

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel

26 January 2016

Report title	Update on Wolverhampton's Local Police and Crime Plan 2015/16 – April 2015 to December 2015
Originating service	West Midlands Police Wolverhampton Local Policing Unit
Accountable employee(s)	Chief Inspector Tracey Packham

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Consider the West Midlands Police update attached relating to the Wolverhampton's Local Police and Crime Plan for the first three quarters of the performance year from April – December 2015.

Update on Wolverhampton's Local Police and Crime Plan 2015/16 – April 2015 to December 2015

1.0 Background

1.1 The Wolverhampton Police and Crime Plan focuses on the following three main objectives:

- Reduce Crime
- Reduce harm and vulnerability
- Understanding and responding to community concerns

2.0 Reduce crime

2.1 We will strive to have our lowest ever crime levels, reducing total recorded crime. We will reduce burglaries, robberies and violence with injury in a public place. We will reduce business crime and strengthen our relationships with business. With partners we will tackle the locations and people that contribute the highest crime levels and achieve continued low rates of reoffending.

3.0 Reduce harm and vulnerability

3.1 Whilst all crime and anti-social behaviour causes harm, there are those 'hidden crimes' such as domestic abuse, sexual assault and exploitation and hate crime, which cause significant harm to individuals. With this in mind, we will work with partners to encourage the reporting of crimes from those vulnerable victims.

4.0 Understanding and responding to community concerns

4.1 Listening to what people of Wolverhampton want and need is important to us but equally important is that we respond and deliver a service that the community expects and deserves. We will improve confidence in policing by improving satisfaction with our service both in dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour and reduce the number of police conduct complaints.

4.2 This report provides an update on Wolverhampton's Local Police and Crime Plan for the first three quarters of the performance year from April – December 2015.

5.0 Reducing Crime

5.1 The diagram at 1.1 highlights the progress made to reduce crime levels year to date.

5.1.1 Total recorded crime has reduced from 12,820 offences in 2014/15 to 12,782 offences in 2015/16 which equates to 38 fewer victims.

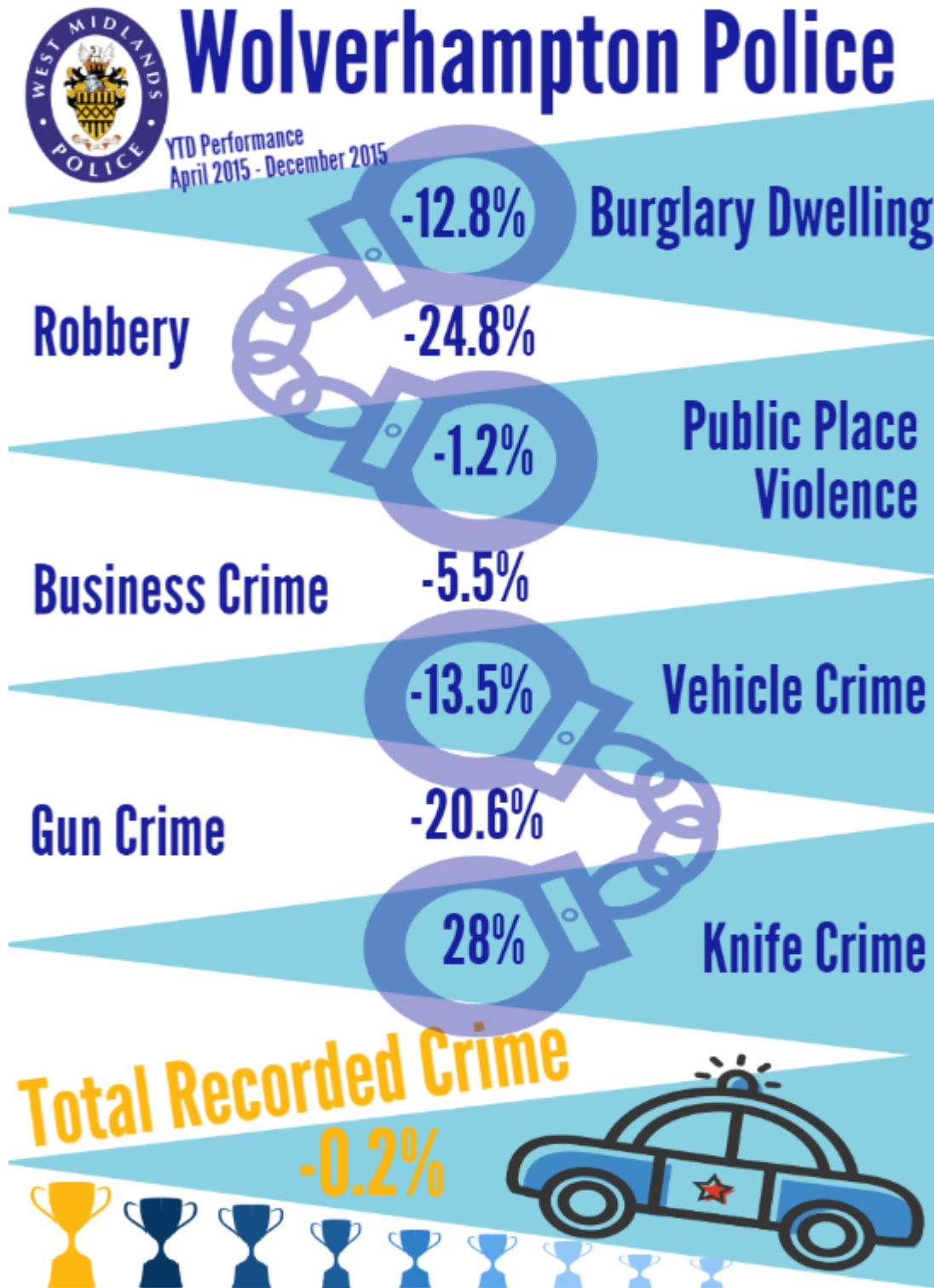
5.1.2 Burglary Dwellings has reduced from 787 offences in 2014/15 to 686 offences in 2015/16 which equates to 101 fewer victims.

