

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Committee: Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny
Date: 18 June 2008
Subject: The new Crime and Disorder Strategy
Report of: Maureen Noble, Head of Crime and Disorder

Purpose of Report:

- To provide a summary of the background to and key priorities for the new Crime Strategy including performance against the last Crime Strategy objectives
- To invite Members of the Scrutiny Committee to consider where they can add value to the proposed activity to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour across the City

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1. Introduction

From April 2008 a new crime strategy for the City has been in place, which builds on the previous strategy and incorporates new Government guidance and Public Service Agreements, outlining the expectation that local partnerships will maintain and enhance their arrangements for managing the crime reduction effort at local level, through the production of a refreshed strategy to be operational from 1st April 2008.

2. The Starting Point for the New Strategy – Building on Success

2.1 Fewer victims of crime

The Manchester Crime and Disorder Strategy for 2005/08 set a target to reduce the overall level of crime as measured by the British Crime Survey (known as “BCS crime”). BCS crime was measured against 10 key crime types that included burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and violent crime.

In the baseline year of 2003/04 there were 63,876 BCS crimes in Manchester. In 2007/08 there were 49,849. That means there were 14,027 fewer victims of crime in 2007/08 than in 2003/04. A full breakdown by the 10 key crime types is given in the table below.

Crime Type	April 2003 to Mar 2004	April 2007 to Mar 2008	% Difference
Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle	5,190	3,215	-38.1%
Theft from a vehicle	9,747	9,181	-5.8%
Vehicle interference	1,813	833	-54.1%
Domestic burglary	9,553	6,646	-30.4%
Theft or unauthorised taking of a cycle	1,278	1,673	+30.9%
Theft from person	3,643	2,029	-44.3%
Criminal damage	18,305	15,012	-18.0%
Common assault, (including on a police officer)	2,054	2,196	+6.9%
Woundings	8,625	6,217	-27.9%
Robbery of personal property	3,668	2,889	-21.2%
Overall BCS (British Crime Survey) Recorded Crime	63,876	49,849	-21.96%

2.2 Early intervention to prevent crime and anti social behaviour

A great deal of work has been done to tackle anti social behaviour. Better interventions with families have meant that the number of young people who comply with their ASBO has increased significantly. By the first quarter of 2007/08, the number of young people who did not breach their ASBO had increased to 87.5%.

Support for parenting and targeted support for young people has led to a reduction in the number of young people who are first time entrants into the criminal justice system. Compared to 2005/06 the number of young people who entered the criminal justice system for the first time in 2006/07 fell by 10%. (First time entrants to the youth justice system are defined as those

young people receiving their first substantive outcome. A substantive outcome relates to a Reprimand, Final Warning, or a court disposal.)

Increasing numbers of drug users continue to enter treatment services in Manchester and good waiting times for treatment access continue to be reported across the system.

2.3 Bringing offenders to justice

Not only is it important that fewer crimes are committed but it is vital that communities see that offenders are punished. Manchester Magistrates Court is the largest court in the North-West. At the time of writing the Magistrates Court are

- meeting their target to collect 83% of fines imposed
- processing the cases for persistent young offenders rapidly so that the time from arrest to sentence is well within the national target
- working closely with partners to support vulnerable and intimidated witnesses

2.4 Achieving results through local working – RESPECT – Focusing on Neighbourhoods

Real improvements have been achieved at a local level through Respect Action Weeks. Operation Respect tackled the problems identified by local residents during weeks of collective activity. 19 Respect Action Weeks (RAWs) were implemented in 2007/08 across 19 different wards. At the end of each week, residents were informed of the work that had been done and the results achieved.

A wide variety of partner agencies committed staff resources to RAWs including the Police, Council officers and the Fire Service as well as non-traditional partners such as the RSPCA, British Gas, bus operators and TV licensing amongst others. Examples of activity over the weeks include joint patrols, drugs raids, transport gateway checks, RSPCA animal health checks, Help the Aged advice sessions and parenting support classes to name a few. Each week culminated in a family fun day to celebrate the activity that had been undertaken during the week and give agencies a further opportunity to engage with local residents.

