

CRIME FIGURES

Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel – 8 September 2014



INTRODUCTION

This report provides the Your Plymouth panel with an overview of performance against crime reduction targets and levels of overall crime in Plymouth. The reporting period is April to July 2014, the latest data available at the time of writing this report.

During April to July 2014 Plymouth saw an overall **decrease**, 73 fewer crimes (-1.1%) compared to the same period last year, including decreases specifically in:-

- Burglary Dwelling (-33/ -11.5%)**
- Vehicle Offence inc. Theft (-99/ -20%)**
- Shoplifting (-43/ -7%)**
- Other Theft (-208/ 20.1%)**
- Public Order Offences (-120/ -21%)**

The table below illustrates the current overall crime picture for the city as a whole and the ten priority neighbourhoods:

	Apr-Jul 14/15	Apr-Jul 13/14	Number change	% change
City Total*	6,404	6,477	-73	-1.1%
Priority neighbourhoods**	3,736	3,780	-44	-1%

*from Devon and Cornwall Police

**from Universal Data Set provided by Police

BACKGROUND

Safer Plymouth (Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership) has been going through a period of review and development. This has included a refresh of the Terms of Reference, reviewing and broadening its membership to include representation from the community and voluntary sector (eg Victim Support, Neighbourhood Watch, Student Union, Zebra Collective). Safer Plymouth has just signed off a three-year Partnership Plan which has set the direction and priorities for the Partnership. Safer Plymouth is also exploring broadening their scope of activity to include broader community safety concerns, eg fire. Safer Plymouth has recently agreed to use the 'Systems Leadership' approach (an approach recommended by the Fairness Commission) to addressing Hate/Mate Crime.

In liaison with Safer Plymouth, the council monitors performance against four key areas of crime. In line with our values – in particular 'Responsible and Fair' – these represent crimes causing the most harm and affecting the most vulnerable people with a focus on victims: closing the gap in levels of crime between neighbourhoods with the highest crime and the city average, violence with injury, domestic abuse and anti-social behaviour.

For 2014/15, Safer Plymouth has agreed to align to, and apply, the Police and Crime Commissioner's new Performance Management Framework (Appendix I) which makes a strong case for discouraging the use of 'numerical targets' which is viewed as driving 'perverse incentives' and is based on unreliable data. It recommends that these are replaced with 'performance

measures. This framework is reflected in the “Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 2014-17”¹.

SAFER PLYMOUTH PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR 2014/15

Safer Plymouth carries out an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder which identifies crime and community safety concerns which are priorities for Plymouth and forms the basis for formulating performance measures. The following are the performance measures Safer Plymouth have agreed for 2014/15:

- Reducing the gap between the worst neighbourhoods for crime and the city average
- Reducing violence with injury (excluding Domestic Abuse)
- Increasing domestic abuse reporting
- Reducing anti-social behaviour

A new measure has been introduced prioritising vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour:

- Increase the number of vulnerable victims of ASB supported by the vulnerable victim service

In addition, during 2014/15, we are measuring the following and will use the baseline to for increases in 2015/16, -

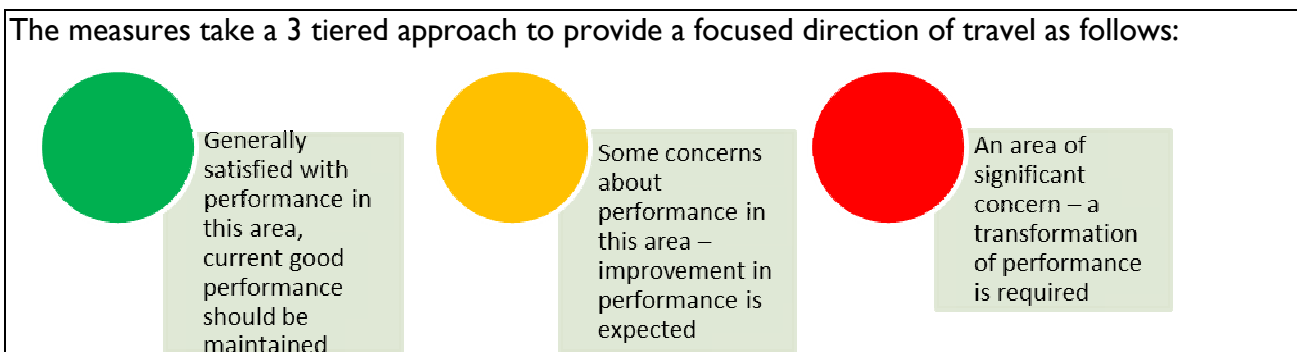
- the number of first-time reporters of domestic abuse (defined as a victim who has not reported a domestic abuse incident to the Police within the previous 12 months) and supplemented by monitoring of all first-time victims of domestic abuse who receive a Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service (excl those who have reported to the Police).

