

The future of Policing in Bassetlaw



BASSETLAW
DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

www.bassetlaw.gov.uk

Scrutiny is an Independent, Councillor-led Function, Working with Local People to Improve Services.

Foreword

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Members and Officers involved in this review and to all the witnesses that have provided evidence. Bassetlaw is a unique area for policing as it borders South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire and has two distinct Policing areas- East Bassetlaw which is rural and includes Retford and West Bassetlaw which includes the town of Worksop. The review examined how this affects the approach to policing.

The Scrutiny Review was carried out at a time of significant change in the way that the Police operate with the first elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners. It was also a learning process to understand the possible impact of the changes to the governance structures. As the review progressed Members had to respond to new developments in the governance process. The Panel had to consider a large volume of detailed and sometimes restricted information. Perhaps we did not appreciate the complexity of modern policing and the amount of evidence that we would have to consider to understand how policing in Bassetlaw is influenced by the national and Nottinghamshire policies. The Panel did not consider all the aspects of crime in Bassetlaw due to time limitations. The recommendations of the review will contribute to the consultation on the Police and Crime Plan to be produced by the Police and Crime Commissioner in March 2013.

We have gained an understanding of the nature of Policing and the pressures on the service in Nottinghamshire. Members are now aware of the good partnership working in Bassetlaw with the Police and its partners to reduce crime and disorder and that by pooling resources and problem solving there can be effective achievements for our local communities. We also recognise that it is important to have a supportive and constructive relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner to promote efficient and effective policing in Bassetlaw. The Council also has a role to play in the new structures and importantly the people of Bassetlaw can now have a voice in local policing. We believe that on the basis of the evidence that we have considered, the recommendations of the Panel will make a positive contribution.

Councillor David Challinor
Chair of Select Panel 1



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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Summary of Findings

Bassetlaw District Council's Select Panel 1 was tasked to review 'The Future of Policing in Bassetlaw' as part of the Annual Programme of Work for 2012/13. The topic was approved by Overview and Scrutiny in June 2012.

The review addressed the ambitions of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-2015 as follows:

AMBITION 2: QUALITY HOUSING AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Priority 1 – Create Pride in our Neighbourhoods which are clean, safe and accessible

AMBITION 3: INVOLVED COMMUNITIES AND LOCALITY WORKING

Priority 4 – Work in partnership in support of local services

This was a timely review which provided an opportunity for Bassetlaw to understand the:

- new service landscape
- role of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- role of the Police and Crime Panel
- District Council's role and links with these new structures
- impact of wider public service reform and funding cuts on the ability of partner agencies to contribute to the community safety agenda
- linkages with newly created Health and Well-Being Board that has responsibility for substance misuse and domestic violence budgets
- linkages with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board that is a strategic planning body for community safety and community safety partnerships in Nottinghamshire

There were major structural changes in the way the Police Service is managed taking place at the time of the review. The Police and Social Responsibility Act 2011¹ significantly changed policing in England and Wales. It makes the police service more accountable to local people by replacing police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners from 22nd November 2012². See Appendix 6.1 for an explanation of national and local factors impacting on Bassetlaw.

The Select Panel assessed the District Council's own community safety scrutiny processes. It was important to ensure that we are able to effectively monitor the effectiveness of our own shared Community Safety Partnership (Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership) that has a key role in delivering community safety initiatives in Bassetlaw. The Select Panel have made recommendations on how these arrangements can be strengthened. They noted that the Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership is working well and helping to deliver real community safety improvements. They were keen to ensure that the Partnership continues to be resourced and recognised as an important part of the community safety solution for Bassetlaw.

The over-riding concern for the Select Panel was to ensure that appropriate resources that are needed to make Bassetlaw a safe place are deployed in the District. The evidence showed that although reductions in policing resources had been made across Nottinghamshire, including Bassetlaw, these reductions had not so far impacted on frontline police staff – but on backroom functions. Members were concerned that this would not have an adverse impact on service delivery in the longer term.

Members were pleased to note that additional Police Constables and PCSOs had recently been recruited for Nottinghamshire and Members wanted to make sure that a suitable proportion of these come to Bassetlaw.

Members were aware that further significant resource reductions must be made between now and 2015. A total of £42.3m must be cut from the budget by the end of March 2015 and Members sought clarity during the review about the likely impact of these cuts in Bassetlaw. The responsibility for setting policing and funding priorities in Nottinghamshire now sits with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Final decisions on priorities and funding will take place after the review has concluded. The Select Panel supports the general approach of reducing the impact of cuts on frontline Neighbourhood Police staff, the need for new models of policing, the recruitment of volunteers to support the Police, strong partnership working and an evidence-based approach to target resources as the only sensible way forward.

¹ <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/201011/police-reform-and-social-responsibility.html>

² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/>

The closure of the Custody Suite in Worksop remained a concern throughout the review and was seen as a hindrance to policing in the District. Members noted that new arrangements had been put in place and financial savings had been made through the closure. This did not resolve concerns and there was also the issue of the longer term impact on Court services in the District, with the risk of closure making Bassetlaw more reliant on other areas.

The Select Panel looked at specific issues in relation to certain categories of crime and some community safety services – for example substance misuse, domestic violence and the support for victims. They were chosen because anecdotal and hard evidence suggested that these were issues that needed to be addressed and brought to the attention of the PCC.

The geographical location of Bassetlaw presents specific policing challenges. The A1 is a fast link out of the District for offenders and the A1 itself is proving a drain on policing resources due to parking of HGV vehicles in laybys and theft from these vehicles. Again the Panel recommend that this be addressed.

As a predominantly rural District there is a perception that communities in rural areas do not receive a fair share of police resources and time. The return of the Rural Grant³ is recommended by the Panel to help counteract this.

The Panel found that there was a need to improve community confidence and access to the police. The Panel felt that this could be achieved by assessing and enhancing existing communication channels e.g. the current functionality of the 101 number.

The Panel were pleased to note that Nottinghamshire Police has been successful in recent years in bringing down crime rates despite having reduced resources. Nottinghamshire recorded its lowest single month crime figures for at least a decade in September 2012 and the county crime rate at its lowest level for 37 years.⁴

The Panel look to the new policing arrangements to build on this success and improve community safety and community confidence in Bassetlaw. The report is recommended for referral to the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner to help him understand some of the community safety concerns in Bassetlaw and to help to inform his policing and funding priorities.

During the review, the Chairman of the Panel and a Scrutiny and Policy Officer attended two conferences one organised by the Local Government Information Unit and one by the Local Government Association District Councils Network⁵, discussed further in section 3.

³ <http://www.rsonline.org.uk/services/police-candidates-demand-fairer-funding>

⁴ http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/newsandevents/news/2012/october/18/nottinghamshire_sees_lowest_monthly_crime_figures_for_a_decade/

⁵ <http://districtcouncils.info/2012/11/05/dcn-police-crime-commissioners/>

Subsequent to the completion of the review the PCC published his first Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017⁶ in January 2013. The Panel were encouraged to note that the priorities reflected the issues that this review had identified.

It should be noted that some the evidence to support the review was restricted as it dealt with police matters. As a result the detail is often not in the evidence to support the recommendation.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for this review. This can be viewed at www.bassetlaw.gov.uk under the Equality Section or by contacting the Policy and Scrutiny Unit on 01909 533189.

1.2 Scope of the Review

1.2.1 Our Ambition:

To review the Police Service in Bassetlaw, to ensure that Bassetlaw's future provision provides an effective and efficient Police Force and effective community safety services.

1.2.2 Our Scope:

- Establish current Policing Priorities and Resources in Bassetlaw.
- Gather viewpoints of Key Service providers
- Review possible impact of future changes to resources on the current approach in Bassetlaw such as Partnership Plus
- Review Bassetlaw District Council's relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel
- Establish a Forward Plan of priorities and resources for policing Bassetlaw.

⁶ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Public-Information/Police-and-Crime-Plan.aspx>

1.2.3 Who and how should we consult?

Who	How
Chair of Magistrates Service in Bassetlaw	Invite to Meeting
Representative of Nottinghamshire Probation Trust	Invite to Meeting
Representative of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership	Invite to Meeting
Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Police Authority	Invite to Meeting
Representatives of Nottinghamshire Police	Invite to Meeting
Representative of Victim Support	Invite to Meeting
Representative of Nottinghamshire Women's Aid	Invite to Meeting
Representative of Drug Intervention Programme	Invite to Meeting

1.2.4 What are the key outcomes?

Provide a robust and evidence based report to support the provision of an efficient and effective Police Force in Bassetlaw

1.3 Membership

Councillor B. Bowles
Councillor H. Burton
Councillor D. Challinor (Chairman)
Councillor C. Entwistle
Councillor F. Hart
Councillor D. Pidwell

Councillor D. Potts
Councillor J. Potts (Vice Chairman)
Councillor M. Storey
Councillor C. Wanless
Councillor J. White

1.4 Summary of Recommendations

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
1.	<u>A1 Corridor</u> That the PCC investigate alternative ways of using Police resources to manage the A1 Corridor.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
2	That the PCC work with the relevant highways agencies to manage ways to restrict the overnight use of the laybys on the A1 Corridor.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	March 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
3	That the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership develop a campaign to encourage protective measures on the A1 corridor.	Director of Corporate Services Gerald Connor, Community Safety Co-ordinator	To be covered via CSP resources	April 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the members of the partnership.
4	That BDC explore the options available for the provision of additional secure lorry parking in Bassetlaw.	Director of Community Services/Head of Community Prosperity	Officer time. It will require a further report to Cabinet to progress any development as there is no finance available to fund.	December 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not viable and finance is not available or there is insufficient interest by the lorry owners.

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
5	<u>Cross Border Working</u> That the PCC supports cross border working with South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire Police – to share the resourcing to tackle a travelling criminal fraternity.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
6	<u>Anti- Social Behaviour</u> That the PCC works with the Chief Constable to develop punishments for low level crime and anti-social behaviour that are effective in the Community Remedy process	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2014	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
7	<u>Victim Support</u> That the PCC ensures that Bassetlaw victims of crime are referred to a locally based service and current levels of support are maintained.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2014	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
8	That the PCC reviews the level of victim support provided to rural areas.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	March 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
9	<u>Rural Areas</u> That the PCC request Central Government to re-instate the Rural Policing Grant.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the Government

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
10	<u>Volunteering</u> That the Bassetlaw District Council supports the PCC and Police in the promotion of any future volunteering campaigns to encourage local residents to take up the opportunity of being a police volunteer.	Director of Corporate Services/ Communications Manager	Officer Time	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that there is a lack of take up as volunteers
11	That Bassetlaw District Council working with he Bassetlaw Young People's Ambassador raises the awareness of young people in Bassetlaw of the volunteering opportunities with the Police.	Director of Corporate Services/ Senior Support Services Manager		Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that there is a lack of take up as volunteers
12	<u>Frontline Services</u> That the PCC keeps a watching brief on the impact of the cuts to the back office function on the capacity of frontline policing.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
13	<u>Neighbourhood Policing</u> That Bassetlaw District Council provides a link to the Neighbourhood Policing website and that the Neighbourhood Priorities Survey form is available in Councillors Surgeries.	Director of Corporate Services/ Communications Manager	Officer Time	March 2013	Officer Time to deliver.
14	<u>Shoplifting</u> That BDC explore ways to work with the local business community, police and the private sector to reduce shoplifting in Bassetlaw.	Director of Corporate Services	Officer Time	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that the retailers do not want to be involved

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
15	<u>Local Justice</u> That the Nottinghamshire PCC meet his manifesto commitment to re-open the Worksop Custody Suite in a cost effective manner and in line with current budget pressures.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	To be determined by the PCC	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC as it was part of the budget reduction package for the Force. It is a complex position involving partner agencies. In addition Nottinghamshire Police will have to find capital resources of approx £300,000 additional revenue resources of approx. £848,000 To 2015.
16	<u>Community Safety</u> That the PCC supports the Nottinghamshire Police Authority Transition Programme recommendation to become a member of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
17	<u>Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership</u> That the PCC will maintain the funding for the Partnership Plus approach to crime reduction in the new Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
18	That Bassetlaw District Council works with Newark and Sherwood District Council to strengthen the role of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership and the partnership is subject to effective Member scrutiny and performance management.	Director of Corporate Services	None to Bassetlaw District Council	Ongoing	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the other members of the partnership
19	<u>Night Time Economy</u> That Bassetlaw District Council supports and implements the recommendations of the Bassetlaw Night Time Economy Group.	Director of Corporate Services	Dependent on the recommendations of the group.	To be determined by the Group	
20	That the PCC should consider allocating resources to have a locally based licensing enforcement service in Bassetlaw	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	To be determined by the PCC	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
21	<u>Contacting the Police</u> That the PCC requests the Home Office to review of the performance of the 101 number and introduce greater clarity in the use of postcodes	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	To be determined by the PCC.	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
22	That Bassetlaw District Council work with the Police to publicise the use of Crime Stoppers as a confidential reporting number.	Director of Corporate Services/ Communications Manager	None to Bassetlaw District Council	March 2013	Officer time to implement.

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
23	<u>Youth Offending</u> That the PCC maintain funding to continue the reduction in youth offending in Bassetlaw.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council		Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
24	<u>Substance Misuse</u> That the PCC ensures that sufficient resources are made available to the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership to have a flexible response to drugs and alcohol substance misuse to meet the demands of emerging new drugs and to maintain local service provision in Bassetlaw.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2013 onwards	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
25	<u>Health and Well Being Board</u> That the PCC evaluate his role in relation to the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-Being Board.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
26	<u>Re-Offending</u> That the PCC calls for a report on the Police resources committed to Bassetlaw's Integrated Offender Management programme and to consider strengthening this service.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	March 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
27	<u>Domestic Violence</u> That the Council supports and enables women to make informed choices about their future and to take responsibility for their lives by the services that it provides for domestic violence.	Director Corporate Services/Director Community Services	Officer Time	Ongoing	Strategic direction and policy development

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
28	That the PCC maintains funding levels to support victims of high level domestic violence and that additional resources are made available for specialist advisors for women identified as medium risk in Bassetlaw.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2014	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
29	That the PCC provides funding for the provision of young peoples' services in schools to raise awareness of how to address abusive behaviour in relationships	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	April 2014	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
30	<u>Additional Resources</u> That the PCC delivers his election pledge of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner to increase the number of Police Officers and PCSOs and that a fair proportion of these resources should be allocated to Bassetlaw.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	To be determined by the PCC in line with recruitment timescales	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC
31	<u>Bassetlaw District Council Internal Processes</u> That the BDC representative on the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel should always be a member of Bassetlaw Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Director of Corporate Services	Officer Time	May 2013	Constitutional changes are not agreed in May 2013.
32	That the BDC internal processes should be via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and amendments made to the Council's Constitution so that the delegated authority of the BDC Member on the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel is clear.	Director of Corporate Services	Officer Time	May 2013	Constitutional changes are not agreed in May 2013.

	Recommendation	Responsible Officer	Financial Implications	Delivery Timescale	Risks to delivery/ Officer Comment
33	<u>Local Engagement with the PCC</u> That the Council explores all possibilities to establish a direct working relationship with the PCC.	Chief Executive	Officer Time	January 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
34	<u>Data Sharing</u> That the PCC explores the options for more flexibility in data sharing with partner organisations.	Nottinghamshire PCC	None to Bassetlaw District Council	December 2013	Risk to delivery is that it is not considered a priority by the PCC.
35	<u>Community Involvement</u> That Bassetlaw District Council investigates the way that local member concerns and the concerns of the local community on police and community safety issues can be registered with the PCC.	Director of Corporate Services	Officer Time	April 2013	Officer time to implement.

2. Background

The Panel considered key documents that provide the context for the review. The Panel had to understand the current pressures on the Police and how this is affecting Bassetlaw. There was a large amount of new central government legislation concerning Police Reform, budget reductions as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 and the introduction of elected Police and Crime Commissioners.

At a local level Nottinghamshire Police Authority and Nottinghamshire Police have responded to reforms and the governance changes with the introduction of the PCC. Policing is complex with partnership working including the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership. As a result the Panel considered a large amount of governance information. In addition it was a learning exercise to assist the Council to understand the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the opportunity for Bassetlaw Council to have a role in local policing.

2.1 National Level

2.1.1 Police Reform⁷

The government is reforming the way that the police operate which means that the Police Force is in a state of change to meet these requirements.

From November 2012, elected police and crime commissioners⁸ replaced the existing Police Authorities to ensure the policing needs of local communities are met, bringing communities closer to the police, building confidence in the system and restoring trust. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011⁹ provided the legislation to do this.

Nationally the National Crime Agency¹⁰ has been created that will:

- tackle organised crime
- strengthen our borders
- fight fraud and cyber crime
- protect children and young people

In addition, a College of Policing¹¹ will be established for all future training and development.