Whilst recorded crime and anti-social behaviour reduced, the major success of this initiative was the effect on public perception. Evaluations of the early RAWs showed a high level of awareness of the action weeks and a perception that the RAWs had impacted on the local problems.

3. Deciding on Our Priorities

3.1. The New Public Service Agreements and the Local Area Agreement

The new PSAs that determine the priority areas of focus for CDRP's are as follows:

- PSA 23: Making Communities Safer
- PSA 25: Reducing the Harm Associated with Drug Misuse (includes alcohol)
- PSA 24: Criminal Justice System Reform
- PSA 14: Children and Young People
- PSA 21: Cohesion

Each of these PSAs has a series of priority actions and key indicators that together form the basis of the Local Area Agreement and the local crime strategy.

The Making Communities Safer PSA sets out four key priority areas upon which local CDRPs should focus, these are:

- Priority Action 1: Tackle the most serious violence
- Priority Action 2: Tackle the most serious acquisitive crime
- Priority Action 3: Tackle the crime and anti-social behaviour that most affects local communities
- Priority Action 4: Reduce Re-offending

The Tackling Drugs PSA tasks partnerships to Reduce the Harm Associated with Drug (and alcohol) Misuse.

The Manchester Local Area will include three-year targets on each of the above four priority areas. The draft LAA has now been submitted to government and targets will be finalised by the end of July 2008.

3.2. Listening to Local People – Building on the Neighbourhood Model and Embedding Respect

The relationship with local people and developing strong community engagement has been a central plank of the Crime and Disorder strategy over the last three years. This close working with local people has enabled the CDRP to listen and respond to local concerns and to engage local people in determining CDRP priorities.

A consultation with local people was put in place to support the development of the new strategy. A web-based consultation was put in place, supported by a series of focus groups with key groups and a stall at the Manchester

Conference in March 2008. The formal consultation attracted more than 400 responses, there was a good spread across the age groups although it was disappointing that so few young people responded, despite having tailored specific questions for young people. Traditionally harder to reach groups such as gay people and the disabled are very well represented amongst the respondents but the response from BME groups could be improved.

Consultation and engagement is not a one-off or fixed activity and we will learn from the findings of the consultation exercise to ensure that those groups who were under-represented are targeted for inclusion in future. Because the Crime Strategy is refreshed year on year, we will be seeking innovative ways to ensure that all sections of the community are fully engaged and represented.

The Key Individuals Networks and Neighbourhood Policing surveys provide an ongoing mechanism through which local people can tell us about their concerns, and their satisfaction with the public agency responses to those concerns, and the Local Tasking Meetings and Neighbourhood Partnerships form the key links in the communication chain between the CDRP and local people.

4. Outline of the Manchester Crime Strategy

As outlined above, the strategy will focus on four key areas of priority, within which there will be a number of themes, many of which cut across the four priority areas and which link, through the Local Area Agreement, to the wider community strategy and aspiration for the City. The activity to support these priorities will be commissioned through the CDRP.

- Building on success – setting out the achievements and good practice from the 05/08 strategy
- Developing the RESPECT agenda – building on the success of RESPECT Action weeks and widening the Respect approach to a whole council approach
- Cutting Crime – setting out how the CDRP will tackle the four priorities under PSA 23 (see above at point 2).
- Tackling Drug and Alcohol misuse
- Preventing violent extremism
- Domestic Abuse
- Alcohol related violence
- Tackling gun/gang violence
- Reducing the number of prolific young and adult offenders
- Further reducing volume crimes such as burglary, car crime, criminal damage, robbery
- Increasing neighbourhood focus and working with priority neighbourhoods
- Developing a specific crime reduction strategy for the City Centre
- Implementing a joint Youth Crime/Targeted Youth Support strategy

- Connecting the Criminal Justice System to the wider Partnership and local communities through a development programme on visible and accountable justice
- Improving services for victims and witnesses
- Further developing our communications strategy in partnership with key agencies
- Consolidating our previous work on Respect and embedding the principles and good practice from Respect across the wider partnership

Tackling Drug and Alcohol misuse – aims and targets

This is a separate PSA but cuts across all of the crime priorities outlined above. Work around this priority will include the national targets on entry into drug treatment, the effectiveness of the Drug Intervention Programme, work on reducing alcohol related harm (by setting a target in relation to presentations at Accident and Emergency Departments – this is currently being negotiated through the LAA process).

