

PORTFOLIO:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Report of
Portfolio Holder:

COUNCILLOR
JACQUELYNE GEDDES

**CARLISE AND EDEN CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION
PARTNERSHIP**

The CDRP 12 month review is available to this report for information. This document reviews the key project the CDRP has delivered throughout 2010/11 and the impact of these projects on communities.

Crime

Comparing April – August 2011 with the previous year:

Carlisle has seen an overall increase of 4% (90 offences) in overall crime. However, within this overall increase, there have been significant reductions in certain crime types.

Violent Crime

Overall violent crime has seen an increase of 8% (55 offences) in Carlisle, however this can attributed to a large rise in public order and a small increase in sexual offences.

Assaults with less serious injury have seen a significant reduction of 22% (60 offences) across Carlisle as a whole. 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 45% reduction in ABH.

Serious violent crime and grievous bodily harm have also seen reductions of 100% and 23%.

The increase in public order offences in addition to reductions in ABH and serious violent crime may show that early interventions are reducing the opportunity for incidents to escalate into more serious crimes. Through a recent analysis of violent crime, it was identified that many incidents of violent crime are occurring at residential premises. In response to this and the small increase in sexual offences, the CDRP are working alongside the police to develop a targeted campaign to address these issues.

Early interventions and a multi agency programme of work to address alcohol related violent crime within the night time economy are ongoing.

Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage

We continue to see reductions in anti social behaviour – 23% reduction – and youth disorder – 23% reduction.

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

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

Burglary Dwelling and Burglary Other

Burglary Dwelling shows a reduction of 10% with burglary other showing a 7% reduction.

Vehicle Crime

All Vehicle crime has seen an overall increase of 8% in Carlisle (10 offences). When looking at the two categories separately we can see that although theft of a vehicle has seen a reduction of 13% (7 incidents), theft from a vehicle has seen an increase of 23% (17 incidents).

The CDRP is currently looking into developing an awareness raising project to ensure people secure their cars and pedal cycles throughout North Cumbria.

Drug Offences

Drug offences in Carlisle continue to rise, with a 23% increase in overall drug offences. This is seen as a positive move, due to the pro active policing throughout North Cumbria.

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 – August 2011 with the previous year.

All Crime	-	3%
ASB	-	28%
Criminal Damage	-	17%
Vehicle Crime	-	17%

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.

CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTRE

Identity and Passport Service (IPS)

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) are now providing their service from our customer contact centre. The staff will be providing interviews for first time adult passports. Their customer base is primarily 18 to 25 years. The staff will be using interview room E and they will also have desks in an office to the back corridor of the interview rooms. The interviews will take place on a Tuesday and Wednesday every week. We are fortunate to have the IPS using the Civic Centre as their base. Due to rationalisation of their offices and workforce, the nearest offices to Carlisle are Durham and Glasgow. The interviews will bring in customers from outside the Carlisle area into the City. The delivery of this service from our contact centre builds on our aim of having one point of contact for citizens.

Shared Services

In the last year, Carlisle along with Allerdale and Cumbria County Council have investigated the possibility of a shared customer service. This project was delayed in January this year at the request of Allerdale Borough Council so that they could complete their service reviews. It was agreed that the project would be re-investigated in July 2011. A meeting took place in July and Allerdale officers stated they were not in a position to go forward due to their service reviews still not being complete. Officers from Carlisle stated that there was appetite in Carlisle to proceed with the County. It was decided that Carlisle and the County would proceed with a business case to deliver the County switchboard from Carlisle City Council as phase 1. This is likely to be delivered as a managed service. The business case is scheduled to be completed by the end of September. Further phases will allow other districts and or partners to join in when appropriate.

REVENUES AND BENEFITS

Guidance is awaited relating to the framework for a local Council Tax Benefit Rebate scheme, currently scheduled to commence from April 2013. The proposed Universal Credit is anticipated to have a phased introduction also commencing in 2013. Clarification is expected on how this 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.

EQUALITY

Cumbria is one of five areas to win this year's North West Employers' Organisation's Awards for the Achieving Equality Project. The County Council co-ordinated and have supported all of Cumbria's District Council's to be successfully accredited as Achieving Authorities in Equality. This meant that each Council had a tough two day external assessment, including dozens of interviews and examination of how Equality is taken into consideration in decision making.

The County Council's role has been to secure CIEP funding for the project, co-ordinate the work, manage project staff and support the effective delivery of the outcomes.