⁷ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-reform/>

⁸ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/>

⁹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/legislation/police-reform-bill/>

¹⁰ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/nca/>

Other key elements of the reforms include:

- Reducing bureaucracy¹²
- Winsor review of police pay and conditions¹³
- Pension reform

2.1.2 Policing Protocol¹⁴

The protocol sets out how police and crime commissioners will work with the chief constables and police and crime panels to maintain an effective and efficient police force.

Police and Crime Commissioner

- Has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the police to account.
- Receives all funding, including government grant, precept and other income related to policing and crime reduction. The allocation of the money is by the PCC in consultation with the Chief Constable
- Has the legal power and duty to—
 - set the strategic direction and objectives of the force through the Police and Crime Plan which must have regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement¹⁵
 - scrutinise, support and challenge the overall performance of the force including the priorities agreed in the Plan;
 - hold the Chief Constable to account for the performance of the force
 - decide the budget, allocating assets and funds to the Chief Constable; and set the precept
 - appoint the Chief Constable/remove the Chief Constable
 - maintain an efficient and effective police force;
 - collaborate with other PCCs, policing bodies and partners that improve efficiency or effectiveness in consultation with the Chief Constable
 - link the police with local communities, to put their aspirations into action
 - publish information to assess the performance of the PCC and Chief Constable;
 - comply with all reasonable requests to attend Panel meetings

¹¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/college-of-policing/>

¹² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-reform/reducing-police-bureaucracy/>

¹³ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-reform/winsor-review/>

¹⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/policing-protocol/policing-protocol-order>

¹⁵ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/strategic-policing-requirement>

- prepare an annual report to the Panel on the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan objectives;
- monitor all complaints against officers and staff, with personal responsibility for complaints against the Chief Constable
- The PCC will have access to information, officers and staff required to carry out his duties.
- Wider responsibilities – a specific responsibility for the delivery of community safety and crime reduction; the ability to bring together Community Safety Partnerships
- Financial Responsibilities – The PCC is accountable for managing the police fund. The PCC and Chief Constable have a responsibility to effectively manage the police budget and provide value for money. The Chief Constable has day to day responsibility for managing the approved budgets within the objectives and conditions set by the PCC.
- Impartiality – PCCs will swear an oath of impartiality when they are elected as they serve the people, not a political party or any section of the electorate.
- Strategic Policing Requirement – The Home Secretary has produced this so that PCC and CC can fulfil national policing requirements. Some threats require a cross border or national response such as terrorism, organised crime, cyber crime and major events. Police and crime commissioners will be required to have regard to this Strategic Policing Requirement in their police and crime plans.

2.2 Local Level

2.2.1 Nottinghamshire Police Authority (NPA)

Nottinghamshire Police Authority was an independent body responsible for monitoring and scrutinising the work of Nottinghamshire Police and ensure the Police provide an efficient and effective service. This ceased to exist in November 2012 and a Transition board was set up to ensure a smooth transition to the Commissioner.

2.2.2 Nottinghamshire Police

A joint Audit Commission and HMIC report¹⁶ published in July 2010 'Sustaining Value for Money in the Public Service' has found that the police could save up to £1billion (12% of central Government grant) without reducing police availability.

The NPA Business Plan April 2011- May 2012¹⁷ set out the key issues The Authority and Force planned for anticipated budget reductions of £42.3 from the £200m budget to 2014/15 of 6%, 8%, 4% and 4% per year. This equates to £23.3m before March 2013, a further £8.0m by March 2014 and another £11.0m by the end of March 2015¹⁸.

¹⁶ <http://www.auditcommission.gov.uk/nationalstudies/communitysafety/policevfm/Pages/default.aspx>

¹⁷ http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121010019/http://www.nottspa.org/documents/plans-and-strategies/Business%20Plan_2011-2012-Police-Authority-Business-Plan.pdf

Even though the budget has reduced performance has improved. The plans protected the frontline and targeted support staff to improve efficiency and value for money. Delivery of policing has changed. There are fewer POLICE officers and staff, buildings and vehicles. 80% of the budget is spent on people and the reduction has been achieved by a freeze on recruitment, redundancy schemes and the use of Regulation A19 which requires police officers (who cannot be made redundant) with 30 years pensionable service to retire have all been introduced and overtime costs cut, saving approximately £0.5million during 2011-12, It was anticipated that by March 2012 there would be 214 fewer support staff and 144 fewer officers.

Also changes were made to the way the force is structured to improve local policing and cut costs. From April 2011 four operational policing divisions became two. "City" Division boundaries were unchanged, with a new "County" division responsible for policing the rest of the county. The changes have increased neighbourhood policing and performance. Areas most at risk of anti social behaviour will be targeted. This new model requires fewer officers and members of police staff while aiming to maintain or improve the level of service. Nationally there has been a change with 2,300 more Neighbourhood Policing Officers. The Local Police service is supported by Response Teams who deal with urgent matters and provide a patrol service 24 hours a day. Neighbourhood and Response Police are supported by specialist operation services such as Crime scene investigators. The revised Police Structure is shown in the following diagram (Figure 1).

The Transformation and Transitional Change Programme implemented by Nottinghamshire Police is to meet the declining levels of funding. Key areas include:

- Re-organisation of Policing structure at Basic Command Unit level
- Changes to shift patterns to meet demand profile
- Re-structure of Corporate Support Services – Business and Finance, Corporate Development, Estate and Facilities Management
- Review of fleet and premises management
- Collaboration with other Services across the region
- Estate review and decommissioning of Police Stations which are not feasible to maintain or are rarely used – but maintaining a visible police service by co-locating police in a more convenient location New technology means that officers more when out on the beat. Instead of returning to a station officers are in the community which cuts crime.

¹⁸ <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121005712/http://www.nottspa.org/documents/latest-news/>

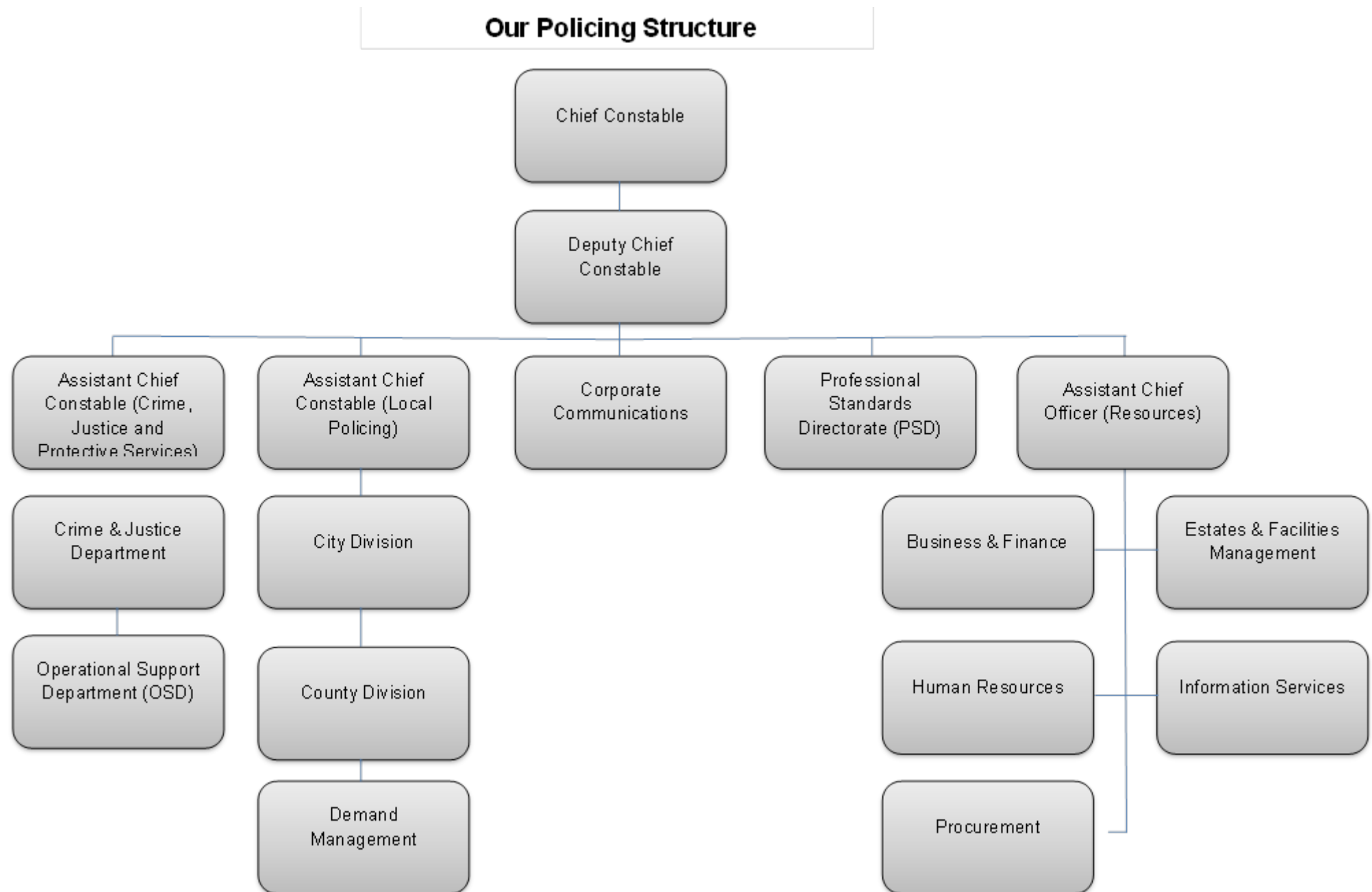
Nottinghamshire Police is also working closely with other East Midlands forces to share people and workloads in some areas which has made and will continue to make savings. In the 2012/13 budget it was proposed that sixty police officer jobs would be lost through a continued freeze on recruitment and officers retiring. More officers were to be moved to the front line and their work to be done by support staff. Nottinghamshire Police currently has approximately 1,600 front-line officers. The budget included a rise of 3.93% in the amount of Council Tax paid to the Force with plans for 56 extra police community support officers and 30 police staff becoming civilian investigators and a further 45 police officers in 2013/14 and another 106 in 2014/15. Also the force will no longer use regulation A19¹⁹, where police officers are required to retire after 30 years of service.

Following this the Force has a new set of goals:

- Attend 100% of all reported crime
- Resolve crimes and offences to meet victims needs
- Follow Up all incidents
- Bring the majority of rape and violent offenders to justice
- Provide first class care and support for every victim of domestic violence
- Suppress serious crime and bring gangs under control
- Help make communities safe and thriving

¹⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-17131071>

Figure 1: Nottinghamshire Policing Structure



2.2.3 Nottinghamshire Police Authority and Nottinghamshire Police Plan 2011-2105²⁰

Until March 2013 the policing of Bassetlaw is determined by the Nottinghamshire Police Authority and Nottinghamshire Police Plan 2011-2015. The Policing Plan is produced by the Chief Constable and delivered by the Chief Officer Team working together and in partnership with other police forces, criminal justice agencies, local authorities and other organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

This current Policing Plan explains what the Police Authority and the Force will do to keep the community and property safe and how it will become the best performing police force in the country. The plan is refreshed each year following a comprehensive strategic risk assessment to identify what is doing well, the areas for improvement and to meet future challenges. It also takes account of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The plan complements local partner organisations and neighbouring police forces. The Police consult with local communities to understand what matters most to neighbourhoods.

The Plan is evidence led, based on the data collected in the Nottinghamshire Strategic Assessment. The background to the Plan is that the Force has already achieved significant reductions in crime in the City of Nottingham and the County of Nottinghamshire and closed the gap between the level of crime committed in the force area and comparable parts of the country.

The targets for the current year 2012/13 are:

- Reduce the total number of crimes committed by 8%
- Make savings of £10.3m
- Achieve a victim satisfaction rate of 90% (top 3 forces nationally)

The three main strategic priorities are:

1. To cut crime and keep you safe

The objective is to be consistently ranked amongst the top 10 police forces in England and Wales for reduction in levels of crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB). Success will be measured by the level of crime and antisocial behaviour that is recorded in Nottinghamshire

²⁰ http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/library/local_policing_plan/date/1/

2. To spend your money wisely

The objective is to be recognised nationally, through independent review, as demonstrating optimum use of our resources
Success will be measured by value for money reviews carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC)

3. To earn your trust and confidence

The objective is to be consistently ranked amongst the top five police forces in England and Wales for victim satisfaction.
Success will be measured by victim of crime surveys

Performance Framework to monitor the three Strategic Priorities

Nottinghamshire Police have a comprehensive Performance Management system which monitors the performance of the three Policing Plan priorities. A Performance and Insight report is produced and reported to the Performance Committee, Nottinghamshire Police Authority. It provides information on the Performance Indicators against targets in the Policing Plan. It analyses performance against the most similar group, national averages and trends. The Insight Report provides an explanation of the figures and outlines action that is being taken to achieve the target performance.

The key indicators for the three priorities can be found through the following sources noted below:

Priority 1 – To Cut Crime and Keep You Safe²¹

The Force has a policy that anti-social behaviour (ASB) crimes had 100% attendance. The number of domestic violence suspects arrested within 48 hours was improving but not yet on target. Processes were in place to ensure that when a shift changed the information was passed onto the next shift and other partner agencies also helped support the Force in finding the suspect as quickly as possible while supporting the victim. The reduction in the total number of vehicle crime offences had been achieved through 100% attendance and investigation, plus good offender management. The vehicle industry had also taken great strides to secure vehicles. Fuel theft reductions were due to a robust police response.

Priority 2 – To Spend Your Money Wisely²²

This provides information on the budget, use of resources and staff. HR plans are in place to civilianise police posts within Crime & Justice and Operational Support to enable the release of Officers to local policing. The Targeted Establishment for staff has now been agreed and is reflected in the table. These figures also include 56 PCSO's that are currently being recruited.

²¹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Insight-report-To-Cut-Crime-and-Keep-You-Safe-Aug-2012.pdf>

²² http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121012240/http://www.nottspa.org/documents/meetings/Finance-and-Business-Committee/7th-November-2012_Item-07-Performance-and-Insight-Report-App.pdf

Priority 3 – To Earn Your Trust and Confidence²³

2.2.4 Finance and Resources

Nottinghamshire's budget reduction is 3.7% above the average for all Police Forces. The tables show the level of funding, the savings needed, workforce plan and budget allocations for 2012-13. These figures relate to Nottinghamshire as a whole, of which Bassetlaw will receive a proportion. Resources are allocated based on need and assessed on a monthly basis.

Figure 2: Medium term financial forecast 2012-16

Medium term financial forecast 2012-16	2012-13 £m	2013-14 £m	2014-15 £m	2015-16 £m
Main Police Grant from Central Government	134.2	135.1	130.9	130.9
Council Tax Freeze Grant	1.3	1.3	1.3	-
Neighbourhood Policing Grant	5.5	-	-	-
Public Finance Initiative Grant	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Total External Financing	142.8	138.2	134.0	132.7
Precept including Collection Surplus	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4
Total Core External Financing	196.2	191.6	187.4	186.1
Previous Year's Expenditure before known efficiencies	204.4	196.2	191.6	187.4
In-year increase	3.4	4.4	5.1	4.4
Net Expenditure	207.8	200.6	196.7	191.8
Annual Shortfall Before Efficiencies	(11.6)	(9.0)	(9.3)	(5.7)
Confirmed Efficiencies	4.3	0.5	-	-
Planned Efficiencies	6.0	10.7	12.9	2.4

²³ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Insight-Report-To-Earn-Your-Trust-and-Confidence.pdf>

Medium term financial forecast 2012-16	2012-13 £m	2013-14 £m	2014-15 £m	2015-16 £m
Efficiency Plans to be developed	-	-	-	6.4
Total Efficiencies	10.3	11.2	12.9	8.8
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(1.3)	2.2	3.6	3.1
Additional Funding Proposal	2.2	3.8	5.4	5.4
Additional Investment Proposal	(1.6)	(4.8)	(8.6)	(8.6)
Movement in Reserves	(0.7)	1.2	0.4	(0.1)

Figure 3: Workforce Plan 2012-15

	FTE1 at March 2012	FTE at March 2013	FTE at March 2014	FTE at March 2015
Police officers	2,129	2,068	2,054	2,104
Police staff	1,280	1,318	1,270	1,145
PCSOs	275	331	331	331

Progress in Tackling the Budget Reduction

The Revenue and Business Committee Meeting Nottinghamshire Police Authority Budget report to September 2012 indicated that the Force was £0.669m underspent to date against the agreed restated budget total of £191.261m for 2012/13. Of interest to the review was the fact that the Police staff pay and allowances was £0.231m underspent due to net vacancies savings in Local Policing, Specialist Services and Corporate Services. Police staff overtime was overspent by £0.259m due to covering vacancies. Other Police Forces are using Nottinghamshire Police for a forensic service which brings in additional funds.

