

Working together for a Safer Nottingham & Nottinghamshire

November 2012





It is universally acknowledged that partnership working is the best way to enhance community safety, reduce crime and provide more effective support to the victims of crime.

Partnership working has been firmly entrenched across the community safety and criminal justice landscape in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for many years, enabling the joint use of resources to successfully tackle crime and disorder and their underlying factors.

All our partners, statutory and third sector, have one over-riding priority: to create a safer environment in which local people can live, work and prosper.

Together, we strive to maintain a focus on delivering effective and efficient services to further reduce crime and to improve the quality of life in our many, diverse communities.

As a result of our efforts in recent years, crime is tumbling in Nottinghamshire. Since April this year, crime has fallen by 16.3% - the equivalent of 6,657 fewer victims, and overall figures are at their lowest for some 30 years.

Here we seek to highlight just a few of the ways in which the partner agencies in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire are working together successfully to achieve this level of success.





Ruth Hyde
Chair of South Notts CSP



Peter Usherwood
Chair of Nottingham CDP



Ros Theakstone
Chair of Newark, Sherwood and Bassetlaw CSP



Ruth Marlow
Chair of Mansfield and Ashfield CSPs



Paul Broadbent
Chair of Local Criminal Justice Board



Mick Burrows
Chair of the Safer Notts Board

THE PARTNERS

Key partners in the endeavour to reduce crime, help victims and enhance community safety include Nottinghamshire Police, local authorities and Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Criminal Justice Board, Nottinghamshire Probation Trust, Victim Support, Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, County and City Health and Well-Being Boards, other emergency services and third sector voluntary and community groups.

Community Safety Partnerships are statutory bodies created under the terms of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which requires all responsible authorities (the police, local authorities, fire and rescue services, the probation trust, and local health providers) to work together to reduce crime and disorder.

The four Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in the County report to the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. The Crime and Drugs Partnership in Nottingham reports to the One Nottingham Partnership.

Criminal Justice Agencies do not operate in isolation but work together through the Nottinghamshire Criminal Justice Board to improve the services to victims, witnesses and the wider public. They do this by keeping a close eye on the different stages of the process to ensure that the system runs smoothly and that problems and blockages are resolved. They are also looking at new ways of delivering justice including the development of restorative justice. In these ways they enhance, and ensure that it is delivered in a way that meets the needs of victims of crime and reduces reoffending.

COMMUNITY SAFETY – OUR SHARED VISION

While performance analysis shows that different types of crime occur in specific locations, in both the County and the City there is a commonality in the priorities of both the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Crime and Drugs Partnership.

Key targets for both to tackle include:

- Acquisitive Crime (including Theft and Burglary)
- Violence (including Domestic, Sexual and Serious Youth Violence)
- Anti-social and nuisance behaviour
- Drug Treatment in order to support people achieve a drug free lifestyle
- Alcohol-related harm
- Drug Dealing
- Early intervention and targeted family support
- Reducing reoffending
- Young people as victims and offenders
- Hate crime



In 2009 The Ministry of Justice, supported by the Home Office and ACPO, defined IOM as follows:

IOM is the strategic umbrella that brings together agencies across Government to prioritise intervention with offenders causing the crime in their locality. IOM aims to target offenders of most concern to their communities, manage them consistently and use pooled, local resources to turn them away from crime, punishing and reforming them as appropriate.

INTEGRATION OF APPROACH

One of the most successful programmes used to tackle crime and other social issues in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire is Integrated Offender Management (IOM). It targets that minority who persistently do the most harm to our communities through their criminal activities and it aims to reduce and, if possible, eradicate the problem that drives the individual offender in the first place.

Persistent offenders have traditionally had a disproportionate and adverse impact on crime levels and the holistic approach provided by IOM has achieved extremely positive results over recent years in reducing re-offending rates.

