

Community Safety and Community Services Scrutiny Committee
14 March 2013

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Purpose of Report

1. To review the work that DUE is involved in that contributes towards fulfilling the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Background

2. The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act places an obligation on local authorities and the police to co-operate in the development and implementation of a strategy for tackling crime and disorder. The causes of crime and disorder are complex and varied and the Act reflects the view that achieving a reduction in crime and disorder is not solely a matter for the police. Accordingly, Section 17 of the Act imposes a duty on a number of bodies including Local Authorities and the police to:

‘Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed upon it... Exercise its functions with due regard to...the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area’.
3. Section 17 is an ‘enabling device’ for the promotion of effective crime reduction in the day to day activities of the police and the various services of the local authority.
4. As the Directorate has a range of responsibilities, the report is structured so that each division within the Directorate has contributed to the report highlighting its responsibilities and contributions. These are attached to the report as appendices as listed below.

Appendix 1 – Environmental Management

Appendix 2 – Culture and Leisure

Appendix 3 – Economic Regeneration

Appendix 4 – Planning and Environmental Health.

Finance

5. There is no additional budgetary provision to deliver Section 17 requirements.

Law

6. To fulfil the obligations of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Equality Impact

7. The report in itself is not subject to equality impact. The contents of the appendices covers services intended to protect and/or help the more vulnerable in society and equality impact would need to be assessed for each service.

Recommendation

8. Members are asked to note the work undertaken by DUE in response to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Millar'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial 'J' and a cursive 'Millar'.

J MILLAR
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

Environmental Management

The Environmental Management Division of DUE has a workforce of 650+ employees and is based at the Lister Road Depot. The Division comprises two service areas, Street and Green Care and Waste Care.

Environmental Management provides a wide range of key front line services that have a direct impact upon all those who live in, work in and visit the Borough. Many of these help to fulfil the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, in particular in addressing problems which impact on communities' feelings of safety such as graffiti, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles and in undertaking duties that can actually contribute to reducing crime and disorder, such as effective street lighting and waste enforcement.

Street and Green Care

One of the key priorities within Street and Green Care is to deliver a high quality local environment which deters anti-social behaviour and environmental crime.

The Street Cleansing team, short listed as 'best in category' in the 2012 annual national APSE awards, sweep 390k of roads and empty 2,500+ litter and dog bins each week. In addition to their scheduled programme of work, they respond to requests for assistance in reducing crime and disorder through the removal of fly tips and waste deposits that lower the environmental standards of an area, and may prove an arson risk. The team's target is to remove all reported incidents of fly-tipping within 1 day of reporting; they deal with in excess of 700 fly tipping incidents each year. Some of the waste removed will include drugs related debris; in 2011/12 the team dealt with 76 such incidents which ranged from the removal of one to numerous discarded syringes.

The team also ensures the rapid clean up of graffiti, thus removing signals that anti-social behaviour is acceptable. They deal with over 1,000 requests for graffiti removal each year, with a target to remove incidents of racist and highly offensive graffiti within 90 minutes of reporting, including out of hours. Street Cleansing also have a successful partnership arrangement in place with BT Open Reach & Virgin Telewest to apply paint and anti-graffiti coatings to utility boxes across the Borough.

In addition, Street Cleansing work to actively develop community involvement in environmental improvement activities and to engender pride and ownership of the local area. The team support over 40 community groups and organisations to carry out litter picks through the loan of equipment and the collection and disposal of the waste collected.

The Green Care team have responsibility for the maintenance of the Borough's parks, open spaces and green spaces. Effective maintenance includes grass cutting, pruning and weed removal, minimising overgrowth to prevent public areas from becoming hotspots for anti-social behaviour, such as the the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The team also oversees the repair of children's play equipment in the event of vandalism.

A key objective of the Parking Management team is to increase the number of Council-operated parking facilities that meet the Park Mark standard. Park Mark is the award given by the police to car parks that have achieved the standards of the Safer Parking

Scheme. 17 Council car parks have achieved this accreditation so far. Parking Management are also responsible for the civil enforcement of on-street parking.

