



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Place Overview and Scrutiny

6pm, 26 January 2022

Report Title	Performance Report – West Community Safety Partnership
---------------------	---

Report Author	Stuart Lackenby- Chair of West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director for Adults, Communities and Wellbeing (DASS)
----------------------	--

1. Purpose of Report

In meeting the statutory responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, an update report from West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is provided. The report focuses on the levels of CSP performance, progress against current priorities and activity undertaken from 1 April 2021 – 31 December 2022.

2. West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership

A single Community Safety Partnership structure for the West has been established to deliver our statutory responsibilities as a collective to reduce crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour. The CSP has set out a vision to make West Northamptonshire safer for our communities, businesses and visitors, by working in partnership to reduce the risk and harm of crime and anti-social behaviour. Working together we want to create a place where people feel safe and supported and the diversity of our community is valued.

West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Board has been set up and met for the first time in April 2021. Terms of Reference have been agreed and a firm governance structure has been put in place to deliver our partnership priorities.

3. Partnership Priorities

West Northamptonshire Community Safety Partnership Strategy will be revised over the next 3-6 months. The partnership will use the Police's annual Strategic Assessment to help refresh

the priorities for the partnership. The Assessment collates considerable information and data, detailing levels of crime and anti-social behaviour that enables the Community Safety Partnership to consider the current position and any changing circumstances or emerging issues that could necessitate different approaches or interventions. The current volume of crime, level of harm and community concern, the impact on our communities and victims and how much added value can the partnership give will also be taken into consideration.

The current priorities that have been agreed are informed by the existing Community Safety Strategies from the previous CSPs, along with existing and emerging national priorities and policing priorities included in both Northamptonshire Police's Control Strategy and the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner's Policing and Crime Plan.

We have established a strong Community Engagement Network. The need for local people to be given an opportunity to voice their views and opinions is important in achieving longer-term change and improving community safety.

The partnership regularly asks the community to identify what their greatest community safety concern is in their neighbourhood. These results are analysed every three months and used to set the locally identified priorities and inform the strategic priorities for the partnership.

The current priorities include:

Serious Organised Crime – including gangs, knife crime, youth violence, exploitation and modern slavery

Interpersonal Violence – including domestic abuse and sexual violence

Anti-Social Behaviour, Hate Crime and Town Centre Disorder – including community cohesion, alcohol related violence and prevent duty

