CRIME AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What’s the issue?

“The effect of local crime rates does affect the mental well-being of residents. Crime causes considerable mental distress of residents, and these effects are mainly driven by property crime. However, there is also an effect due to violent crime. Local crime creates more distress for females, and is mainly related to depression and anxiety.” [57].

What’s our situation?

Between the period February 2016 and January 2017, there were 31,102 reported crimes across Hull which has increased recently [58, 59]. The largest categories of crime were violent crimes (9,127), criminal damage and arson (4,969), shoplifting (3,600) and burglary (3,558). Some of these categories potentially overlapping as each crime could appear in more than one category. There were 8,051 incidents of anti-social behaviour. From the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) [26, 27], for 2015, there were 89 first time entrants into the youth justice system (receiving their first reprimand, warning or conviction) aged 11-17 years in Hull which was slightly higher than England (409 versus 369 per 100,000 population, and fallen from 754 per 100,000 population for Hull for 2012). For 2014, 1,201 re-offenders committed 4,338 re-offences out of the 3,833 offenders, and both the percentage re-offending (31.3% versus 25.4%) and the average number of offences committed per offender (1.13 versus 0.82) was higher in Hull compared to England, although both had decreased in Hull in the last year. The trends in the rate of hospital admissions due to violence have formed a reverse U-shape since 2001/02-2003/04 increasing from 98 per 100,000 population to a high of 158 per 100,000 population in 2005/06-2007/08 and then decreasing to 72 per 100,000 population for the most recent year 2012/13-2014/15 [26, 27]. The rate of domestic abuse incidents recorded by the police was not substantially higher than England (at 20.8 per 1,000 population in Hull compared to 20.4 per 1,000 population in England) for 2014/15 [26, 27]. Some of these PHOF indicators [26] differ from those presented in the local Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment (JSIA) [60] due to differing definitions. Priority Families in Hull have been identified (following the launch of the National Troubled Families Programme in 2011 which intended to change the repeating generational patterns of poor parenting, abuse, violence, drug use, anti-social behaviour and crime in the most troubled families in the UK) and by November 2014, the majority of identified Priority Families in Hull had been ‘turned around’ [61].

For more detailed information, see the JSNA Toolkit: Deprivation and Associated Measures report.

What are the strategic needs?

As stated in the local JSIA [60], the primary focus for the community safety partnership (CSP) in order to control crime levels should be around working together to manage substance misuse, tackle re-offending and reduce violence. Methods should include reactive, pro-active and preventative measures in both the long and short terms, recognising that there is a complicated relationship between young people growing up in dysfunctional families, where substance misuse or criminality within a family is a factor, and the solutions are equally complex [60]. Within the local JSIA, priority neighbourhoods having been identified using the Vulnerable Localities Index [62], and work continues with Priority Families in Hull. The identified priorities for the CSP [61] are likely to remain much the same as last year [60], namely to: (i) reduce crime by tackling re-offending, substance misuse and violent behaviour; (ii) a focus on early intervention and priority families to tackle pre-cursors to anti-social behaviour and criminality; and (iii) supporting victims of crime.
References