Innovation

Our work on guns and gangs and preventing violent extremism sit within the 'Innovation' strand of the Local Area Agreement. There will be a specific focus on achieving a better understanding of the drivers behind these issues and targeted work across the wider Partnership.

5. Future Investment in Crime and Disorder Reduction

Funding to deliver the Crime Reduction Strategy has been secured at the same level as 2007/08, enabling the Partnership to maintain its delivery programme.

To ensure that projects are able to deliver against new priorities in the Crime Strategy for 2008/09, project activity is being re-aligned to ensure a focus on the four key priority actions combined with local concerns.

All projects have now submitted funding applications describing the activity they plan to undertake and how this will address the strategic objectives. All applications for funding will continue to be vigorously examined to ensure they are:

- consistent with the Crime Strategy
- value for money
- financially sound and in line with MCC financial regulations.

In addition, all projects must continue to submit a detailed quarterly return providing a progress report on outputs, outcomes and actual expenditure.

5.1 Financial management 2008-11

In future years with an increased emphasis on investment in high performing, value for money activity that delivers real crime reduction on the ground, and with the transition to commissioning the Crime and Disorder Team will be embarking on a full review of all funded projects during the financial year 2008/09.

This root and branch review will take account of the performance, fitness for purpose and ability to achieve targets (including robust financial management), as well as using clear commissioning criteria against which to measure future contributions to the priority areas within the new crime strategy.

This is likely to result in changes to the investment programme either across the coming financial year or certainly at the start of the year 2009/2010.

6. Summary

The new Crime Strategy will be launched on 4th August 2008 but delivery is already underway. It will build on the excellent performance achieved over the past 3 years and will be driven by local concerns and striving for excellent services.

The new Performance Management Framework (APACS) will need to embed into partnership working over the next 6-12 months but early indications are encouraging that this framework will facilitate a joint approach to the management of performance targets and business processes and systems, both centrally and at neighbourhood level.

Local people continue to be engaged in the direction and delivery of the crime strategy through local structures such as Neighbourhood Partnerships and also participation in Respect activities, consultation and a wide range of crime prevention and reduction activity.

The Crime and Disorder Communications strategy is in its final draft stage and will bring together the key partner agencies and key messages to further reduce crime and increase public perceptions of safety.



Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2008/09 June 2008

Date & Venue	Item	Purpose of Report	Evidence Required	Lead Executive Member and Officer	Comments
18 June 2008	Crime and Disorder Strategy	To consider the final Crime and Disorder Strategy and how this has been developed, with reference to performance against the previous strategy, general funding issues and how the Committee wishes to incorporate themes into its Work Programme for 2008/9		Councillor Jim Battle Maureen Noble	
	Local Area Agreement: Performance Monitoring Cycle	To receive an overview of the development of the LAA to date to inform discussion as to which targets the Committee wishes to receive regular performance information on.	Draft LAA	Geoff Little Forid Meah	
	Work Programme	To approve the Committee's draft work programme for 2008/9		Kate Brown	