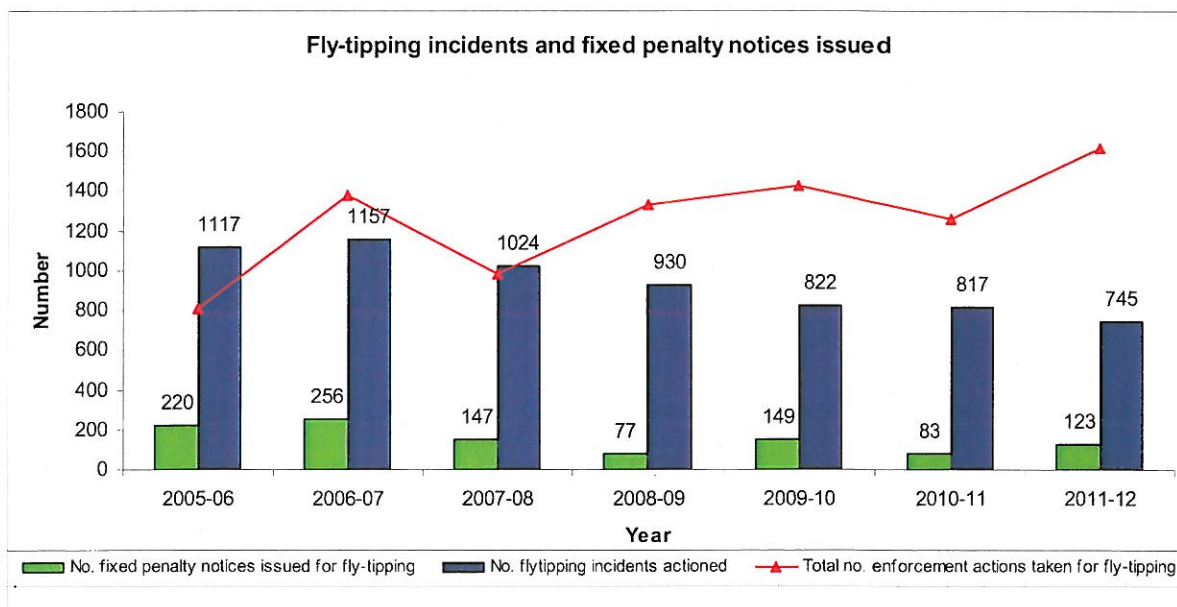
The role of the Street Lighting team is to maintain effective street lighting, looking after the 32,000 street lights in the Borough. Street lighting has a major contribution to make in preventing night-time crime, particularly anti-social behaviour, property crime, violent crime and vehicle related crime. A number of lighting and crime evaluations have been carried out in major towns and cities in England, Scotland and Wales, including Dudley. The Dudley project provided clear and reliable evidence that targeted, improved street lighting can reduce all types of crime and disorder.

The Highway Maintenance team work with the emergency services to ensure safety in events and demonstrations that take place across the Borough. Dudley's Safety Advisory Group includes representation from Highway Maintenance, and is chaired by the Assistant Director of Environmental Management. Highways officers ensure that the necessary road closures and crowd control mechanisms are place to ensure public safety and to minimise public order problems where required.

Waste Care

One of the key priorities within Waste Care is to ensure that an effective waste enforcement policy is in operation across the Borough.

The Waste Enforcement team carry out enforcement actions to tackle environmental crime, including fly-tipping. The chart below highlights how sustained effective enforcement activity has successfully reduced the number of incidents of fly-tipping experienced in the Borough.



Waste Enforcement have statutory powers to issue fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping, litter and dog fouling offences, pursuing matters through to prosecution where required. Enforcement officers will also undertake street patrols in environmental hotspot areas where needed.

The team work with the police on vehicle related crime, participating in joint prevention and enforcement operations regarding un-roadworthy vehicles, for example, and effectively remove the nuisance of untaxed and abandoned vehicles. Enforcement officers also work with the police and HM Customs and Excise to tackle the ongoing problem of metal theft. Recent operations include touring scrap yards in the Dudley area as part of the national 'Operation Steel', and checking carriers carrying scrap metal for their waste carriers licences and waste transfer notes.

Another key role of the Waste Enforcement team is education and awareness raising of environmental crime. They support local residents in undertaking community clean ups and take part in school assemblies to educate pupils about litter issues. They also work with local PCSOs in the development of initiatives such as junior Neighbourhood Watch groups. In response to complaints of anti-social behaviour in the Kates Hill area of Dudley recently for example, local PCSOs arranged for the offending young people to undertake a street clean which was supported by Enforcement Officers.

