

PORTFOLIO:
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

COUNCILLOR
JACQUELYNE GEDDES

REVENUES AND BENEFITS

A response was submitted relating to Government consultation on the proposed options for localisation of Council Tax support to replace the existing Council Tax benefit system which is scheduled to commence from April 2013. The Universal Credit is anticipated to have a phased introduction also commencing in April 2013 and will replace the current housing benefit system. How the scheme will provide assistance towards housing costs, within an overall package of financial assistance for Working Age citizens and what elements of benefit provision will remain to be provided by local authorities, is still to be determined.

CARLISLE AND EDEN CDRP

The partnership is currently working to develop the 2011 strategic assessment. This assessment will identify the priorities for 2012/13 and provide the information needed for the Partnership Plan.

In addition the 6 month review is also in development. This document will highlight the successes the partnership has had and the impact our projects have made on crime and disorder throughout Carlisle and Eden. Both documents will be circulated as soon as they are available and have been agreed by the CDRP Leadership Group

All Crime

Comparing 1st April – 30th September 2011 with the previous year the following changes can be seen for Carlisle district:

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
All Crime	3805	3952	147	+3.9%

Carlisle has seen an overall increase of 3.9% (147 offences) in overall crime. However, within this overall increase, there have been significant reductions in certain crime types.

Comparing September 2011 with August 2011, overall crime has seen a reduction of 8.4%.

Violent Crime

Overall violent crime has seen an increase of 8.8% (89 offences) in Carlisle. Specifically we have seen increases in public order, assault without injury and sexual offences.

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
Violent Crime	1015	1104	89	+8.8%

While lower level violence such as public order offences and assaults without injury have seen increases, assaults with less serious injury have seen a significant reduction of 21% (83 offences) across Carlisle as a whole.

Comparing September 2011 with August 2011, all violent crime has seen a reduction of 20% (41 offences), showing that the increases we have seen this year are now starting to reverse and reductions are being seen.

When looking specifically at Carlisle City centre, as a proxy measure for assaults relating to the night time economy, this reduction is mirrored and we have seen a 28% (30 offences) reduction in ABH.

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
Assault	108	78	-30	-27%

The increase in public order offences in addition to reductions in ABH and serious violent crime, in addition to the recent reduction in overall crime in September, shows that early interventions and the programme of partnership activity in the night time economy are reducing the opportunity for incidents to escalate into more serious crimes.

In response to the increase in sexual offences in the City, the CDRP has been working closely with the police to issue advice and personal alarms to students at the University and colleges.

Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage

We continue to see reductions in anti social behaviour – 21.5% reduction (1061 offences) – and youth disorder – 31% reduction (456 offences).

Criminal damage continues to show reductions throughout Carlisle, with a reduction of 0.3% (3 offences) in the current period.

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
ASB	4925	3864	-1061	-21.5%
Criminal Damage	1455	999	-3	-0.3%

A targeted programme of activity continues to be delivered across North Cumbria to prevent and reduce incidents of anti social behaviour.

Operation Roman Candle, a multi agency targeted programme of activity, will start on the 21st October to prevent rises of anti social behaviour and criminal damage relating to Bonfire night and Halloween.

Burglary Dwelling and Burglary Other

Burglary Dwelling shows an increase of 10% (6 offences) with burglary other showing a 7% increase (8 offences).

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
Burglary Dwelling	83	96	13	+15.7%
Burglary Other	181	185	4	+2.2%

Although there have been slight rises in burglary offences when looking at the financial year to date, comparing September 2011 with August 2011 Burglary dwelling has seen a reduction of 62.5% (15 offences). Burglary other saw an increase of 13 offences in September. However, this followed an 18 offence reduction in August and we will continue to monitor this situation for evidence of trends.

Vehicle Crime

All Vehicle crime has seen an overall increase of 8% in Carlisle (16 offences). When looking at the two categories separately we can see that although theft of a vehicle has seen a reduction of 16% (13 incidents), theft from a vehicle has seen an increase of 25% (29 incidents).

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
Vehicle taking	81	68	13	-16%
Theft from a Vehicle	116	145	29	+25%

Theft from a vehicle has seen both reduction and increases when looking at this category by month, however, when looking overall at quarter 1 and quarter 2 separately, we can see that quarter 2 has seen a reduction of 14% when compared with quarter 1.

Drug Offences

Drug offences in Carlisle continue to rise, with a 7.6% increase (17 offences) in overall drug offences. This is seen as a positive move, due to the pro active policing throughout North Cumbria.

Category	2010	2011	Crime Change	% Change
All Drug Offences	224	241	17	+7.6%

City West Problem Solving Group

The pilot problem solving group set up in the City West neighbourhood policing team areas of Carlisle is showing positive early signs: Overall crime in the City West NPT area has seen the following changes when comparing April – Sep 2011 with the previous year. The group continues to work well and provide quick responses to community problems. A full review of the group will be completed as part of the CDRP 6 month review.