Out of the project the County Council have set up the Cumbria Elected Member Equality Group, which is made up of Portfolio Holders with an Equality brief. The aim of this group is to make sure that Equality is being effectively understood and implemented by the political leadership of all local authorities in Cumbria, and that we are collectively addressing the Equality Act (2010). The submission was made jointly between the County Council and the Districts as united piece of work, and has projected a positive image of Cumbria in promoting Equality for All.

CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL'S YOUTH EXCHANGE

BACKGROUND

The Youth Exchange programme between Carlisle and its twinning towns of Flensburg in Germany and Slupsk in Poland has been taking place for over 20 years. It is designed to help build understanding and collaboration between the cities, enhancing knowledge of another country and culture to the young people who participate.

This year a group of 10 young people from Carlisle took part in the exchange to Flensburg from 19th July - 28th July 2011. Overall, there was a total of 30 young people who participated, 10 from each country.

The groups of young people got involved in a number of exciting and interesting activities during this year's 10 day exchange.

Below is a brief description of some of the activities they took part in:

- City tours of Flensburg exploring local landmarks (including their Civic Centre!) and taking in the local culture and cuisine.
- Trip to the local power park 'Artefact', looking at re-useable energy, using and installing solar panels and wind farms and environmental awareness world wide in general. Politicians and councillors from each

country also visited the museum at the same time and had the opportunity to talk with the young people and staff.

Exciting and fun workshops including:

- Graffiti workshops: Contributing to the art work that other local young people have completed on the youth centres walls, creating individual canvases and decorating T-shirts.
- Hip hop and street dance workshops taught by local professional artists.
- Trip to Hamburg where they took a boat tour around the harbour learning about the history of the different land marks and port. They also had a visit to the local dungeons that were only opened last year and explored the City in general.
- Trip to Denmark: visited a local war museum which explained the history between Germany and Denmark which was fun and interactive for the young people.
- International evenings where the different groups cooked traditional dishes for everyone, celebrating the exchange.
- Visit to the newly opened and expanded Flensburg skate park to interact with other local young people and participate in skate/bmx/blading workshops.

Rationale

The youth exchange is a valued project that offers a wide range of experiences for the young people that take place:

- It promotes young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular.
- It develops solidarity and promotes tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union.
- It contributes to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field;
- Cultural diversity is shared and celebrated.
- It provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for young people with fewer opportunities. For example, young carers, young people in care and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds were all part of this years exchange.
- The programme is designed to enhance and promote inclusion for all young people and does target vulnerable individuals.
- Highlights global changes – this year the focus was on 'Environment' and how we can be more efficient with the energy we use as discussed above.

- The exchanges also aim to leave a legacy for families and friends who have taken part and across the EU (This year a young person participated from the recommendation of her Mother who took part in an exchange 20 years ago).
- The young people involved become more aware of different cultures and are able to experience different parts of that, as also discussed above.
- Young people who participate gain in confidence and develop personally and socially, aiding them when applying for further education, training and employment.

MINI GAMES

The annual mini games was held at Sheepmount on 1st August. 95 Children took part in a variety of sports including athletics, running, tennis, hockey, shot put, javelin, long jump and tag rugby. The children attending designed flags. All participants received a T-shirt and medals. Next year we will be back to celebrate the Olympics

HEATHLANDS

In August, staff facilitated creative workshops and performances working with adults with learning difficulties, people recovering from drug & alcohol misuse and people in the hostels

COMMUNITY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We now have a working partnership within the Council between The Wellbeing Team, Customer Services & Organisational Development, looking to add value to the service provision, advice & support to third sector partners. Work is also on going through the Federation of Community Centres enhancing their business, marketing & promotional side. A pilot project to develop outreach provision in Currock Community Centre is underway. This will be evaluated and rolled out.

OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY

Many community groups have already agreed to take part in 'animating' the Olympic torch route for June 2012. We will be liaising between 20 different groups all offering a performance or creative display, as well as encouraging the general public to take part. All local schools will be contacted in September through the head teachers' forum. We are also arranging street decoration. The topic for the route animation is a 'Global Welcome to Carlisle'

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

We are helping the Polish Association to put on their general elections in October. They will take place at Greystone Community Centre. We are already looking ahead to Peace Day 2012 where we will be linking up with Rotary to create some global links with Carlisle & look to create a Peace Flame that we will use to encourage schools & groups to be 'keepers of the flame' and use it as a discussion point around community cohesion and what peace means.

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