APPENDIX 2

Culture and Leisure Services

In terms of Culture and Leisure Services contributing to the Council's efforts to prevent Crime and Anti-social Behaviour there are a number of 'indirect' contributions that the service can claim to make.

Evidence of the impact that Sport and the Arts make to the Community Safety agenda have been identified in research undertaken by both Sport England and the Arts Council. Specifically these are as of impact have been identified as follows:-

1. Positive Activities:- Sport and Arts participation has been found to have a beneficial impact over both the short and long-term. Research has found a link between participation in Sports and Arts by people in their youth reducing the likelihood that they became socially excluded as adults. Furthermore research into Volunteering by young people identified that sports volunteering plays an important role in developing young people as active citizens who engage positively in their community. Sport has been identified as the most popular volunteering activity for young people and was also identified as particularly effective at engaging hard to reach groups, including disaffected young men.
2. Supporting Young People and Preventing Anti-social Behaviour:- Evidence from the national programme 'Positive Futures' showed that many young people were helped across a range of social issues, which included the propensity to commit anti-social behaviour through their involvement in sport and leisure activities.
3. Cohesion and Fear of Crime:- the Institute of Community Cohesion states that sport and leisure has a key part to play in developing social capital and facilitating cross cultural understanding. The refurbishment of facilities and spaces alongside the development of activity programmes has revitalised areas, changed patterns of use and perceptions of safety, contributing to the regeneration of an area.

In practical terms the Culture and Leisure Division has various examples of how the Council's support of Sport, Arts and Leisure activities delivers the impacts identified above.

In terms of 'Positive Activities' the Sport and Physical Activity Section

1. Leisure Centre Activities and Clubs
2. Sports Development Programmes and Sports Club support
3. Park Ranger Activities

1. All of the Council's Leisure Centres offer a wide range of clubs, classes and sessions for children and young people and the recently introduced Junior Membership Scheme has increased the offer and accessibility of facilities still further. Each centre has Learn to Swim, Swimming Clubs and Sports specific coaching programmes whilst Crystal Leisure Centre has a specific programme of activities on Friday and Saturday nights in an attempt to address the issue of young people not having anything available to do on these specific nights.
2. The Sports Development Service provides a general programme of activities run directly in partnership with local sports clubs. Activezone and Inclusive Active zone, Sportslink and the extensive summer Holiday Programme provide a wide range of opportunities for children and young people to engage in purposeful, positive activities and in 2012 the team delivered some 76,000 hours of physical activity to children and young people. Sports clubs are able to access advice and support for grant applications and specific training courses have been delivered to make clubs better able to deal with children and young people who exhibit challenging behaviour.
3. Throughout all holiday periods the Council provides an extensive range of activities for children and young people which has been added to by the Park Ranger Service, based at the Healthy Town hub sites, alongside the regular programme of weekly activities.

In addition to the general list 'Positive Activities' approach of providing facilities and programmes available to all children and young people the Council and partner organisations have also participated in 'targetted' programmes and initiatives.

For example Dudley Leisure Centre has worked with local police on a project for children from one of the local neighbourhoods where equipment was purchased (Dance Mats and Trixter Bikes) to provide activity sessions for an 'at risk' group. Similarly to 'Look Out' project utilises The Dell Stadium on Friday evenings for Sport and Social activities. 'Get Going/Keep Going' project based at Crystal Leisure Centre which provides holiday activities for Looked After Children has been so successful that a weekly session is being introduced.

Alongside the Council's own direct provision the service has worked with a number of sports clubs to provide targeted activities in club settings for 'at risk' young people. Specifically both Lions and Priory Boxing Clubs have been particularly successful in identifying young people within their catchment areas who are potentially at risk of offending and by providing them with exercise programmes have managed to channel these young peoples energy into positive activities.

In recent years the Council has seen the regeneration of a number of parks through the use of its own resources and significant levels of external funding that has been attracted to the borough.

Funding from the likes of 'Transforming Your Space', 'Liveability' and 'Play Pathfinder' saw many areas/parks benefitting from physical improvements including new/refurbished play areas, provision of Multi Use Games Areas and other features.

