



# Doncaster Council

## Report

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Date: 15.02.24

To: the Chair and Members of the  
Crime and Disorder Committee (Community and Environment Scrutiny Panel)

Report Title: CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE REPORT

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision?
Joe Blackham	All	No

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an activity update in respect of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) with particular focus on reoffending and substance misuse (specifically drugs).
2. Doncaster has seen an overall decrease in reported Crime during the period considered (Jan – Dec 2023) of 2.5%, which is similar to that seen across the Force as a whole at -1.7%. Reported crime decreased across all of the considered period, with the exception of January and February. A shift in the proportion of reported crime can be seen in March 2023 onwards compared to the rest of the calendar year.
3. Doncaster equates for 26.9% of SYP's total recorded crime, it is only exceeded by offending within Sheffield (39.0% of SYP overall crime). In the last year, Doncaster has seen a decrease in almost all crime types, with the exception of Shoplifting +53%, Business Robberies +102%, Theft from the Person +11%, Rapes +8% and Possession of Drugs +8%. Vehicle Offences -14%, VAP Offences -4%, Arson and Criminal Damage -13%, Burglaries -7% and Public Order -11% all saw significant reductions in volumes.
4. Doncaster has largely seen a drop in neighbourhood offences, with residential burglaries seeing a 9% drop and vehicle crime seeing a 14% drop in offences. Business robberies however has seen an increase of 102%, however this is much lower in volumes in comparison. This increase is also attributable to the same issues regarding the rise in shoplifting and the cost-of-living crisis.

5. The same period (Jan – Dec 2023) saw an increase in Force-wide Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents. Doncaster increased by 14.1%, larger than the Force's 2.6% increase. Doncaster Council reports (up to November) also indicate a slight increase in reporting of 5%, where analysis has shown they tend to closely align with one another.
6. The highest increase 32.6% was noted in December 2023 compared to December 2022, the ASB categories that saw the highest increases were Street Drinking (+111%) and Off Road Bike/Quad (+73%). Prostitution Related offences (-25%), Litter / Drugs Trappings (-12%), Rowdy/Inconsiderate Behaviour (-8%), Fireworks (-8%) and Noise (-6%) saw a decrease in volumes.
7. Off Road Bike/has seen a significant rise across the Borough (only 2 wards saw a drop). It is expected that rural areas and large estates are more affected than the City Centre, as shown by the top 3 wards (Norton & Askern, Adwick Le Street/Carcroft and Balby South). Off Road Bike/Quads made up nearly 30% of all ASB incidents (up from 20%), where a separate tasking group has been set up to try and tackle the issue more effectively.

## **EXEMPT REPORT**

8. This is not an exempt report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

9. The Crime and Disorder Committee Members are asked to comment on and note the information contained within the report and presentation, which provides an update on the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership (SSDP) theme group activity and other requested subject matters as detailed above.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

10. The level of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents will impact upon residents' feeling of safety and their quality of life. This report provides information on these areas, with particular focus on substance misuse and measures in place to tackle re-offending.

## **BACKGROUND**

11. The Community and Environment Crime and Disorder committee receive regular performance updates relating to crime and disorder. It is a statutory requirement for partners to tackle crime and disorder and for the Community and Environment (Crime and Disorder) committee to hold the partnership to account. The Community Safety Strategy priorities and associated action updates are provided below:

## **City Centre Specific Work**

12. Over the Christmas period and school holidays, there has been an increase in youth related ASB in the Frenchgate and Interchange. These are a different cohort of young people to the issues experienced in 2022. The ASB Partnership has been re-invigorated in response with a range of prevention, intervention, engagement and enforcement activity undertaken, including:
  - weekends of action
  - business and community engagement
  - diversion activities
  - case management of young people
  - collaboration with Head Teachers and alternative provision providers for 1-2-1 support and link to Supporting Families programme.
13. Grip established with increased patrols from Police, Frenchgate Security and City Centre Engagement Officers. Longer term work being undertaken includes the 'Right of Way', sectioning off areas of the Frenchgate Centre after retail hours and improved joint working between the Frenchgate Centre and Interchange

