

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paolo Pertica, Head of Visitors Services
Date of Meeting	10 September 2015

COMMUNITY SAFETY 2015/2016 QUARTER ONE REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the performance in the Community Safety Partnership's priorities in quarter one of 2015/2016. The priorities are Assaults, Sexual Offences, Domestic Abuse, Antisocial Behaviour (including Deliberate Fires), Drugs and Alcohol. However, the Partnership has also decided to continue paying particular attention to Child Sexual Exploitation and Counter Terrorism as these remain the two most important emerging threats.

2.0 Recommendation:

2.1 To consider the performance of the Community Safety Partnership against its priorities and identify any matters for further consideration.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 To ensure effective scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

Not applicable

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priorities are:

- Create safer communities and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Safeguard and protect the most vulnerable
- Improve health and well-being especially for the most disadvantaged

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The statutory partners of Blackpool Community Safety Partnership have been working in partnership in order to reduce crime, antisocial behaviour and the impact of drugs and alcohol misuse for the last 15 years, following the implementation of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. During the period between 2004/5 and 2012/13 crime in Blackpool reduced by approximately 30% from 22,196 crimes per year to 15,552. In 2014/15 a further reduction of 6.6% in all crime was achieved compared to 2013/14, therefore creating a rather challenging baseline from which to achieve further reductions in 2015/16.

5.2 All crime in Blackpool showed a minor increase of 0.8% (n. 33) during the first quarter of 2015/16, compared to the same period last year. However, it should be noted that many crime categories are impacted by seasonality trends, and therefore it is not unusual to see increases during the summer months and reductions in the winter months. This often means that increases are experienced in the first two quarters of the financial year, which are then offset by reductions in quarter three and four.

5.3 With regards to the Community Safety Partnership priorities, the performance for quarter one of 2015/16 is as follows:

5.3.1 Assaults

Serious Assaults	up by 3.0% (n= 3)
Less Serious Assaults	up by 21.3% (n= 74)
Non-injury Assaults	up by 41.3% (n=107)

The peak wards for all assaults are Clarendon, Bloomfield and Talbot. These three wards account for approximately half of all assaults. Peak days are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with peak hours between 21:00 and 02:00 hrs. Repeat locations include:

- The Harbour, NHS, Windmill Rise
- Blackpool Victoria Hospital
- Bar 19 and Walkabout Queen Street

Plans have been put in place by the BSafe Tactical Tasking Group around these repeat locations.

5.3.2 Sexual Offences

All Sexual Offences	up by 16.1% (n=14)
Rape	up by 25% (n=10)
Sexual Assault	down 8.6 % (n=3)
Sexual Offences on children under 16	up by 32.4% (n=12)

Sexual assaults and rape offences are significantly higher than the Lancashire and National average. Approximately 20% of offences for Lancashire happen in Blackpool. Over the last four years the trend has been increasing and there are multiple reasons for these increases. For example, similar to the work done with domestic violence, victims have been encouraged to come forward and report sexual offences, an approach which was cited as good practice in Baroness Sterns report 'The Stern Review'. Moreover, as a result of some high profile prosecutions on historical offences, there has been an increase in non-recent reports.

5.3.3 Domestic Abuse

Serious Assaults	down by 75% (n=12)
Less Serious Assaults	down by 11.3% (n=18)
Non-injury Assaults	up by 16.7% (n=20)

Over one-third of domestic abuse offences are alcohol related. Peak ages for victims and offenders are those in their 20's with two thirds of MARAC cases having links to children. It is pleasing to see that through intense early intervention work with families and children, most domestic abuse assaults are reducing.

5.3.4 Anti-Social Behaviour

Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour are up by 0.7% (n=23). The number of ASBRAC referrals is up 137%, from eight during quarter one last year to 19 for the same period this year. Of these, 10 were high risk and nine medium risk.