In terms of demonstrating the positive impact in respect of reducing levels of anti-social behaviour, changing patterns of use and revitalising an area perhaps the best example that can be given is from the Healthy Towns Project, specifically Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley. Whilst the purpose of the project is primarily 'health focussed' ie an attempt to address rising levels of obesity there have clearly been other benefits associated with it and the regeneration of Silver Jubilee Park and its use by the community is one of the most obvious.

Prior to the implementation of the Healthy Towns Project Silver Jubilee Park suffered high levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour with Police attending call-outs to the site on an almost daily basis and damage to park facilities a regular occurrence. There was little formal use of the park given that people felt unsafe and the park had a careworn appearance.

The injection of funding from the Healthy Towns project enabled a significant number of physical improvements to the park to be implemented and Park Rangers were stationed there to provide a community information engagement link and develop programmes for the use of the park in partnership with the Friends of Silver Jubilee Park and other community organisations.

The impact has been remarkable with the site transformed into a vibrant public park, extensively used by the local community with minimal levels of vandalism and anti-social behaviour now being recorded.

Underpinning all sports and leisure activity in the borough is a robust child protection policy which is recognised nationally by Barnardos as an example of good practice. Through this the Council ensures that its responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and young people engaged in sport and leisure activities is properly discharged through appropriate staff training, recruitment procedures and advisory services to other providers.

APPENDIX 3

Economic Regeneration

The **Road Safety and Travel Awareness Team** provides advice on safety to a range of age groups.

Pedestrian Education

We deliver a range of training to pedestrians of all ages in order to develop their knowledge and awareness of how to stay safe when close to the roads.

The training that we deliver includes the following;

- Pedestrian Training, our practical pedestrian training scheme is aimed at pupils in year one and two and consists of a classroom session and several practical sessions, where the children are taken outside the school and practice crossing the roads safely. The practical pedestrian training covers a range of topics such as holding hands with adults when close to the roads, using the Green Cross Code, safe and unsafe places to cross and practical experience of crossing the roads using safer places to cross. At the end of the sessions the children are given literature to take away with them and share with their parents/carers and are encouraged to share and practice what they have learnt during the sessions.
- Transition Training, our transition training scheme is specifically targeted at children in year six who will be moving on to secondary schools. The sessions cover distractions faced by pedestrians and drivers, stopping distances, using safer places to cross and the importance of journey planning.

Pre-Driver Education

As part of our programme of road safety education we deliver pre-driver education to pupils who attend secondary schools and colleges within the Dudley Borough. The training aims to prepare the students for learning to drive and also covers topics such as safety as a passenger in a vehicle and peer pressure.

Driving Safer for Longer Courses

Our driving safer for longer courses are aimed at drivers aged 50+. The sessions are held at community venues across the Borough and last for half a day. The sessions are presented by members of the road safety team working in partnership with the Fire Service and Institute of Advances Motorists and cover a range of driving related topics and safety tips. At the end of the session participants are given a range of educational resources to take away with them.

Independent Travel Training

We deliver Independent Travel Training to students with a range of specific needs who are currently provided with a taxi to transport them to local colleges. The scheme provides one to one training to the students

who are referred on to the scheme in order to enable them to gain the knowledge, awareness and confidence associated with travelling by public transport. Throughout the training the students use public transport to travel to college with the support of their trainer with the ultimate aim of the students being able to make their journey independently. During the training the students complete a booklet which covers a range of safety related topics such as crossing the roads safely, how to deal with unexpected situations, keeping personal belongings safe and various issues related to personal safety when travelling independently. Upon successful completion of the booklet the students receive an accredited qualification from the National Open College Network.

Cycle Safety

We deliver Bikeability cycle training to pupils who attend primary and secondary schools within the Borough. The cycle training teaches the children about riding safely both on and off road and also covers how to check bikes to ensure that they are road worthy prior to starting a journey. As well as cycle training in schools we also provide one to one cycle training sessions for adults and group training at colleges and community venues.

On the first Saturday of each month we run 'Saturday Cycle Training' at local parks. The training is suitable for a range of abilities from complete beginners to current cyclists who wish to refresh their knowledge when cycling on the roads. As part of the Saturday cycle training we also run Breeze rides which specifically target female cyclists and seek to develop their confidence through participating in a led bike ride.

