

Meeting Date: 8 January 2013

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Communities & Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Jessica Riddle**

CRIME AND DISORDER UPDATE REPORT NOVEMBER 2012

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 placed statutory obligations on Local Authorities and the Police to act in co-operation with Health Authorities and other relevant agencies, to work together to develop and implement a strategy for tackling crime and disorder in their area.

Carlisle and Eden CDRP (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) has, and continues to be a successful catalyst for the multi-agency working to address crime and disorder in North Cumbria. Since its inception, we have worked effectively to contribute to significant and sustained falls in crime and disorder.

Performance figures for the Carlisle area for the period of 01/01/12- 30/11/12

Crime Category	Number of offences 2011 (YTD)	Number of offences 2012 (YTD)	Difference in number of incidents	% Change
All Crime	5,297	4,292	-1005	-19%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	436	411	-25	-5.7%
Assault with Injury	441	373	-68	-15.4%
Burglary Dwelling	128	142	+14	+10.9%
All Vehicle Crime	289	264	-25	-8.7%

Robbery	19	5	-14	-73.7%
Criminal Damage inc Arson	1,139	845	-294	-25.8%
Damage to Dwellings	367	269	-98	-26.7%
Damage to other Buildings	127	79	-48	-37.8%
Damage to Vehicles	419	316	-103	-24.6%
Other Damage	185	152	-33	-17.8%
Arson	39	29	-10	-33.3%

Crime statistics across Carlisle continue to fall with the exception of burglary. The increase in burglary in a dwelling is decreasing month by month but still continues to be an issue for both the rural and urban areas. Further analysis has identified that almost 60% of incidents continue to be the result of insecurities (unlocked doors and windows.) Police and partners are continuing to work together to tackle the issue through targeted media campaigns.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Operation Roman Candle

Operation Roman Candle, a two week multi agency operation designed to reduce anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and deliberate fires throughout the autumn period commenced on Friday 26th October.

Partner agencies worked together to deliver a number of events that aimed to educate people and prevent incidents. These started with an event in Botchergate to address safety in the night time economy and promote public safety. Alongside this a number of additional measures were introduced to address public concerns- removal of un-authorised bonfires from council land, increased patrols in hot spot locations, the introduction additional youth activities across the District, test purchasing on premises selling fireworks, positive enforcement action by the police, community clean ups, leaflet drops and media campaigns.

Over the operation period the number of deliberate fires fell by 72% compared to the same period in 2011. Incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour across the priority area (west) also reduced. Although the number of anti-social behaviour and fire incidents has fallen, firework misuse was a significant problem this year.

A full evaluation report will be produced and recommendations and improvements made for any future operation.

Problem Solving Groups

The Carlisle East and City West PSG's (Problem Solving Group) continues to work well and provide early interventions to ensure a quick response to community issues.

PSG Performance Monitoring	City West (March 2011 -)	Carlisle East (March 2012 -)
Total number of actions dealt with	137	47

Concerns have been raised by partners over the lack of attendance at meetings from mental health and adult social care providers. Steps are being taken to address this as future attendance is necessary in tackling the problems we face as a community.

Crime and Disorder Project Funding

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership has recently allocated funding to the following projects that will aim to reduce crime and disorder across our District.

- Rapid Deployable CCTV Cameras
- Summer Splash – Summer activity programme for young people
- BMX Track Longtown
- Operation Roman Candle
- Farm Watch
- Graffiti Removal
- Taxi Marshalls
- Best Bar None
- Carlisle Street Pastors
- Cocaine Wipes
- Vehicle enforcement leaflets for young drivers
- Kids and alcohol advice leaflet

HOUSING

Successful Foundations Bid

The Home Improvement Agency(HIA) has been successful in gaining funding from Foundations, the National Body for Home Improvement Agencies, from the Department of Health's Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund.

The HIA will be using this funding of £3,280 to carry out home energy surveys. There is also a small pot of money for grants to do small scale energy efficiency measures, such as loft clearance before insulation and draught-proofing. We expect 32 households to benefit by the end of the year. The project also aims to improve referrals between agencies (such as police; fire service; trading standards; housing providers; occupational therapists, NHS and third sector) who have front-line staff and volunteers who visit people in their homes by having a common referral mechanism and home safety checklist to help identify potential risk factors in people's homes.

As part of the energy surveys, we will also give advice on other funding available, for example, Warm Front Grants, Cumbria Hotspots for emergency repairs and boiler servicing, the Winter Warmth fund. We will also make sure that eligible people are aware of the Warm Homes Energy Discount scheme and fuel switching schemes.

Homelessness and Hostels

There has been a significant reduction in the number of people accepted as homeless and a corresponding increase in the number of people prevented from becoming homeless. For the period 1/4/12 to 30/11/12 we accepted 60 applicants and successfully prevented 212 homeless cases. In the same period last year we accepted 131 applicants and prevented 133 homeless cases.

Occupancy level for the period 1/4/12 to 30/11/12 across all temporary accommodation is 98.7%; with an average length of stay of 7 weeks for single people and 9 weeks for families; with successful move on of 97.6% for women and families.

Welfare Advice Team

From 1 January 2012 to 30 November 2012, the team increased income to the local economy by an amazing £1, 859, 089.60.

Wellbeing Team

Healthy Cooking Sessions

Officers from the Wellbeing Team have continued to work successfully within both the men's hostel at John Street and the family hostel at Staffield House, engaging the residents with healthy cooking sessions and signposting them to other agencies where relevant and necessary. Feedback from residents included a request for a Christmas themed session, including information of how to cook a Christmas Dinner. This session

encouraged the residents to support one another, giving an overall sense of community, at a time when homeless people can often feel isolated. The residents also used their newly developed cooking skills to support a Carlisle Cooks initiative at the newly opened Shaddon Gateway on the 19th December, bringing hostel residents together and signposting them onto activities that the venue has to offer.

COMMUNITIES & HOUSING (EQUALITIES)

Work is underway to refresh our published equality data on the website in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Managers have been briefed on the policy and resource implications of the Cumbria Compact, a workshop for managers has been organised with CVS in January by Organisational Development – understanding the third sector and the social economy, 31 January 2013.

The session focuses on the 3rd sector in its widest form, from support and community organisations and charities to social enterprises and larger service providing organisations that make up the social economy, i.e. not drawn from public or private sector. These social economy organisations provide jobs, services and benefits to communities across Carlisle and often underpin local authority and health service provision, think community and health and well being: Community Centres, Age UK, CADAS, Deaf Vision. Think housing and social support; Impact and Riverside, Cumbria CVS, Cumbria Law Centre and CAB. But the sector also includes a variety of groups, providing either mutual support such as cooperatives, or a broader support to communities such as charities and faith organisations.

Increasing public functions are being delivered by social economy organisations, either via tendered opportunities or transfer of assets. Thus this session is an overview with the opportunity to ask questions along the way about what makes up the third sector, how organisations run and how public bodies engage with them.

NAC Localism Act & Neighbourhood Planning Conference 11-13 January 2013 – Hallmark Hotel, Carlisle

I am due to attend the NAC Localism Act & Neighbourhood Planning Conference at the Hallmark Hotel in Carlisle from 11-13 January 2013.