## **Reducing Anti-social Behaviour Theme**

14. Key updates and work from the Theme Group includes:
  - Launch of 'See Me For Me' film aimed at increasing awareness and skills of professionals working with individuals involved in sex work.
  - Successful integration with the Amber Project and new Aspire Outreach Team focusing on entrenched substance misusers, with 6 individuals successfully maintaining scripts for the first time.
  - Successful delivery of vehicle related 'days of action' targeting untaxed and abandoned vehicles, illegal repairs on the highway, speeding and illegal parking (a priority for local residents).
  - Successful reduction in reports in woodlands (Skylarks estate) managed through a Problem Orientated Policing Plan and Place Based Action Plan.
  - Successful working in Highfields linked to Op Civitas GRIP Patrols. Joint visibility, engagement and enforcement across the Stronger Communities Area Team, SYP and Enforcement colleagues, resulting in positive engagement with residents and an increase in submitted intelligence.
  - Implementation of street drinking plans in Conisbrough and Mexborough has had a positive impact in reducing anti-social behaviour.
  - Reduction in ASB and criminal damage on the CALM estate, Armthorpe which has seen the community tension reports made to agencies reduce. One property has also been closed using ASB Tools and Powers.
  - Four successful days of action during quarter 3 which saw increased visibility and engagement, joint operations and enforcement from officers within the Stronger Communities Team, SYP, St Leger Homes and the Enforcement Team.
  - Off Road bike related ASB continues to be a key driver for ASB rates - a subgroup has been formed and is developing a '4P' Plan. Work with EPIC is progressing to create an educational video for secondary school aged young people.

- The Safer Neighbourhood Service Hub has continued to deal with complex cases but has increased focus on ASB and driving improvements in the use of appropriate Civil Orders to manage repeat offenders.

### **Tackling domestic and sexual abuse Theme**

15. Doncaster has seen an overall decrease in reported Domestic Crime during the period considered (Jan – Dec 2023) of -7.4%, which is similar to that seen across the Force as a whole at -4.4%.
16. In the last year, Doncaster has seen a decrease in almost all domestic crime types. Violence Against the Person (VAP) saw a drop of 6.5% or 342 offences, driven by a 13% drop in domestic violence without injury offences.
17. All Sexual offences saw almost no change from the previous year, a similar change seen across the Force. Domestic sexual offences saw a drop of 15%, with Doncaster the only district to see a drop in domestic sexual offences.
18. Next steps for the Theme Group:
  - Launch the domestic abuse film.
  - Launch the sexual abuse delivery plan.
  - Implement training for professionals on supporting sex workers in a trauma informed way – incorporating a film produced with Doncaster sex workers.
  - Implement recommendations from the independent review of the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference.
  - Encourage more agencies to achieve Domestic Abuse Charter status.
  - Develop an intersectionality action plan for domestic and sexual abuse.
  - Produce the 2024-2025 domestic and sexual abuse action plans.

### **Tackling serious and organised crime Theme**

19. This work involves a highly sensitive area of Policing and the Partnership strategy centres around the key themes of:
  - PURSUE - prosecuting & disrupting people engaged in serious & organised crime
  - PREVENT - preventing people from engaging in this activity
  - PROTECT - increasing protection against serious and organised crime
  - PREPARE - reducing the impact of this criminality where it takes place
20. Doncaster currently has 11 mapped Organised Crime Groups (consisting of 170 nominals), a reduction of 3 from previous reporting period. There is evidence of new groups from the Western Balkans linked to Cannabis cultivations.
21. There is a highly successful tactical bronze meeting which is well attended by Partners. At this meeting, information is shared and tactical initiatives are developed. Last year (between July 22 & July 23), 78 Partnership interventions were recorded and 219 warrants & arrests were made linked directly to OCG activity. Whilst challenges still remain, the reduction in the number of groups is a positive outcome with reduced threat, harm and risk.