Figure 4: Budget allocations for 2012-13

	Full Year Agreed Budget	Full Year Restated Budget	Restated Budget to Year to Date £m	Actual £m	Variance £m
Expenditure					
Total Pay and Allowances	156.383	154.588	79.660	79.064	(0.596)
Other Operating Expenses	37.365	39.201	20.633	20.910	0.277
Total Expenditure	193.748	193.789	100.293	99.974	(0.391)
Income	(1.101)	(1.250)	(4.374)	(4.538)	(0.165)
Total	191.838	191.261	95.061	94.392	(0.669)

Force Finances

The Crime and Policing Comparator²⁴ acknowledges that Nottinghamshire performs 'below average' for spending across all budget categories:

- Force Cost- The total amount of money the force spends per head of population.
- Pay Cost- The total amount the force spends on current pay costs per head of population. This is the total cost for all officers, PCSOs and police staff.
- Officer Pay Cost- The total amount the force spends on Officer Pay costs per head of population. 'Pay costs' include salary and overtime.
- Officer Overtime - This category shows the percentage of total officer pay that goes on overtime.
- PCSO Pay costs - The total amount the force spends on PCSO pay costs per head of population. 'Pay costs' include salary and overtime.
- Workforce numbers - This category shows how many officers, police staff and police community support officers (PCSOs) work in the force per 1,000 population. This is below the England and Wales average but relatively the percentage of PCSOs is higher.

²⁴ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator/>

2.2.5 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) Policing in Austerity One Year On²⁵ - External assessment of Nottinghamshire's progress with budget reductions

HMIC found that because of the changes it is making, Nottinghamshire Police will be able not only to balance the books but also to increase the number and proportion of its workforce in frontline, crime-fighting roles. The force plans to have 84% of its workforce in frontline roles by 2015, which is higher than most other forces. This includes a 23% increase in the number of police community support officers (PCSOs) the force currently employs, an increase of 60. The proportion of police officers on the front line also increases over the same period from 86% to 95%, resulting in one of the highest proportions of frontline officers in the country and a total increase of more than 40 officers and staff working on the front line. The force has also achieved a much higher than average rate of overall crime reduction this year, which has resulted in the force recording its lowest crime levels in more than 30 years. 88% of victims in Nottinghamshire are satisfied with the overall service provided by the force, which is greater than England and Wales as a whole.

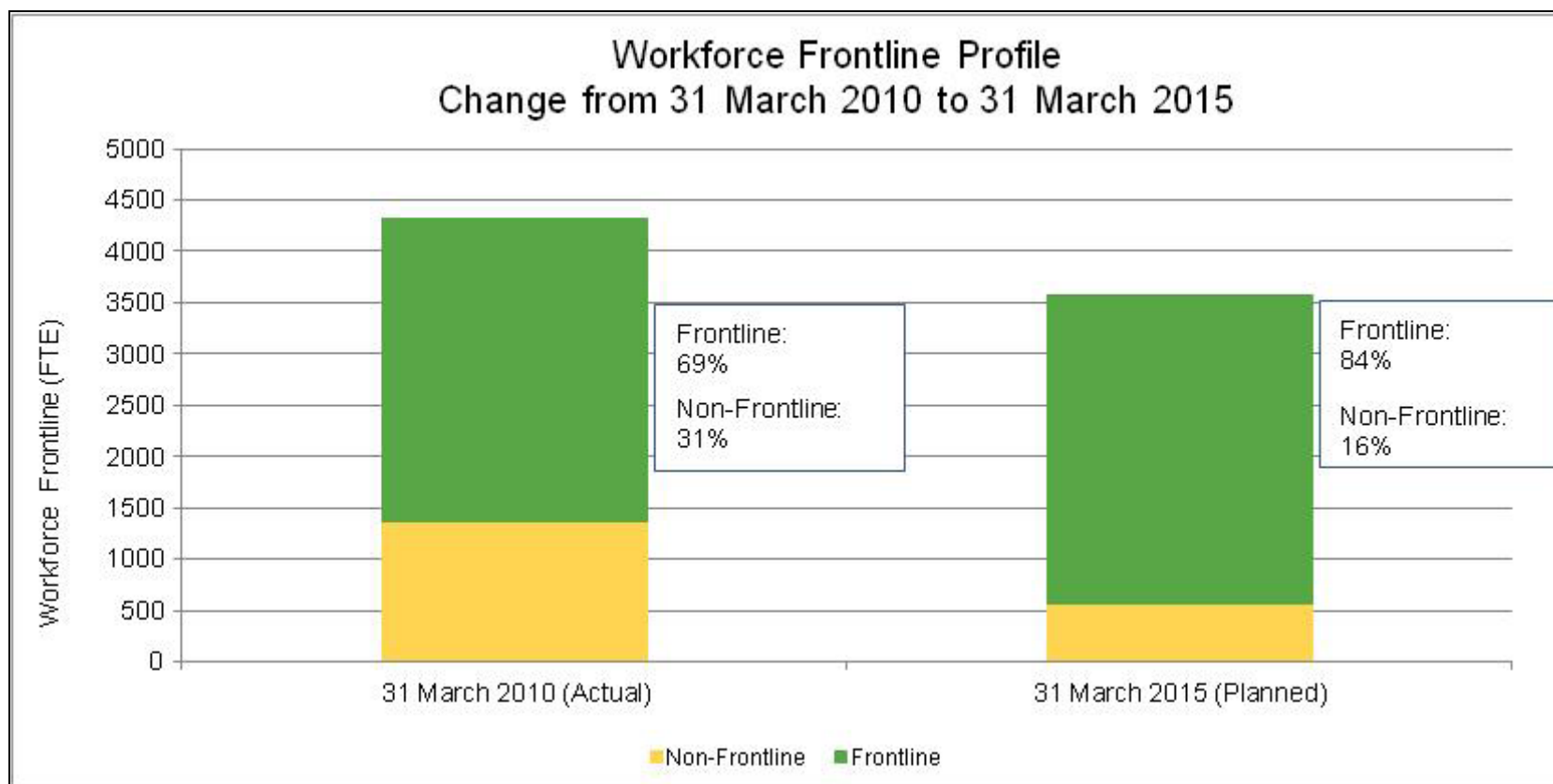
According to HMIC the reduction in police officer posts is a 13% reduction compared with a 10% reduction across England and Wales and a 23% increase in PCSOs compared to a 10% decrease in England and Wales. Based on these figures, the proportion of Nottinghamshire Police's total workforce allocated to frontline roles will increase from 69% to 84% - the highest in England and Wales. This compares with an overall increase across England and Wales from 67% to 74%²⁶. (Policing in Austerity one year on

HMIC reported the position in Nottinghamshire as follows (Figure 5 and Figure 6):

²⁵ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/nottinghamshire-policing-in-austerity-one-year-on.pdf>

²⁶ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/programmes/value-for-money/policing-in-austerity-one-year-on/>

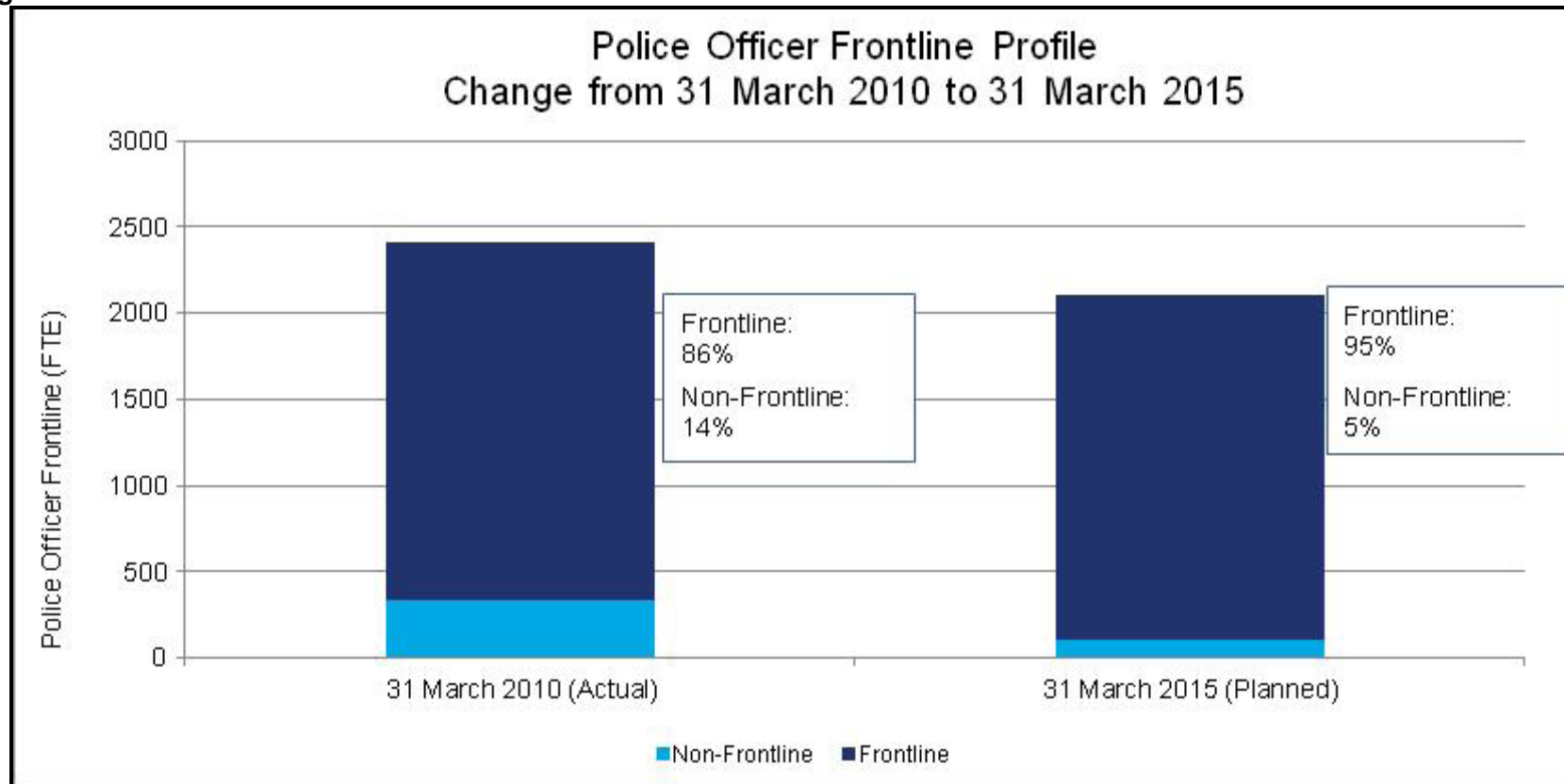
Figure 5: Workforce Frontline Profile



Looking specifically at police officers, the number of officers working on the front line will drop from 2,080 in March 2010 to an estimated 2,000 by March 2015. The number working in non-frontline roles will also drop (from 330 to 110). Based on these figures, the proportion of Nottinghamshire police officers allocated to frontline roles will increase to 95% which is higher than the 89% figure for England and Wales.

63% of police officers and PCSOs are allocated to visible roles (such as officers who respond to 999 calls, deal with serious road traffic accidents or patrol in neighbourhoods). This is greater than the England and Wales figure. HMIC also looked at satisfaction levels of the public with the police service as forces reconfigure resources to meet the budget challenge. The overall victim satisfaction for Nottinghamshire is 88%, which is greater than the rate for England and Wales as a whole. Therefore it is argued that the Service to the public has been largely maintained.

Figure 6: Police Officer Frontline Profile



The report provided comparative data on the planned workforce reductions of all Police Forces from 31 March 2010 to 31 March 2015 as provided by forces to HMIC in February 2012. A summary of the forces with the highest and lowest reductions compared to Nottinghamshire is listed below

Figure 7: Range of Workforce Reductions showing the Highest & Lowest Workforce Reductions compared to Nottinghamshire

	Police Officers		Police Staff		PCSO's		Workforce	
Force Name	Change	% Change	Change	% Change	Change	% Change	Change	% Change
Dorset	-308	-21%						
Humberside	-436	-21%						
Metropolitan Police	-1410	-4%						
Thames Valley	-119	-3%						
Nottinghamshire	-305	-13%						
Cleveland			-457	-64%				
Lincolnshire			-472	-51%				
Thames Valley			-196	-7%				
Metropolitan Police			-641	-4%				
Nottinghamshire			-513	-31%				
City of London					-36	-69%		
Northumbria					-182	-42%		
North Wales					+105	+67%		
Dyfed Powys					+66	+79%		
Nottinghamshire					+63	+23%		
Northumbria							-1889	-28%
Lincolnshire							-610	-27%
Dyfed Powys							-116	-6%
Thames Valley							-362	-5%
Nottinghamshire							-755	-17%

2.2.6 Measuring Crime Rates

Crime in England and Wales 2012²⁷

The LGA produced a briefing that explained how it is measured. Crime statistics come from two sources:

- Police recorded crime,
- the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), previously known as The British Crime Survey

Though the two datasets are based on different data, they show that there are some clear messages that can be drawn from them:

- Crime is not increasing
- Reported crime under estimates actual crime levels

2.2.7 Performance on Crime in Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire Police have continued to record reduced crime levels even though the resources are reducing.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE RECORDED CRIME – SEPTEMBER 2012	September 2012	September 2011	Number of offences difference	% Difference
All Crime	5,396	6,391	-995	-15.6%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	874	1,115	-241	-21.6%
BCS Comparator Crime	2,602	3,443	-841	-24.4%
Serious sexual offences	59	51	+8	+15.7%
Racially and religiously aggravated offences	33	51	-18	-35.3%
Violence against the person	1,154	1,146	+8	+0.7%
Sexual offences	73	94	-21	-22.3%

²⁷ http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=27415296-6b19-446a-9179-f981727a3611&groupId=10171

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE RECORDED CRIME – SEPTEMBER 2012	September 2012	September 2011	Number of offences difference	% Difference
Robbery	45	70	-25	-35.7%
Violent Crime	1,272	1,310	-38	-2.9%
Domestic Burglary	330	403	-73	-18.1%
Burglary Other	332	495	-163	-32.9%
Burglary	662	889	-227	-26.3%
Theft from motor vehicle	408	489	-81	-16.6%
Theft of motor vehicle	91	153	-62	-40.5%
Vehicle Crime	499	642	-143	-22.3%
Theft and Handling	1,641	1,879	-238	-12.7%
Fraud and Forgery	95	202	-107	-53.0%
Criminal Damage	884	1,072	-188	-17.5%
Drug Offences	273	278	-5	-1.8%
Other Offences	70	110	-40	-36.4

Perception of Crime

Nottinghamshire Police and Police Authority recognise that despite improving crime statistics, there is a negative perception of crime in Nottinghamshire among some residents. Local level views of crime appear to be based on concerns in the local area that make people feel unsafe such as anti-social Behaviour. This can be addressed by working with partners and informing residents of how crime is being tackled to reinforce the figures.

The force is now ranked 7th rising from 27th nationally for overall customer satisfaction – its highest ever placing –after data revealed almost nine out of 10 victims of crime are satisfied with the overall service they receive from the police. According to interviews undertaken in the 12 months up to December 2011, a total of 87.5% of victims said they were happy overall with the

way their case was dealt with. It has also maintained third position in its group of most similar forces (MSG) and 16th place nationally for keeping victims informed of the progress of their case (78.5%). Public confidence has also increased with figures showing in the 12 months to September 2011, 54.8% of residents agreed that police and the local council were dealing with anti-social behaviour and crime issues that mattered to their community. This compares to 45.7% the previous year.

The Crime and Policing Comparator²⁸ compares data on recorded crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB), quality of service, finances and workforce numbers for all police forces in England and Wales.

Compared to all forces, Nottinghamshire had an average crime rate for All Crimes for the 12 months to June 2012. All Victim Based Crime was slightly above average, All Sexual Offences was below average, all stealing and all Burglary was average, All Robbery below average, vehicle crime below average, criminal damage and arson and shop lifting above average. Non Victim based crime was below average, all drug offences below average. However, anti-social behaviour was above average.

Please note that the way ASB incidents are recorded by the police changed in April 2011 and, therefore, ASB incident data recorded from that point is not comparable with previous years.

2.2.8 Bassetlaw Crime Rates

2012/13 Crime Rate data for Bassetlaw is available on www.police.uk

How does Bassetlaw compare with other similar areas to June 2012?

(Peterborough, Wrexham, Northumberland, North Devon, Monmouthshire, Newark & Sherwood, Cornwall, Newcastle-under-Lyme, West Lancashire, Telford & Wreking, Allerdale, Dover, Boston – Most Similar Group (MSG))

Compared to the MSG, Bassetlaw appears to have higher than average crime rates for burglary, vehicle crime and other theft. Drugs and other crime are lower than average.

