



Safe Newcastle

-Quarterly Update-

www.safenewcastle.org.uk

July 2010

Working Together to Keep Crime Down

POLICE worked with partners to carry out a week of action to keep crime down in an area of Newcastle and are pleased with the results.

The action took place in Lemington, Newburn, Throckley, Denton, Westerhope and Newbiggin Hall.

Officers made 13 arrests throughout the week - from lower level offences such as possessing cannabis right through to money laundering. Police also kept a check of the whereabouts of known offenders.

The Outer West Neighbourhood Policing Team had extra resources carrying out high profile patrols in the area - including dog section, mounted officers and motor patrols, while undercover operations took place.

The operation also saw local officers join forces with partner agencies to trace those who had failed to pay court fines, while Safe Newcastle got on board to put up a re-deployable CCTV camera.

You can read more about this story at:

http://www.northumbria.police.uk/news_and_events/news/newsindex/details.asp?id=27933



Top: Mounted Police on patrol.
Middle: Insp Mick Farrell and Paul Angus, Community Safety Officer with Safe Newcastle, as the RCCTV camera is put up in Byrness.
Bottom: a criminal's car being seized.

Drug and Alcohol Services Domestic Violence Protocol

ALCOHOL does not cause domestic violence but it is a contributory risk factor for victim, perpetrator and children. Women who experience domestic violence are 15 times more likely to misuse alcohol but current services are unlikely to meet the needs of these people and as a result their risk level is increased.

Alcohol and domestic violence agencies often serve the same client base but there is no single service locally which is equipped to meet the complex needs of these people.

To address this need, Safe Newcastle has undertaken work to develop information sharing agreements, referral pathways and protocols to support routine enquiry around

domestic violence in Drugs & Alcohol (D&A) Services. This will allow for early identification of victims, assessment of their risk level and appropriate referral to specialist support services.

The protocol is supported by a specialist Drugs and Alcohol Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) whose role is to support victims of domestic violence who also have issues with problematic drug and or alcohol use and to work in partnership with other services and agencies to ensure that the best possible support and advice is provided to the victim.

To find out more, contact Lesley Storey on (0191) 277 7847

New Domestic Violence Training

SAFE NEWCASTLE Domestic Violence Training and Development Officer has recently developed a new advanced course for practitioners. It is ideal for those with a basic level of knowledge around domestic violence, who wish to further build on their knowledge and skills.

Called 'Responding to Domestic Violence: Developing Good Practice', the aim of this course is to develop participants' skills when responding to victims and perpetrators of DV to improve the safety of women and children living with DV.

Course content:

- Creating a supportive environment to encourage disclosure
- The help-seeking process
- Responding to disclosure
- Risk and safety planning
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for very high risk victims of DV

You can get the full details on this training and how you can join at:

<http://www.safenewcastle.org.uk/core.nsf/a/sn-dvtrainingdetails>

Karma Nirvana Roadshow

KARMA NIRVANA is a national voluntary sector organisation which provides support for victims of forced marriage.

In June they took to the road and came to Newcastle. The timing of this visit was critical as evidence from the Forced Marriage Unit demonstrates that the time leading up to the summer holidays is the period of greatest risk for victims.

Risks to children and young people include being taken abroad and not coming back into the classroom, or returning as a stranger's wife and being told to keep silent.

In the Home Office Select Committee Report 2008, it was highlighted that 2,000 girls across the UK went missing from education that year, deemed to be victims of forced marriage and no one asked about them.

Following this event, 50 multi-agency professionals are now skilled to recognise and respond to young people at risk of forced marriage. This builds on the work Safe Newcastle has led on ensuring Newcastle's front line professionals such as Social Workers and Health Visitors now have the confidence to tackle this issue ensuring our children are safe.

Joining up at the Front Line

Newcastle was one of 12 areas in the country to be invited to give workshops at an international conference in London earlier this year. The conference called 'Joining up at the Front Line - How to effectively integrate neighbourhood policing and neighbourhood management' was run by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA).

Newcastle's Denton SNAPS was invited to run workshops due to our Exemplar status, which is in recognition of our excellent model of

partnership working at a neighbourhood level. The workshops were given by Adele Bradley, Safe Newcastle's site lead for Exemplar; Inspector Mick Farrell and Newcastle City Council's Lisa Rake.

You can read more about this story at:

http://www.safenewcastle.org.uk/core.nsf/a/pr_joining_up_at_the_front_line



Taxis Targeted in Safety Operation

A JOINT OPERATION to ensure the public are getting into legitimate cabs saw 71 drivers stopped in Newcastle.

The operation was aimed at vehicle safety with both private hire and Hackney taxis from in and out of the city checked to ensure they are fully complying with motoring and safety laws.

The operation saw 71 taxis stopped, with two drivers immediately suspended by licensing staff because of serious defects, including worn tyres and brakes and lighting faults.

Five other taxi drivers were given notices requiring them to carry out vital

repairs to lighting defects within five days or face further penalties.

