SAFER PLYMOUTH

Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel – 16 March 2015



INTRODUCTION:

This report provides the Your Plymouth panel with an overview of Safer Plymouth activity and performance against crime reduction performance measures and levels of overall crime in Plymouth. The reporting period is April 2014 to the end of January 2015, the latest data available at the time of writing this report.

Crime has continued to fall in Plymouth since 2006/7 when there were 28,209 crimes recorded to 2013/14 when there were 18,908 crimes recorded meaning there have been 9,301 fewer victims over that time.

Between April 2014 and January 2015 there have been 15,674 crimes recorded which represents a decrease of 40 crimes (-0.3%) compared to the same period the previous year – so we are currently on track to see a further fall in all crime for year ending 2014/15.

This has included decreases specifically in:-

- Burglary Dwelling (-40/ -6.3%)
- Shoplifting (-41/-3%)
- Other Theft (-430/ -18%)
- Public Order Offences (-262/ -20%)

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

	Apr-Jan 14/15	Apr-Jan I 3/I 4	Number change	% change
City Total*	15,674	15,714	-40	-0.3%
Priority neighbourhoods**	9,113	9,102	+	<0.1%

*from Devon and Cornwall Police

**from Universal Data Set provided by Police

This year:

- Good performance has been maintained in respect of reducing anti-social behaviour and serious acquisitive crime, along with supporting vulnerable victims of anti-social behaviour and reporting of hate crime.
- We hold a steady position of 5th best out of 15 in our most similar family group for 'all crime' (as at 30 Nov 2014 latest available).
- We have supported over 2,000 victims of domestic abuse, providing individual support, legal advice and refuge places.
- We have trained over 700 front-line workers in "Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence (DASH)" in the last 24 months in Plymouth.
- We have been conducting a Domestic Homicide Review which has just passed the Home Office's Quality Assurance Panel and will shortly be made publicly available.
- We have supported circa 300 vulnerable victims through our Anti-Social Behaviour Victim Champion Service

- We have continued with a programme of drug treatment for the most prolific offenders to prevent them from offending.
- Cabinet adopted the new ASB Tools & Powers¹ on 9 December 2014 which came into force on 20 October 2014 and agreed 15 recommendations in respect of their implementation.
- 2 successful premises closures using the new legislation where it has been proven they have been linked to nuisance to the public, or disorderly, offensive or criminal behaviour of a serious nature.
- We are exploring options with the Police for notifying/consulting Ward Members on dispersal orders. This power has now transferred to the Police.
- Safer Plymouth has agreed to reinstate a 'Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group' initially to oversee the transition and impact of the new Probation arrangements and understand our new offending cohort.
- Plymouth City Council has recently responded to the consultation on the new statutory Prevent Duty² set out in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill which is currently before Parliament.
- We continue to support the re-commissioning process for SARC services in Plymouth at the Peninsula Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Board, who have just awarded a further year's contract for 2015/16.
- We interim-funded an Art-Therapist predominantly for children and young people at the SARC pending the outcome of a Bid to "Children in Need" to continue this valuable therapeutic service and the bid was confirmed as successful in February 2015 attracting a further circa £100K for the service.

SAFER PLYMOUTH PARTNERSHIP UPDATE:

Safer Plymouth (Plymouth's Community Safety Partnership) continues to go through a period of review and development. This includes exploring broadening their scope of activity to include broader community safety concerns, eg fire and taking a more holistic approach that takes account of other partners' priorities. Since the last Your Plymouth Scrutiny held on 8 September 2014, Safer Plymouth has held two meetings where key agenda items have included:

- Monitoring performance against Safer Plymouth performance measures and addressing areas of under-performance.
- Agreement of the annual Safer Plymouth Partnership Strategic Assessment of Crime & Disorder 2015 this makes recommendations for the priorities for partnership focus and resources in 2015/16, and will underpin the next round of performance measures set by Safer Plymouth for 2015/16.
- Endorsement of the Peninsula Strategic Assessment for 2014/15 which provides an evidence-base for informing the Police and Crime Plan associated annual refreshes. This document is also used to set priorities for collective focus by Community Safety Partnerships across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.
- Reviewing how the Police and Crime Commissioner is preparing for taking on the responsibility for commissioning Victim Services from April 2015.

