

Safer, Stronger Communities for end of year 2006/7

Crime Reduction - crime has reduced in Kirklees by 18.7% since 2003/04. An overall reduction of 25% by March 2008 may well be achieved, by interventions such as:

Neighbourhood Management Model - multi-agency Neighbourhood Management Groups have been looking to reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour in specific localities. This approach achieved a 21% drop in crime in Dewsbury West since 03/04 and received regional and national recognition, including winning the regional 'What it Takes' award. It is expected that rolling this model out to other Neighbourhood Renewal areas will play a significant role in achieving the Local Area Agreement stretch targets to reduce overall crime and narrow the gap.

Violent Crime - the steady overall reduction of violent crime has been achieved through:

- The introduction of Alcohol Control Zones in Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town centres.
- The continuation of the Best Bar None Scheme.
- Introduction of both Taxi Marshalls and Street Angels in town centres.
- The deployment of police resources in relation to high visibility patrolling in hot spot areas.
- An Alcohol Awareness campaign over the Christmas period.

The partnership seeks to continue the downward trend during 2007/8.

Perception Targets - we have met these targets through the use of a clear and informative communication strategy. The partnership has released regular, positive news stories, supported by specific campaigns (e.g. anti-social behaviour, alcohol, street workers, etc.).

Drug Treatment Targets - targets have been met through the continued contract management of Lifeline Services and the excellent service provided by Kirklees Drug Intervention Programme, which has been recognised by the National Treatment Agency as a model of good practice.

Accidental fire Deaths and Injuries in the Home - by working closely with our partners to identify those most at risk from fire and complete over 8000 Home Fire Safety Checks, we have achieved our targets for 2006/7.

Empowering Local People - over 10,500 people have been engaged throughout the year in 156 Local Area Committee consultation activities during 2006/07.

Vibrant, voluntary and community activity - progress has been made in the following areas:

- 295,576 people have used Council facilities this year, exceeding the target of 280,000.
- An action plan has been developed to deliver the strategy for community ownership of community buildings.
- Core standards for managing & developing community buildings are being rolled out.
- In the 2 new Neighbourhood Management areas, over 700 local people have been engaged.
- Local Neighbourhood Management (NM) partnerships & Neighbourhood Renewal (NR) multi-agency steering groups have been developed to help shape and monitor NR funded activity.
- Surveys show that in most of our deprived communities there is increasing satisfaction with their local area as a place to live and above average satisfaction with opportunities to express their views about local services and influence decisions.
- £400,000 has been distributed by the 'Peoples Purse' in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

Improved Community Relations - over 1800 people in 62 cross community initiatives have been supported, with a view to improving community relations. Despite all the good work that has been carried out, indications are that relations do not seem to be improving - due to both national & international concerns as well as local events (e.g. recent arrests in North Kirklees). To help re-focus our approach and tackle issues, a review of relevant strategies & plans has been undertaken.

