



TACTICAL ASSESSMENT

28 September - 8 November 2008

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NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED*

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INTRODUCTION

Aim

This assessment has been produced to inform the Aberdeen Community Safety Partnership Tactical Tasking and Co-ordinating Group of the following:

- The overall picture of crime and other community safety-related issues in accord with Partners' control strategy priorities with particular focus upon: crime trends and other series, emerging 'hotspot' areas and the selection of targets.
- The impact of Partners' activity on crime and community safety-related incident levels.
- Current and emerging issues of exception ie high risk that fall outside the divisional control strategy.

Purpose

The purpose of the tactical assessment is to enable the Community Safety Partnership's Tasking and Co-ordinating Group (T&CG) to make well informed resource allocation decisions, balanced against priorities in Partners' control strategies and exceptional issues of risk. This will be achieved by reviewing intelligence, prevention and enforcement plans and currently agreed operational activity. New operations and problems will be identified by reviewing current intelligence taking into account the data provided as noted below.

Method

The assessment is based on data extracted from crime and incident records, partnership agency data and analytical and intelligence products. Where shown in this assessment, performance figures have been supplied by the Aberdeen Division Crime Analysts and their counterparts in partner agencies.

Sensitivity of Report

The audience for this report is intended to be as wide as possible, whilst noting the sensitive nature of the contents. This document is classified as 'Restricted' and therefore may be circulated freely within the Community Safety Partnership. However, contact should be made with Superintendent Adrian Watson before this report can be disseminated further.

Current Community Safety Partnership Control Strategy Priorities

- Controlled Drugs.
- Antisocial Behaviour.
- Domestic Abuse.
- Serious and Violent Crime.
- Fire Safety (Wilful Fireraising).
- The Sex Industry.

These are the areas concentrated on in this assessment. Additionally, regular scanning is undertaken in order to identify emerging trends and address predicted threats, usually of exceptional risk, that may fall outside the current control strategy.

CRIME PERFORMANCE AGAINST TARGETS

	28/09/08 - 08/10/08	% Total Crime or Incidents	Year Target	Period Target	+/- on target used	% of target used
Controlled Drugs	569	7.5% (fictional)	473	473	+96	Will the Police work out this figure??
Antisocial Behaviour	1872	24.2 (fictional)	7313	1805	+67	12.5 (fictional)
Domestic Abuse	588	8.1% (fictional)	1749	479	+109	????
Serious and Violent Crime	112	3% (fictional)	480	146	-34	????
Fire Safety	29	1.3% (fictional)	237	64	-35	????
The Sex Industry	101	2.9% (fictional)	213	61	+40	????

Example:

Antisocial Behaviour Performance Target - To reduce the number of incidents involving antisocial behaviour by 5%.

Fire Safety (Wilful Fireraising) Performance Target - To reduce the number of wilful fireraising incidents by 5%.

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CONTROL STRATEGY PRIORITIES

Controlled Drugs

Report of Changes since last Tactical Assessment

Class 'A' drugs, particularly 'Crack' Cocaine, were highlighted as a major threat to the City in the last tactical assessment. As a result of setting the intelligence requirement accordingly, there has been a marked increase in both the quantity and quality of intelligence reported to Grampian Police's Aberdeen Division Local Intelligence Office.

The Local Intelligence Office is also compiling a market profile for Class 'A' drugs which is due for completion for the next Community Safety Partnership meeting. Already, some cross border trends have been identified with Aberdeenshire and Tayside.

There is a growing trend throughout the City where drug dealers demand cash rather than other forms of payment. This has led to an increase in offences involving cash as the property stolen by drug users.

Predictions for the Next Reporting Period

The prices of Heroin, Cocaine and 'Crack' Cocaine have remained stable throughout the last month. However, the success of the recent operation targeting a Jamaican Organised Crime Group (current Level 2 Tactical Activity) may lead to a reduction in availability in the Middlefield area.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- Promote drug awareness through schools via partnership working.
- Utilise local newspapers to make communities aware of the recent spate of robberies where the main property stolen is cash.
- Work closely with NHS Grampian and the Joint Drug and Alcohol Action Team to encourage individuals to seek help in trying to address their addiction.

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Intervention

- Further intelligence required in relation to those drug dealers demanding cash payments for commodity.
- Consider use of CHIS to develop the intelligence gathering on local drug dealers and their activities.
- Conduct a market profile analysis on the current drug market.

Enforcement

- Increase the number of stop and searches utilising the MDA powers to recover evidence and arrest suspects.
- Ensure staff members fully understand their powers to stop and search for drugs.
- Raise frontline operational Officers' awareness of the powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act with a view to seizing cash.