Date & Venue	Item	Purpose of Report	Evidence Required	Lead Executive Member and Officer	Comments
16 July 2008 Report Deadline 4 July	Services for Youth	To consider issues relating to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour amongst young people and how the City Council and its partners are working to provide services that meet the needs of young people and the wider community through the Targeted Youth Strategy		Councillor Sue Murphy Councillor Jom Battle Lauren Donnan Maureen Noble	
	Support Services for Victims and Witnesses	Further to discussions at the Committee's meeting in October 2007, to focus on services to support victims and witnesses of crime to have the confidence to participate in the Criminal Justice system.	Invitation to: Greater Manchester Police Crown Prosecution Service Greater Manchester Probation Service Victim Support	Councillor Jim Battle Maureen Noble	
2 September 2008 Report Deadline 22 August Theme: Promoting Active Citizenship	Community Welcome	Further to discussions at the May meeting, to consider progress on the development of a set of Mancunian Values and the template for the community welcome.		Councillor Val Stevens Geoff Little Samiya Butt Claudette Webster	

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2 September 2008	Recruitment and Selection of Magistrates to the Manchester Bench	<p>- To establish the current position and arrangements for the recruitment of magistrates in the city.</p> <p>- To look at the approach taken by city's major employers, including the City Council, NHS and Chamber of Commerce, to support those employees engaged in public duties, as a magistrate for example</p>	Invitation to Manchester PCT and Chamber of Commerce	Councillor Jim Battle Maureen Noble	Date to be confirmed
	Citizenship Ceremonies	To provide further Purpose, frequency, format, function		Councillor Val Stevens	
15 October 2008 Report Deadline: 3 October Theme: Neighbourhood Policing	Neighbourhood Partnerships: Community Engagement Strategy	Progress report on the impact of the Community Engagement Strategy of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and how this has enabled better communication and reporting back to communities. A more comprehensive look at this issue has been scheduled for February 2009		Councillor Jim Battle Maureen Noble Paul Cullen	Previous Minute CI/08/3 January 2008
	Police Community Support Officers	To revisit issues raised by the Committee during previous discussions on the role of PCSOs including the funding regime during 2008/9 and the development of links between PCSOs and Neighbourhood Partnerships.		Maureen Noble	Previous Minute CI08/08 February 2008

Date & Venue	Item	Purpose of Report	Evidence Required	Lead Executive Member and Officer	Comments
12 November 2008 Report Deadline 31 October Theme: Financial Inclusion	Financial Inclusion	To investigate the incidence of financial exclusion, with reference to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, and the likely impact of rising inflation, particularly in relation to food costs, fuel bills		Neela Mody	
	Benefit Entitlement	To explore how the City Council and its partners are supporting residents to claim those benefits to which they are entitled	Visit to CAB	Neela Mody	
	Loan Sharks	To review progress on initiatives to protect the city's most vulnerable residents from Loan Sharks		Neela Mody	
10 December 2008 Report Deadline 28 November	Super Respect Initiative	To review the impact of the Super Respect Pilot in East Manchester		Cllr Jim Battle Maureen Noble	Invitation to Ward Councillors And Greater Manchester Police
	Anti Social Behaviour	An evaluation of the effectiveness of measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, in particular ASBOs and ABCs			

Date & Venue	Item	Purpose of Report	Evidence Required	Lead Executive Member and Officer	Comments
7 January 2009 Report Deadline 22 December	Business Plans 2009/10	To consider those plans identified by the Committee in December.		Forid Meah	
	Valuing Older People	Further to the Committee's previous discussions in October 2007 To review progress on combating isolation and loneliness amongst older people.		Caroline Marsh Paul McGarry	
4 February 2009 Report Deadline 23 January	Crime and Disorder Strategy: Implementation	To review progress on the implementation of the Crime and disorder Strategy and delivery of LAA targets		Maureen Noble	
2 March 2009 Report Deadline 20 February					

ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

	Equality and Inclusion	Scope to be confirmed			
	Alcohol	To consider how the City Council is working with licensees and other agencies to tackle binge drinking and encourage responsible drinking.			NB Cross Cutting: Chair to discuss at the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group
	Areas of Innovation: Guns and Gangs and Children and Citizens	To contribute to the development of these workstreams			NB Cross Cutting: Chair to discuss with the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group
	Restorative Justice	To investigate how agencies are working together to promote greater engagement and confidence in the Criminal Justice System, looking particularly at recent examples of restorative and community justice pilots	Invitation to: Greater Manchester Probation Service		