Leading the way

Nottinghamshire was one of the six pioneer sites in the country to begin using Integrated Offender Management as a crime-preventative tool, alongside Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Avon and Somerset, West Midlands and the Diamond Districts of the Metropolitan Police.

Nottingham and Nottinghamshire's IOM models have evolved and are now an amalgamation of three previously separate strands - the Prolific and Priority Offender (PPO) Scheme, the Drugs Interventions Programme and General Offender Management - built on the successes and structures of the PPO scheme.

IOM is scrutinised via the Countywide Reducing Re-offending Board, the LCJB and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

Targeting the seven acknowledged drivers of criminality, the agencies involved in the IOM programme include Nottinghamshire Police; the health service including those focusing on mental health issues; local housing providers; social services for family support; education, training and employment; probation; Drug Intervention Programme and Youth Offending; the Job Centre and the Benefits Agency; drug and alcohol rehabilitation and advice organisations.

The IOM approach is now being extended to a wider group of offenders - those at risk of high harm, including domestic violence, those who commit a high number of acquisitive crimes - such as shoplifting as well as young adult offenders who could continue to benefit from support in order that they do not end up with a life in crime.

Stopping the cycle of offending through Test on Arrest

One of the frequent reasons why offenders, both adult and juvenile, repeatedly commit crime is to support their drug misuse. In Nottingham and Nottinghamshire, acquisitive criminals, drugs offenders and those committing some of the offences closely linked to drugs misuse, are tested at the point of arrest. Offenders may be tested for any other offence where a Police Inspector believes class A drugs are a contributing factor.

Nottinghamshire Police carries out tests on approximately 850 to 900 prisoners a month for opiates and cocaine, and on average some 21% test positive.

Following a positive test, people are referred for a Required Assessment (RA) while in custody. An individual will be required to attend a follow-up assessment (FA) if the drug worker considers it appropriate. This creates an opportunity for those testing positive to engage with treatment or other support, even if they do not go on to be charged with any offence. Failure to attend or remain for the duration of either assessment, without good cause, is a criminal offence, and any breaches are proactively policed by the Restrictions on Bail police officers.



The figures for March 2012 are an illustrative snap shot of the success of this approach:

- 64 offenders were referred into treatment
- 73 follow up assessments were given
- Of those 73 assessments, only 12 were breached
- Prior to these assessments being proactively monitored through the process the breach rate for RAs and FAs was about 50%.

The Adult Offender Building (AOB)

The Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership was quick to see the benefits of co-location for the services that deliver treatments for drug misuse within the Criminal Justice Service and created a tailor made hub.

Teams based there include Criminal Justice Intervention, Rapid Access and Substance Misuse, alongside Offender Managers who work to reduce offending behaviour. The Offender Managers are also part of the IOM team who work with those who commit serious acquisitive crime. Non-compliance with the terms of individual offenders' programmes sees referral to enforcement units.

The AOB has been held up as a model of good practice; working well for most offenders because it offers a holistic package with a focus on accessing a non dependent, crime free lifestyle equipped with the skills to maintain their own well-being.

PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY OF NOTTINGHAM

Bringing Partners Together

Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership is a strategic hub for the city's Responsible Authorities as well as a broad range of key stakeholders such as housing providers and the voluntary sector for tackling crime, ASB and their drivers. Intelligence, performance information and strong partnership leadership from the city's strategic groups, through Locality Boards to neighbourhood teams ensures the maximum benefit is delivered through agencies' combined efforts. Partnership working with joint City Council and Police leadership at Locality level has delivered highly effective projects including tackling DV in the Aspley Ward and street drinking and ASB in the North and South Localities of the city.

Protecting Citizens

Nottingham City Council has a unique partnership - Nottingham Community Protection - to create a safe and clean environment in every one of Nottingham's neighbourhoods. This partnership is made up of Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire Police functions, sharing premises, systems and intelligence and drawing on a support network of specialists, all working towards a safer and cleaner city.

