

APPENDIX 2

Partnership activity during the Covid 19 Pandemic

Our focus initially was to manage community tensions during the first 13 weeks of lockdown. We set up reporting networks with the assistance of the regional cohesion team, monitored our social network sites and managed any queries from the public and local Councillors.

Overall there were 112 reports of tensions/infringements during that period. All were successfully managed by acting as a coordination point with partners from other organisations.

We also had a number of issues to manage as a result of neighbour tensions due to everyone being at home.

We monitored the crime statistics monthly so that we were able to react to any unusual activity or spike in any crimes. Thankfully crime mainly reduced over that period and those determined to commit crimes were managed very effectively by our police colleagues.

Crime statistics April-November 2020

Denbighshire - Crime & Incident Data: 01/04/2020 – 04/11/2020	Fiscal Year		Change
	2019/20 (LYTD)	2020/21 (YTD)	
All Victim Based Crime	5,906	4,705	-20.3%
Violence with injury	778	579	-25.6%
Violence without injury	1,371	1,134	-17.3%
Stalking & Harassment	749	860	14.8%
Sexual offences	277	172	-37.9%
Burglary Residential	217	138	-36.4%
Burglary - Business and Community	97	55	-43.3%
Robbery	27	20	-25.9%
Vehicle Crime	300	70	-76.7%
Theft and Handling	1,055	610	-42.2%
Criminal Damage & Arson	745	540	-27.5%
Domestic Crime	1,162	1,145	-1.5%
Anti-Social Behaviour	1,556	1,566	0.6%

Increases explained

Stalking and harassment figures have increased over the last 6 months when compared to the same time the year before. Under new Home Office counting rules, as of April 2020, Coercive control now features within the Stalking & Harassment category and is adding 10 crimes a week to stalking and harassment. As a partnership we aim to raise awareness of Stalking, harassment and coercive control by taking in part in national campaigns.

ASB increased during this period and after analysing the data the reason is as follows. The increase in ASB reports relate to the reporting of breaches of COVID-19 restrictions (lack-of social distancing, large gatherings, people travelling into North Wales from outside the area etc.). In Denbighshire we haven't seen large increases of reported ASB, but what increases we have seen are attributable to the infringements of Covid regulations.

As a partnership we also became involved in managing the Black Lives Matter awareness events. The communication between the authority and the police events manager ensured that these events went by safely.

It has been a pleasure working so effectively in partnership with all the organisations and third sector groups during this difficult time. It really shows the benefit of partnership working.

Partnership Focus for this year (2020-2021)

In North Wales there has been a review of all regional community safety boards and as a result the boards have now been reduced to five main boards. These new boards started in September 2020. The boards and the strategic representatives from Denbighshire are as follows;

Strategic Partnership	Senior Officer	Deputy	Elected Member
Safer North Wales Partnership Board	Graham Boase	Emlyn Jones	Councillor Mark Young (Chair of the board)
Vulnerability and Exploitation Board (Managed by the Safeguarding Board)	Phil Gilroy	Rhiain Morlle	Members not required to attend
Criminal Justice Board	Rhiain Morlle	Possibly an officer from Youth Justice	Members not required to attend

Area Board for substance Misuse	Planning for	Nicola Stubbins	Alaw Pierce	Members not required to attend
Contest Terrorism Board	Counter Board	Graham Boase	Alan Smith	Members not required to attend

The main partnership focus for 2020-2021 will be exploitation. We are going to be working regionally on issues such as Domestic Abuse, County Lines, and Serious Organised crime under the new Vulnerability and Exploitation board. The Local Partnership will assist by ensuring the information from Conwy and Denbighshire is gathered locally and that reporting from the Regional Boards are shared locally via all of the responsible authorities who sit on the partnership. This ensures that decisions and activity being directed by the regional boards are fully shared and understood locally and actions completed.

In Denbighshire we have arranged quarterly meetings for all of the strategic attendees for Denbighshire County Council on the regional boards so that information from each board can be shared and Denbighshire's position can be clear when responding to requests from the boards.

We aim to develop a partnership knife crime awareness plan over the next 12 months. This is as a result of police intelligence which shows we need to be informing young people of the danger of knives and the devastation they cause.

In Denbighshire now that we have a process in place to manage repeat incidents of antisocial behaviour affecting communities we should start to see the repeat locations better managed and long-term solutions put in place.