime in the community | Continue to undertake campaigns and operations in conjunction our partners | Mar 2015 | PL | Community Safety / Public Protection |  |

Priority 8 Performance Indicators

Key – Performance Trend:

- ✓ Performance is improving
- ✗ Performance is getting worse
- Performance is staying the same
- Data not due to be reported this quarter

| Indicator | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2014/15 | | 2013/14 Total | 2012/13 Total | Trend | Comments |
|---|-------|-------|---------------|----|---------|----------|------------------|------------------|-------|---|
| | | | | | Total | Target | | | | |
| % of people that feel safe in their local area during the day | | | | | | Baseline | n/a | n/a | n/a | % of residents who said they feel very safe or fairly safe in their local area during the day |
| % of people that feel safe outside in their local area at night | | | | | | Baseline | n/a | n/a | n/a | % of residents who said they feel very safe or fairly safe outside in their local area after dark |
| Domestic abuse crime marker | 421 | 439 | 371 | | | | 1,668 | 1,778 | ✓ | |
| Domestic assaults (all) | 296 | 283 | 228 | | | | 1,181 | 1,235 | ✓ | Domestic assaults (all) includes serious, less serious and without injury assaults. |
| Violence against the person | 1,033 | 1,110 | 948 | | | | 3,950 | 3,847 | ✗ | |
| Successful completion of drug treatment (opiate users) | 8.7% | 7.4% | Awaiting data | | | 8.6% | 9.4% | 7.9% | ✗ | Proportion of all in treatment who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months. Data from Public Health Outcomes Framework. |
| Successful completion of drug treatment (non-opiate users) | 55.3% | 65.2% | Awaiting data | | | 45.5% | 43.4% | 55.6% | ✓ | |
| Successful completion of treatment (alcohol) | 53.1% | 50.2% | Awaiting data | | | 54.6% | Awaiting data | Awaiting data | ✗ | |
| No. of incidents of anti-social behaviour | 3,476 | 3,680 | 2,712 | | | | 12,630 | 12,419 | ✗ | |