

3.2.01 Reducing Crime and reoffending

Introduction: why is this important?

Community safety matters because it impacts on health and wellbeing. Crime and the fear of crime have a negative impact on people's health and wellbeing, affecting them in a number of ways:

- directly, through violence, injury, rape and other offences against the person
- indirectly, through the psychological and physical consequences of injury, victimisation and isolation because of fear and lack of physical activity as people don't feel safe to go outside or let their children play outside
- as a determinant of illness which increases the burden of ill-health and lack of wellbeing on those communities least able to cope, along with increased poverty and other inequalities
- by reducing the effectiveness of our health care systems through violence against staff, damage to patients and property and revenue lost in replacement, liability/risk, repair and security
- by causing preventable health burdens, such as alcohol related crime and drug dependency

What do the facts and figures tell us?

Total Crime to the end of March 2015 was down 2% on the previous year (39,493 compared to 40,267). However, figures for the early part of 2015 show recorded crime beginning to increase (largely due to improved data recording). There were 47,495 crimes recorded in Bradford for the 12 months to 30th November 2015. This is an increase of 22% compared to the same period the previous year. For the 12 months to 30th November 2015 Bradford has the second highest crime rate in West Yorkshire and is above the rate per 1,000 households for the whole force area (this is the same as the previous year).

Domestic burglary reduced by 6% over the 2014-15 period and Bradford was ranked 13 out of 15 within its 'Most Similar Group'. However as with total crime, figures for the early part of 2015 show an increase. There were 3,470 domestic burglaries recorded for the 12 months to 30th November 2015, an increase of 20% on the same period the previous year. These increases have been anticipated following efforts to improve crime recording practices and mirror national trends. For domestic burglary this is particularly in relation to multi-occupancy dwellings which must now be recorded as multiple offences. The more recent increases have resulted from in part a refocusing of Policing Priorities to more effectively manage vulnerability risks. These recent increases have seen a small realignment of Police and Partner resources back into tackling burglary dwelling.

The Repeat Victimisation rate for Domestic Abuse is 36.6% for the 12 months to 30th September 2015. This is a 0.7 percentage point increase on the same period the previous year (35.9%).

Satisfaction with Service Delivery for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) saw a significant drop in performance in 2013-14 of 8.6% from 82.9% to 74.3%. An improvement plan is being implemented.

The proportion of residents saying that ASB has got worse over last 12 months has shown a 1% increase from 16% for the 12 months ending 30th September 2014 to 17% for the 12 months to 30th September 2015. Bradford is the worst performing District in West Yorkshire.

After a relatively significant decrease (down by 14% on the year before), the number of people Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in Bradford has increased by 7% (+14) to 204 in 2014.

What strategies, policies and best practice have been developed locally and nationally?

Bradford District Community Safety Plan 2015-18 has been developed following the implementation of Bradford District Strategic Assessment.

Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places obligations on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), to produce a Strategic Assessment, and Community Safety Plan to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce crime and disorder, combat substance misuse, and reduce re-offending. The Community Safety Plan is designed to develop services and schemes to improve public safety and help create active, inclusive and safe communities where people live without fear of personal violence from crime or persecution because of their personal beliefs, race, gender or sexuality.

Bradford District Plan 2016-2020 includes a key priority of 'Safe, Clean and Active Communities'

What challenges have been identified in a local context?

To reflect the Yorkshire Police Programme of Change, the new policing model (Bradford Police District) was adopted across the District with local co-ordinated partnership structures in November 2013. The 12 Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) have now become six, each led by an Inspector, with boundaries coterminous with the District's parliamentary constituency boundaries and in line with the areas of operation by the Local Authority and Incommunities. The sixth Inspector manages the team that covers the regeneration area of Bradford City Centre, which is part of the current City Ward.

The Neighbourhood Support Hub has been operational since May 2014 and supports District wide functions including ASB, Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Reduction, Licensing, Hate Crime, Community Engagement and Prevent. The Hub has a strong 'enforcement and problem solving' element which supports the Neighbourhood Policing Areas and Teams. Analysts from the police and council work in the hub to provide data products and intelligence that captures emerging trends and spikes in crime and anti-social behaviour as well as identifying key performance indicators. This activity also informs the Strategy Groups around the prevention and intervention initiatives. Work continues towards the aspiration to align information and data systems in order to better understand the District, Area and Ward trends and tailor responses to local need, through existing structures including Ward Officer/Partnership Teams, Area Partnership Teams and Area Committees.