Due to considerable reduction in serious acquisitive crime over the last couple of years, and in order to maintain a focus on crimes affecting the most vulnerable and causing the most harm, Safer Plymouth has agreed to ‘monitor’ levels of serious acquisitive crime only.

In order to demonstrate how we are performing, we have defined what ‘success’ will look like - see Appendix 2.

PERFORMANCE

To demonstrate how we are performing, the Police and Crime Commissioner’s performance framework is being used as illustrated below:



¹ <http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/The-Police-and-Crime-Plan-2014-FINAL.pdf>

Using this framework, for two out of the five crime performance measures we are generally satisfied with performance which should be maintained, for three performance measures there are some concerns about performance and improvement is expected. In terms of the measure we are monitoring for 'acquisitive crime' there is current good performance.

It should be noted that for April to July 2014 there has been a reduction in 'all crime' including crime types outside Safer Plymouth's priorities when compared to the same period last year. Reductions have been seen in crime types that were particularly challenging us last year (Shoplifting, Theft, and 'Other' theft). The Police developed a Shoplifting Action Plan and done some targeted work with offenders, worked closely with shops to look at ways to minimise the likelihood of shoplifting occurring along with awareness raising campaigns and Safer Plymouth has supported delivery of some of the activities. The Police have been carrying out a range of tactical approaches to tackle theft and 'other' theft. This was whilst maintaining reductions in serious acquisitive crime and levels of anti-social behaviour.

Each Safer Plymouth performance measure is explored in more detail below:

Closing the Gap in crime between neighbourhoods with the highest crime and the city average – Improvement in performance expected.

(2014/15 performance measure is to achieve a reduction in the crime gap between the ten neighbourhoods with the highest crime and the city as a whole based on the 2013/14 outturn of 76.3/1,000).

At the end of 2013/14 the gap between the combined rate/1,000 population across the ten neighbourhoods with the highest crime (149.8/1,000) compared to the city as a whole (73.45/1,000) was 76.3.

Between April and July 2014 the ten neighbourhoods with the highest crime have seen an **overall reduction** of 44 crimes compared to the same period last year. This is good news, but this is not quite enough to close the gap.

The table below shows that despite seeing decreases in 7 out of the 10 neighbourhoods, this has been slightly offset by an increase in the city centre, meaning that overall we are slightly off target to close this gap.

Neighbourhood	Apr - July 14/15	Apr - July 13/14	Change in Crime numbers	% change in crime
Barn Barton	125	219	-94	-43%
Devonport	312	316	-4	-1%
East End	277	271	6	2%
Greenbank & University	294	338	-44	-13%
Honicknowle	218	236	-18	-8%
Mutley	212	250	-38	-15%
Plymouth City Centre	1147	989	158	16%
Stoke	320	335	-15	-4%
Stonehouse	663	655	8	1%
Whitleigh	168	171	-3	-2%

The increase in the city centre is partly attributable to recent police-led proactive targeting and operations in respect of drug offences and possession of weapons (see section below - 'What We Are Doing').

Reducing Violence with Injury (excluding domestic abuse) – Improvement in performance expected.

(2014/15 performance measure - not more than 1,719 crimes).