Rehabilitation

- Strengthen links between service providers and the community by identifying the current level of support available to offenders.
- Evaluate current effectiveness and opportunities for further joint and complimentary working.

Antisocial Behaviour

Report of changes since last Tactical Assessment

The number of incidents relating to vandalism to bus windows again causes concern. Most of the occurrences are taking place on Main Road near to the Clansman Public House and the rail bridge. In the past fortnight a joint operation between Community Police Officers and First has proved successful in deterring such acts. Shifts have been made aware of the problem and are monitoring bus routes with a view to reducing this type of unacceptable behaviour.

A number of windows were smashed at Bucksburn High School. This is reported to have taken place from Friday evening into Sunday morning. The school has reported a number of vandalisms to the Police, specifically over the last five weekends, while nearby residents have also reported an increase in antisocial behaviour in the same period. A problem profile has been commissioned with regard to antisocial behaviour and linked crimes thought to be have been carried out by a group of teenagers congregating in the park located at the rear of Canal Street.

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Predictions for the Next Reporting Period

There have been no new emerging trends in relation to this priority. It is predicted that the levels of crime experienced in relation to vandalism will reduce following the action to be taken as a result of the recommendations below and the resultant tasking. This will be monitored throughout any directed activity.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- School Liaison Officers to provide talks to local pupils regarding the vandalism to the high school and the buses.
- Community Officers to establish a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme within the housing estate near to the high school. This should assist in preventing further damage to the school.
- Architectural Liaison Officer to carry out crime prevention survey on Bucksburn High School and make target hardening recommendations to design out the problem of vandalism.
- Community Safety Manager to arrange for siting of portable CCTV system in the area.

Intervention

- Produce a problem profile for Bucksburn High School and the immediate surrounding area to establish the extent of the vandalism problem.
- Conduct analysis of the repeat offenders for vandalism and establish any links with the high school eg pupils.
- Highlight the need for intelligence on the issue through shift briefings.

Enforcement

- Letters to be sent to parents of youths repeatedly found within areas of vandalism hotspots to encourage their assistance in tackling the problem.
- Deploy Officers in affected areas at relevant times to carry out high visibility patrols in order to detect offences and reassure the public.
- Maximise all forensic opportunities to detect offenders.

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Rehabilitation

- Provide intensive parenting programmes to parents with or at risk of a parenting order.
- Provide intensive support to young people involved in serious and/or persistent antisocial behaviour.

Domestic Abuse

Report of changes since last Tactical Assessment

During the period between 28/09/2008 and 08/10/2008 a total of 588 incidents were recorded, but it should be noted that there is a high likelihood that a number of these were repeat offences. These incidents most frequently occur over the weekend, with the highest number recorded on a Sunday, with the peak times being between 2100 and 2200 hours. Locations within Aberdeen with the highest numbers of reported domestic abuse incidents include Torry, Woodside, Mastrick and the City Centre.

Anecdotal information from NHS Grampian suggests, however, that Mondays see a peak in the numbers of victims of domestic abuse seeking treatment at Accident and Emergency Department. Currently, there is no information to indicate whether this pattern is replicated within the Primary Care sector.

Predictions for Next Reporting Period

While the numbers of victims seeking medical treatment has increased overall there has also been a trend for many victims to present themselves for hospital treatment on Mondays. It is difficult to quantify the extent of this trend, and whether or not it extends to those also making appointments to see their GP until a problem profile can be undertaken by NHS Grampian's Health Intelligence Department.

On a more positive note some of these increases may be attributed to better information sharing and increased confidence in the Domestic Abuse Case Workers based within Accident and Emergency Department.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- Consolidate on local and national media campaigns.
- Arrange scoping workshop for new Violence Against Women agenda/ action plan - Domestic Abuse Partnership/Sex Industry Forum and others.

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Intervention

- Further intelligence required in relation to victims from within ethnic minorities.
- Analyst support requirements to be assessed.
- Expansion of the Accident and Emergency - based Domestic Abuse Case Workers into the main Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Maternity Hospital complexes.
- Compilation of a problem profile by NHS Grampian to quantify and assess the extent of the trend for victims of domestic abuse to seek medical treatment from Hospital or their GP on Mondays.
- Working Group to be established on statistics/performance management/information sharing.

Enforcement

- Continue thorough investigation of all domestic abuse complaints.
- Target repeat offenders and victims for intelligence/enforcement activity.

Rehabilitation

- Assess current provision/need for perpetrators programmes and other support.

