



Report to Cabinet and Community & Quality of Life Scrutiny

Subject Gedling Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit 2004

Date Cabinet - 2nd December 2004
Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny - 7th December 2004

Author Community Partnerships Manager on behalf of Chief Executive

1. Purpose of the Report

§ To inform members of progress with the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit and to provide feedback on the initial findings of the consultation in preparation for the development of the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008.

2. Background

2.1 - Gedling Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, (CDRP), is required by law to carry out an audit of crime, disorder and drugs in the Borough every 3 years. Once completed, the information provided and consulted upon with the wider community is used to develop and produce a Crime, Disorder and Drugs Strategy for the following three years (2005-2008).

3. Audit Progress – Broad and Shallow

- 3.1 - Crime & Disorder data provided by a wide range of CDRP partners was submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council for analysis before being passed to the Community Partnerships Manager for more detailed analysis and compilation into an Audit document.
- 3.2 - This information has been disaggregated to ward level analysing trends in offending for high volume offences including dwelling burglary, vehicle crime, violent crime and criminal damage.

3.3- Maps have also been produced highlighting trends in offending.

3.4- This information has formed the basis of the Broad and Shallow Audit. This information is then used to identify areas where offences significantly exceed the Borough average and it is these areas that will be analysed in more detail for the writing of the more detailed Narrow and Deep Audit.

3.5- Hard copies of the Broad and Shallow audit are being produced for all members. These will include the Borough-wide picture, along with a more detailed overview for members' own wards. Any questions members have on the findings should initially be directed to the Community Partnerships Manager. In addition, the Community Partnerships Manager will make a presentation on the findings so far to Community and Quality of Life Scrutiny Committee on 7 December.

4. Audit – Summary of early findings

4.1- The audit covers the period from 1 April 2001 – 31 March 2004. Results show that, over this 3-year period, levels of crime in Gedling Borough increased in line with increases reflected by the whole of Nottinghamshire.

4.2- The most significant increases were in vehicle crime, burglary and violent crime.

4.3 - Levels of recorded/reported anti-social behaviour have increased - however some of this is recognised to be due to the increased levels of community engagement by Police (PCSOs) and Borough Council (Wardens and ASB Co-ordinator).

4.4- Fear of crime has remained relatively unchanged since the previous community consultation in 2001.

4.5- However, it should be noted that crime comparisons for the period April – September 2003 and April – September 2004 are reflecting significant decreases in recorded offences, as detailed in the table below.

Crime Category	Offences 2003	Offences 2004	% Change
All Crime	6388	5220	Down 18.3
Dwelling Burglary	657	455	Down 30.7
Violence	676	550	Down 18.6
Robbery	115	62	Down 46.1
Theft of Vehicle	363	228	Down 37.2
Theft from Vehicle	899	685	Down 23.8
Other Crime	57	47	Down 17.5

Crime Category	Offences 2003	Offences 2004	% Change
Drugs	62	73	Up 15.1
Fraud and Forgery	332	242	Down 27.1
Burglary Other	715	656	Down 8.3
Theft and Handling	1442	1139	Down 21.0
Criminal Damage	1014	1057	Up 4.2

Figures are taken from Police Recorded Crime figures.

4.6 - Further, more detailed analysis has been requested for;

- Bonington and Daybrook wards with specific focus on defined sub-ward areas
- Calverton, Newstead, Killisick full ward areas
- Honeywood Gardens
- Netherfield and Colwick ward
- Gedling area including village and Phoenix Estate
- All town centre areas and industrial estates

These are likely to form the focus of the “Narrow and Deep” audit.

5. Audit Consultation Progress

5.1 - A series of 12 events have been arranged and delivered to facilitate direct consultation with members of the local communities.

5.2 - Attendance has been varied, however the events have proved very useful in determining the community concerns in order to develop the strategy.

5.3 - Key issues for residents include;

- Overall level of crime
- Fear of crime
- Levels of anti-social behaviour and some concerns relating to what is defined as anti-social behaviour
- Littering, dog fouling, graffiti and vandalism
- Levels of visible policing

5.4 - Residents have also expressed views that improved communication, being promoted through the Community Projects Officers, (recently appointed in the Cabinet Office), is a route they feel would assist in reducing crime and fear of crime.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 - The “Narrow and Deep” audit will now be progressed and should be completed early in the New Year. It will be used in particular to identify “hotspot” areas.
- 6.2 - A draft strategy will be produced in February and will then be subject of consultation with stakeholders.
- 6.3 - The final draft Strategy is required to be signed off by the CDRP and by the Council, both by 31 March 2005. The intention is for the CDRP to consider and agree the Strategy at a special meeting (yet to be arranged); and for Cabinet to consider the final draft at its meeting on 3 March, to recommend its adoption to Council (16 March).
- 6.4 - The Strategy will then inform development of detailed Action Plans, and future Area-Based Initiatives covering community safety and wider regeneration/social inclusion issues.
- 6.5 - The above timescale may be affected by recently announce government proposals on the development of “Mini Local Area Agreements” for future “Safe and Secure Communities” funding. Details of this are still unclear, and further reports will be presented to Cabinet as soon as more information becomes available.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 - Members to note the findings of the Crime, Disorder and Drugs Audit at the “Broad and Shallow” stage.