In a local context there are a number of key challenges that have been identified these include safeguarding the most vulnerable people and building safer and resilient communities.

Safeguarding the most vulnerable people

The Bradford Safeguarding Children's Board (BSCB) and the Prostitution Strategic Partnership continue to work to reduce Child and Adult Sexual Exploitation across the District, and will have detailed plans in place.

Following review, the Domestic Abuse Partnership has been replaced by the Domestic & Sexual Violence Strategic Board. This has enabled the scope of work in this area to broaden to deal with emerging risk and needs. This Partnership continues to provide Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), which are information sharing meetings for agencies dealing with victims at high risk of serious domestic violence. A review of the Domestic Abuse Strategy continues. The Partnership will continue to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews as needed.

BSCB will continue to implement and operate within its nine point strategic response to CSE across the district.

A human trafficking strategic group is now meeting to develop an understanding of the issue within the district and identify resources and action required to deal with this issue. Tailored awareness sessions have been provided for key partners and staff in conjunction with Hope for Justice.

Building Safer and Resilient Communities

We are continuing to work in partnership to improve our response to all forms of ASB, including environmental issues such as littering, fly-tipping and noise nuisance. We have strengthened joint working between our co-located ASB Unit and other agencies, in particular with Incommunities and other Registered Social Landlords. Co-locating teams has resulted in improving our problem solving processes and co-ordination of action to address ASB through local, neighbourhood-based intervention using Ward Officer Teams, Area Co-ordinator's Offices and NPTs.

A measure we have taken to improve our processes and practices and align them with the Victim's Code has been to use our 70 volunteers to provide support for victims of ASB. This is a recent development and we will report on its impact later in the year.

Work continues to implement The Community Trigger with the Police and Crime Commissioner. This gives victims and communities the right to request a review of their case and bring agencies together to take a joined up, problem-solving approach to find a solution. A threshold is defined locally after which point the Community Trigger can be used. This threshold is defined by local agencies but should not be more than three complaints in the previous six month period. The Trigger can be used by victims of anti-social behaviour or someone representing a victim. The victim could be an individual, a business or a community group.

Bradford continues with its intention to become a 'centre of excellence' in the delivery of restorative justice services for victims. It will achieve this aim by developing a single point of contact for restorative justice services across Bradford District building capacity across communities and local services to reach more victims of crime.

To maintain the downward trends in road casualties, partnership working, where resources are pooled to maximise results, will continue to be the key. There has also been a recent re-focus on an evidence-based approach to funding for highway safety schemes. Stronger bonds with Public Health are being formed and joint funding ventures explored.

A full review of drug and alcohol treatment is underway within the District. The aim of the review will be to make treatment more effective and to ensure that the needs of those using over the counter medications (OTC) and novel psychoactive substances can also be met.

Preventing wider damage to the community we continue to work together to reduce the impact of problem drug and alcohol use to the wider community.

What do our stakeholders tell us?

In terms of health needs, our partners have continued in highlighting anecdotal evidence that shows two significant issues in relation to Offender Health and Mental Health Related to Offending and ASB. Offenders and ex-offenders generally experience greater health inequalities and social exclusion. As the number of people who come into contact with the Criminal Justice Sector increase, there will be an increasing number of ex-offenders in communities.

Recommendations: What do we need to do? How do we ensure this remains a priority?

As a partnership we need to ensure offenders have access to appropriate health services in custody and the community. To ensure suspects and persons detained by the police under mental health provisions are able to access appropriate health and social care professionals at the appropriate time and in the appropriate place, divert offenders with serious mental healthcare needs to appropriate health services and improve health service links to other services working with offenders.

References

Bradford District Plan 2016-2020

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/media/2312/bradford-district-plan-final.pdf>

Bradford District Safer Communities Partnership

<https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-community/crime-and-crime-prevention/bradford-district-safer-communities-partnership/>