Serious and Violent Crime

Report of changes since last Tactical Assessment

The number of serious assaults involving glasses or bottles within licensed premises in the City Centre has increased significantly, with one premises in particular, Fictional Pub, on Union Street, having been the scene of 6 separate incidents.

Elsewhere the numbers of assaults and robberies carried out on lone individuals returning from the City Centre through the Kings Gate area has remained constant. In the majority of cases small amounts of cash and mobile phones have been stolen from the victims.

The recent introduction of the Union Street 'Night Zone' project, incorporating 'super' taxi ranks, night bus stops, alongside improved CCTV coverage and Transport Marshals, ought to result in a reduction in assaults and other disorderly behaviour.

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Predictions for the Next Reporting Period

The increase in assaults using glasses or bottles within licensed premises gives cause for concern. Working with the Licensed Trade on developing suitable glass receptacles within the premises should help reduce the problem.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- In line with the Community Safety Partnership's Communications Plan, Grampian Police Media Office to be tasked to put out a Press Release in relation to descriptions of suspects in connection with the Assault and Robbery series in Kings Gate.
- Continue and expand the annual 'Best Bar None' award scheme.
- Create information sharing scheme amongst licensed premises in the City Centre.

Intervention

- LIO to develop intelligence from SID in relation to the identified criminal group.
- Develop a joint awareness-raising programme in schools with young people and parents about community safety and health issues surrounding alcohol and the use of weapons.
- Installation of one of the portable CCTV systems in the Kings Gate area.
- Publication of a dedicated night time bus leaflet and targeted publicity.
- Establish an injury surveillance pilot within Accident and Emergency Department to deliver a more accurate picture of the extent of serious and violent crime within Aberdeen.

Enforcement

- Maintain and increase the amount of focused, high visibility Police patrols in the City Centre.
- Conduct operations targeting hotspots for alcohol-related violence by effectively using Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) legislation.

Rehabilitation

- Utilise the Arrest Referral Service to continue proactively targeting those with an alcohol dependency while in Police custody.

Fire Safety (Wilful Fireraising)

Report of changes since last Tactical Assessment

During the period between 28/09/2008 and 08/10/2008 there were 29 wilful, and culpable and reckless fires across the City. The main areas in which these have occurred are Torry, where the highest incidence was in Girdleness Road (16), and in Middlefield/Northfield, where the highest incidence was in Howes Road (4). The majority of offenders (88%) were males and the most prominent age group was between 13 and 17 years old, most of whom were shown as either students or school pupils.

Most fires are set between 1800 and 2100 hours and thereafter between 2100 and 0000 hours at weekends, which again accounts for 54% of all incidents and there is a clear pattern here, which could assist in directing activity

Across the City there have been 112 accidental fires, 90 of which were classified as accidental primary fires and the remainder (18) were accidental secondary fires. In relation to false alarms there have been 400 in total with 300 as a result of defective apparatus; 75 relating to false alarms raised with good intent; and 35 malicious false alarms.

Predictions for the Next Reporting Period

The top three wilful or culpable and reckless fireraising incidents involved grass fires, refuse fires and wheelie bin fires. While refuse is consistently more likely to be the source of fireraising accounting for approximately 30% of the total number, there is the recent trend in the increase in fires set in wheelie bins, which has increased by 40% in comparison to the same period in the previous year and is measured at 257 currently (25% of the total). This is thought to be linked with a reported practice among 'youth gangs' where setting fire to a wheelie bin is seen as an initiation to gain membership. Moreover, the area around the Gramps has also traditionally seen a rise in the amount of fireraising incidents occurring during the school holidays, and it is likely that this trend may continue unless proactive action is taken.

Overall, the peak periods for fireraising are still October and November, which are directly linked to both Halloween and Guy Fawkes Night occurring during these months, however, the festive period also sees an increase in this activity. Accordingly, a co-ordinated multi-agency campaign should be formulated to address this behaviour among pupils with a range of classroom-based inputs before the festive break.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- Continue to promote fire safety and the consequences of fireraising in schools as part of a sustained education programme with joint visits by Grampian Fire and Rescue Service personnel with City Wardens.
- Redirect City Warden patrols to hotspot areas at peak times.
- Implement refuse amnesties in key areas in the lead up to Bonfire Night.
- Educate residents in hotspot areas regarding waste collection times and bulky item uplift services.
- Explore opportunities for individual wheelie bins to be replaced by communal/street bins.

Intervention

- Identify key offenders through continuing work with the Grampian Police Youth Justice Management Unit.
- Introduction of Street Sport to priority areas at key times.

Enforcement

- During the festive school holidays conduct stop and search operations for those persons who may be in possession of combustible material, such as fireworks, or items capable of igniting fires.