And officers issued four speeding tickets to taxi drivers, with two others hit with summons for illegal driving manoeuvres and vehicles defects.

The joint operation was carried out by Northumbria Police's City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team and Newcastle City Council's Taxi Licensing Department.

You can read more about this story at:

http://www.northumbria.police.uk/news_and_events/media_centre/news_releases/details.asp?id=26082



Youngsters Clean for Team

BORED teenagers in Newcastle's West End now have their own football team - in return for helping clean up their estate.

Officers had received several reports from residents on the Jubilee Estate complaining about an increase in young people hanging around and causing a nuisance.

Community Support Officers Dave Johnson and Brooke Abraham went to see the youngsters to find out why they were gathering on the streets of the estate - and were told it's because they had nothing to do!

So the pair agreed to set up a team - so long as the youngsters gave something back to their community.

Now the teenagers spend 45 minutes each Tuesday night cleaning up rubbish and graffiti on their estate before they have a free football coaching session.

CSO Johnson, of the Benwell and Elswick Neighbourhood Policing Team, said: "We knew there were some issues with their behaviour and we asked them what we could do to help. They said they just wanted something to be involved in and they wanted to play football.

"We joined forces with our partners to set up a new football team and arrange coaching sessions. We then came up with the agreement with the youngsters that we'd provide all this so long as they gave something back.

In the four weeks we've been running it neither we nor our partners have had any calls relating to problem issues."

You can read more about this story at:
http://www.northumbria.police.uk/news_and_events/news/newsindex/details.asp?id=26899

Truants Targeted in City Patrol

A TRUANCY sweep in Newcastle city centre led to four youths being returned to school or escorted home.

The Newcastle Central Neighbourhood Policing Team worked with Newcastle City Council's Education Welfare Officers during the initiative, which took place on a Monday morning.

The team patrolled the city centre for underage youngsters who should have been at school. During the operation four youths were stopped and spoken to, with them then being escorted to the Civic Centre.

From there one youngster was taken back to school while three others were taken home, where parents were advised that their child had been truanting.

Neighbourhood Sergeant Paul Hamilton said: "Our main concern when we carry out operations such as this is the safety of youngsters who are not secure in a protected school environment.

"Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children attend school and as such we've advised them of the operation today and of their child's behaviour.

"Their education really does count and every day a child fails to attend school is a missed opportunity and could ultimately impact on their future."

You can read more about this story at:
http://www.northumbria.police.uk/news_and_events/news/newsindex/details.asp?id=26981

'A Day in Our Lives'

NEWCASTLE USER and Carer Forum, in partnership with Safe Newcastle and the Cyrenians, are training 12 service users to deliver the 'A Day in Our Lives' training pack.

The 'A Day in Our Lives' project was a year long piece of work led by the Trading Places peer led project in partnership with Helix Arts and the Cyrenians, which looked at the issues of social exclusion and homelessness.

The project produced a book and the training pack which is intended to brief workers across a range of services who come into contact with people who are facing social exclusion and homelessness, to help them understand what its like to live 'a day in our lives'.

The training will be launched and rolled out in the autumn.

Guide to Managing Risk

SAFE NEWCASTLE launched the first of a suite of guidelines around **Managing Risk and Optimising Care for commissioned drug treatment services at Gosforth Civic Hall on 27 May**. This included guidelines for staff on Drug Related Death and Critical Incident Reviews, MARAC and Domestic Violence, Hidden Harm (working with families where there is a parental substance misuse problem) and Common Case Management Arrangements for complex and chaotic clients.

The event was attended by over 50 people. The guidelines will be reviewed by January 2011 to ensure they are fit for purpose for partners. They can also be used by other stakeholders who work with people affected by drug or alcohol use.

It is intended that a wider roll out of the guidelines will be due in 2011.

Reducing Drug Litter

SAFE NEWCASTLE are working with a range of partners to produce a city wide Drug Related Litter Strategy to help deal with the issues of drug related litter, recording and reporting as well as public health issues.

12 Steps to Recovery

SAFE NEWCASTLE are holding two Fellowship Briefing sessions to help educate stakeholders, including service users and carers, about the 12 step path to recovery (Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous). The first session was held on July 7 and the second will be on 15 October. All are welcome to attend.

For more information please contact Fiona Richardson on (0191) 278 8295.

Best Bar None is Revolution-ary

REVOLUTION is celebrating after being named Overall Winner at this year's prestigious Best Bar None Awards.

The winners of Newcastle's 2010 Best Bar None were announced at a glitzy award ceremony on 16 May at the Civic Centre Banqueting Suite. The annual event gives the nightlife venues of Newcastle a chance to be rewarded and to celebrate the hard work they put in to make Newcastle one of the best cities in Europe to enjoy.

The winning bar was up against strong competition, with a record 73 venues being accredited in this year.