## **Reducing violence and violent crime Theme**

22. Key updates and work from the Theme Group includes:

- Provisional analysis of police data shows there has been a 16% reduction in the volume of most serious violence incidents per 1000 population in 2023 compared to 2022.
- Doncaster's Evening and Night Time Economy (NTE) Group continues to drive work around safety within City Centre and outlying establishments. Group has membership from SYP; DMBC Enforcement, Licensing, Business Regeneration and Town Centre Planning along with licensees and business owners.
- Successful partnership working to manage increased activity such as the St Leger Festival and the Christmas / New Year period. Including additional SYP patrols, the Safe Haven Bus and City Centre Taxi Marshals to increase visibility, engagement and prevent violent crime.
- Licensed Premises and Hospitality Venues training & awareness event was delivered in May 23 & further events planned for SIA security staff and other businesses such as taxi firms and takeaways.
- ID Scanners have been located in 5 targeted licensed premises throughout the city centre and feedback from these premises has been positive and there has been a reducing in violence within these venues.
- Work with targeted schools to support them to becoming more trauma informed by providing funding for training and resources had taken place.
- A VAWG delivery plan has been developed after a mapping exercise to identify those aspects of VAWG not already being tackled within SSDP strategies. This will aid in prioritising work moving forward.
- Funding continues for Victim Support to provide additional resources to victims of non- Domestic Abuse stalking in Doncaster.
- Round 5 of Safer streets awarded significant funding to improve our parks and open spaces and CCTV.
- Continued support for the EPIC Hub within the City Centre to provide diversionary and educational activities for young people ensuring delivery from Sept 23- March 24

## **Reducing substance and alcohol misuse Theme**

23. Key updates and work from the Theme Group includes:

- 'Rethink your Drink' Campaign continues to be delivered for the next 2 years by RDASH communications team.
- Additional staff recruited in EPIC and specialist Young People treatment worker with further staff to be recruited in 2024 25.
- Capacity of criminal justice intervention services increased and sustained (funding from National Drug Strategy). Services targeting those where substance misuse is associated with offending.
- Established alcohol early interventions targeting higher risk drinkers in liaison with primary care - aims to tackle drinking problems early before people become physically dependent.
- Outreach team in Aspire established and recruited to (targeting sex workers, homeless, domestic abuse and GP engagement).

24. Intervention and Enforcement Work includes:

- Drugs warrants, drug dog operations and days of action.
- Complex lives (1-2-1 case support, outreach, drop-in every Friday morning, training for practitioners on harms associated with alcohol & drugs, early intervention campaigns and courses available through Aspire).
- Public Health in collaboration with the Violence Reduction Unit delivered Night Time Economy Safe Haven Bus on key nights during 2023 and for 2024.
- Combatting Drugs Partnership established, chaired by the Director of Public Health, taking long term view on reducing the impact of all aspects of drugs and substance misuse to reduce crime, improve quality of life and better coordinate the actions of enforcement and care and support services.

### **Substance Misuse – Drugs Focus**

25. The model for the Doncaster Treatment and Recovery System has been completely revised. Key elements of delivery to improve capacity, quality and ease of access into treatment are:

- Rapid access and lowering thresholds (with rapid access clinics and plans to expand this approach across the service).
- Outreach development (targeting sex workers, homeless, domestic abuse and GP engagement).
- Increasing numbers in treatment.
- Increased engagement with women, BAME and LGBT underserved groups.
- Localities and partnership working to improve geographical access points.
- Expansion of availability of new opiate prescribing options.

26. Implementing findings of local Health Determinants Research Collaboration research on representations, via:

- support for wider determinants of health
- improved linkage with and access to mental health support
- follow up and fast track re-entry
- improved post discharge support

### **Reducing crime and re-offending Theme**

27. Key updates and work from the Theme Group includes:

- Group includes additional partners (including Localities) who can improve the offer to offenders who cause the greatest harm to communities.
- A referral pathway established to support identified cohorts and identify gaps.
- Each of the neighbourhood policing teams tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime through problem solving plans and identify priority patrol areas to manage crime hotspots.
- Doncaster's Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team is recognised as standout team within South Yorkshire Police, and we continue to use specialist force resources such as the Roads Policing Team to reduce acquisitive crime in specific locations.
- Doncaster works to the key milestones of the national IOM strategy. This approach calls for the identification of 3 distinct cohorts of offenders in the community.

- Work in progress with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) to drive additional activity around transitional arrangements and first-time entrants into the criminal justice system.
- Doncaster has dedicated PC working within youth offending service to share information and intervene at the appropriate level.
- A dedicated Youth Offending Team worker is also in place from the probation service to further support with transitions between the organisations.