The change in the number of incidents in quarter one is minor (+23) out of a total number of 3499 incidents reported, with the main category remaining reports of noise nuisance. With regards to the ASBRAC referrals, as well as an increase in the number of referrals, the cases referred so far this year have also tended to be more complex with greater vulnerability of the victims concerned. With regards to the tools and powers created by the new Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, during quarter one of 2015/16 98 Warning Letters, 16 Community Protection Notices, three Criminal Behaviour Orders, one Injunction and one Fixed Penalty Notice were issued for a range of issues, which ranged from low level problems like footballing in the street to serious issues such as harassment and stalking.

5.3.5 **Deliberate Fires**

All Deliberate Fires are down by 20%
Deliberate Primary Fires are down by 19%
Deliberate Secondary Fires are down by 21%

5.3.6 **Substance misuse**

At the present time Quarter 1 Outcome data for 2015/16 for Drug and Alcohol treatment services is unavailable. This is due to the changes to the National Drug Treatment Monitoring system. In the absence of data being available a brief overview of treatment services will be provided.

The treatment services were re-tendered during 2014/15 and the new service Horizon was implemented from September 2014. As part of the new provision the providers are required to work towards the 5-ways to well-being. This means individuals receive a full health and wellbeing assessment, rather than just looking at the issues of addiction. This has proved successful with clients who appreciate the holistic approach to their health. The partnership across Horizon is working well and positive outcomes are being realised. An example of this is Positive Steps has been commissioned to deliver a Health Futures programme for individuals accessing drug and alcohol treatment services. The service provides intensive, individualised one-to-one support, which includes help with CV writing, job search, completing application forms, interview techniques and signposting to other services and training. In 2014/15, 39 clients gained paid employment in a variety of areas ranging from engineering through to caring roles. An audit of these clients was undertaken in May 2015 and 30 of these still remained in employment. In Quarter 1 of 2015/16, 13 clients have gained paid employment. The Public Health department is currently undertaking an evaluation on the Social Return on Investment and will be able to report on this later in the year to demonstrate the impact it is having in Blackpool.

Blackpool is building a flourishing recovery community. Two groups have been operating successfully in Blackpool for the past 18 months namely Families in Recovery and Blackpool Recovery. This is having a positive impact in Blackpool and encouraging users to enter treatment. The Recovery Centre is thriving and recently those attending community rehabilitation were involved in the Sun Sea and Spray weekend. This has helped develop the self-confidence of the individuals who are now engaging with their community.

Blackpool Council successfully secured Capital Funding from Public Health England to develop recovery housing. The bid was submitted in partnership with Jobs, Friends and Houses Community Interest Community and it is anticipated that the first house will be operating by November 2015. This will further support and build on the recovery community work.

A review of the Night Safe Haven service was undertaken which resulted in changes in how the service was delivered. The service is now led by North West Ambulance Service (NWAS), which is responsible for the coordination and management of the service delivery. The service re-commenced on the 23 May 2015, and will operate on 30 Saturday nights throughout the year. During Quarter 1, 252 individuals attended the Night Safe Haven provision, with 56 individuals requiring medical interventions. Most were treated at the provision but seven required transfer to Hospital. The service continues to have a positive impact on deflecting individuals from attending the Emergency Department. Of the 252 individuals who attended, 128 required brief interventions and advice. As well as attending to medical issues, Lancashire Police are also a partner involved in the provision. The service provides the public with reassurances about safety and helps reduce the demand on front-line Police Officers.

5.3.7 **Reduce Re-offending**

Monitoring reoffending rates is rather complicated and, in order to do so, the Home Office collates data over a number of years which is then made available to the Probation Services, Community Rehabilitation Companies and their partners to monitor performance. Details of the reoffending rates for adults and juvenile offenders in Blackpool are provided in Appendix 8A. However, overall the average reoffending rate for adults is just below 30% with 28.3% of adults reoffending during the period October 2012 to September 2013. The percentage change for the 12 months ending in September 2012 compared to the 12 months ending in September 2013 is -1.7%. The overall average reoffending rate for juvenile is around 45% and the percentage change for the 12 months ending in September 2012 compared to the 12 months ending in September 2013 is -4.1%.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 8A – Reoffending data

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 Crime data provided by the Constabulary Analyst using Police CORA recorded crime. Reoffending data has been provided by the Lancashire and Cumbria Community Rehabilitation Company.