On top of Best Bar None Overall Winner, Revolution also picked up the Gold Award in the Bar Category. Jon

Mortimer, manager of Revolution said: "We're thrilled that our pub was named Overall Winner as well as Best Bar. We continuously strive to make our bar a great place for our customers, locals and visitors alike. "

Chair of Safe Newcastle, Cllr Anita Lower, said: "Best Bar None continues to go from strength to strength and I am delighted that 73 venues have achieved accredited status. This means that they have proven to the authorities that they are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for their customers and staff. They deserve to be recognised and that is why we have these awards."

You can read more about this story at:

http://www.newcastlebestbarnone.co.uk/core.nsf/a/bbn_2010_winners



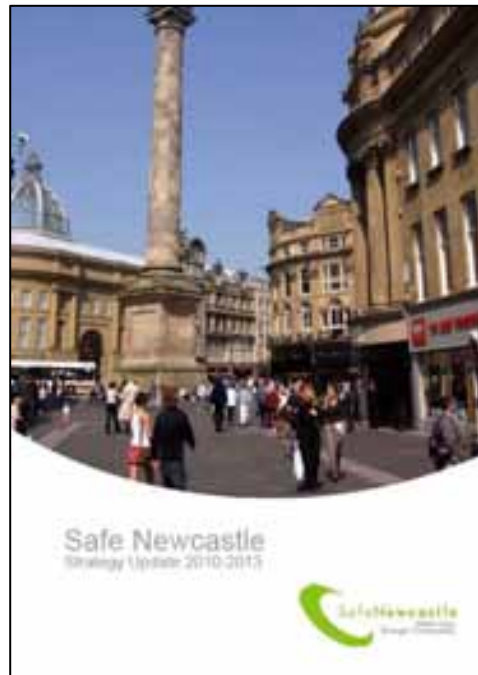
Strategy Refresh

As a legal duty, Safe Newcastle has refreshed its plan to tackle crime and disorder, anti social behaviour, and alcohol and drug misuse in Newcastle. The strategy update was implemented from 1 April 2010.

Focus was made in the strategy to reduce criminal damage, vehicle crime, domestic burglary, shoplifting and violent crime. Considerable progress is being made in a number of those key areas.

The Safe Newcastle Strategy can be downloaded from our website.

www.safenewcastle.org.uk



New Drug and Alcohol Commissioner

Safe Newcastle's new Drug and Alcohol Commissioner is now in post. Tommy Hughes commenced his new role on the 12 July 2010.

The Drug and Alcohol Commissioner is responsible for leading on joint commissioning with partners in developing and delivering services for adults in relation to drug and alcohol misuse.

New Safe Newcastle Unit

FROM THE 14 JULY 2010, the Community Safety Unit and the Drug Support Unit will be merging to make a new Safe Newcastle Unit.

The new team will be based in the Safe Newcastle Office, Room 34 at the Civic Centre. The Main contact numbers for Safe Newcastle Unit administration will remain as: 0191 278 8125 (ext. 28125) and 0191 277 7833 (ext 27833).
Email addresses are:

safenewcastle.drugs@newcastle.gov.uk

safenewcastle@newcastle.gov.uk

How Are We Performing?

SAFE NEWCASTLE CONTINUES TO PERFORM WELL and is making good progress to achieve reductions in crime and keep our communities safe. Overall crime levels have reduced by 5.1% so far this year and there have also been significant reductions in household burglary and vehicle crime.

However, we are not complacent and we are keeping a close eye on performance in a number of key areas.

Most Serious Violent Crime

During 2009/10 there was an increase in most serious violent crime and we did not achieve our annual target. We tackled this through a range of initiatives, including; having Police marshal the busiest taxi ranks at busy times, running the Best Bar None scheme which encourages licensed premises to have practices in place to tackle crime and disorder, and a Safe in the City Campaign in the run up to

Christmas to pass on messages of safety to the public. These interventions resulted in an improvement in performance. Between April and June 2010 there were 27 (-33%) fewer recorded serious violent crimes when compared to the same time last year.

Burglary

Household burglary is reducing. Between April and June 2010 there were 13 fewer (-3.8%) recorded household burglaries when compared to the same time last year. However, there has been a slight increase in the number of other burglaries, mostly of sheds and garages.

Vehicle Crime

The number of vehicles stolen is reducing. There were 39 (-24%) fewer reported vehicles stolen between April and June 2010 compared to the same time last year. However, there has been an increase in thefts from vehicles. There were 91 (+23%) more recorded thefts from vehicles this year when compared to the same time last year.

You Can Help Keep Crime Down

Although we are making good progress in reducing crime and keeping the communities safe, there are a few simple things that you can do to make sure you are not a victim of crime, particularly in the warm summer months:

- Lock all doors and windows at night and whenever you leave your property.
- Make sure your doors and windows are locked if you are in your garden and unable to see anyone approaching the house.
- Make sure you close all windows and lock your car when leaving it and remember to take out or hide any valuables such as Sat Navs.
- Make sure you lock your garages and sheds with good sturdy locks



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