²⁸ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator/>

Figure 8: Crimes per 1000 Residents in MSG

Crime Type	Bassetlaw	Crime Rate Bassetlaw	Rank 1=Worst	Lowest Rate	Highest Rate
All Crime	Average	64.32	6	32.8	95.16
Burglary	Higher	10.13	5	4.52	13.42
Criminal Damage & Arson	Average	11.46	9	6.98	16.58
Drugs	Lower	2.03	12	1.19	5.36
Other Crime	Lower	1.75	11	1.31	5.06
Other Theft	Higher	12.82	4	5.37	18.07
Public Disorder & Weapons	Lower	1.75	11	1.39	5.02
Robbery	Average	0.3	7	0.05	1.13
Shoplifting	Average	5.9	5	2.98	10.74
Vehicle Crime	Higher	8.44	2	3.15	8.72
Violent Crime	Average	4.81	11	9.72	16.94

How does Bassetlaw compare with Crime in the Nottinghamshire force areas?
 (South Nottinghamshire, Newark & Sherwood, Ashfield, Mansfield and Nottingham City)

Figure 9: Crimes per 1000 Residents in Nottinghamshire

Crime Type	Average in Notts	Crime Rate Bassetlaw	Rank in Notts (1=Worst)	Lowest Rate	Highest Rate
All Crime	Lower	64.32	3	43.38	105.39
Burglary	Higher	10.13	2	6.54	12.11
Criminal Damage & Arson	Lower	11.46	4	7.53	15.33
Drugs	Lower	2.03	4	1.42	6.21
Other Crime	Lower	1.75	4	1.35	3.43
Other Theft	Lower	12.82	2	7.88	21.18
Public Disorder	Lower	1.75	4	1.04	4.8
Robbery	Lower	0.3	6	0.3	2.2
Shoplifting	Lower	5.9	3	3.42	10.98
Vehicle Crime	Higher	8.44	2	5.59	9.63
Violent Crime	Lower	9.72	4	6.86	19.29

Compared to other forces in Nottinghamshire only burglary and vehicle crime are above the average.

How has crime changed over time in Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire Force Areas?

Quarter performance up until June 2012 compared to June 2011

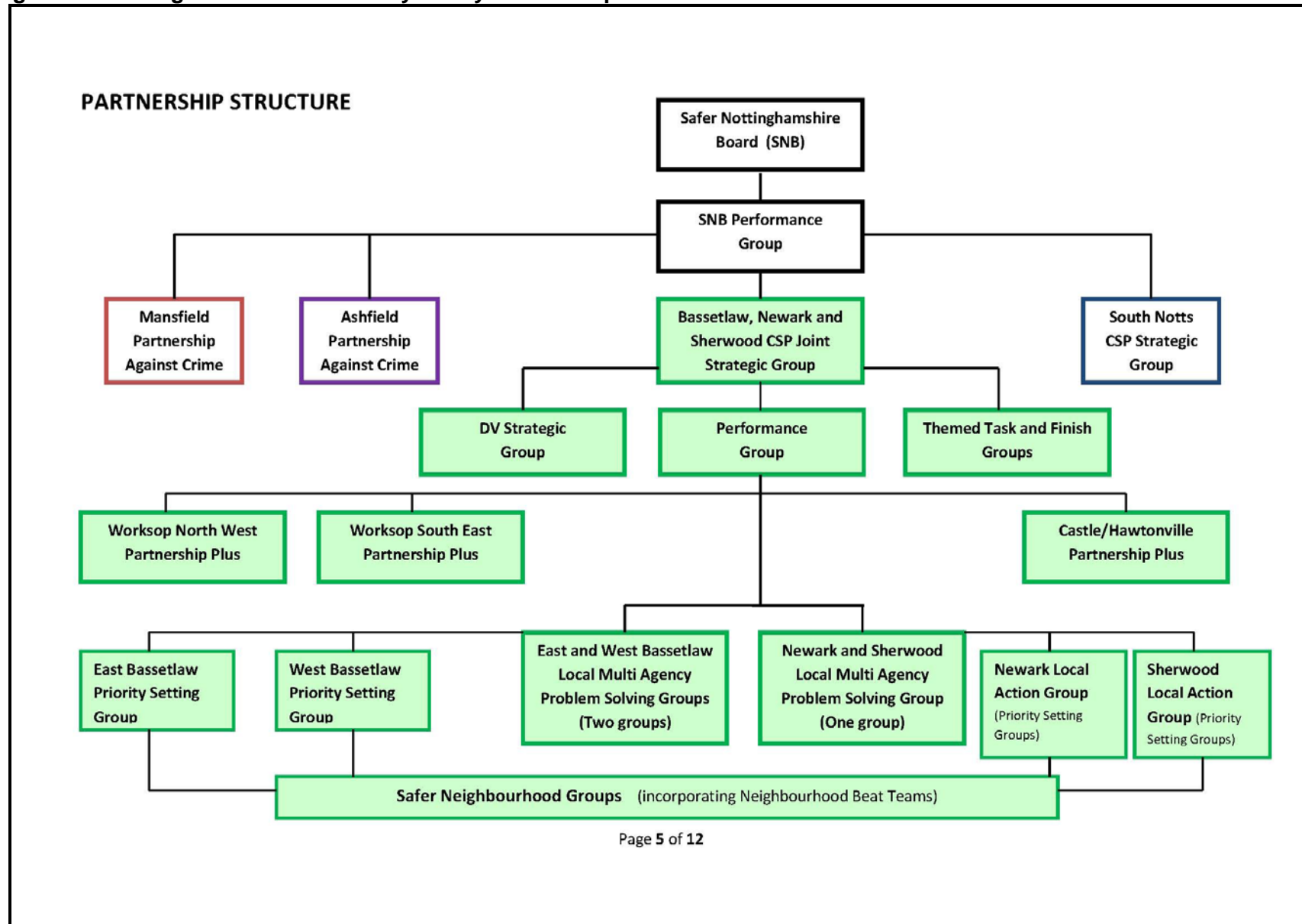
Crime Type	Change for Bassetlaw	Change for Nottinghamshire
All Crime	Down	Down
Burglary	Up	Down
Criminal Damage & Arson	Down	Down
Drugs	Down	Down
Other Crime	Down	Down
Other Theft	Down	Down
Public Disorder	Down	Down
Robbery	Up	Down
Shoplifting	Up	Up
Vehicle Crime	Up	Down
Violent Crime	Down	Down

The trend shows that compared to Nottinghamshire burglary, robbery and vehicle crime is up in Bassetlaw but down in Nottinghamshire. Shoplifting is up in Bassetlaw and Nottinghamshire.

2.2.9 Community Safety

There is a two tiered process to address this area within Nottinghamshire. The Safer Nottinghamshire Board is responsible for the effective use of county wide resources. Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for the effective use of resources at the local level. The structure is shown below:

Figure 10: Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership Structure



Safer Nottinghamshire Board²⁹

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board is a countywide strategic group that was set up in 2008 and is required under Crime and Disorder Regulations 2007 to ensure the delivery of shared priorities and a community safety agreement. It supports local community safety partnerships, and aims to bring together agencies and communities to tackle crime and ASB in local areas by:

- strategic direction for community safety and substance misuse
- effective delivery of Nottinghamshire Community Safety Strategic Plan
- ensures effective use of resources for community safety and substance misuse
- effective performance management arrangements are in place.

Its members include the Chief Constable, Chief Executives of all the Councils; Community Safety Partnerships; Police Authority (until November 2012 and the election of the PCC), Chief Probation Officer, Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officer Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue, Director for Public Health National Health Service Nottinghamshire County & National Health Service Bassetlaw & Nottinghamshire County Council, Service Director Youth, Families and Cultural Services, Nottinghamshire County Council, Director Nottingham City Crime & Drugs Partnership and Voluntary and Business Sector Representatives.

The Nottinghamshire Community Safety Agreement 2012-2015 outlines how partners will work together to provide strategic leadership and direction to tackle crime, disorder and substance misuse in Nottinghamshire. The agreement includes the Nottinghamshire Community Safety Strategy for 2012-15, which sets out the shared county community safety priorities and identifies the top 15 areas in the County which will become Partnership Plus Areas.

Thematic priorities

Each Community Safety Partnership completed a strategic assessment in November 2011 to identify local priorities in 2012/13. Seven common themes were identified:

1. Serious Acquisitive Crime
2. Violent Crime
3. Domestic Violence
4. Anti-Social Behaviour
5. Drugs and Alcohol

²⁹ <http://www.notts-pcc.org/files/2012/08/Safer-Nottinghamshire-Board.pdf>

- 6. Youth Issues
- 7. Hate Crime

Top 15 geographical areas

These priorities are being directed towards fifteen areas having the highest levels of priority crimes. These include:

- 2. Worksop South East (Manton Bassetlaw)
- 4. Worksop North West (Sandy Lane and Rhodesia Bassetlaw)

These areas will have targets to drive down crime and anti-social behaviour.

Performance

The SNB has a comprehensive performance management framework to monitor the progress in each Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership on the seven thematic priorities.

Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership³⁰

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) were set up as statutory bodies under sections of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and aim to bring communities together to tackle crime and anti social behaviour in the local community. The CSP is made up of different agencies, some are statutory (have to be there by law) and some are voluntary or co-operating members. This includes Nottinghamshire Police and to November 2012, the Police Authority. The responsible authorities work together to develop and implement strategies to protect local communities from crime and to help keep people safe. They work out local approaches to deal with issues including anti social behaviour, drug or alcohol misuse and re-offending.

The responsible authorities of the CSP are:

- Local Authorities (Bassetlaw District Council, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council)
- NHS Bassetlaw and NHS Nottinghamshire County (PCTs - Primary Care Trusts) Currently in transition as a result of NHS reforms.
- Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

³⁰ <http://www.notts-pcc.org/files/2012/05/Bassetlaw-Newark-Sherwood-CSP-PCC-Candidate-Briefing-document-2012-2013.pdf>

- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottinghamshire Police Authority
- Nottinghamshire Probation Trust

The Partnership also involves members from the voluntary and community sectors. These include:

- Elected Representatives of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood District Councils and Nottinghamshire County Council.
- Elected Representatives from the Parish and Town Councils in the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood District areas.
- Bassetlaw CVS
- Newark and Sherwood CVS
- Newark Women's Aid
- Nottinghamshire Women's Aid
- Registered Social Landlords
- Tenants and Residents Groups

Partnership Priorities:

The Partnership has agreed the following reductions in crime in 2012/2013 based on the data in the 2011/12 Strategic Assessment.

Figure 11: Bassetlaw – All Crime

Area	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Volume Reduction	2012/13 Target Outturn	2012/13 % Reduction
BNS	13,387	1,071	12,316	8.0%
Bassetlaw	7,459	597	6,862	8.0%
N&S	5,928	474	5,454	8.0%
Worksop North West	894	161	733	18.0%
Worksop South East	986	177	809	18.0%
Castle/ Devon	1555	280	1275	18.0%

Figure 12: Bassetlaw – Violent Crime

Area	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Volume Reduction	2012/13 Target Outturn	2012/13 % Reduction
BNS	2,489	199	2,290	8.0%
Bassetlaw	1,301	104	1,197	8.0%
N&S	1,188	95	1,093	8.0%

Figure 13: Bassetlaw – Anti-social behaviour

Area	2011/12 Outturn	2012/13 Volume Reduction	2012/13 Target Outturn	2012/13 % Reduction
BNS	10,969	1,097	9,872	10.0%
Bassetlaw	6,043	604	5,439	10.0%
N&S	4,926	493	4,433	10.0%

Partnership Plus in Bassetlaw

Worksop North West Partnership Plus and Worksop South East Partnership Plus have a joint delivery plan aimed at achieving an 18% reduction across All Crime in the two Partnership Plus areas. These include:

- Common Assault (including Domestic Abuse and Night Time Economy)
- Anti-social behaviour
- Burglary Other (sheds)
- Theft (from shops, vehicles and other)
- Fires (Arson)
- Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol)
- Vehicle Nuisance
- Criminal Damage (other)

Funding has been allocated to each of the Partnership Plus areas for 2012/2013 as follows:

- Worksop North West Partnership Plus - £27,600.00
- Worksop South East Partnership Plus - £27,600.00

In 2011/2012, Harworth was also a Partnership Plus area. As a result of effective partnership working, crime reduced 32%, and now it is no longer a Partnership Plus area with an exit strategy to maintain the reduced levels of crime.

The PCCs and Community Safety Partnerships

PCCs will not become members or 'responsible authorities' on local authority Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), but there will be a duty for PCCs and CSPs to co-operate to reduce crime and disorder and re-offending. Each PCC, in their Police and Crime Plan, must have regard to the priorities of the CSPs in their force area, and the CSPs will have to have regard to the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan. As described in a recent guide on PCCs produced for councils by the Local Government Group and Welsh Local Government Association³¹, the PCC can ask for a report from the CSP on their work to reduce crime and disorder. If the CSP is not carrying out its crime reduction functions in an efficient and effective manner the PCC can ask the CSPs to a meeting to discuss strategic priorities.

The PCCs and Funding for Community Safety and the Voluntary Sector³²

The PCCs will be able to make crime and disorder reduction grants to any organisation or person in their force area. The Community Safety Fund available to local authorities has already been reduced by 20% in 2011/12 and will be reduced by a further 40% in 2012/13, before being transferred over to the PCC. A key factor for the Community Safety Partnership and Voluntary and Community Sector is that this funding will not be ring fenced and PCCs will have the discretion to use it for any activities that support their objectives.

PCCs will also receive the proportion of Drug Interventions Programme Funding not going to the new Health and Wellbeing Boards, as well as funding for services to address violence against women and girls. Currently, local voluntary organisations working in community safety receive funding from the CSP. From 2013, CSPs will not automatically receive PCC funding. It could be allocated to the Police to fund local policing activity, or commission services. Over time, the PCCs' funding and commissioning role is expected to widen to the Criminal Justice System:

³¹ http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=fa66031e-07a6-4bc6-a6de-f8f1bc6f996d&groupId=10171

³² <http://www.navca.org.uk/safer-future-communities/policy-briefings>

2.2.10 Nottinghamshire Police Authority Transition Arrangements³³

The Police Authority ceased to exist on 21st November 2012 as it handed over responsibility to the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner on 22nd November 2012. At its final meeting on 14th November 2012, it reported on the outcomes of the Partnership Transition Programme which had been set up for the handover of the Authority to the Nottinghamshire PCC.

Nottinghamshire Partnership PCC Transition Programme Board

The Nottinghamshire PCC Transition Programme Board of partners and the Force has overseen the change from Police Authority to the Police and Crime Commissioner. From April to June 2012, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) assessed how police authorities were preparing for the transition by examining their transition plans and visiting every authority. It found that:

"Nottinghamshire Police Authority's planning for transition was sound and it had a clear approach to assessing and managing the handover to PCCs".³⁴

Transition Programme

The programme consists of a total of 12 projects as listed below:

- Project 1: Community Safety and Criminal Justice Governance
- Project 2: Police and Crime Panel
- Project 3: Commissioning and Grants (See Figure 14)

This is a new role as the PCC will be able to make crime and disorder grants to any organisation or person in the force area. Various Home Office grant funds will be transferred to the PCC which will not be ring-fenced or have to be used to fund community safety. The Community Safety Fund will transfer from 2013/14 onwards. Victim Support funding is not expected to transfer to the PCC until April 2014. A commissioning model is being worked on.

³³ http://www.nottspa.org/documents/meetings/Police-Authority/14th-November-2012_Item-17-PCC-Transition-Programme-Handover%20-%20REVISED.pdf

³⁴ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/nottinghamshire-preparing-for-police-and-crime-commissioners.pdf>

Figure 14: Current Grant Steams for 2012/13 that will transfer to the PCC

Grant	Commissioning Body	Recipients	Source	Amount (£)
Community Safety Fund	CDP	CDP/DV services	HO	257,000 (12/13)
	SNB	County	HO	392,000 (12/13)
Domestic Violence	NCC	MARACs	HO	35,000 (12/13)
Drug Intervention Programme (Drug Testing Grant)	Police	Police	HO	810,000 (12/13)
Drug Intervention Programme (Home Office)	CDP	NPT/Police/NHT/		585,000 (12/13)
	PH	GPs NHT/RP		632,793 (12/13)
Youth Justice Grant	City NCC	Compass TSYJP		65,000 78,000
Victim Support	VS	VS		500,000
Total				3,354,793

- Project 4: Community Engagement and Consultation
- Project 5: Communication and Branding
- Project 6: Transfer of staff, property and assets
- Project 7: Financial management, planning and control and audit
- Project 8: Future governance, accountability and decision making framework
- Project 9: Organisational design and working environment
- Project 10: Business as Usual
- Project 11: Election and candidate management
- Project 12: Police and Crime Plan

Draft 4-year Police and Crime Plan

A handover brief from the Board provided a draft Police and Crime Plan for consideration by the PCC, supported by new the Nottinghamshire Partnership Strategic Assessment. The draft Police and Crime Plan sets out the strategic vision and priorities for the PCC, with key dates for setting the precept and the budget. It also included the efficiency savings and the business plans to deliver the effective policing and crime services outlined by the elected PCC vision and priorities.

- Joint Strategic Assessment:
 - First multi agency strategic assessment for Nottinghamshire
 - Prepared in collaboration with community safety, criminal justice and health and well-being partners
 - Designed to inform the setting of strategic priorities within the Police and Crime Plan

The strategic assessment considers local regional and national threats, local evidence of levels of crime and disorder, road casualties, substance misuse. In addition there is an assessment of future need that considers growth plans for towns or key industries/services. The Community Safety Partnership and Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership are contributors to the Strategic Assessment to ensure local issues are represented.