There were 635 crimes reported for April to July 2014 which represents an **increase** of 8% (47 more crimes) compared to April to July 2013 (588). This year's performance measure is a reduction in the number of crimes recorded.

The Police have a performance measure to reduce 'Violence Against the Person (excluding domestic abuse)'. This measure includes both violence with injury and violence without injury. Performance in Plymouth for April to July is showing an increase of 15.6% against same period in 2013. Analysis undertaken by the Police suggests that increases in violence are city wide and not necessarily exclusively associated with the evening and night time economy (see section below - 'What We Are Doing').

Increasing reporting of Domestic Abuse – Improvement in performance expected.

(2014/15 performance measure - more than 6,948 reports).

This year's performance measure is to increase reporting of domestic abuse crimes/incidents, reflecting our wish to ensure we get a true picture of the situation and address it.

Between April and July 2014 overall there have been 2,184 domestic violence related incidents and crimes reported which represents a **decrease** of 6% (130 fewer incidents/crimes) compared to April to July 2013 (2,314).

Whilst there has been an **increase in domestic abuse crimes** recorded (+10%/ +80) this has been offset by a decrease in the number of non-crime domestic incidents (-14%/-217)².

Work is underway with Police colleagues to fully understand the reasons why the levels of **non-crime domestic abuse has reduced** whilst domestic abuse crimes continue to rise with recording practices one possible reason for investigation (see section below - 'What We Are Doing').

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour – Maintain good performance.

(2014/15 performance measure - not more than 10,298 incidents).

There have been 3,769 ASB incidents recorded between April to July 2014 which represents a **decrease** of 1% (35 fewer incidents) compared to April to July 2013 (3,804).

For the period April to July 2014/15, despite there being small increases of anti-social behaviour in the City Centre and Stonehouse, levels of anti-social behaviour in the other evening and night time economy areas such as Greenbank and the University, Mutley and the East End have fallen or remained static.

² Please note, figures do not add up as they exclude a small number of non-notifiable DA offences

Increasing the number of vulnerable victims of ASB supported by the vulnerable victim service – Maintain good performance.

(2014/15 performance measure - to support 300 vulnerable victims of ASB and a 90% satisfaction rate).

Between April and June 145 victims vulnerable of ASB were supported by the service, achieving nearly half of the annual target within the first quarter. At the end of June 2014 the satisfaction rate amongst victims stands at an impressive 96%, against a target of 90%.

(Monitoring Only) Reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime – Maintain good performance.

There were 660 crimes reported for April to July 2014 which represents a **decrease** of 13.9% (107 fewer crimes) compared to April - July 2013 (767), a continuation of significant decreases over a long period of time.

Levels of Hate Crime - Maintain good performance.

(2014/15 performance measure – Increase the reporting of hate crime incidents to 610 reports and 90% satisfaction rate)

At the Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel, held on 9 June 2014, the Panel asked for levels of hate crime to be included in this report.

It is well known that Hate Crime is an under-reported crime and it is, therefore, a priority for the Council and Police to increase reporting in order to better understand the level of the problem and deal with it effectively. The Council has set itself a stretching target to increase reporting of hate crime.

For the period April to July 2014/15 there have been 208 reports of hate crime incidents reported via the Council's Hate Crime reporting system³, which means we are performing well. For the same period, the satisfaction rate for how incidents have been dealt with stands at 90%. It could, therefore, be surmised that confidence in reporting via this route is growing, including through 'word of mouth'.

For the period April to July 2014/15, across the whole of Plymouth, there has also been a 15.9% increase (an additional 24 reports) in reported Hate Crime direct to the Police, compared to the same period in 2013/14. Police satisfaction data not was available at the time of writing this report.

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Working with our partners, we continue to undertake a wide range of crime reduction work. This consists of a mixture of initiatives to keep momentum on the performance measures whilst maintaining an overview on emerging crimes.

Recent examples of activity to 'Reduce the Gap Between the Neighbourhoods with the Highest Crime and the City Average' include:

- Completion of the Community Action Against Crime Fund which provided £5,900 in each of the top ten neighbourhoods which predominantly addressed anti-social behaviour, violence with injury, 'other' theft, shoplifting and criminal damage.