5.1.3 Robbery offences has reduced from 334 offences in 2014/15 to 251 offences in 2015/16 which equates to 83 fewer victims

5.1.4 Public place violence with injury offences have reduced from 871 offences in 2014/15 to 861 offences in 2015/16 which equates to 10 fewer victims

5.1.5 Business crime offences have reduced from 3,063 offences in 2014/15 to 2,893 offences in 2015/16 which equates to 170 fewer victims.

Figure 1.1



5.2 The number of knife crime offences has seen an increase from 101 offences in 2014/15 to 122 offences in 2015/16 equating to an additional 21 offences year to date, whilst gun related offending has reduced from 28 offences in 2014/15 to 22 offences in 2015/16.

6.0 Priority Area Update

6.1 Crime and ASB levels have shown a continual decline across Priority Areas. Current year to date performance¹ is as follows:

Figure 1.2

Priority Area	Total Recorded Crime	Anti-social Behaviour
All Saints and Blakenhall	-20.6% (121 fewer offences)	-48.6% (109 fewer incidents)
Heath Town and Park Village	+15.5% (52 more offences)	-44.2% (104 fewer incidents)
Low Hill and Scotlands	-5.4% (32 fewer offences)	-6.6% (16 fewer incidents)
Pennfields	-15.1% (39 fewer offences)	-2.4% (3 fewer incidents)
Whitmore Reans	-1.0% (4 fewer offences)	-29.8% (77 fewer incidents)
City Centre	-9.6% (163 fewer offences)	-21.1% (103 fewer incidents)

6.2 Summary of recent activity

6.2.1 Priority Areas continue to focus as a key area of business for partners and is governed through the city level partnership tasking meeting. Crime and ASB have shown a continual decline across priority areas with the exception of Heath Town and Park Village

¹ As at 12/01/16 (Performance Portal)

which has seen a slight increase in crime levels.

7.0 Reduce Harm and Vulnerability

- 7.1 We continue to see an increase in reporting by Domestic Abuse victims from 4,034 offences in 2014/15 to 4,306 offences in 2015/16. Whilst the number of Domestic Abuse offences is high, the increase in reporting is seen as a positive indicator that more victims are willing to come forward and report this type of crime. The numbers also include Domestic Abuse 'non-crimes' where police officers attend reports of domestic incidents where no recordable crimes have taken place but further work is required, often with support from partners, to ensure the victim is adequately safeguarded.
- 7.2 There has also been a rise in the number of serious sexual reports from 264 offences in 2014/15 to 349 offences in 2015/16 representing increased confidence of victims to report this type of offence. To date, 30 per cent of these types of crime result in a criminal justice outcome.
- 7.3 There continues to be a small number of Forced Marriage crimes reported with just 2 offences recorded this year to date. The number of so called Honour Based Violence crimes, whilst relatively small, has seen an increase from 7 offences in 2014/15 to 20 offences in 2015/16. Similarly to last year, there have been no reports of Female Genital Mutilation.
- 7.4 Hate crime offences have remained consistent with 240 offences reported in 2014/15 compared to 238 offences reported for the same period in 2015/16.
- 7.5 We continue to build on our knowledge gained under Sentinel to improve the service we provide with partners to victims in Wolverhampton who feel vulnerable, especially due to:
- a lack of confidence to engage with statutory agencies, meaning they remain hidden and/or silent;
 - their cultural beliefs and behaviours; or
 - fear for their safety.
- 7.6 Our specific focus will be around incidents of child abuse, child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and modern day slavery areas of business that have already merged into '**business as usual**' and, supported by the WM Crime Commissioner who remains committed to increasing reporting of hidden crime during this financial year².

² WMP PCC Deliverables 2015-16

8.0 Understanding and responding to community concerns

- 8.1 Through our Neighbourhood Teams we continue to engage with communities via PACT meetings at a local level to understand and listen to their concerns. Priorities are identified for each neighbourhood and include local issues of concern such as speeding and inconsiderate driving, prostitution, drugs as well as anti-social behaviour. We continue to work with communities to address such concerns undertaking community speedwatch, working with schools to address inconsiderate parking and focussing patrols in the areas of most concern.
- 8.2 Following the success with partners in securing a Black Country High Court injunction to prevent car cruising across the region, we continue to undertake enforcement activity to ensure the injunction is effective and have recently seen successful prosecutions by Wolverhampton Legal Services against individuals who have breached the injunction.
- 8.3 We continue to hold ourselves accountable to the community around our use of stop and search and attend bi-monthly stop and search scrutiny panels. We regularly provide detailed information about the number of searches broken down by ethnicity and geography to enable the community scrutiny panel to ask relevant questions on our performance in this area. These are open to the public to attend and the minutes and dates for such meetings are publicised on the website of the Office for Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 8.4 We have worked closely with Wolverhampton Homes and Wolverhampton City Council utilising powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 to secure two Public Space Protection Orders intended to deal with a specific nuisance or problem in a particular area that negatively affects a community's daily life. They impose conditions on the use of the area that apply to everyone and have been utilised in two areas of the city that have suffered long term anti-social behaviour problems which has blighted the lives of local residents. We are currently monitoring the impact of this new legislative power to determine its effectiveness before considering further use of it on other areas.

Chief inspector Tracey Packham

Wolverhampton Local Policing Unit