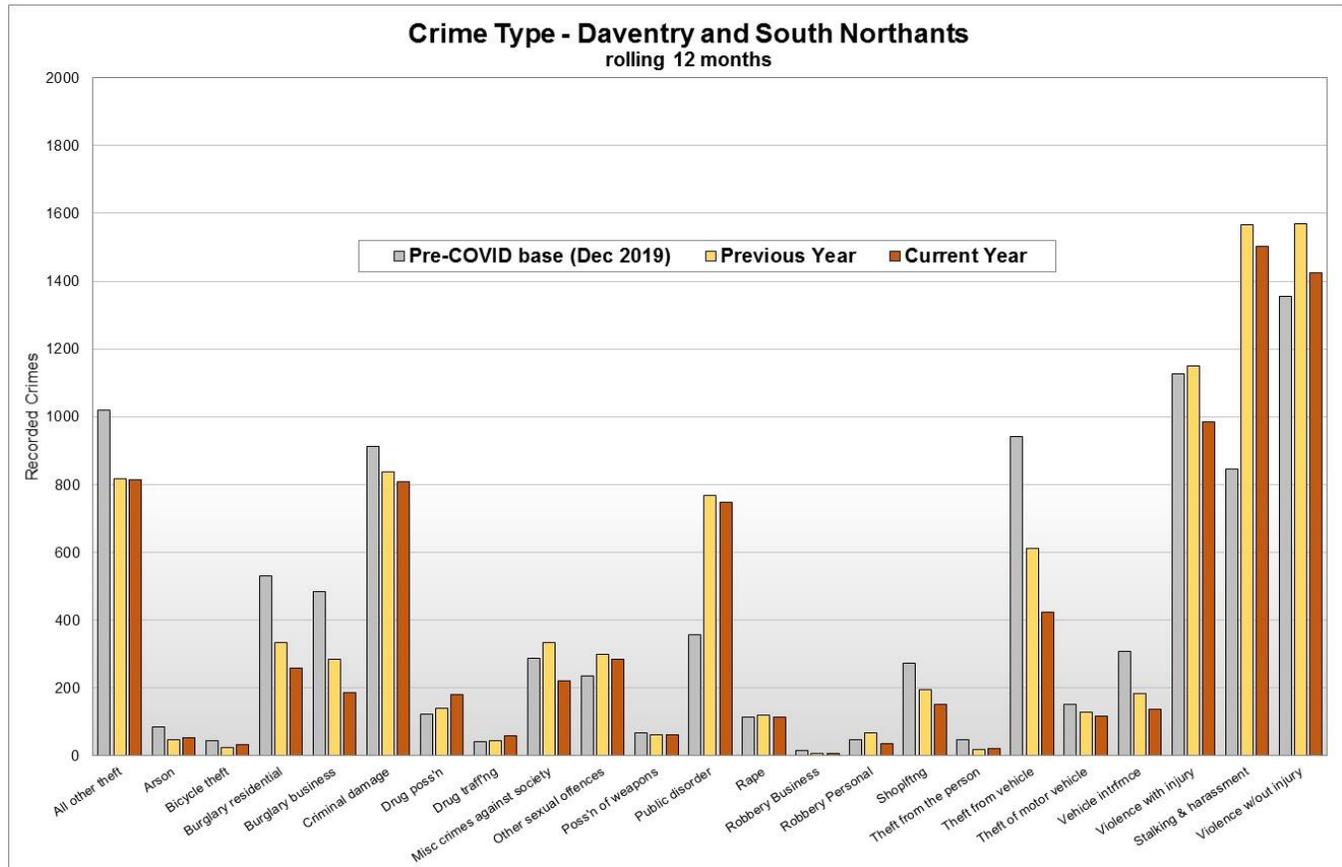
Serious Acquisitive Crime – Burglary, robbery, vehicle crime

Rural Crime – including safer roads

4. Current Performance

Daventry and South Northants

The chart on the below shows numbers for crime groups recorded by Northamptonshire Police: data for the year to December 2020 is shown in yellow, data for the year to December 2021 is in red. To allow for the impact that the pandemic had on recorded crime we have enhanced the chart with a third series of columns which show the figure at December 2019.



The overall picture is positive: the total crime figure reduced by 10.2% over the past 12 months. *All other theft* remains a significant feature of the chart, however numbers have decreased in each of the last three years and fell by 0.4% in the 12 months to the end of December 2021.