The draft Police and Crime Plan contains Six Strategic Priorities:

1. (Policing Plan priority) – Protect, support and respond to victims, witnesses and vulnerable people
2. (Community Safety Partnership priority) – Focus on those local areas that are most affected by crime and disorder
3. (Community Safety Partnership priority) – Reduce the impact of substance misuse (includes alcohol) on levels of crime and disorder
4. (Local Criminal Justice Board priority) – Reduce re-offending
5. (Local Criminal Justice Board priority) – Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the criminal justice process
6. (Strategic Policing Requirement priority) – Reduce the local threat from organised crime

2.2.11 The Role of the Health and Well Being Board³⁵

The LGA Briefing on this subject states there has always been a complex interaction between crime and criminal justice issues:

- It is estimated that alcohol misuse is associated with almost half of all assaults and more than one in four incidents of domestic violence.
- According to the Home Office, drug users are estimated to commit between a third and a half of all acquisitive crime, such as shoplifting, burglary, vehicle crime and robbery and each year, around 75,000 problem drug users enter the prison system.
- According to Mind, around 90 per cent of all prisoners have a diagnosable mental health problem and three quarters of men in prison are affected by two or more mental health problems.

The Police, local authorities and the NHS divert offenders with health problems towards treatment to address their health problems. The Drug Intervention Programmes (DIP) introduced in 2003 identifies drug users in police stations, courts and prisons and has been successful in identifying drug users who were not in treatment contact with agencies, and introduced rapid-access services (usually prescribing methadone as a heroin substitute).

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduces Health and Well Being Boards from April 2013 which will have new responsibilities for health when Primary Care Trusts are abolished. It will include representatives of the elected members of the County Council, directors of public health, children's services and adult social care, clinical commissioning groups and a representative of Local Healthwatch. Issues of concern to HWBs such as mental health, drug and alcohol misuse, offender health, health of victims of domestic violence are also key issues for the police. They will need to work together to align their plans, priorities and commissioning of services to ensure a coordinated approach and the best use of public resources. The funding of the Home Office Drug Intervention Programmes will end by April 2013 which provides a third of total spend on DIP (the rest is funded by the Department of Health). With a third less resources it is possible that there will be a significant decrease in the number of drug users identified and signposted to effective treatment – which may result in an increase in crime. However the DIP has been criticised as most of its resources are spent on identifying, tracking and monitoring drug users. The PCC may want to use the money to develop more effective drug treatment to improve outcomes.

³⁵ http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=4b583d5e-b744-444e-96dd-93395800000a&groupId=10171

3. Method of Review

3.1 Summary of Review Meetings and External visits

Meeting	Witnesses	Evidence Gathered
28 th August 2012		Scoping Exercise
10 th September 2012	Professor Simon Holdaway, Expert Witness	To assist the evidence gathering and identification of witnesses.
25th September 2012	Gerald Connor, Community Safety Co-ordinator, Bassetlaw District Council	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership in Policing Bassetlaw.
	Sally Potter, Manager, Victim Support Scheme Bassetlaw	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of Victim Support in Policing Bassetlaw.
12th October 2012	Chief Superintendent Ak Khan County Divisional Commander Nottinghamshire Police	The witnesses completed Witness Questions and were questioned on the role of Nottinghamshire Police in Policing Bassetlaw.
	Superintendent Michel Manley Nottinghamshire Police	
	Ros Theakstone, Director of Corporate Services, Bassetlaw District Council	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the future role of Bassetlaw District Council in Policing Bassetlaw.
	Kevin Dennis Chief Executive Nottinghamshire Police Authority,	Information on the work of the Nottinghamshire Transition Board and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel.
	Mandy Green Head of Service Nottinghamshire Women's Aid	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of Women's Aid in Policing Bassetlaw.

Meeting	Witnesses	Evidence Gathered
	Laurence Jones Group Manager – Targeted Support & Youth Justice Services, Nottinghamshire County Council	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of Youth Justice Services in Policing Bassetlaw.
24 th October 2012	Paul Whately, Bassetlaw Drug and Alcohol Service	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of Alcohol and Drug Services in Policing Bassetlaw. Feedback from the first meeting of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel 19 th October 2012.
30 th October 2012	Sue Smith, Area Manager, Nottinghamshire Probation Trust Natalie Snell, Senior Probation Officer, Nottinghamshire Probation Trust	The witnesses completed Witness Questions and were questioned on the role of Probation Services in Policing Bassetlaw.
12 th November 2012		To consider the written evidence of Stuart Hope, Nottinghamshire Magistrates Service.
19 th November 2012	Inspector Stephen Cartwright, Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, West Bassetlaw.	The witness completed Witness Questions and was questioned on the role of Neighbourhood Policing in Bassetlaw.
4 th December 2012		Feedback from the meeting of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel 3rd December 2012, attended by the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy. Agreement of Recommendations.
18 th December 2012		Agreement of Recommendations.

3.2 Consultation

No public consultation was carried out by the review. However the election of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner took place on 15th November 2012. 14.25% of the electorate voted in Bassetlaw.

3.3 Learning Events

1. Local Government Information Unit Event 16th October 2012. Police and Crime Commissioners: Preparing for Change

The Chairman and a Policy and Scrutiny Officer attended the event about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Key points relevant to the review included the following:

- The PCC will set policing priorities
- The PCC should be the voice of the public
- Consider Commissioner Agreements – what the community can do to support the PCC and what the community can expect from the PCC.
- The PCC should provide Value For Money
- Scrutiny role of Police and Crime Panels – need to ensure role of challenge
- Relationship of Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee which scrutinises Community Safety Partnerships to the Police and Crime Panel
- Challenges – Police Budget cuts and delivering a plan with 20% less resources, engaging with the public, changes to police pay and conditions in the Winsor review³⁶

³⁶ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-reform/winsor-review/>

2. District Councils Network Police and Crime Commissioner Event, 2nd November 2012³⁷

For the first time District Council's such as Bassetlaw can influence policing in their area and the event set out the ways that they can work with the PCC. District leaders could provide PCCs with the means to engage with the local community and partners. The Local Government Association has produced a list of 101 ways that councils can help PCCs³⁸.

Key points of the discussion on the day were:

- Police perspective of the changes
- Practical implementation of the Police and Crime Panels
- Local Government partners share many common interests with the PCC, e.g.:
 - Safeguarding children
 - Troubled families
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Drug & alcohol misuse
 - Licensing
- Benefit in PCC working closely with partners to address common concerns
- Opportunities for pooled budgets
- Commissioning role of PCC as additional funding for community safety, youth justice, victim support in main police fund needs to address local issues and use existing commissioning networks

3.4 Written Evidence

The Panel had to read a large amount of information concerning governance and understanding of the implications of the introduction of an elected PCC. This included:

- Local Government Information Unit produced a series of briefings focusing on PCCs leading up to the elections.^{39 40 41}

³⁷ <http://districtcouncils.info/2012/11/05/dcn-police-crime-commissioners/>

³⁸ http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/pcc/-/journal_content/56/10171/3785601/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE

³⁹ <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/briefing/police-and-crime-commissioners-november-update/>

⁴⁰ http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKLGIU/2012/11/19/file_attachments/175976/An%2BEasy%2BGuide%2Bto%2BPolice%2Band%2BCrime%2BCommissioners.pdf

⁴¹ <http://www.lgiu.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/An-Easy-Guide-to-Police-and-Crime-Commissioners.pdf>

- Local Government Association website on Police and Crime Commissioners⁴²
- East Midlands Scrutiny Network September 2012 on the Police and Crime Commissioner, Police and Crime Panels and scrutiny
- Police and crime panels Guidance on role and composition⁴³
- Evidence was received from Nottinghamshire Magistrates Service on the changes to the custody process following the closure of Worksop Custody Suite

⁴² <http://www.local.gov.uk/pcc/>

⁴³ http://www.cfps.org.uk/domains/cfps.org.uk/local/media/downloads/L11_642_Police_and_Crime_Panel_Guidance_v4_WEB.pdf

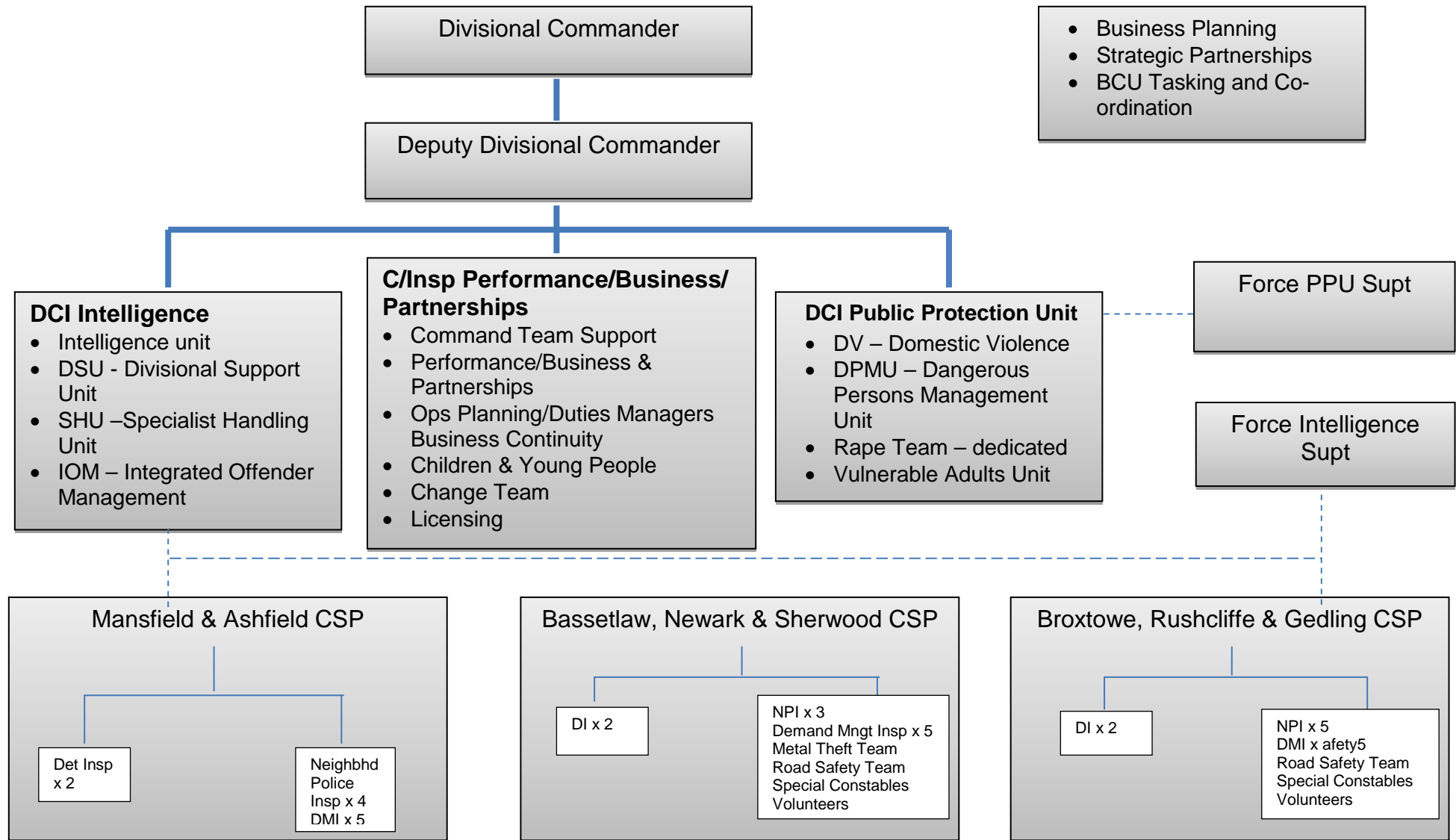
4. Addressing the Scope: Evidence Gathered for Recommendations

This report answers the scope but the information is presented by Policing Priority and includes the evidence from key providers. The Panel looked at issues that appeared to be important to the local community in Bassetlaw and the review did not look in depth at every crime issue.

4.1 Establish current Policing priorities, service provider viewpoints and impact of future changes

The Police provided evidence on the current priorities of Nottinghamshire Police and what is happening in Bassetlaw. The resources for the County Division have been determined by a resource allocation model and as a result additional resources were allocated to the Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood area in February 2012 - a Superintendent, a Detective Chief Inspector and 5 Inspectors (see chart below). People expect a visible Police force to make them feel safe and people's perceptions are important. The structure locally has been changed to have a local presence. Bassetlaw used to share a Duty Inspector with Mansfield but now has its own. In rural communities due to the distances involved numbers are kept high. Also officers are on the streets in the community and not in Police stations. It was also noted that officers have Blackberry devices to do crime reports and access crime data which they can use and consequently do not have to return to a base to complete a report. This keeps a visible presence on the streets of Bassetlaw which contributes to lower crime rates and increased public confidence in the police.

Figure 15: County BCU Organisational Chart February 2012



4.1.1 Priority 1: To cut crime and keep you safe

The aim is to reduce the total number of crimes committed by 8% during 2011-12. Crime has reduced by 13% across Bassetlaw. The target reduction for Nottinghamshire Police is 8%. The management of this reduction is decided at a local level. It does not have to be 8% across the board but can target certain crimes for a reduction.

Crime Rate

There has been a reduction in crime in Bassetlaw and this is due to a combination of factors and the Panel considered evidence on some of these factors. Due to time constraints it was not possible to investigate all the factors. The data in section 3 shows that crime is reducing and has been on trend for several years. Force response rates and satisfaction levels are good and detection rates just behind target. There has been an increase in the Crime Detection Rate since the start of the year. At the meeting of the Community Engagement and Partnerships Committee held on Wednesday 12 September 2012 it was reported that the Force was ranked 9th nationally for detection rates.

Total crime, violence, and criminal damage have good reductions. As at September 2012 there was a 13% reduction in all crime due to a wide range of initiatives by the Police such as Neighbourhood Policing, partnership working, targeting hot spot wards, tackling domestic violence, working with young people, controlling the night time economy, Integrated Offender Management, Restorative Justice and the Troubled Families initiative. A group of crimes is monitored each month and by area to identify areas for action to bring crime reduction on target.

Nottinghamshire Police is one of 10 Police Forces nationwide that has a 100% attendance policy at both crime and anti-social behaviour incidents. The policy will have a long-term impact by improving detection rates. The Control Room grades the calls that it receives Grade 1 – an immediate response to Grade 3 where officers were not required to attend – the victim does not want attendance in 10% of cases.

Contacting the Police

In response to the crime reduction evidenced the Panel commented that in some communities there is a need for the Police to build trust (Priority 3 in the Policing Plan). There were concerns about reported crime levels as this did not match the perception of Members in some local communities in Bassetlaw. There were concerns that crime was unreported due to fear and some areas of Bassetlaw had difficulty accessing the 101 system and so they do not bother. There is confusion using the system as residents are offered a choice of 3 Police Forces – Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire when they ring the 101 number. Bassetlaw does not have its own postcode and mixes Sheffield, Doncaster and Nottingham postcodes and the areas with a Doncaster and Sheffield postcode often associating with South Yorkshire. However the Nottinghamshire Police force has

targets for answering 101 calls and around 95% are answered within 15 seconds. The system is a nation wide and it may be useful to request the Home Office to review the operation of the number in areas that border more than one Police area to reduce confusion.

Recommendation:

That the PCC requests the Home Office to review of the performance of the 101 number and introduce greater clarity in the use of postcodes.

There is also reluctance for some members of the community to report crime. Anecdotal evidence from Members suggests that people do not report crime as they do not believe that they will receive a response and they also fear that they will be identified and the system is anonymous. Local communities need reassurance that Crime Stoppers is a confidential reporting system.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council work with the Police to publicise the use of Crime Stoppers as a confidential reporting number.

The Panel noted that the Home Office consulted on revising the current framework for recorded crime outcomes⁴⁴ and the results will be implemented from 2014. The aim is to improve transparency by providing the public with more detailed information which may help public concerns.

Shop Lifting

The Panel looked at shoplifting in more detail. The Performance and Policing Committee, Nottinghamshire Police Authority held on Wednesday, 12 September 2012 reported that Worksop North West was high on the list of locations. A scrutiny review had been undertaken by the Corporate Review Group in relation to the types of crime in these areas. Work was being undertaken with stores to reduce the levels of shoplifting.

⁴⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/crime-outcomes-cons/crime-outcomes?view=Binary>

Shoplifting is one of the few crime areas that have increased in Bassetlaw. There was a discussion about the way that this could be tackled and an option is for retailers to be more involved. Shopwatch is a scheme which links retailers and the police in Bassetlaw to prevent crime. Bassetlaw District Council is not directly involved in Shopwatch and the Panel suggested a more pro active approach. There are three strands to consider – information and intelligence Shopwatch, physical barriers to design out crime and the CCTV system. BDC needs to explore the ways that the all the partners concerned can work together.