Within our team we have a 'Dr Bike' cycle maintenance van which we take to various community events throughout the Borough. The 'Dr Bike' sessions are free of charge and involve our qualified cycle maintenance instructors performing a health check on people's bikes in order to ensure that they are road worthy and safe to ride.

Road Safety Sessions to Community Groups

As well as the above we also provide age appropriate road safety presentations to various community groups throughout the year. The presentations are specifically tailored to the needs of the groups and can be tailored to cover topics that are of concern or high importance to them. Groups and topics that we have covered in the past include;

- Child car seat checks at local children's centres in partnership with the Fire Service.
- Information about road safety and in car safety at Yemeni women's groups.
- Road Safety advice for people who speak English as an additional language.
- An overview on road safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers at tenants and residents associations.
- Road safety presentations for child minders groups.

School Crossing Patrol Service

The school crossing patrol service provides assistance to pedestrians making their journey to and from school. Each day during term time around 100 patrols are on duty across the Borough.

Contact details:

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APPENDIX 4

Planning and Environmental Health

- Being a consultee on Licensing Act 2003 applications. Environmental Health were consulted on 56 premise license applications. This proactively allows for members to be alerted to issues affecting neighbours of licensed premises such as noise disturbance and antisocial activity as a result of behavioural noise. Conditions can be brought to the license and in extreme case a request for a license review can be made 5 reviews were undertaken during the relevant period. This may be due to evidence of sale of alcohol to underage children.
- Giving advice and taking formal action on disputes between parties over noise and vibration from commercial and industrial premises. Environmental Health dealt with 515 requests for service in relation to industrial and commercial noise. This can prevent antagonism between neighbours which gives rise to antisocial activity.
- Using legislation to prevent unauthorised access to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties thereby reducing arson, crime and unsociable behaviour at such locations. Environmental Health dealt with 79 requests for service in relation to void and derelict commercial and industrial properties.
- Offering advice to consumers and investigating rogue traders and doorstep crime. Trading Standards carried out the following;
 - The amount of redress recovered as a result of direct intervention by the team was £121,067
 - Continued to support vulnerable groups by tackling rogue traders and ensuring that people use trusted traders through our Fix a Home scheme operated in partnership with Age UK Dudley. As at March 2011 there were 139 members and 90% of customers were satisfied with the service they received.
 - Funding has been secured from the Safe and Sound Partnership to set up four No Rogue Trader Zones at identified hot spots within the borough.
 - Who's after your money - A new advice booklet and training package launched in partnership with Dudley's community safety partnership and West Midlands Police to raise awareness of doorstep scams and outline services offered. Since

September 2010 the training package has been delivered to 150 delegates.

- The detection and investigation of counterfeiting and sales of restricted goods to under aged persons. Trading Standards seized in excess of 3,500 items of counterfeit goods with a market value in excess of £ 1.1 million.
- Enforcing legislation relating to underage sales, through education and joint enforcement activities with the police. 74 test purchases of alcohol were carried out resulting in 6 sales , 21 test purchases of tobacco were carried out resulting in zero sales and 5 alcohol licences were reviewed
- Being an active partner in the Safe and Sound Partnership in particular the Crime and Reduction Implementation Group and Joint Activity Group. (see above)
- Planning Services Service Plan states that:-
 - Our planning policy approach is aiming to deliver an environment free of crime. The entire service ensures its activities contribute to the reduction of crime; however, the Enforcement Section has a particular role, issues brought to the enforcement team often relate to disputes between neighbours and effective intervention and enforcement as required can avert further neighbour antagonism and potential for antisocial behaviour.. The service also supports various partnerships working in areas of derelict and void buildings and eyesore sites.
 - All planning applications are considered in the context of designing out crime. Our award-winning supplementary Planning Guidance – ‘Safe by Design’ was produced with the support of West Midlands Police and is implemented in the consideration of all relevant planning applications.
- We are also in the process of finalising the Shop fronts Supplementary Planning Document which is being developed in consultation with the Police to ensure opportunities for crime are designed out and that security measures are effective but appropriate to the context. This document when adopted will be a key consideration when considering planning applications.

- We also regularly liaise with Community Cohesion teams in respect of planning proposals and enforcement cases that may have the potential to result in anti-social behaviour.