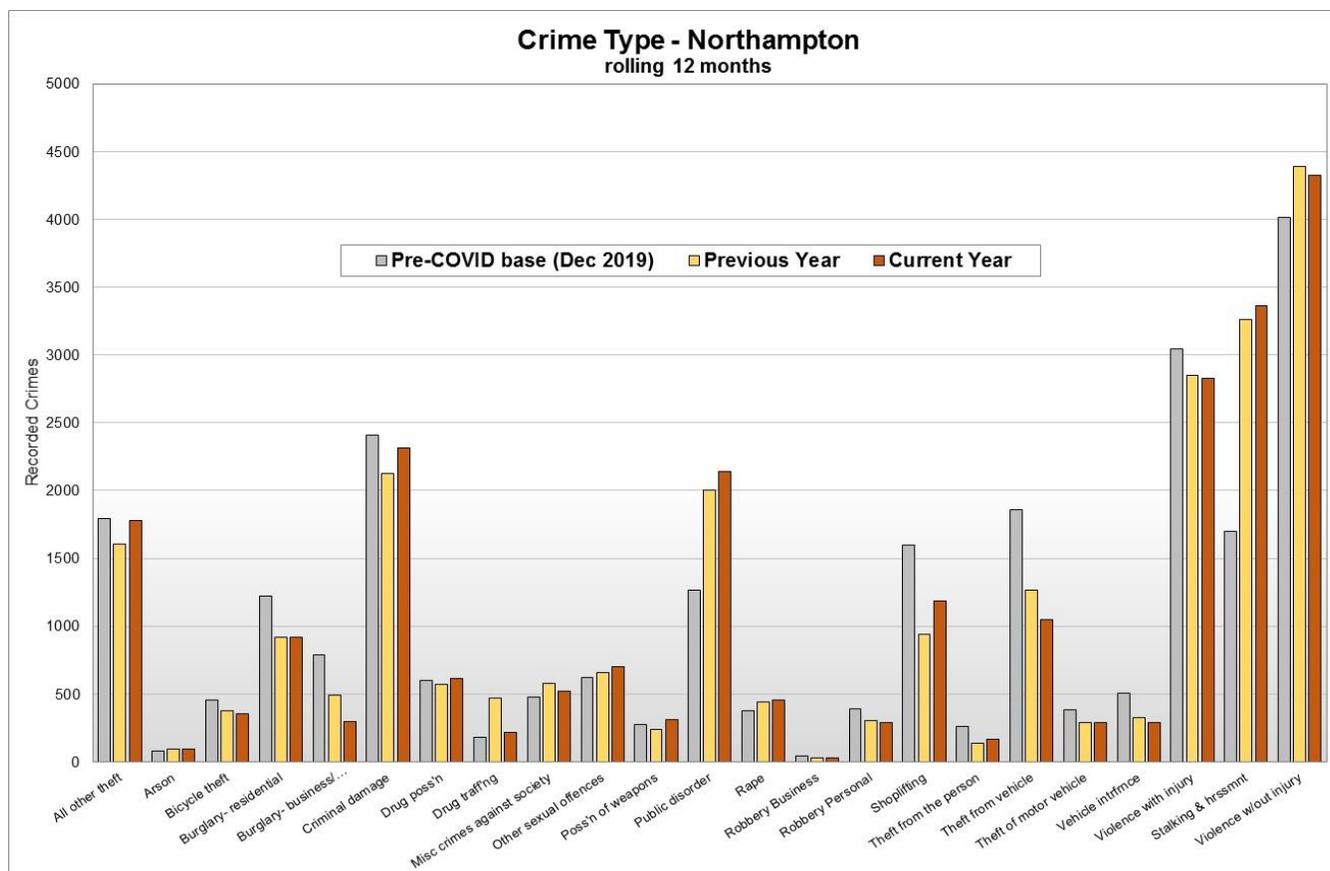
Public disorder offences fell by 2.6% compared to 2020, but numbers are significantly higher when compared to 2019: there has been a change in recording protocols, leading to more offences being recorded. *Drug possession* is up 30.2% and *drug trafficking* up 28.3%, although numbers for both remain low.

Offences of violence fell by 8.6% in the year to December 2021 and violent crime now accounts for 45.4% of all recorded crime. *Stalking and harassment* had been increasing steadily over the past few years, but we have seen a downturn since April 2021. Domestic violence accounts for 36.4% of all violent crime and these offences fell by 7.8% during the last 12 months.

There were 444 burglaries recorded in the 12 months to the end of December 2021: while the change in people's habits during the pandemic had an impact on these crime types, the reductions pre-date the lockdown as the result of a Police initiative devoting more resources to the investigation of these crimes.

Northampton

The chart below shows numbers for each of the crime groups recorded by for Northampton; data for the year to December 2020 is shown in yellow, the year to December 2021 in red and the pre-COVID baseline at December 2019 is shown in grey.