¹ <u>http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s59567/Adoption%20and%20Implementation%20of%20Anti-Social%20Behaviour%20Crime%20and%20Policing%20Act%202014.pdf</u>

² <u>https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/KELSI/School%20e-Bulletin/CTS_Bill_-_Factsheet_7_-Prevent.pdf</u>

- Overseeing the development and roll out of Plymouth's 'Restorative Approaches Forum' which is leading the way in Devon & Cornwall.
- Reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioners plans for refreshing his Police and Crime Plan for 2015/16.
- Agreeing commissioning intentions for 2015/16 for the funding provided to Safer Plymouth by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Regularly reviewing developments in respect of the transformation of probation services including a recent presentation on contract management arrangements of the rehabilitative services provided by the community rehabilitation company (CRC) and Safer Plymouth's role in that respect.
- Following agreement at Cabinet on 9 December 2015 that Safer Plymouth would provide the governance for the delivery of the 'Collaborative Enforcement Pilot'³, Safer Plymouth is working through proposals on how to do this effectively. This will lead to Safer Plymouth identifying, jointly with Your Plymouth Scrutiny, how the findings of this pilot could potentially be implemented on a city-wide basis.

Systems Leadership:

On 13 February 2015, Safer Plymouth underwent their first session of understanding the principles and theory of using a 'Systems Leadership' approach (an approach recommended by the Fairness Commission). This was facilitated by John Ward, and we are grateful to the Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust for releasing John to assist Safer Plymouth with this. Adopting this approach will potentially lead to Safer Plymouth thinking and working differently in order to address complex issues. Safer Plymouth is scheduled for a further session in April 2015 where the learning of this new approach will be applied specifically to look at the issue of hate crime.

<u>Pledge:</u>

Plymouth City Council has a pledge to "Campaign against any further Government cuts to Police, PCSOs and Firefighters in Plymouth".

The Leader of Plymouth City Council, the Chair of Safer Plymouth (also Cabinet member for Cooperatives, Housing and Community Safety), and officers of Plymouth City Council hold regular meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner. This provides an opportunity to press Plymouth's case for maintaining Police and PCSO numbers, along with raising other key issues, given that Plymouth accounts for nearly quarter of the crime across the whole Police force area.

Plymouth has two member representatives on the Police and Crime Panel, which acts as both a as a critical friend to the Police and Crime Commissioner, and also proactively and reactively scrutinises his decisions. This provides a further opportunity to scrutinise the budget and how this might impact on Police and PCSO staffing numbers. At its meeting on 6 February 2015, all members present (15 out of 20) voted unanimously in favour of a 1.99% increase in the police precept. To date, despite deepening cuts in budgets, the Police and Crime Commissioner has delivered on his commitment to maintain uniformed Police officers above 3,000 across the force area. However, over the coming year, the Force is to undergo significant transformation in order to deliver further efficiencies, including through a 'strategic alliance' with Dorset. The impact of this transformation, particularly on Plymouth, is not yet fully understood. This will be a kept under regular and close scrutiny by the Panel over the coming months and year.

³ <u>http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/mgInternet/documents/s59566/Collaborative%20enforcement%20pilot.pdf</u>

The Deputy Leader for Plymouth City Council, along with other Council member representatives on the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority, meet regularly with the Chief Fire Officer, Lee Howell. The most recent meeting, held in February 2015, provided an opportunity to consider what impact Devon & Somerset Fire Authority's budget considerations for 2015/16 and their new plan "Creating Safer Communities - Our Plan 2015-2020⁴" might have on the number of Firefighters retained in Plymouth. It was established that, whilst there were ongoing considerations in respect of more innovative uses of their estate that would need to take account of a city with a growing population, the procurement of more efficient appliances and a tactical support review, Plymouth would continue to have proportionately more firefighters than other areas. A further meeting will be held in approximately 6 months' time.

Neighbourhood Watch:

Concerns were recently raised with Alison Seabeck MP and the Chair of Safer Plymouth about a recent and sharp decline (approx. 2,000 down to 300) in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in Plymouth.

As a result this item was put on the agenda for Safer Plymouth Partnership Board's meeting on 23rd January 2015. Unfortunately, as neither a Neighbourhood Watch nor a police representative was present at this particular meeting, the item was deferred to the next scheduled meeting.

This issue was also raised by one of the Plymouth representatives at the Police and Crime Panel held on Friday 19th December, 2014 where the issue at that time received an inadequate response.