Rehabilitation

- Youth Justice Management Unit, Children's Reporter, COPFS, Grampian Police. SACRO, ACC and GFRS to all work together to reintroduce an appropriate restorative justice programme for offenders.

The Sex Industry

Report of changes since last Tactical Assessment

During the period between 28/09/2008 and 08/10/2008 a total of 101 prostitution-related offences were recorded. Following the recent legislation brought in by the Scottish Government the 'Management Zone' in the Harbour area has been discarded. This has resulted in many of those who formerly worked in the area now gravitating towards the City Centre, particularly around Market Street and the Adelphi, to the annoyance of traders, or alternatively engaging in off-street prostitution.

In fact, the off-street prostitution situation is now becoming more widely understood and it appears from profiling and intelligence gathering that the issue is far more widespread in relation to the numbers of people involved than previously thought.

The Government's same legislation has also extended prosecutory powers to include those who use the services of prostitutes, ie, 'kerb crawlers', and there have been increasing reports of them frequenting the streets surrounding Golden Square, an area traditionally associated with male prostitution.

Predictions for the Next Reporting Period

Currently the Sex Industry in Aberdeen continues to be a feature that negatively impacts on community safety. Most on-street prostitution occurs at night between 2200 and 0300 hours most days of the week and there has been a trend for many of the prostitutes, both male and female, to gravitate towards the City Centre, especially the areas around Market Street, Adelphi Lane and Golden Square. This increasing trend has led to complaints from residents and retailers in these areas.

There continues to be an issue with off-street prostitution and a number of brothels are known to be in operation in the City. Many of these prostitutes are from other countries including Brazil, unspecified African nations, Albania, Lithuania and Latvia. There is nothing which currently suggests that the presence of these women in the city is linked to sex trafficking, however, this is an issue worth monitoring. Trends indicate that off-street prostitution is likely to increase in the City as a result of the 'kerb crawling' legislation.

Recommendations:

Prevention

- Liaise with the Local Authority to block access to Adelphi Lane during the evenings and weekends and improve street lighting in the surrounding area.
- Consider the installation of a portable CCTV system in the streets surrounding Golden Square.

Intervention

- Conduct analysis of individuals reported for 'kerb crawling' offences to establish if there are any similarities between them.
- Develop system for sex trafficking surveillance and monitoring to identify emerging issues in this area.

Enforcement

- Carry out high-profile directed Police patrols of Adelphi Lane, The Green, Golden Square and their respective surrounding areas to detect offences and reassure residents and traders.
- Improve information sharing between agencies to gather improved intelligence on off street prostitution and target known brothels for enforcement.

Rehabilitation

- Improve support services for women who are seeking to leave prostitution by creating a training programme offering new skills.
- Seek ways to reduce the waiting times for prostitutes seeking to enter drug treatment programmes.

EMERGING ISSUES

Crime series - Hate Crime

A series of racial incidents have been reported by the staff from the convenience store located within the Garthdee Arcade. Preliminary analysis has identified that the five reported cases may be linked. The description given by the victims also fits with a number of similar incidents reported in the area of an Asian supermarket in Kincorth during August 2008.

ROAD SAFETY - STOLEN MOTOR CYCLES

During the past month there have been a number of reports of stolen motor cycles being driven at speed through the pedestrian lanes in the Sheddocksley area, causing danger for pedestrians and riders alike. The bikes are invariably found burnt out nearby some hours later but several witnesses' descriptions of the rider have shown similarities.

RECOMMENDATIONS - EMERGING ISSUES

Current/ Nominated Problem Profiles	Description	Owner	Recommendations
Crime Series - Hate Crime	Racial incidents at Garthdee Arcade.		Status to be determined at meeting.
Road Safety	Motor cycles being driven through pedestrian lanes in the Sheddocksley area.		Status to be determined at meeting.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 November 2008 at 1000 hours Committee Room 4, Town House.

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PROGRESS OF ACTIONS

Description	Owner	Action	Results and Progress	Status
Install improved street lighting in the area of Langstane Place regarding Antisocial Behaviour.	Neil Carnegie, CS Manager, Central	To be updated at meeting.	Funding has been identified and a survey of the existing street lights has been carried out. The work now requires to be programmed.	Ongoing
Arrange refuse amnesty in Torry following series of wilful fireraisings in communal areas.	Alan Fleming, GFRS	To be updated at meeting		Ongoing
Carry out directed patrols in area of Rousay Drive regarding series of Assault and Robberies.	Supt Watson, Grampian Police	To be updated at meeting.		Ongoing