Delivered by more than 100 Community Protection Officers (CPOs), Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and specialist police officers, there is a visible "policing" presence in every neighbourhood of Nottingham, working within and alongside local police beat teams to provide a friendly and fast response to neighbourhood issues and to support the City Council's Safer agenda.





TACKLING DOMESTIC ABUSE AND VIOLENCE

Victims of Domestic Abuse are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and the integrated approach taken to prevention, awareness-raising, firm intervention and robust management of offenders is an excellent example of the benefits of partnership working in both City and County.

The tragic case of Casey Brittle, murdered in October 2010 by her abusive and violent partner (who was subsequently sentenced to life in prison for murder) brought into sharp focus the need for greater co-ordination of resource and sharper focus on multi-agency activity.

Numerous specialist partnerships now operate to tackle the problem experienced by all too many people, ranging from Safeguarding Boards to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), set up to support victims and help them get out of the spiral that can be so dangerous to their health and wellbeing. A MARAC is a group of agencies that includes Police, Probation, Health, Women's Aid, Victim Support, Housing, Social Services and Education. Representatives from these agencies share information about the whole family, not just the offender and the victim, and agree actions to be taken which will make survivors and their children safer and enable the enforcement authorities to hold perpetrators to account.

In partnership with other agencies, the Police have reviewed and revised their policy on Domestic Violence and are creating new processes and structures to enhance their work in this field, including the creation of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs in both the City and County.

Part of the awareness-raising work in this field has been led by Gedling Borough Council's Chief Executive with the "Man Enough" campaign, supported by the Nottingham Post newspaper, which encourages people to pledge not to engage in such behaviour. The campaign received significant publicity in October this year when, to mark the second anniversary of her death, a memorial event was hosted by the council to remember Casey and others who have died in violent circumstances.





TACKLING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Combating antisocial behaviour is a priority for our communities and for many of our partner agencies. Over recent years, the number of such offences has been dramatically reduced. Between January and September this year, there has been a 32.9% reduction in such crimes, equating to nearly 11,000 fewer incidents, meaning that Nottinghamshire has now risen to 5th in the league table of 43 Police Forces areas for the least amount of anti social crime.

Such performance could not be achieved without genuine multi-agency effort, involving the police, community safety partnerships and others and the creative use of a range of enforcement and diversionary tactics.

The work undertaken this year to further reduce the incidence of anti social behaviour in Newark and surrounding areas involving the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership typifies the way in which joint working and different tactics have helped achieve such successes. Methods used in this part of the county have included mediation, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and, in extreme cases, Antisocial Behaviour Orders. Diversionary activity - giving young people something positive to do with their time so they're not out causing trouble - is key to addressing problems. Younger and older people have been brought together with a cookery group, and there's been street dancing, football and other community sporting activity. In this part of the county, there has been a decrease in antisocial behaviour of 27% (3,947 fewer incidents) compared to the previous year.

Similar approaches are taken throughout Nottingham and Nottinghamshire with partners developing action plans in response to community concerns and working in liaison with residents. However, despite the stereotypical view that ASB is primarily committed by young people 'hanging around', a recent study discovered that the majority of reported incidents are as a result of noisy or anti-social neighbours. From a support perspective, victims who suffer ASB caused by a neighbour are likely to suffer far more long term and emotional impact, requiring a multi-agency response.

Tackling Burglary in Social Housing

In 2007 the Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership noticed that the Aspley ward had a higher level of burglaries than elsewhere in the City and determined with Nottingham City Homes to tackle the problem with the opportunity afforded by the Decent Home project, funded by the Government.

All windows in the Broxtowe and Bells Lanes estates were replaced with secured-by-design models while all households were given SmartWater and guidance on keeping secure. Evaluation showed a 41% reduction in burglary, compared to a citywide reduction of 21% while residents also reported feeling safer, warmer and happier in their homes.





Click on a logo below for more information about any of these partners and partnerships.



For more information,
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