

FORCE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED BY POLICE AUTHORITY CRIME AND DRUG TEAMS

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks to inform Committee Members of the Humberside Police response to:
 - Community concerns raised by the Police Authority Crime and Drug Teams (PACDTs) in A Division
 - The impact of any local Force and/or partnership initiatives as a consequence of these concerns; and
 - Any demonstrable movement in performance at a local level that can be measured as a result.

KEY LOCAL ISSUES RAISED

2. The key local issues raised by the community at Police Authority Crime and Drug Teams were:
 - Complaints against young people
 - Alcohol related disorder
 - Force restructuring
3. Issues relating to police force restructuring are to be addressed in the full Police Authority Committee Meeting, 21 March 2006.

INFORMATION

Complaints against Young People

4. Community Safety remains one of A Division's Control Strategy areas; as such there are specific actions to identify and deal with anti-social behaviour. The Division has achieved a 41% reduction in incidents of disorder between April 2005 and January 2006, compared to the same period the previous year (7,601 reports of disorder compared to 12,903). There has been some intensive, targeted work around problem individuals which has resulted in anti social behaviour orders being issued against them. Patrols in hot spot areas, such as Scartho Road and areas on the East Marsh, as well as the deployment of Domehawk cameras (both overt and preventative) has also contributed to the reductions.

5. The Divisional Management Team is satisfied that all cases requiring a multi agency response are being managed through the recently formed anti-social behaviour panel. The Panel is co-chaired by the Divisional Anti Social Behaviour Officer and his counterpart in North East Lincolnshire Council. The process that is now employed prevents duplication of work by partner agencies and identifies the lead agency at an early stage. A series of workshops have been held for staff to ensure that they understand the process; these workshops have been enthusiastically received.
6. A number of 'forward' groups have been established in areas across the Division, including Nunsthorpe, Freshney and Yarborough, which are focused primarily around providing activities for young people. For example the Freshney Forward Group has co-ordinated a range of activities including sport, films, arts and crafts and community improvement activities, such as litter picking and painting. These groups rely heavily on community volunteers, who are identified through forums such as the PACDT meetings or through informal community contacts. Activities are planned, co-ordinated and managed through regular minuted meetings that are attended by statutory and voluntary agencies.
7. Following a recent review of children's services by North East Lincolnshire Council, it is hoped that the statutory provision of youth services will improve. Improved statutory provision will offer greater support to the community volunteers and ensure sustainability.
8. Partnerships and joint working continue to strengthen in North East Lincolnshire. It is intended within the next six months that Local Authority, Police and Housing co-ordinators for anti-social behaviour will be co-located and that there will be dedicated research and legal staff. Suitable premises have been identified and negotiations around working practices are ongoing. This will have obvious benefits in terms of sharing information and joint working to tackle the most problematic individuals and groups.
9. The Division is continuing to work with the Local Authority towards the development of Neighbourhood Teams, which will comprise of 25 Neighbourhood Beat Officers, 72 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), 40 Local Authority Wardens and over 40 Special Constables. The Neighbour Teams will be jointly tasked and managed by Police and Council managers, and will provide greater capacity in neighbourhoods to tackle not only crime and disorder, but also environmental issues that wear down communities.
10. A steering group has been established to manage the development of the Neighbourhood Teams. Advertising for PCSOs has been jointly badged, and it is intended that some local training will be done for both PCSO's and Wardens to ensure a greater understanding and good

working relationships. Work is ongoing to develop a deployment plan as those PCSOs and Wardens become available.

Alcohol Related Disorder

11. Superintendent Bowe chairs a multi agency Violent Crime Forum, which addresses the issues of violence and disorder regarding the night time economy. The night time economy is also part of the Divisional Control Strategy which is reviewed fortnightly.
12. During March/April 2005 Grimsby carried out Operation Nightsafe with a grant from the Tackling Violent Crime Programme. The main aims of the Operation were to reduce assaults and increase the number of fixed penalty tickets issued for disorder. The Operation was highly successful, with 83 fixed penalty tickets being issued throughout March/April 2005, compared with 19 in the same period the previous year.
13. The deployment of extra police officers ensured that a zero tolerant approach to disorder was implemented, and also gave a more structured and targeted approach to the hot spot areas.
14. The project employed a multi agency approach, predominantly with the CCTV department and the Safer Communities Partnership. Police officers worked in the CCTV offices alongside council staff; and the Safer Communities' manager attended the Police briefings and worked the night shifts observing the issues. Additional CCTV cameras were obtained to provide full coverage of the hot spot areas. A bottle bank was installed to provide safe disposal of bottle seized from individuals, therefore reducing the likelihood of them being used as weapons. The taxi rank that previously caused a flash point for disorder was moved away from the clubs and takeaways to an area that was better lit and covered by CCTV surveillance.
15. Work was carried out with licensees and door staff before, during, and after the Operation; this was to obtain their views and to make them feel part of the team that was tackling the issues, but also to inform them of the police philosophy of zero tolerance. Police and Trading Standards carried out test purchasing at local off licences, this led to some licences being revoked and premises educated in their responsibilities regarding underage drinking.
16. The Division has now adopted the Nightsafe philosophy as part of its operational tasking and staffing, shifts have been altered and both the Division's Senior Management Team and office staff have a requirement to work Nightsafe shifts. These resources have been put in place as a no cost option.
17. A sub group of the Violent Crime Forum has been set up, comprising of the police, North East Lincolnshire Council, Trading Standards, the

town centre management and the Probation Service. The sub group is assessing and prioritising the problems relating to alcohol related disorder and looking at funding possibilities. The sub group intends to adapt best practice from other projects; such as the Best Bar None scheme and the use of street wardens to address the local issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. It is recommended that the Consultation and Partnership Committee:
 - i) Discuss the content of the Report
 - ii) Continue to refer matters of operational policing to the Chief Constable for appropriate action

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