However, at a subsequent meeting of the Panel, on 6 February 2015, the Chair proposed this issue as a 'reactive' scrutiny topic for the next meeting on 10th April 2015. This suggestion received considerable support from Plymouth as well as other Panel members, and was agreed. The Panel will adopt a 'select committee' style approach for scrutinising the topic entitled "Is the significant reduction in engagement of NHW volunteers in Plymouth reflected across the rest of Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and, if so, what is the PCC doing to address it?" This will afford an opportunity for witnesses to come and share their views and experiences.

To undertake the Panel's scrutiny of this topic, the Host Authority (Plymouth) will endeavour to contact as many Neighbourhood Watches across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as possible, along with other relevant key stakeholders, who will also be written to seeking views on the decline and any impact being experienced as a result. Additionally an 'open letter' from the Chair of the Panel, calling for evidence from communities across the Force area, will shortly be published on the Police and Crime Panel website⁵. Findings from this scrutiny will inform any recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner for his consideration.

Finally, Plymouth City Council has just responded to consultation by the Police and Crime Commissioner on his proposals for refreshing the Police and Crime Plan. Again, we have used this opportunity to reiterate our concerns about the decline in Neighbourhood Watch engagement in Plymouth and ask for a much greater emphasis on how the Commissioner is prioritising and encouraging volunteering to be given greater emphasis in the refresh. We have pointed out the link to the Commissioner's stated aim of encouraging and prioritising volunteering including beyond the traditional examples.

⁴ <u>http://www.dsfire.gov.uk/FireAuthority/CalendarOfMeetings/documents/BudgetfullagendaFeb2015.pdf</u>

⁵ http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/communityandliving/csu/policecrimepanel.htm

We have already received feedback that the above activity has already started to regenerate and mobilise Neighbourhood Watch engagement in Plymouth.

SAFER PLYMOUTH'S PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND FRAMEWORK FOR 2014/15:

Performance Measures:

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 few 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 1.**

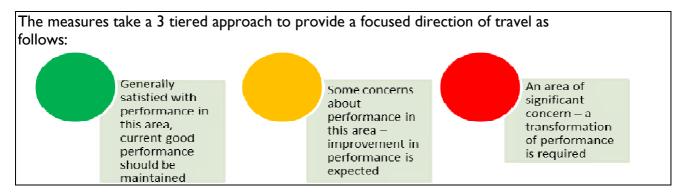
Performance Framework:

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.

In 2014/15, Safer Plymouth agreed to align to, and apply, the Police and Crime Commissioner's Performance Management Framework (**Appendix 2**) which was based on a strong case for discouraging the use of 'numerical targets' and was viewed as driving 'perverse incentives' and based on unreliable data. It was recommended that these were replaced with 'performance measures.

This framework is reflected in the "Police and Crime Plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly 2014-17"⁶.

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



PERFORMANCE UPDATE - APRIL 2014 TO END OF JANUARY 2015:

Using the framework described above, 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 steady performance. Each of the Safer Plymouth performance measures 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 2014 and January 2015 the ten neighbourhoods with the highest crime have collectively seen only a very slight increase of 11 crimes compared to the same period last year. This overall increase in crime in the priority neighbourhoods is almost solely down to the increase in crime within the city centre neighbourhood. Between April and January crime in this neighbourhood has increased by 305/12%.

8 out of the ten neighbourhoods with the highest crime have recorded crime reductions (see table below), the biggest recorded in Barne Barton (-71 crimes). Other decreases recorded in Devonport (-61), East End (-59), Stoke (-45), Honicknowle (-35), Stonehouse (-16), Mutley (-8) and Greenbank & University (-1). Without the increase in crime in the City Centre the gap between crime rates for priority neighbourhoods and the city would have narrowed. This is an improvement on when we last reported to Your Plymouth Scrutiny when we reported

⁶ <u>http://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library/The-Police-and-Crime-Plan-2014-FINAL.pdf</u>

that 7 out of the 10 neighbourhoods had seen a reduction in crime. (see also section below - 'What We Are Doing').

Neighbourhood	Apr- Jan 14/15	Apr-Jan 13/14	Change in Crime numbers	% change in crime
Barne Barton	378	449	-71	-16%
Devonport	698	759	-61	-8%
East End	629	688	-59	-9%
Greenbank & University	847	848	-1	0%
Honicknowle	523	558	-35	-6%
Mutley	534	542	-8	-1%
Plymouth City Centre	2858	2553	305	12%
Stoke	770	815	-45	-6%
Stonehouse	1457	1473	-16	-1%
Whitleigh	419	417	2	0%

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

performance expected.