Category	% Change
All Crime	+3.5%
ASB	-30.8%
Criminal Damage	-2.7%
Vehicle Crime	-18.5%
Violent Crime	-0.3%

Autumn City Safe Event

This year's event will take place on Wednesday 26th October in Carlisle City Centre. The event, which is led by the City Council and run in conjunction with the Fire Service and Police aims to raise awareness of staying safe in the dark nights, and promotes bike and road safety messages. As part of Healthy City week all SAFE (sports, activity, fitness and exercise) schemes were visited and free reflective safety products handed out.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All members of the Wellbeing Team are now in post. The team now comprises:

- Janette Pilkington, Wellbeing Manager, who joins us from the County Council
- Joanne Pollock, Community Development Officer for Health Improvement, who joins us from NHS Borders
- Stephen Dunn, Community Development Officer for Enterprise
- Sarah Moss-Luffrum, Community Development Officer for Young People/Young Persons Champion
- Tracy Gannon, Community Development Officer for Inclusion
- Paul Frampton, community Development Officer for Sport and Physical activity

The team are proactively engaging with local partners and delivering a wide and varied range of activities. Updates from the Wellbeing Team are as follows:

The Community Development Officer for Enterprise, Steve Dunn

Carlisle Local Federation of Community Associations

The Community Centre Managers' Training programme is now in place. Steve is in the process of identifying their needs and looking at ways of encouraging all Centre Managers to work in partnership. He is chairing community centre managers meetings and is the City representative at the Federation meetings. Partnership working with C CVS is taking place to develop joint funding applications to provide opportunities for joint procurement of services. Finally the replacement of centre PC's is now taking place

Events

The Wellbeing Team has a broad role in the delivery of the Olympic Torch Event, with the Torch arriving in Carlisle on 20 June 2012, and has recruited 30 community groups to take part in the animation of the route. Other groups such as schools and sports clubs are being targeted. A Community Events Network will be established and the team will lead on the development of this Network to consider future events across Carlisle

Following on from the legacy of the Radio 1 Big Weekend, the team will lead on the delivery of an annual creative event in Carlisle involving as many creative arts and mediums as possible and encouraging community involvement

Community Development and Capacity Building

Linked to the Big Weekend Volunteering Project, Steve will work in partnership with CVS to encourage volunteers to develop a Community Garden at Downagate Community Centre. The event will take place on Thursday 27th October.

Steve recently helped the Polish Association hold a Comedy Night. He has also assisted the group to enable them to vote in the recent Polish General Election

The Community Development Officers for Inclusion, Tracy Gannon and the Community Development Officer for Sport and Physical Activity, Paul Frampton

SPAA

Work continues with partners in moving the SPAA (Sport Physical Activity Alliance) project forward into a new phase and the development of the group into a community foundation. As part of taking the new SPAA project forward the team are now delivering activities within local schools and filling some of the gap that the school sports partnership has left due to its demise.

The Wellbeing team have also finalised the October half term activities programme, the 'Go 4 It' scheme which will be open to young people from the urban and rural areas across the city. Leaflets will be distributed throughout and available in the main reception of the civic centre

The Carlisle Sports Council and Carlisle City Councils Wellbeing Team also held its inaugural Carlisle Sports Awards at the Sands Centre on Saturday 8th October. The awards saw 150 people share in the celebration of 16 local people whose talent and commitment were recognised and rewarded. You will be able to view photos shortly of the event in the local paper and on the Councils web site.

The Community Development Officer for Young People, Sarah Moss-Luffrum has led on various initiatives involving young people and include:

Youth Council Official Launch Event

On Wednesday 28th October 7pm – 9pm at Carlisle Youth Zone an event was held with the aim of promoting the new youth council and encouraging more young people to become involved. A number of young people and adults from different organisations and schools within and around Carlisle were invited. The event included a presentation from the group who currently sit on the developing youth council. They explained their objectives, their long term plans, and also fed back results from a recent survey they had conducted. The survey included the views of approximately 100 young people and asked the following questions:

- What would young people want to see happening in Carlisle
- How could things be improved
- What they think is lacking/needs to be improved
- How they see a youth council operating and ensuring it is inclusive

Some main conclusions were that:

- Many young people were involved in clubs and activities – although others said there was nothing to do – so advertising and promotion could be an area that needs to be developed.
- An area within Carlisle that young people really liked was Bitts Park and the space that we have in Carlisle, as well as its community feel.
- Another issue that was highlighted is that there is a lack of transport across Carlisle and the surrounding area for young people to access services effectively.

They plan to expand on this research and hold focus groups looking at the specific problems that were highlighted and look at how things can be improved.

The event was attended by The Mayor who listened to the young people's ideas. He would like to support them in the future and is very keen to elect a

young mayor and enable debates to take place in the Council Chamber on topics/issues that directly relate to young people. Carlisle City Councillors would be invited to attend. He will meet with the group in the near future to discuss how this idea can be implemented.

Carlisle Youth Council is one of several being created in different areas of the county. Each panel is being supported by the charity Brathay Trust (delivery lead) and Cumbria County Council (strategic lead) along with other organisations like the City Council, Connexions and Carlisle Youth Zone.

The Community Development Officer for Health, Joanne Pollock

Carlisle became a World Health Organisation Healthy City in 2009, since then partners across the district have worked ever more closely together and gained greatly from the Healthy City approach and network. They have continued to make real progress on Healthy City aims and have initiated a range of new projects which have made a real difference to local people and been recognised across the Healthy City Network.

To celebrate the Network achievements, Joanne, worked in partnership with the LSP Health Improvement Officer to successfully organise Carlisle's first "Healthy City Week" held between 17th and 23rd October. The aim of the week was a relatively simple one.....***to develop Carlisle as a Healthy City and improve the health and wellbeing of the people within our district.*** However, the scope and content of the programme was varied and diverse. During the week a series of events, conferences and activities showcased the health initiatives already underway in Carlisle. These will help the Network, shape key policy and plan for the future.

**Councillor Jacquelyne Geddes
Community Engagement Portfolio Holder**