

Camden Community Safety Partnership

Monthly Performance Report – December 2009

Background

This report has been produced to monitor the main Performance Indicators (PI's) of the Camden Community Safety Partnership. An explanation of crime types and the figures are included for context and further information¹. Data sources are listed at the end of the document.

Performance Summary

The following table summarises the Community Safety Partnership's main performance indicators, targets and progress to date. The table also includes three of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) targets that relate to Camden.

There are no targets for 'total notifiable offences' - crimes measured by the Home Office.

Partnership Indicators	Baseline (2008/9 unless otherwise stated)	FYTD	Target	Change from baseline
Total Notifiable Offences	25,808	25,584	-	-1%
Most Serious Violent Crime	299	216	-4%	-28%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	4,783	4,458	-1.7%	-7%
Burglary in a Dwelling	1,366	1,330	-1.7%	-3%
Robbery	772	829	-1%	7%
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	2,024	1,716	-1.4%	-15%
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	621	583	-3.3%	-6%
Reduce Crime in Camden Town (baseline = 2007/8)	2,407	2,310	-16.5%	-4%
Increase Number of Drug Users in Effective Treatment	1,557	1,596	+1%	3%

MPS Indicators	Previous FYTD	FYTD	Target	% Change
Gun Enabled Crime	48	78	0%	63%
Knife Enabled Crime	245	272	-5%	11%
Serious Youth Violence	123	146	-4%	19%

Note: The baseline year is 2008/9 with the exception of 'Reduce Crime in Camden Town', for which the baseline is 2007/8; 'year to date' figures are financial year to date, i.e. since April 2009.

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Comment and further information

Serious Acquisitive Crime

At present, a 7% reduction in the number of serious acquisitive crime offences (which includes domestic burglary, robbery, theft of motor vehicle and theft from motor vehicle offences) can be seen compared to the number of offences recorded in the same period in 2008. Serious acquisitive crime also features in Camden's Local Area Agreement (LAA) with a target of seeing a 3% reduction in the number of offences each year from the baseline year, 2007/2008. Taking this into account, a reduction of almost 31% can be recorded when comparing the number of offences from April to December this year compared with the number of offences in the baseline year. The large 26% reduction in offences seen over 08/09 means seeing a year-on-year reduction across this financial year will continue to be a challenge.

Robbery

The number of robberies is currently 7% higher than they were this time last year with a total of fifty-seven more offences committed between April and October this year than in the same period of time last year. The rise in the number of robberies links with the rise in the number of victims of serious youth violence as there has been an increase in the numbers of young people committing robberies against other young people. This will be targeted through the numerous interventions in place to tackle serious youth violence. The Community Safety Partnership is looking further into the reasons behind this recent rise in the number of robbery offences.

Camden Town

Although there is currently a 4% reduction in the overall crime rate in Camden Town at the moment, the number of crimes are higher than they have in recent months and the target of a 16.5% reduction for this year is now being missed. This is mostly due to a significant increase in pick pocketing in the area with there being more than twice the average amount of incidents through October. Since then, the amount of offences per month has reduced. The Camden Town Operational Group have been aware of this increase and are targeting it appropriately by identifying hotspot areas and working with Camden Town Unlimited Camden Town Unlimited to hand out lanyards that attach personal belongings to the inside of bags or to the person making it much more difficult for those personal belongings to be taken. Also, there will be additional policing presence on the High Street at the weekends to combat the rise in pick pocketing. There has also been a recent rise in the number of shoplifting offences in the Camden Town area. The Partnership are working with businesses, particularly those that have had high levels of offending, and have been advising them to report all incidents of to the police.

Serious Youth Violence

The 19% increase in serious youth violence relates to there having being twenty-three more offences this year than there were in the same period and the numbers remain relatively small. The serious youth violence crime category counts the number of victims rather than the number of incidents. Therefore, one incident that has multiple victims can affect the overall numbers. Although the numbers of robberies are on the decrease, the number of young victims appears to be rising. Much of the violence appears to be linked to the night-time economy and primarily affects men aged between 17 and 19, although not exclusively. Work in this area is continually evolving.

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Knife Crime

Although there appears to be an 11% increase in knife enabled crimes, the numbers are small and the increase represents twenty-seven more offences than during the same time period last year. Also, similar to the gun enabled crime definition, the knife enabled crime definition includes offences where a knife was 'threatened but not seen'.

Gun Crime

Again, although it would appear that gun enabled crimes have increased by 63%, the number of crimes remains small and the increase relates to there having been thirty more offences this year than there were in the same time period last year. It should also be noted that this crime category includes offences where a gun was 'threatened but not seen' - where a gun was intimidated and the victim convinced of its presence. The crime definition also incorporates the use of both real and fake firearms and air weapons.

An error in the recording of weapon enabled crimes across 2008/2009 has been discovered and has meant that the figures recorded last year are incorrect and are too low. Therefore, it is likely that the amount of offences this year is actually similar to the amount seen last year rather than higher.

Ongoing work around gun and knife crime and serious youth violence

Many of the tactics employed to reduce these crime types have only been in place for a short period of time and we are yet to see the full effects of them. The strategy for dealing with serious youth violence is being benchmarked against an external framework and any recommendations will be implemented. Initiatives that are expected to impact are: -

- A serious youth violence multi agency group has been established and is cross referencing names with Camden's Youth Offending Team (YOT), the Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISPs) and the Borough Information Unit (BIU, the Camden Police intelligence team) to get a priority list of names of known gang members and those involved in serious youth violence. Those identified will be offered a range of services to tackle this behaviour and where necessary we will enforce against them.
- A mandatory six session knife crime programme for all young people that have committed a knife enabled offence was successfully piloted in October and a second session has just begun. A violent crime programme has also begun on a one-to-one basis.
- Camden has recently been successful in securing funding for Gangs and Serious Youth Violence Co-ordinator and Worker posts, which will enable more intensive targeted work with young people involved in or at the margins of gang activity. The posts have now been recruited to and will be in post soon.
- A successful bid was submitted in July for an additional £20,000 from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to deliver a programme of actions to tackle alcohol related youth disorder and antisocial behaviour. Actions include operations on underage sales, funds to support police operations at peak times in the year and additional activities for young people on Friday evenings in 3 hotspot areas

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Data Sources

Partnership Indicators	Data Source
Total Notifiable Offences	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Most Serious Violent Crime	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Serious Acquisitive Crime	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Burglary in a Dwelling	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Robbery	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Theft Of a Motor Vehicle	iQuanta – Home Office Website
Reduce Crime in Camden Town	MPS Crime Reporting Information System (CRIS)
Increase Number of Drug Users in Effective Treatment	National Drug Treatment Monitoring System
Gun Enabled Crime	MPS Performance Information Bureau (Monthly Crime Report, Gun Crime Report)
Knife Enabled Crime	MPS Performance Information Bureau (Monthly Crime Report, Knife Crime Report)
Serious Youth Violence	MPS Performance Information Bureau (MPS Weekly TP/Borough Scorecard)