The overall crime figure increased by 0.5% during the last 12 months and the chart shows a mixed picture, with increases in some types but decreases in others; *public disorder* and *stalking & harassment* are the only two significant increases.

Violent crime accounts for 42.9% of the crime recorded in the town, making it the most significant category. Recorded violent offences rose by just 0.1% in the year to December. *Stalking and harassment* had been the significant factor in the rise in recorded crime, but numbers started to decline in March 2021.

Domestic violence accounted for 32.2% of all violent crime, but violent offences with a domestic flag fell by 9.9% in the 12 months to the end of December.

There was a 3.8% drop in *burglary residential* in 2020/21 but that has now flattened, with figures showing a 0.2% increase over the past 12 months. However, crime had reduced significantly prior to the pandemic; the current figure is 920; the figure at December 2019 was 1,221. By contrast, figures for *burglary business / community* have fallen by 39.5% over the past 12 months; this decrease only began in March 2020 and, unlike *residential* crimes, the downward trend has continued.

5. Partnership Activity

A considerable amount of activity has taken place since 1 April 2021.

West Northamptonshire:

- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board set up, Needs Assessment completed to identify gaps in support, especially for those who are in specialist domestic abuse accommodation having left an abusive relationship and a Domestic Abuse Strategy drafted, to meet our statutory duties in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 16 Days of activism annual campaign delivered through the 16 days partnership group; including Reclaim the Night march and candle-lit vigil at All Saints as well as a number of pop-up drop in's with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence organisations, and in person and virtual discussion events; additionally a social media campaign was put together and delivered through WNC social media channels to raise awareness of DA and SV, educate, and promote the local and national support services.
- Women's Forum – specific sub-group formed to look at gaps in services for BAME victims of domestic abuse and women's safety.
- Hate Crime Week of Action delivered, including engagement stands in high footfall areas in Northampton and Daventry, ward visits from Northampton Partnership Homes and the Northampton Partnership Homes Daphne bus; Information sent to schools for them to take part in a hate crime activity whereby they learn about what a hate crime is before designing their own hate crime "Coat of Arms" to show what they learnt.
- Third Party Reporting line for victims of Hate Crime commissioned to Stop Hate UK.
- Tackled disability hate crime as a main topic during the Disabled People's Forum virtual event for International Day of People with Disabilities on 4 December. Speakers from Police Hate Crime and Voice to educate viewers around hate crime and hate incidents and encourage them to report.
- 'I'm Still Me' LGBTQ conference delivered virtually with over 60 school staff signing up to take part in the event.
- International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) event delivered virtually via West Northants Council social media channels.
- Delivered and supported a number of community engagement events, bringing our communities together, including: **Srebrenica, International Youth Day, International Men's Day** and **World Aids Day**
- Community and engagement newsletter – issued weekly through our community engagement network, providing community safety messages and campaigns, details of events and general updates.
- Target hardening continues of properties of vulnerable residents, that have been victims of anti-social behaviour, hate crime or domestic abuse.
- Commissioned the development of a virtual community safety package for primary schools, with partners – the package will include educational awareness on gangs and knife crime, hate crime, personal safety, railway safety, fire safety, water safety, anti-social behaviour, cyber bullying, online safety and mental health.
- Promoted and supported Police with 10 knife amnesty events.
- In Daventry Operation Unite is addressing persistent anti-social behaviour from a large group of young people, which included disruption of and damage to retail premises:

criminal charges have been brought against some individuals and work is ongoing to issue ABCs and CPNs to others. Away from enforcement, partners are looking at a range of diversionary activities. We have begun working with Designated Safeguarding Leads in Daventry's schools to identify individuals in need of early intervention.