Recommendation:

That BDC explore ways to work with the local business community, police and the private sector to reduce shoplifting in Bassetlaw.

Neighbourhood Policing⁴⁵

The Local Policing structure is attached as an Appendix. Neighbourhood Policing is central to policing in Nottinghamshire. East and West Bassetlaw have a similar structure with 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants, 10 Officers and 11 PCSOs in East Bassetlaw and 12 PCSOs in West Bassetlaw.

The Panel heard evidence that frontline police services have been protected in the cuts although there has been a reduction in the numbers of officers due to retirement of officers with 30 years service. The Panel agreed that their teams of Officers and PCSOs worked well.

Nottinghamshire Police has developed a Neighbourhood Policing Strategy⁴⁶ which sets out how the Police will deliver Neighbourhood Policing. It is about working with the public and other agencies to create confident, safer and secure neighbourhoods to understand the issues that matter most to local people and how to tackle them together. The use of dedicated resources means that Neighbourhood Policing teams can act on neighbourhood priorities, increase confidence and reduce crime and disorder.

The Policing Pledge⁴⁷ ensures that residents have a stronger voice in telling the police what is most important and what they are most worried about. It contains clear commitments and outlines the way any issues should be dealt with and sets out the level of service as follows:

⁴⁵ <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/local/>

⁴⁶ <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/uploads/library/895/PS%20140%20Neighbourhood%20Policing%20Policy%20v1%200.pdf>

⁴⁷ http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/about/organisation/safer_neighbourhoods/the_policing_pledge/

- information on the dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Teams
- ensure the Neighbourhood Policing Team and other police patrols are visible and spend at least 80% of their time visibly working in the neighbourhood, tackling priorities.
- respond to messages within 24 hours.
- aim to answer 999 calls within 10 seconds. In urban areas, aim to arrive within 15 minutes and in rural areas within 20 minutes.
- answer all non-emergency calls promptly. If attendance is needed, send a patrol with an estimated time of arrival, such as an issue that agreed with the community as a neighbourhood priority arrive in 60 minutes. Or make an appointment within 48 hours. - If attendance is not needed will give advice, answer questions.
- arrange regular public meetings to agree priorities
- provide monthly updates on progress on local crime and policing issues.

Neighbourhood Policing Teams can gather local intelligence which again reduces the incidence of crime and ASB. The Police recognise that rural areas have different needs and each Beat Team has an urban or rural classification as defined by the ONS. Neighbourhood Policing in Bassetlaw also works by problem solving with Partners. In 2012 West Bassetlaw launched an initiative on repeat offenders and reducing crime rates.

The Panel received evidence on how resources are allocated. Each month the Divisional Commander meets with senior managers and Command Officers to manage staffing needs. The budget for Bassetlaw is managed by the Divisional Commander and resources are moved to where it is needed. This is regularly monitored at a local level to review the medium and long term pressures. It is a dynamic system. At a Neighbourhood Policing level there is daily monitoring and review of activity and resources are allocated for the next 24 hours as a response. In Neighbourhood Policing resources are moved around to match the current need. Every 24 hours the Management Teams meet to discuss the current crime levels, ASB and incidents across the CSP. This is used to prioritise the resources for the next 24 hour period.

Nottinghamshire Police asks its communities to complete Neighbourhood Priority Forms⁴⁸ either electronically or in hard copy format. The results of these surveys are used to produce the Neighbourhood Priority Surveys and with the crime and ASB data are presented to the Priority Setting Meeting which is held quarterly. This meeting is open to the public, the time, date and location published in advance. Current attendance at these meetings is low and the Panel wanted Bassetlaw District Council to assist in promoting these meetings. Three priorities are selected for action and the public are updated on priorities that have been completed, linking in with the 'You said, we did' campaign.

⁴⁸ www.nottinghamshire.police.uk

The Neighbourhood Priorities Survey Quarter 2 as reported at the Nottinghamshire Police Authority Community Engagement and Performance Committee 31st October 2012 showed that for Nottinghamshire Vehicle Nuisance such as illegal parking/speeding/off-road motorbikes/mini motors was the top priority with 25.81% of the responses, followed by rowdy, nuisance behaviour and environmental issues such as dog fouling/litter/fly tipping.

In terms of responses to the survey Worksop South 1.46%, Harworth 1.26%, Worksop North 0.41%, Bassetlaw Rural 0.56% and Retford 0.37% of households responded. The highest response in Nottinghamshire was Balderton and Farndon with 3.24% and the lowest Meadows & Clifton 0.20%. The participation by Bassetlaw residents is relatively low and the Panel has made a recommendation to try to improve this situation.

In East Bassetlaw the identified priorities are:

- Vehicle nuisance and speeding
- Enviro-crime including fly tipping
- ASB

In West Bassetlaw the identified priorities are:

- ASB
- Off road motorcycles
- Burglary Other

The Police encourage community representation at these meetings such as councillors, the local authority, health, education and local businesses to play an active role in these meetings and local councillor's, will be encouraged to act as the chair. The Panel supports this and the Council will take action to publicise the role of Neighbourhood Policing.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council provides a link to the Neighbourhood Policing website and that the Neighbourhood Priorities Survey form is available in Councillors Surgeries.

Working with partners

Partnership working with other agencies such as CSP and Women's Aid has been in place for years. One of the West Bassetlaw Neighbourhood Policing Team is co-located with Bassetlaw Community Safety Team 2 days per week. From 2013 each Neighbourhood Team will have a member of the Youth Intervention Team based in the office. It is anticipated that the PCC will want to continue partnership working and co-location as it is an efficient and effective use of resources. The Bassetlaw Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership is an example of this. Refer to the section 4. There was a discussion about the need for a pro-active approach by the Police and the recent Community Policing Days at Harworth are an example of the local community and police working together to break down barriers.

Anti-social Behaviour

Tackling anti-social behaviour is one of the Police and Crime Commissioner's priorities. During the election campaign he pledged to work with local authorities and other partner organisations to reduce antisocial behaviour by 50%. There are significant pockets of anti-social behaviour in Bassetlaw but the rates are reducing. Again the Panel raised that anecdotally in some areas recorded levels of ASB do not seem to reflect what is happening in these neighbourhoods and the levels of ASB appears to be much higher. The Police Authority carried out a scrutiny review⁴⁹ on Anti-Social Behaviour in 2012 to improve service delivery especially in neighbourhood disputes.

Measures include securing evidence much quicker and providing dedicated support - which the authority has identified as "critical" to reducing incidents - and building the confidence of victims to provide evidence in court. Incidents of antisocial behaviour had fallen significantly over recent years and victims' satisfaction is high due to effective partnership working and neighbourhood policing. ASB in Bassetlaw is being tackled through Partnership Plus. The Panel would support any proposal to reduce ASB.

The government has also announced a new Anti-Social Behaviour Bill⁵⁰ in December 2012. The LGA⁵¹ has stated that the Government's intention is to make it easier to tackle anti-social behaviour and to introduce extra powers for the police to intervene. The Panel wants the Community Safety Partnership to report on what it will mean to Bassetlaw when the legislation is introduced in 2014.

⁴⁹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Antisocial-Behaviour-Scrutiny-Nov-2012.pdf>

⁵⁰ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/community-remedy-consultation/>

⁵¹ http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10171/3819179/NEWS-TEMPLATE

Anecdotally there are concerns that some local communities do not have confidence in the courts and criminal justice system. People come forward to give witness evidence which they believe may put them at risk and the courts give, what they perceive are inappropriate sentences and are released back into the community. This can lead to a lack of confidence in the Police as a result as people feel let down. The Panel would ask that the PCC be aware of this lack of confidence in the system when developing the Community Remedy Menu⁵² with the Police Constable and that the punishments for low level crime and anti-social behaviour are meaningful. The Community Remedy will allow the PCC to give victims a say in the punishment of offenders locally and it can be settled quickly and out of court.

Recommendation:

That the PCC works with the Chief Constable to develop punishments for low level crime and anti-social behaviour that are effective in the Community Remedy process.

Effective work around young people

The Panel did not consider this in the review but there are concerns that budget reductions elsewhere, especially for diversionary activities may lead to an increase in crime.

Domestic Violence

DV is a Safer Nottinghamshire Board Priority:

- Co-ordinating the work of partner agencies to reduce domestic abuse and violence.
- Implementing the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Framework on behalf of the SNB.
- Sharing good practice across agencies on the issue of domestic abuse and violence.
- Providing oversight and governance of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and the shared Domestic Violence Risk Assessment process on behalf of the SNB.
- Receiving performance and volume data to inform strategy and improve outcomes for victims of domestic abuse and violence.

⁵² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/community-remedy-consultation/>

The Panel were concerned about Domestic Violence in Bassetlaw. The Home Office defines Domestic Violence as:

"any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

The Panel looked at the evidence on Domestic Violence in Bassetlaw. The Police, Community Safety Partnership and other agencies are working on DV in Bassetlaw. Witness evidence was given by Women's Aid Nottinghamshire⁵³. The organisation operates as a business with Quality Assurance. Work in partnership with BDC, Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust funded a Children and Young People's Worker; Police; Social Care and Probation.

The key areas of work are:

- Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) who work with survivors of domestic abuse who have been assessed as high risk. It is a government initiative to reduce homicide as a result of DV.
- MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference)⁵⁴
Women's Aid work in partnership with other agencies to promote safety, provide emotional and practical support and reduce risk. The agencies include Police, Probation, Health, IDVAs, Victim Support, Housing, Social Services and Education. The top 10% of high risk domestic violence incidents as reported to the Police are referred to MARAC. Other agencies who believe that a victim should be referred to MARAC can complete a risk assessment and make the referral themselves. In the Bassetlaw, Mansfield and Newark & Sherwood area the MARAC meets every two weeks. They combine up to date risk information, with a current assessment of the victim's needs and link these to appropriate services. They look at putting measures in place to manage and reduce the risk of serious harm of domestic abuse/repeat incidents.
- Counselling
- Floating support/outreach services including drop in services in Bassetlaw
- Children/schools (early intervention and prevention)

There is currently a waiting list for support services and supported housing. The service is co-located with the Police but is independent of the Police and can challenge them. Currently Bassetlaw PCT funds two part time outreach workers – more than any other district. Women's Aid receives funding from the Ministry of Justice to assist women through the courts. If a worker is linked with women they are less likely to retract and prosecutions go through.

⁵³ <http://www.nottswa.org/index.html>

⁵⁴ <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nottinghamshiremaracprotocolrevised2011.pdf>

Evidence from Nottinghamshire Women's Aid shows that:

- There is a large demand for the service
- Medium risk assessments are dealt with by Beat Officers. Standard risk DV cases do not currently receive a response.
- IDVA have supported 74 women in the criminal justice service.
- There are 40-50 referrals from Social Care each week (14 hours each worker)
- Women's safety workers – The role supports domestic abuse victims and subsequent female partners of men who are attending the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP). Referrals to this service come solely from Probation and have high case loads averaging 80 – 90 open cases each half time worker (North Nottinghamshire)
- The DV drop in at Worksop is extremely busy.

There are identified gaps in service provision. There has been an increase in DV cases where sexual violence has been disclosed however there is no funding for a designated IDVA worker. There is also no funding for a young people's worker targeting those at high risk. There are gaps in service provision for men and a lack of a programme to challenge behaviour.

There has been a decrease in some provision i.e. floating support/outreach service and supported housing in the past 12 months. Currently there is no funding for visiting secondary schools to raise awareness of DV. However there is a project in Partnership Plus primary schools in partnership with Nottingham Domestic Violence Forum funded by the County Council. The annual budget for Women's Aid is £1m (a reduced figure) which was won by tender to provide a DV service for North Nottinghamshire. They receive funding from several sources including Big Lottery funding and are continually looking for funding.

The Nottinghamshire Police Authority also carried out a scrutiny review⁵⁵ of Domestic Abuse in 2012 to improve service delivery.

Dedicated Domestic Violence support is based in the Divisional Police Headquarters in Mansfield. Domestic Violence accounts for 25-35% of all crime with an upward trend since April 2011. The Community Safety Partnership employs a full time Domestic Violence Co-ordinator who works in Bassetlaw and Newark & Sherwood.

The SNB performance report in December 2012 showed increased reporting of DV in all Community Safety Partnership areas and that alcohol was often a factor. It is recognised that DV is under reported and research for the SNB indicates that there was under reporting in 2011/12 in Bassetlaw, Broxtowe, Newark & Sherwood and Rushcliffe. This ties in to the perception of the Panel on actual crime rates.

⁵⁵ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/18th-July-2012-Item-10a-Scrutiny-Committee-Domestic-Abuse-Final-Report-AppA.pdf>

In the Partnership Plus areas for 2012/13 there is a target of an 18% reduction in recorded DV and to date Worksop North West and Worksop South East are over target.

Housing

Nottinghamshire Women's Aid manages a Supported Housing Scheme on behalf of Nottingham Community Housing Association on six-monthly contracts. The service was reconfigured in August 2012 and in North Nottinghamshire there are now four houses in Bassetlaw, two in Newark and two in Mansfield.

The Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Sanctuary scheme is free of charge and helps women remain in their own homes if they want to by providing extra security measures. Partners operating the scheme include A1 Housing, Nottinghamshire Police, Women's Aid, Bassetlaw District Council and Victim Support. This is an example of good partnership working.

There is no specific Bassetlaw District Council A1 Housing allocation set aside for victims of DV, but if a victim needs rehousing they will be rehoused according to their needs. If they are fleeing violence they would probably be Priority Band A for immediate rehousing. A1 Housing does sign post tenants to DV support services and does help to fund the SAFE scheme run by Victim Support which is for all victims of crime.

The Panel heard that there is often pressure for women to flee not the perpetrator of violence. Availability of housing can be a barrier to remaining in the area and often the victims have to move out of the area. Women's Aid also operates two refuges – one in Bassetlaw and one in Mansfield. A1 Housing has a protocol for women living in the refuge who can originate outside the Bassetlaw area and who require housing. They will generally be re housed as Band B priority but options are considered on a case by case basis. Anecdotally, it was noted that other local authorities offer the highest priority for re-housing women in refuges.

Recommendation:

That the Council supports and enables women to make informed choices about their future and to take responsibility for their lives by the services that it provides for domestic violence.

Managing Domestic Violence Risk

Nottinghamshire Police has moved the management of Medium Risk Domestic Violence to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Recent Domestic Violence Homicides in Nottinghamshire were women in this category. There is a project with Nottinghamshire Women's Aid DV Medium Risk Worker and the Beat Managers to try to contact all female medium risk cases and assess the level of intervention needed. The project is costing £20,174 using Partnership Plus funding and a small contribution from Nottinghamshire Women's Aid Limited. The training will help frontline officers to give appropriate responses ensuring better outcomes for victims and increased confidence in reporting DV. Interventions can include referring to IDVA or MARAC and signpost to other services such as the Refuge, DV drop in, women's outreach and children and young people's services. The number of cases in Bassetlaw to date in 2012/13 is around 100 and in Newark and Sherwood around 55.

There is also a joint project with Probation Services and Nottinghamshire Women's Aid with perpetrators of DV in Partnership Plus areas. The Community Safety Partnership is funding a six month pilot costing £4,000.

High risk cases are dealt with through the MARAC process.

The Panel noted that the Deputy PCC has identified Domestic Violence as a priority and it is hoped that it will lead to improved partnerships, better understanding of the issues and increased funding with better outcomes for victims leading to efficiency savings as there will be a reduction in DV incidents. Due to the levels of DV in Bassetlaw the Panel identified that there is a need for more officers/additional resources with specialist skills in DV in addition to the existing Women's Aid support worker for medium risk cases. This should be provided by specialist domestic violence advisors as it will also release police resources for other policing activity.

Recommendation:

That the PCC maintains funding levels to support victims of domestic violence and that additional resources are made available for specialist advisors for women identified as medium risk in Bassetlaw.

Services for Young People

The Panel heard evidence which indicated that there are also gaps in services available for young people to educate them about domestic violence. There is some anecdotal evidence to suggest that young people accept DV as part of a normal relationship and this behaviour needs to be challenged.

Recommendation:

That the PCC provides funding for the provision of young peoples' services in schools to raise awareness of how to address abusive behaviour in relationships.

In conclusion the Panel recognises that as a minimum the existing DV services should be maintained by the PCC.

Managing the Late Night Economy

The Panel identified this as a key issue for Bassetlaw town centres. The LGA has produced a Briefing⁵⁶ on the Late Night economy.