## **Re-offending in Doncaster**

28. We currently have 209 offenders being monitored through the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) process. Bi-monthly analysis of reoffending volumes indicates that reoffending is being reduced by the IOM strategy for the majority of cases, however some individuals still tend to reoffend, especially those still in the flex cohort, where around a fifth are committing offences, mainly shoplifts. This can be strongly linked to the rise in shoplifting nationally and the cost-of-living crisis. All individuals who were being monitored through IOM but are no longer being managed have seen a reduction in their reoffending rates
29. The current action plan for the Crime and Reoffending Theme group highlights the following key areas of activity to support reductions in re-offending:
- Improving our information sharing arrangements across the partnerships by reviewing the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) information sharing agreements.
  - Increasing the continuity of care processes across the city with the prison estates. Activity includes developing a new continuity of care gatekeeping form, increasing engagement with prison substance misuse teams.
  - Raising housing issues with strategic partners via the homeless prevention form with St Leger Homes.
  - The delivery of drug testing by the Probation Service to improve monitoring of drug taking across the offending population.
  - Improving the volumes of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements sentenced in the Courts.

## **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**








30. There are no specific options to consider, the report is for update and discussion.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**


31. The report is for update and discussion.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

32.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 <b>Tackling Climate Change</b>				✓
 <b>Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work</b>				✓
 <b>Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs</b>				✓
 <b>Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all</b>	✓			
<p>It is important that residents feel safe within Communities and key areas such as the City Centre. Residents who feel part of vibrant communities are more likely to enjoy spending living and spending time in these areas. Delivery of the SSDP Community Safety priorities contributes to the improved safeguarding of all residents, helping to build happier and healthier lives.</p>				
 <b>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</b>	✓			
<p>It is important that residents feel safe within Communities and key areas such as the City Centre. Residents who feel part of vibrant communities are more likely to enjoy spending living and spending time in these areas. Delivery of the SSDP Community Safety priorities contributes to the improved safeguarding of all residents, helping to build happier and healthier lives. The services provided as outlined within the Community Safety Strategy are regularly reviewed to ensure they are efficient and effective. The Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership provides strong and effective leadership to the Partnership agenda through effective governance to create safer and stronger communities.</p>				
 <b>Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough</b>	✓			
<p>It is important that families feel safe across the Borough – by continuing to address crime and anti-social behaviour, the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership helps to support and deliver places that are safe and attractive to families.</p>				
 <b>Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future</b>				✓



 <b>Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities</b>				✓
<b>Fair &amp; Inclusive</b>	✓			
<p>There is a wide range of information concerning the victims and perpetrators of crimes in Doncaster Specific groups and characteristics are more prevalent in certain crime types, examples include more women being victims of domestic abuse than men and significantly more men are accused of a crime than women.</p> <p>This information is mainly held on age, gender and ethnicity and although some of this information is sensitive in nature, the detail can be used to support decisions and the impact they may have on particular groups.</p> <p>A Due Regard Statement was produced to support the Community Safety Strategy 2022-25, which details further information in respect of criminality and its impact upon protected characteristics.</p>				

**Legal Implications**

33. No Legal Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

**Financial Implications**

34. No Financial Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

**Human Resources Implications**

35. No Human Resources Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

**Technology Implications**

36. No Technology Implications have been sought for this report. Further specific advice can be provided in relation to any issues raised by the Committee.

**RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

37. Robust performance management arrangements ensure that priorities are achieved, and good quality services are delivered to the residents of Doncaster.

## CONSULTATION

38. Consultation was not required for this report – this is an annual update for Panel members.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Presentation from Safer Communities and South Yorkshire Police.
- Glossary of acronyms and abbreviations (attached to this report).

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Meaning
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BAME	Black, Asian and minority ethnic
CDC	City of Doncaster Council
DA	Domestic Abuse
DRASACS	Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service
EPIC	Encouraging Potential and Inspiring Change
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NTE	Night Time Economy
OCG	Organised Crime Group
RDASH	Rotherham, Doncaster and Sheffield Hospitals
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SIA	Security Industry Authority
SSDP	Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership
SYP	South Yorkshire Police
VAP	Violence Against the Person
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
YOS	Youth Offending Service

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