- A refreshed Public Spaces Protection Order was approved in Daventry, which expanded the coverage from Town Centre to the entire town and also expanded the range of anti-social behaviour that was covered.
- Rural Action Group has continued to meet virtually, although lockdown has curtailed planned activities the new Beat buses have been well received. Currently looking at a revised Action plan for rural crime.
- The annual Comfort and Joy campaign provided gifts and treats to everybody in Refuge and many others besides, through the generosity of members of the public and officers alike.
- Towcester Team actioned 31 ASB reports from 1st April 2021: 11 verbal abuse/threats, 10 noise related, 10 inconsiderate behaviour.
 - 19 ASB advice letters sent.
 - Five CPWs served
 - One CPN served.
 - Two new CCTV cameras installed at ASB hotspots in Towcester linked back to Omega One control room.
- The Road Joint Action Group expanded to cover Northampton during 2021 and considered 36 new problem localities during the year, with issues such as from road layout at accident hotspots, speeding, HGVs in restricted areas and parking issues.

Northampton Locality:

- Successful in Safer Streets 3 Home Office funding bid, bringing £513k into Northampton town centre specifically to improve safety of Women and Girls. The funding will support 20 specific projects, including:
 - Environmental improvements £291,488 – CCTV coverage of the Racecourse, ANPR in the car park, improved lighting, fencing, trimming of shrubbery and crown lifting.
 - Capable guardianship - £112,000 – University of Northampton student safety schemes, Park Safety Ranger to cover the 2 parks and Park Watch schemes.
 - Education & Awareness - £109,722 – security packs for students and the community, bystander programmes delivered by Suzy Lamplugh Trust, community engagement events, drama production and campaign materials targeted at students.
- Through the funding secured from the Home Office's Trusted Relationships Fund, Free2Talk continue to deliver youth services in four of our priority neighbourhood areas, increasing the support available to the town's most vulnerable young people. Delivering interventions and mentoring to young people most at risk of getting involved in knife crime and anti-social behaviour.

- Supported Northants Police with bike marking events at the University and Northampton General Hospital and Op Push in Northampton town centre, where officers stopped cyclists on Abington street, to give words of advice and educate.
- Public Spaces Protection Order approved and gates installed at Jeyes Jetty and Dunster Street, blocking off the alleyways, disabling anti-social behaviour and criminal activity that was taking place.
- Street Pastor Scheme continues to operate in Northampton Town Centre, on bank holidays and pay weekends.
- Purple Flag reaccreditation scheme for the Town Centre achieved.
- Knife arch and additional policing resources jointly funded with the Office of the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner and deployed in the night-time economy during December 2021.
- Supported the first national Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week.
- Our Anti-Social Behaviour Officers are working in partnership with the local policing team, in tackling anti-social behaviour, serious organised crime and youth violence, they have achieved the following between January 2021 to December 2021:
 - There are currently 23 active cases being managed by the Anti-Social Behaviour Case Managers.
 - 46 CPW's (Community Protection Warning Letters) have been issued – 31 for neighbour disputes, 1 for verbal abuse and threatening behaviour, 2 for cuckooing, 1 for aggressive begging, 1 for an insecure/damaged fence, 2 for nuisance phonecalls/ ringing up Council staff unnecessarily and being verbally abusive and threatening, 6 for youth nuisance and 2 for smoking Cannabis in a private dwelling
 - 5 CPNs (Community Protection Notices) have been issued – 1 for a neighbour dispute, 3 for nuisance phonecalls/ringing up Council staff unnecessarily and being verbally abusive and threatening and 1 for cuckooing.
 - 2 Criminal Behaviour Orders issued – 1 for a prolific youth nuisance offender and 1 for an aggressive shoplifter.
 - A three-month Closure Notice was obtained on a property which had caused high levels of alarm and distress to other residents due to the many incidents of ASB, crime, drug taking and drug dealing.
 - 13 x neighbour disputes (31 CPWs (Community Protection Warnings) and 1 CPN (Community Protection Notice) issued).
 - 3 individuals making nuisance and unnecessary phone calls to West Northamptonshire Council and Northampton Police and being verbally abusive and threatening to staff (3 CPWs, 3 CPNs and 2 Restraining Orders issued).
 - 2 x female perpetrator targeting vulnerable individuals for money/place to stay etc (2 CPWs and 1 CPN issued).
 - 7 x youth nuisance case (6 CPWs issued & 1 CBO)
 - 1 x perpetrator causing harassment, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour (1 CPW issued).