Alcohol has a clear impact on crime and disorder and perceptions of personal or community safety at night. Nationally evening and night-time violence accounts for 64% of all violence and 20% of all violence takes place in or around a pub or club. The Licensing Act 2003 set out the responsibilities for Local Government but it has been amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which introduces new powers to tackle the problems associated with late night drinking, including restricting the sale of alcohol between 3am and 6am. The police act as joint enforcers of licences with the licensing authority (Bassetlaw District Council), and have the ability to call for a review of any licences or to close the premise if they believe there has been a violation of the licence conditions. Objections to licences can only be made against four objectives and it has to be evidence based:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm

⁵⁶ http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=e8eaa29a-f7a7-4d0a-8e58-ba6906adccda&groupId=10171

The Panel heard evidence about anti-social elements related to the night time economy in Bassetlaw which links with the recommendation on the re-opening of the Worksop Custody Suite. The Panel notes from its evidence that alcohol issues are a significant draw on police resources in the town centres of Retford and Worksop, especially on Friday and Saturday night. There is a suggestion that the footfall has reduced but BDC Economic Development Unit is looking into the longer term development of the Night Time Economy. There will be a footfall count and a survey to find out why people are not visiting Worksop. BDC is working to improve the physical environment to encourage a wider range of activities in the town centre which in turn should reduce anti-social behaviour. The new Cinema in Worksop is having a positive impact. A report was submitted to Bassetlaw District Council Cabinet on 4th December 2012 to agree the proposal to develop a strategy for the Bassetlaw Night Time Economy by the Bassetlaw Night Time Economy Group. The Group has representatives of the Police, Fire and Rescue, BDC elected members and officers and other representatives in health, education and social work. It also can include representatives of the licenced trade. The Group will produce a range of positive actions to improve the night time economy and reduce the negative impacts of substance misuse and alcohol.

The licensing powers of the Council and enforcement action are also important to managing the night time economy. Anecdotally it was reported that people drink cheap alcohol bought from supermarkets before they come into the town centres. The use of objections to licences by the Police was discussed but as stated in the legislation any objections have to be evidence based. The Panel discussed the possible impact of the Early Morning Restriction Orders to reduce the opening times of premises up to 5am which may reduce anti-social behaviour in the town centres. It was noted that recent figures show that violent crime is down by 25%.

The Panel also wanted to support the introduction of the Late Night Levy as a recommendation as it could be used to fund extra Police resources which would be welcomed. The Levy would be allocated 70% to the Police and 30% to the District Council but the Police would be able to spend it anywhere in Nottinghamshire. The Panel would want the Police to use the money raised in Bassetlaw to be used on resources for Bassetlaw. The Panel considered asking the PCC to use the levy raised in Bassetlaw on additional resources for Worksop and Retford. However, the Bassetlaw Night Time Economy Group will be looking into the options for the night time economy and the Panel agreed to support the work of this Group.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council will support and implement the recommendations of the Bassetlaw Night Time Economy Group.

The licensees in Retford and Worksop operate Pub Watch and circulate information amongst members to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. The Police civilian support for enforcement for Pub Watch that operated in Worksop and Retford has been transferred from Retford to Mansfield with centralisation of services. The Beat Teams now visit the pubs in Bassetlaw. The Panel perceived that the previously locally based specialist enforcement service based in Bassetlaw was effective and that resources should be made available for a local service by the PCC.

Recommendation:

That the PCC should consider allocating resources to have a locally based licensing enforcement service in Bassetlaw.

Reducing Re-offending

The Panel noted that the Safer Nottinghamshire Board has objectives of:

- Developing a local measure for measuring (and reducing) re-offending - no more than 10% of offenders on the caseload to re-offend.
- Continuing to embed an Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme tackling prolific offending motivated by substance misuse; IOM will now develop integrated approaches to tackling domestic violence, managing high risk of harm offenders and improving transitional work (youth to adult).
- The SNB funded mentoring project, which is showing initial signs of helping to reduce re-offending in the county priority areas.
- Developing ways of joining up services, to help mitigate the effects of budget reductions.

The Integrated Offender Management programme is led by the Police and Probation service with local authorities, health professionals and drugs workers to reduce the problems that cause individuals to re-offend. Concerns about increasing levels of offending in the county led to the appointment of six 'mentors' in 2011/12 to focus on the SNB 15 priority areas which include Bassetlaw. The overall successful completion rate for the priority areas has increased by 4%.

In Bassetlaw the re-offending target for 2012/13 is 24.3% and is currently at 28.4% and so is over target. The Panel heard evidence from the Nottinghamshire Probation Trust⁵⁷ It is a criminal justice agency with a duty to protect the public and reduce reoffending by punishing and rehabilitating offenders. They work alongside the Police, Prison Service, Courts, Crown Prosecution Service, and with voluntary organisations. They manage offenders who have either been sentenced to a Community Order or are on a licence from prison.

Nottinghamshire Probation Trust works in partnership with Nottinghamshire Police, Community Safety and Safer Nottinghamshire Board. Most of the funding for Probation is through the National Offender Management Service (NOMS)⁵⁸ and are accountable for performance and delivery to NOMS and allows partners to have local solutions to local problems.

The Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) provides interventions for drug-misusing offenders. DIP is used with initial drug testing and assessment in the custody suite, right through to post-release care and management in the community. DIP operates under local integrated offender management arrangements to tackle specified Class A drug-misusing offenders.

The service has been restructured to a local service to meet the needs of local communities. There is a reporting hub in Harworth for offenders and a reporting centre in Retford. The service is mindful of the distances that people have to travel. Worksop is the main office. Each Team has targets for re-offending rates. Currently there are 290-300 offenders. The target is 7.4%. April –June 2012 there were 22 re-offenders and a rate of 9.8% so the Bassetlaw Team did not achieve target in this period. Prolific Offenders commit a disproportionate amount of crime and harm in their local communities. Currently the Bassetlaw Team is exceeding the target for Prolific Offenders by 27%. It has been reducing year by year despite the economic situation. There are a small number of people in Bassetlaw who are Prolific Offenders. There is a multi-agency approach to stop re-offending. The aim is to challenge the offender's behaviour which is the cause of crime such as drinking or anti-social behaviour once they have completed their sentence to understand the effect of their actions. Currently Probation is only involved if the offender is sentenced to more than 12 months. Community Sentences are given where there is believed to be no risk of harm to the public. High risk offenders have mentors. Probation Officer time and resources are targeted according to need and 18-25 years old are a priority.

Nottinghamshire Police Authority publicised the fall in crime rates of 8% in September 2012⁵⁹. Many categories of crime saw major reductions including Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) offences such as robbery reduced by more than a third (33.9%) and burglary fell by 15.6%. The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme has contributed to this reduction. The Police work with Probation Services on prisoner release to help them find training and employment. The Police have a team to make sure offenders abide by probation conditions. This is also done by the local Beat Team.

⁵⁷ <http://www.nottinghamshire-probation.co.uk/>

⁵⁸ <http://www.justice.gov.uk/about/noms>

⁵⁹ http://www.nottspa.org/documents/latest-news/17-September-2012_Police-step-up-the-pace-to-drive-down-crime-across-Nottinghamshire.pdf

There has been effective partnership working in Partnership Plus areas in response to high levels of Domestic Violence and responding to the emergence of new drugs. Probation Services have evidence that they are cost effective and VFM and are changing working practices to be more effective and maintain reductions in re-offending

The Council also has a role to play and the service has a positive relationship with A1 Housing as having a home is a factor in reducing re-offending. There is a need to continue to reduce the re-offending rates in Bassetlaw and resources should be allocated accordingly. The Panel has considered the current resourcing level of the Police to and would argue that it is insufficient at the present time.

Recommendation:

That the PCC calls for a report on the Police resources committed to Bassetlaw's Integrated Offender Management programme and to consider strengthening this position.

It was noted that Nottinghamshire County Council will be putting the Community Payback service out to tender in 2014 and the Panel has expressed concerns about the outsourcing of services.

Subsequent to the completion of the review the government proposed to changes to Probation Services with all offenders receiving probation orders and payment by results.⁶⁰

Targeted Support and Youth Justice

The Panel were informed the Safer Nottinghamshire Board has priorities of:

- delivery of significant year on year reductions in first time entrants to the youth justice system
- delivering a Youth Justice Service judged as outstanding in an external inspection including the best public protection scores in the East Midlands
- design and delivery of end-to-end offender management systems for young offenders
- securing funding for delivery of a service to reduce the instances of children going missing from home.

⁶⁰ <http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/features/less-crime-fewer-victims-safer-communities>

The Panel heard evidence about the role of the Youth Justice and Targeted Support Service which is made up of seconded staff from the Police, Social Services, Probation, Education & Health, working together towards the prevention of offending and re-offending by children and young people. The Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Service⁶¹ covers the whole of the County. There are three local teams supported by specialist Targeted Support, Intensive Interventions and Quality Assurance units based centrally. The role of the service is preventative – to stop people being involved. It works with ages 8-18 and tries to pick up young people on the fringes of crime. There is a need to recognise vulnerable young people and protect them from harm and if there is a history of violence put in effective interventions.

There are alternatives to prison and secure units for young people. Restorative justice is used which brings together those harmed by crime or conflict with those responsible for the harm, to find a positive way forward. Nottinghamshire uses more Parenting Orders than elsewhere in the UK. The service focuses on contracts and orders to help families. Contracts are more flexible to attend parenting programmes. If the parent refuses to sign an Order it goes to court. There are two Parenting Group Co-ordinators for Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood which is based at Ollerton. There is an improving picture on crime but there has not been progress in some areas such as Worksop South East.

Funding for Youth Justice Services is one of the few ring fenced grants. It receives funding from the Government- Youth Justice Board and also from the Police and Nottinghamshire County Council. There is also some money from Health Services for substance misuse. There will be some reduction from 2013. The Home Office money to the Youth Justice Board of £160,000 will go to the PCC for allocation. The Panel believe that it is important that the PCC continues to fund this service to improve the progress in Bassetlaw.

There currently are no major gaps in the Youth Justice Service and are covering more than the statutory minimum. There have been reductions in funding and they have amalgamated back office functions so that frontline services are not significantly affected. Budget pressures in other agencies such as Nottinghamshire County Council may reduce the funding available for youth facilities and diversionary activities which in the long term could lead to increased youth offending.

Nottinghamshire Police Authority⁶² has reported that the co-location of the youth offending services bringing together key youth workers and the force together in the local area had helped to reduce the number of first-time entrants into the youth justice system.

⁶¹ <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/youandyourcommunity/staysafe/youthoffending.htm>

⁶² <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20121121010038/http://www.nottspa.org/documents/meetings/Finance-and-Business-Committee/>

So far this year the performance of the Force has nearly halved the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) entered into the Youth Justice Database - 251 FTEs compared to 437 in the same period last year. The City Youth Offending Team (YOT) recorded a 39.9% (73 FTEs) reduction and the County YOT a 44.5% reduction (113 FTEs) in the same time period. Most of the offences committed are low grade (75.3%). The Force has achieved the 10% reduction target based on year-to-date figures. An increase in the use of Restorative Justice Disposals for low-level offenders, particularly youth offenders, may be responsible for the current reduction in FTE. There has been good progress in Bassetlaw - the number committing crime has dropped and the re-offending rate - Reductions of 65-75%. There are still small areas where there are particular issues and they have not made progress desired. Less than 70 have committed a first offence in the last 3 months and only 2 sent to prison.

Witness evidence suggested that other local authorities look at the Bassetlaw approach. In Bassetlaw, Community Safety works with Troubled Families and all the partners work together to achieve the desired outcomes. The Panel recognises the good practice in Bassetlaw and the PCC should be made aware of the need to maintain funding support.

Recommendation:

That the PCC maintain funding to continue the reduction in youth offending in Bassetlaw.

4.1.2 Effective Road Policing – A1 Corridor

The area is crossed by a number of major roads including the A1 which is used by 40,000 vehicles per day. There is no dedicated patrol for the A1. Bassetlaw. Police are called on to attend accidents and crime on the A1. It has 34 laybys which are areas of fuel and lorry theft. Also unique to Bassetlaw is the high number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads due to the road system. There are also travelling criminals passing through the district along the A1 particularly from surrounding areas. There is a need for a visible presence by the authorities on the A1 corridor to reduce crime figures. The M1 Motorway is managed differently and does not have the same level of crime as it has no laybys. Motorway Police are responsible for the M1 and A1M (which runs to the South Yorkshire border at Doncaster) to manage traffic incidents. On the A1 corridor in Bassetlaw their role is carried out by the local Response Police. If there was agreement that it could be managed by other agencies it would release local Police resources. The performance of Bassetlaw for Burglary other is the worst of 14 comparison areas and a major factor is metal and catalytic converter theft. A visible presence on A1 corridor could reduce crime figures.

The Panel were informed that the changes to Bassetlaw resources in staffing, vehicle fleet and availability of Road Policing Officers limits the ability to patrol these roads to combat crime and efforts to reduce people being killed or seriously injured. However by using overtime funds and partnership funds there have been effective roads policing operations and Metal Theft reduction activity. The Police launched Operation Cargo in July 2012⁶³.

Since January 2012, the Force has seen 149 reports of theft and attempted theft of fuel, with 37% of those being in the vicinity of the A1. The Police are also working with fuel companies to better track diesel and focussed patrols in the areas. The Panel considered alternative ways of Policing the A1 which would reduce the impact on local police resources. One option is to ask for the A1 to be policed in the same way as the M1. It should be noted that effective policing is a complex interaction of agencies. If other agencies have their funding reduced it can have a negative impact on Nottinghamshire Police resources. The Highway Agency is also subject to cuts in funding and this means that the Nottinghamshire Police may have to respond on occasion when the Highways Agency cannot.

Recommendation:

That the PCC investigate alternative ways of using Police resources to manage the A1 Corridor.

The laybys are the responsibility of the Highways Agency and the PCC could enter into discussions with them about regulation of overnight parking.

Recommendation:

That the PCC work with the relevant highways agencies to manage ways to restrict the overnight use of laybys on the A1.

The Panel considered ways to help reduce the levels of crime on the A1. It would support a future campaign to encourage the road haulage industry to have more responsibility for the safety of its drivers and their loads and to use ensure that they use dedicated lorry parks. The Police could liaise with the local Business Forums in Retford and Worksop to raise awareness of the problem.

⁶³ http://www.eastbassetlawcommunity.co.uk/da/24697/Police_pump_resources_into_reducing_diesel_theft.html

Recommendation:

That the Bassetlaw, Newark and Safety Community Partnership develop a campaign to encourage protective measures on the A1.

Members suggested that a town centre dedicated area for lorries could support the local economy but the drivers may have to be persuaded to use a dedicated lorry park. The Council previously operated a lorry park in the centre of Retford but this was closed due to access difficulties. The Panel considered the options including the planning process to identify secure lorry parking or provide the facilities. Factors to consider include the usage figures of the laybys and the demand for secure parking. Existing facilities in Bassetlaw include a lorry park which is Custom and Excise bonded on Blyth Road Worksop, Markham Moor and Blyth which are privately owned. BDC does own land across the district which could be used for this purpose. Newark and Sherwood District Council ⁶⁴ does operate a lorry park which is secure and has facilities.

If BDC want to invest in a lorry park they will have to go through the planning process. It would require capital investment and also revenue running costs for an attendant to make the site secure, pay insurance and overheads. There is currently no BDC funding available. The Panel wanted to explore the options available in Bassetlaw including public and private sector provision.

Recommendation:

That BDC explore the options available for the provision of additional secure lorry parking in Bassetlaw.

⁶⁴ <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/carparking/Car%20Park%20Fees%20and%20Charges%202012.pdf>

4.1.3 Cross Border Working

Nottinghamshire Police Force is part of the East Midlands Region but with the geographical location of Bassetlaw there are links to South Yorkshire criminality. The Police continue to build on good informal working relations with Lincolnshire, South Yorkshire and Humberside to best tackle cross border crime and increase visibility on key roads. The Panel recognised the potential for more formal working relationships and shared use of intelligence. The PCC has already met with the PCCs of adjacent authorities and the Panel support this contact. Also as a border area with South Yorkshire and the higher criminality in Sheffield and Doncaster Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is a useful tool to track offenders from outside the area. The Panel supported the successful bid by Nottinghamshire Police to have a system in place in Bassetlaw. An example of recent successful regional working is the reduction in metal theft of 60% across Bassetlaw.

Recommendation:

That the PCC supports cross border working with South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire Police – to share the resourcing to tackle a travelling criminal fraternity.

4.1.4 Supporting Troubled Families

This resource has been added to the Bassetlaw Community Safety Team and increases the range of preventative measures available with early interventions in families.

4.1.5 Priority 2: To spend your money wisely

The aim is to make savings of £10.3m during 2011-12. The Force is on track to achieve the savings. The PCC will have to consider the requirement to make these savings in his Police and Crime Plan.

Impact of the Nottinghamshire Police budget reductions on Bassetlaw

The Panel was given examples of the changes that have been made in Bassetlaw. Small contact points have closed such as Carlton - in - Lindrick. Officers are now either located in shared accommodation at no cost to the Police Authority or located at main stations.