³ <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/communityandliving/socialinclusion/hatecrime.htm>

- Safer Plymouth continues to support a range of interventions to support young people and divert them from the vulnerability of crime and offending behaviour eg YOS Positive Futures and the REACH (missing young persons) project.
- A recent Community Focus Week in Devonport.
- Police-led proactive targeting and operations in respect of drug offences and possession of weapons.

Recent examples of activity to 'Reduce Violence with Injury (excluding Domestic Abuse)' include:

- A (Restricted) comprehensive Force Level Strategic Overview Report has just been completed by the Police looking at "Other" Violent Crime (violence not categorised as evening night time economy or domestic abuse) which will help us understand the issues in more depth and make recommendations for working in partnership to deploy the right interventions and resources at a local level.
- Ongoing Targeted interventions in Evening Night Time Economy 'hotspots'
- Ongoing support to continue Street Safe's treatment centre that operates on a Saturday evenings and other peak time to reduce the number of unnecessary ambulance call outs and hospital admissions). Over 320 people supported since its introduction.
- Championing the Best Bar None Group to create safer drinking environments.
- Promoting the 'Top Night' personal safety campaign that reminds young people to have fun safely and know their limits.
- Ensuring CCTV operation has the necessary staffing to cope with increased demand at peak times.
- Barbican road closures on Bank Holiday weekends.
- Rolled out Identification Scanners in Pubs/Clubs in the ENTE.
- Promoting personal safety messages at events eg – Freshers, Universities of Plymouth & Marjon, and City College.
- Designated Driver Campaign.
- Support the Information brief advice Alcohol project at the Magistrates Court to help reduce re-offending.
- Production of ICE (In Case of Emergency Cards)
- Night Net radio system.

Recent examples of activity to 'Increase Domestic Abuse Reporting' include:

- Work is underway with Police colleagues to fully understand the reasons why the levels of non-crime domestic abuse has reduced whilst domestic abuse crimes continue to rise with recording practices one possible reason for investigation.
- Ongoing city-wide roll out of the DASH (domestic abuse) training.
- Ongoing provision of high quality services for victims of domestic abuse and their families.
- Carrying out Domestic Homicide Reviews.
- Ongoing awareness raising which has led to an increase in self-referrals, particularly from male victims and via Health and Children's Services.
- Carried out training at Children's Centres, as a result of learning from a recent Domestic Homicide Review, which has also resulted in increased referrals to the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service.
- Transformed the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project which is now overseen by a consortium of local city Solicitors, coordinated by Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service, which has already led to an increase in clients accessing the service.

Recent examples of activity to 'Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour' include:

- An ongoing range of successful enforcement activities by the Police and Safer Plymouth Team to tackle offenders of anti-social behaviour.
- Dispersal Orders currently covering:
 - City Centre/Waterfront/Union Street/North Hill Mutley Plain
 - Estover
 - Devonport
 - Efford
- Launched an Anti-Social Behaviour 'Mediation' Service
- On-going victim champion support for vulnerable victims of ASB.
- Another very recent development, aimed at tackling re-offending and supporting victims of crime, including in respect of neighbour disputes, is that Safer Plymouth has secured funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for a 'Restorative Justice' programme in Plymouth.
- We are working closely with the Fire Service to tackle the recent increase of arsons and are supporting them in the delivery of 'Fire Setting Course' and the ongoing 'Phoenix Project'.
- Ongoing coordination of multi-agency responses to support neighbourhoods experiencing disproportionate levels of anti-social behaviour across the city.

Recent examples of activity to 'Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime' include:

- Safer Plymouth continues to fund drug treatment programmes for the most prolific offenders.
- Supporting some police covert and overt operations to tackle acquisitive crime.
- We have supported a range of Police events to raise awareness of serious acquisitive crime in a number of areas including Mutley, Plympton, Devonport, Stoke and Derriford Hospital.

Further community focus weeks are being planned over the coming months in neighbourhoods with the highest crime including the city centre.

Sarah Hopkins
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