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

There were 1,569 crimes reported for April to January 2014/15 which represents an **increase** of 9% (134 more crimes) compared to April to January 2013/14 (1,435). 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 January is showing an increase of 12% against same period in 2013/14. 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 2014 and January 2015 overall there have been 5,627 domestic violence related incidents and crimes reported which represents a **decrease** of 5% (307 fewer incidents/crimes) compared to April to January 2013/14 (5,934). This is, however, a slight improvement on when we last reported to Your Plymouth Scrutiny Committee when we were showing a 6% decrease.

Whilst there has been an **increase in domestic abuse crimes** recorded (+3%/+66) this has been offset by a decrease in the number of non-crime domestic incidents $(-10\%/-376)^7$.

It should be noted, however, that whilst there has been a drop-off in reporting to the Police there has been an increase in self-referrals direct to the Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service.

Work continues 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 also section below - 'What We Are Doing').

⁷ Please note, figures do not add up as they exclude a small number of non-notifiable DA offences

Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour - Maintain good performance.

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

There have been 8,592 ASB incidents recorded between April to January 2014/15 which represents a **decrease** of 2% (216 fewer incidents) compared to April to January 2013/14 (8,808).

For the period April to January 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.

The biggest reductions in anti-social behaviour have been in the neighbourhoods of Whitleigh, Honicknowle, Stoke and Estover/ Glenholt/ Derriford East.

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 January 289 victims vulnerable of ASB were supported by the service, achieving nearly the annual target (300) with 2 months to spare. At the end of September 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 1,672 crimes reported for April 2014 to January 2015 which represents an **increase** of 2% (42 more crimes) compared to April – January 2013/14 (1,630). This small increase follows a sustained period of significant reductions. Levels will continue to be monitored and should recent rises in vehicle crime in particular continue, Safer Plymouth will consider what action needs to be taken to address this.

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 January 2014/15 there have been 504 reports of hate crime incidents reported via the Council's Hate Crime reporting system⁸, which means we are performing well. For the same period, the satisfaction rate for how incidents have been dealt with stands at 86%. It could, therefore, be surmised that confidence in reporting via this route remains good, including through 'word of mouth'.

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⁸ http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/communityandliving/socialinclusion/hatecrime.htm

For the period April to January 2014/15, across the whole of Plymouth, there has also been an 11% increase (an additional 34 reports) in reported Hate Crime direct to the Police, compared to the same period in 2013/14.

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.

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

- Safer Plymouth has made a 'top-up' contribution to a Police initiative "Payback Time" which encourages communities to nominate projects to be awarded funding the police have recovered from criminal's 'ill-gotten gains'.
- 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 "Community Focus Week" was held in the City Centre in December 2014.
- Completion of a recent Safer Plymouth Team restructure means there will now be 3 "Crime and ASB Officers" allocated geographically and working alongside each of the policing areas of 'South/Central', 'North and East', and 'Devonport & West'. This will enable even greater partnership working and partnership problem-solving at an operational level.

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

- A (Restricted) comprehensive Force Level Strategic Overview Report completed by the Police looking at "Other" Violent Crime (violence not categorised as evening night time economy or domestic abuse) is helping 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 and Night Time Economy 'hotspots'.
- Ongoing support to continue Street Safe's treatment centre which operates on agreed key dates at peak times, 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.
- Supporting the annual Designated Driver Campaign now mainstreamed to be delivered by the community and voluntary sector.

⁹ <u>http://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/Plymouth-groups-benefit-criminal-s-cash/story-26049166-detail/story.html</u>

- Support the Information brief advice Alcohol project at the Magistrates Court to help reduce re-offending.
- Production and distribution of ICE (In Case of Emergency Cards)
- Supporting the roll out of the Night Net radio system.

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

- Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service continues to assist with awareness raising across the city and recently includes awareness-raising initiatives in Babcock, City College and in other businesses across the city.
- Domestic Abuse awareness leaflets are being handed out by Police Response Officers at the same time as they hand out "You Matter We Care" booklets.
- Domestic Abuse awareness leaflets also being distributed by Neighbourhood Wardens.
- 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.
- Continuation of the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Project, overseen by a consortium of local city Solicitors, coordinated by Plymouth Domestic Abuse 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.
- Ongoing Anti-Social Behaviour 'Mediation' Service
- On-going victim champion support for vulnerable victims of ASB. This subject is currently under a review which includes investigating how the service could provide an even more intense level of support for the most vulnerable victims.
- 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.

Sarah Hopkins Community Safety & Partnerships Manager