- Between January 2021 and December 2021, we have received 9 Community Trigger Requests, 6 of these requests did not meet the threshold for a case review, 3 met the threshold and case reviews were conducted, 2 case reviews resulted in recommendations being made.

Focus on our high crime, priority areas continues:

- Developed focused neighbourhood working groups in eight priority areas:

Bellinge & Ecton Brook, Upton & St. Crispin's, Blackthorn & Rectory Farm, Lings, Lumbertubs, Thorplands, Southfields & Standens Barn, St. Crispin's (central area) & Portland Place, St. David's & Kingthorpe, Briar Hill, St James and Castle.

Action plans have been developed through these groups that include ASB targeted enforcement around fly tipping, burglaries, car crime, theft, gang and Knife crime. Partnerships established with the schools and there is an identified focus on contextual safeguarding. Some of the activity delivered through these groups include:

- 15 partnership engagement events, working with Northampton Partnership Homes and Northamptonshire Police held.
- 18 bike marking events held, these have involved the distribution of bicycle crime prevention packs to residents and the marking of several 100's of bikes.
- Kings Heath School Wow day. Partnership engagement event with the school which started the junior warden scheme, had environmental workshops, litter picks, bug trails etc.. Gave local partners a chance to engage with the school.
- Specific engagement work in Blackthorn/Maidencastle/Goldings/Rectory Farm to increase reporting. Anonymous reporting to Crimestoppers increased by almost 42%. Contextual safeguarding work carried out with primary schools. 'Reporting leaflet' developed for the area – now being used in other neighbourhood priority areas.
- Youth project set up in Thorplands, following consultation with the community, basketball delivered by sports coaches, supported by youth worker. Partnership proving successful and being used as a model of good practice to run in other areas.
- St David's – working with Parks & Open Spaces to refurbish open space off Nursery Lane, including provision of play equipment, to encourage legitimate use and help deter the current ASB and criminal activity. Also development of partnership youth project to engage with the hardest to deal with young people and help empower and deter them from following older siblings into criminal activity.
- Parking issues raised through the Castle multi agency working group in Spring Boroughs and the Mounts were reviewed and consultation activity delivered with residents. Consultation results submitted along with Traffic Regulation Order requests for the publicly favoured changes to Highways for panel to review.
- Door knocking and flyer drop Exeter Place followed by a Community Engagement Event Day at the Community Hub in partnership with Northants Police in August following feedback from residents

6. Future Partnership Actions

Specific pieces of work that will take place in the next three months:

- Planning for a month-long campaign for West Northamptonshire against violence and aggression continues for the Knife Angel visit in May 2022
- Violence and Vulnerability Review (Home Office resources secured) for Blackthorn and Kings Heath to be undertaken in February.
- International Women’s Day – 5 March 2022, plans underway, opportunity to promote violence against women and girls, offer of support.
- The roll out of safer streets 3 and 4 (£300,00) secured by the Office of the Police and Fire Crime Commissioner) which focuses on violence against women and girls and safety in the night-time economy specifically, this includes the regular deployment of the SNO (Safer Nights Out) Van, training delivered to late night venues by Northamptonshire Rape Crisis and work with Suzy Lamplugh Trust (National organisation focussed on Stalking and Harassment).

7. Summary

The CSP continues to work closely with partner agencies, including the Police, the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, East Midlands Ambulance Service, Youth Offending Service, the Fire Service, University of Northampton, Housing Providers, Probation Service, Health and Community and Voluntary Organisations to deliver activities that will tackle our key issues.

The partnership will continue to deliver against the current priorities, whilst developing a revised Community Safety Partnership Strategy for the West over the coming months.