Centralisation of Resources

Mansfield has been made the Divisional Headquarters for North Nottinghamshire which includes Bassetlaw for a variety of reasons. The Police Station and Custody Suite are larger than Worksop and it is central to North Nottinghamshire. There has been a centralisation of back office functions away from Bassetlaw, such as IT divisional intelligence units, public protection teams and administrative support teams to Mansfield and other areas to save money. However there is not a clear definition of back office and the Panel were concerned that centralisation of resources is detracting from the frontline activities. Examples include the loss of local analysts to interpret local intelligence based in each Neighbourhood area. This seems to be in line with what has been reported nationally. The Panel is also concerned that services are being relocated outside Bassetlaw reducing the accessibility of the Police services.

The Panel noted the model in HMIC Demanding Times (2011⁶⁵). The definition used is “The police frontline comprises those who are in everyday contact with the public and who directly intervene to keep people safe and enforce the law.” Frontline roles cover a broad range of operational activities, from patrolling neighbourhoods, responding to 999 calls, air support and roads policing to protecting vulnerable people. Non-frontline roles include some non - patrolling roles such as investigation, control rooms and intelligence, and full-time back office such as IT support, HR and finance. All these functions work together to deliver policing services to the public. Nationally officers are increasingly expected to carry out a wider range of activity⁶⁶. From the evidence to the Panel it appeared that this was happening in Bassetlaw. It means that resources are used efficiently but immediate demands take priority like responding to calls for help or investigating crimes.

The Panel noted the increase the percentage of frontline staff by Nottinghamshire Police as identified in Section 2 but wanted any impact of the reduction in back office staff to be monitored.

Recommendation:

That the PCC keeps a watching brief on the impact of the cuts to the back office function on the capacity of front line policing.

⁶⁵ www.hmic.gov.uk

⁶⁶ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/programmes/value-for-money/policing-in-austerity-one-year-on/>

Access to Local Justice Worksop Custody Suite

A large budget reduction was achieved by the closure of Worksop Custody Suite. The Panel examined this in detail as it was a local issue of concern. A report was submitted to the Police Authority meeting in July 2011 which recommended the closure of the Custody Suite in Worksop to make direct staff cost savings and the Admin Support Unit (ASU) which serviced Worksop closed and was moved to Mansfield. The Custody Suite required £344,000 capital expenditure to bring Worksop up to the required 'Safer Detention Standard'. The operational savings were offset by additional transport costs of £54,000 and additional officer time to take offenders to Mansfield of £198,000. The Force has also changed the fleet used to transport prisoners. Full details were presented to the Police Authority meeting in April 2012.

There were also operational reasons for the closure. The use of Custody as an option has reduced across the County with use of Restorative Justice and voluntary attendance and presentation of evidence to courts by officers using video screens. Custody Suites are now the last option used if it cannot be done any other way. A different set of procedures are used (General Evidence Act). Voluntary Attendance facilities are used in Retford and Worksop or can use the home address. However the Panel noted that operationally it would cut travel times for Police Officers if Worksop Custody Suite was available. The Police have also seen no deterioration in response times to incidents in the town centres. Also due to the changed practices it makes it difficult to compare numbers of arrests following the closure.

It was reported at the meeting of the Nottinghamshire Police Authority Community Engagement and Partnerships Committee on 12th September 2012 that a managed appointment process and use of technology helps the Force to maximise resources and officers can spend more time in the community and the officers are receiving training on the range of powers available such as street bail and voluntary attendance at police stations.

The Panel considered the impact of the closure of the Worksop Custody Suite. People from Bassetlaw who are arrested go to the Custody Suite in Mansfield and appear in Court in Mansfield Monday to Friday. If they are arrested on Friday evening they will go to a Remand Court in Nottingham on Saturday morning. If Mansfield cells are full there is the option to use Newark. There was an impact on other services such as Nottinghamshire Probation Trust. When the Worksop Custody Suite was open there was a team based in Worksop. There is a team based in the cells at Mansfield to handle the process. If there is a need for a report about a resident from Bassetlaw then the request will be forwarded to Worksop where the Probation Team is based which may cause a time delay. Offenders from Bassetlaw who are remanded are referred to Worksop Court by the Magistrates Service so that they can access a local service.

The Panel were informed that there has also been a change to the way that DV is managed. There is dedicated DV support at Mansfield and arrests for all the county are taken to Mansfield. It has the benefit of specialist officers who can manage two or three prisoners each and free up officer time in Bassetlaw. DV services would not return to Worksop Custody Suite if it re-opened.

Anecdotally there are reports that offenders/prisoners from Worksop Court have absconded because the closure of custody cells meant they had to wait for custody officers rather than being led to a secure cell straight away. This becomes a Police matter and officer resources have to be used to track the offender and return to custody.

The Panel were concerned about the impact on the level of Policing resources in the town centres, especially if people have to be transported to Mansfield Custody Suite. Additional Police resources should be allocated to deal with alcohol related violence in the town centres. Police Officers are currently being recruited and some of these new officers could be deployed to the town centres. The Panel were informed that if required additional staffing support can be drawn on by duty Inspectors from other force resources. This has rarely been required and so adequate resource levels are maintained.

Members are committed to the re-opening of the Custody Suite so that residents have access to local justice. Anecdotally there is evidence that residents of Bassetlaw who are taken to Mansfield Custody Suite and are released have to make their own way back to Worksop and pay for transport themselves. There is a perceived imbalance of justice for people released without charge. A functioning local Custody Suite will support the long term future of Worksop Court. There is a need to encourage local people to become Magistrates and work in local courts. If the Worksop Custody Suite is not re - opened there is an argument for additional Police resources to be allocated to Bassetlaw. It is recognised that this needs to be weighed against the cost of the refurbishment and the operational savings that are being made through the new working practices.

Recommendation:

That the Nottinghamshire PCC meets his manifesto commitment to re-open the Worksop Custody Suite in a cost effective manner and in line with current budget pressures.

Extra Resources and Efficiency

A freeze on recruitment has led to staff vacancies both officers and police staff. Recruitment has restarted in late 2012 for both Officers and PCSOs (11 Officers).⁶⁷

The Nottinghamshire Police Grant⁶⁸ was announced in December 2012. For policing in 2013-14 it will be £137.5M - a reduction of £3.5M on 2012-13 - to allocate resources across the county. In addition there is a separate allocation of £2.8m for the Community Safety Grant. The PCC will have to make decisions on spending that take into account existing projects. The PCC has announced his precept and budget priorities and this includes confirmation of the election pledge to increase the number of Police Officers and PCSOs. The Panel understands that the Policing Protocol places national policing requirements on Nottinghamshire Police but the Panel want to ensure that the PCC maintains sufficient funding for local needs.

Across Nottinghamshire there are examples of Integrated Shared Services to give better service to the public for example in Rushcliffe Police are sharing accommodation and in Broxtowe Beeston Police Station will be closing and the Police will be moving into Council accommodation. In Bassetlaw there is co-location of services with Troubled Families and there is close working with the ASB Team. The Panel heard that there is a need for all partners to work together in an integrated way to use resources and services efficiently such as environmental health, responsive services and should also ask the public what service they want. This is something the PCC could work on as the Panel recognises the importance reducing costs and increasing efficiency. The Council should consider any future proposals by the Police to co-locate services on a Council site.

The Panel were concerned that the future options for service provision with the budget constraints could lead to pressure for outsourcing of services. The members considered what had happened in other force areas such as the 10-year outsourcing contract between Lincolnshire Police and G4S. The Panel evidence suggested that currently the Police are not looking to outsource services. The Panel noted that the Transition Arrangements had put in place commissioning processes and the Panel would urge the PCC to have in place robust procurement, commissioning and monitoring processes. Bassetlaw has a combination of circumstances especially related to its geographical location in the north of Nottinghamshire which make it important that there are local service providers with a local knowledge of the area.

After consideration of all the evidence on budget reductions, falling crime rates, changes to working practices, commitment to a visible presence and frontline services, the Panel had concerns about the numbers of Police in Bassetlaw. The Panel would ask that the PCC consider the allocation of additional Police resources to Bassetlaw⁶⁹.

⁶⁷ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Document-Library/Newsletters/The-Beat---December-2012.pdf>

⁶⁸ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/News-and-Events/Older-news-stories/2012/Commissioner-gets-to-work-on-budget-figures.aspx>

⁶⁹ <http://www.hmic.gov.uk/media/nottinghamshire-policing-in-austerity-one-year-on.pdf>

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council supports the election pledge of the Nottinghamshire PCC to increase the number of Police Officers and PCSOs and that a fair proportion of these resources should be allocated to Bassetlaw.

4.1.6 Priority 3: To earn your trust and confidence

The aim is to achieve a victim satisfaction rate of 90% which is an ambitious target. This will position the force in the top 3 forces nationally during 2012-13. Satisfaction is currently at 87%, above the force and national average. The percentage of people who agree that the Police and Council are dealing with local anti-social behaviour and other crime issues has continued to improve. The force is now above the Policing Plan target with 61.4% of respondents agreeing with the statement. Nationally the force is now ranked 20th (the force was 38th a year ago) and remains in line with the Most Similar Group, being ranked 3rd in the family.

Victim Support

The Police have appointed a Victims Champion. The Panel wanted to hear evidence from the providers of victim support in Bassetlaw. Victim Support works with partners with the Police the largest partner, Community Safety, Women's Aid, Schools, Social Care, Mental Health Team and Probation. Victim Support is an independent charity which helps anyone affected by crime (whether reported or not) – not only victims and witnesses. It is currently funded by the Home Office on a regional basis. Victim Support as a national organisation asked the PCC candidates to sign up to the following five pledges to ensure that victims' needs are a key priority for their work.⁷⁰ Paddy Tipping the Nottinghamshire PCC has signed up to the pledges.

1. Be open and accountable to victims and witnesses, seeking out and acting on their views.
2. Ensure that victims and witnesses get the high quality help and support they need, when they need it.
3. Make the police more victim-focused and more effective at meeting their needs.
4. Give victims and witnesses an effective voice in the wider criminal justice system
5. Constantly work to develop new ways of delivering justice for victims

⁷⁰ <http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/About-us/Campaigns/Five-promises/Our-five-pledges>

Bassetlaw is in the East Midlands region covering Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland following a national restructuring. The Victim Care Unit for Bassetlaw is based in Leicester. Most of the help is provided by local specially trained volunteers. Every day the Police send information about people who have been victims of crime in Bassetlaw and they are contacted by phone or letter to be offered support. Originally the organisation in Nottinghamshire was independent and had experience of the rural areas of Bassetlaw.

In the last 12 months there were 4,904 victims of Burglary, ABH, GBH, robbery, sexual, DV, theft, and criminal damage living in Bassetlaw who have been offered a referral to the scheme either by phone call or letter. 80 cases were victims of ASB. Most people are satisfied with this first contact and not everyone wants support. Approximately 607 Bassetlaw victims have had direct contact with the Bassetlaw office. Approximately 240 victims from across Bassetlaw requested a volunteer visit. In addition £218,808 was won from the Criminal Injury Compensation Scheme for 36 victims with no cost to the victims as services are all free of charge. There has been a reduction in referrals locally and so there has been a reduction in the funding for Bassetlaw and in the number of staffing hours.

Victim Support for Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood has 20 volunteers who are paid expenses. From 2014 victim support will be funded and commissioned by the PCC and not the Home Office. However, a new EU directive in 2012 ensuring minimum rights for victims of crime in the EU may be a driver to protect these services.⁷¹ The directive will oblige member states to ensure that victims and their family members have access to free-of-charge and confidential victim support services (for example, psychological support) from the moment the victim reports the crime, throughout and after the investigation and trial and regardless of where the crime took place

In addition Victim Support has contacted another 367 for the SAFE scheme which costs £32,000. This is funded by Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Community Partnership, the total number of referrals for SAFE including Newark is 620. It costs the CSP £11.84 per call. The Safe Scheme money is only secured until April 2013. Currently the funding is top sliced by Nottinghamshire County Council to fund the Handypersons Scheme which provides bath rails etc. The Police make the largest number of referrals.

There are gaps in service provision in Bassetlaw as support is only provided to victims according to the National Crime Recording Standard as stated by the Ministry of Justice. Victim Support this year only has funding to provide support for Actual Bodily Harm, Grievous Bodily Harm, Burglary, Sexual violence, DV (core crime). Bassetlaw has a huge rural area and these experience some different crime types to urban areas. For example breaking into sheds and out buildings, taking expensive lawn mowers, work tools, so people have to replace them before they can continue working, even mobility scooters. However, because these sorts of crimes are not recognised as core crime, as it is not actually a burglary to the dwelling, then they do not get contacted. Victim support only has funding this year for what is classed as core crime.

⁷¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/pressroom/content/20120907IPR50809/html/Parliament-backs-minimum-rights-for-crime-victims-across-the-EU>

The PCC has listed Victim Support as a priority to fund and the Panel supports this but there are concerns that the service should be locally based. Also the PCC should recognise the victim support needs of rural areas.

Recommendation:

That the PCC:

- ensures that Bassetlaw victims of crime are referred to a locally based service and current levels of support are maintained
- reviews the level of victim support provided to rural areas.

4.1.7 Key Police Issues for Bassetlaw in 2013/14

Rural crime including metal theft, theft of fuel and Burglary other than dwellings

This is a priority in the local policing plan for 2013/14 and rural crime was identified as a priority for the Panel as Bassetlaw geographically covers one third of Nottinghamshire which means that officers have to cover a large area. There are concerns that the rural areas will not receive sufficient resources as the greatest risks of crime are based in Nottingham City. Both nationally and within Nottinghamshire vehicle crime and burglary of non-dwellings are key issues affecting total recorded crimes and with lower detection rates. Thieves targeting metals and fuel have contributed to both crime types and similar crimes have been experienced in other rural areas.

The Panel believes that if you are a victim of crime it does not matter where you live resources should be allocated accordingly .If services to Bassetlaw are commissioned the contracting service must show how the service specification has been designed to cater for the rural parts of Bassetlaw. It is important that the PCC understands the nature of rural crime in Bassetlaw and he has stated that rural crime is a priority and the Panel welcomes this fact. By working together partners can problem solve to meet the needs of the rural community.

In addition the national Government Police Rural Funding Grant of £30 million was withdrawn in 2010 and merged into the police grant. The Panel would ask the PCC to lobby for the re-instatement of this funding which recognised the additional resources required to Police in rural areas⁷². The new formula gives much greater weight to urban deprivation than rural deprivation and underestimates the costs of running forces in rural areas.

Recommendation:

That the Panel supports the PCC request for Central Government to re-instate the Rural Policing Grant.

Neighbourhood Policing has a key role to play in rural areas and Officers will attend Parish Council meetings to discuss crime issues but it is expected that the Councils will check their local crime figures on www.police.uk. Volunteers as discussed in the following section have an important role to play in rural areas to assist their local community by communicating with the Force.

Volunteers

HMIC reported in Policing in Austerity one year on Special Constables and Volunteers. Special constables have the same police powers as regular police officers and can provide local managers with added flexibility. The Police hold recruiting events through the year but the event in Bassetlaw was poorly attended. Nationally there has been an increase in numbers which could be evidence of the effect of workforce reduction. The Panel noted that the increased use of volunteers should not be seen as a way of maintaining services but additional support. In Nottinghamshire the Chief Police Constable wants to increase the number of Specials and Volunteers in the County from 500 to 1,000⁷³ and the Panel supports this aim.

It has been suggested that in rural areas greater use could be made of volunteers to maintain a network of people who can report crime and door knock, leaflet drops etc. but they are only available to the Police when it fits in with their spare time. They can feed back transparency of the Force to the public.

It is an opportunity for young people to be involved in their community and it can open up career opportunities with the Police in the long term. Training of volunteers needs resourcing but the Volunteer Co-Coordinator is no longer in post in Bassetlaw and the Police Team are now training volunteers. Volunteers are an important part of the local policing but resources need to be made available for their training so that PCs are not abstracted from their duties.

⁷² <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/police-finance/grant-report-2012-13?view=Binary>

⁷³ <http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/jobs/volunteers/>

The Council could help to raise the awareness of the volunteering opportunities with the Police by encouraging people in the community to be involved.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council will support the PCC and Police in the promotion of any future volunteering campaigns to encourage local residents to take up the opportunity of being a police volunteer.

The Panel noted that the Police evidence had stated that working with young people was a factor in crime reduction. The Young People's Ambassador and the Bassetlaw Youth Council will be talking to the PCC about policing in Bassetlaw in February 2013 so that the PCC can gain a young persons viewpoint. In addition the Young People's Ambassador can help to raise awareness of the opportunities of volunteering for the Police.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council working with the Bassetlaw Young People's Ambassador raises the awareness of young people in Bassetlaw of the volunteering opportunities with the Police.

Substance Misuse

This is a Policing priority for 2013/14 in Bassetlaw. It is also a Safer Nottinghamshire Board priority:

- substance misuse strategy for Nottinghamshire 2012-15, with accountability to SNB and Health and Well-Being Board
- development of district access points to enable easy access to substance misuse services designed to support Recovery.
- completion of a comprehensive health needs assessment

The Panel took detailed evidence in this topic. The Nottinghamshire Substance Misuse Strategy wants to address the wide ranges of issues caused by drug and alcohol misuse balancing the criminal justice and health perspectives. It is a long term commitment from all partners of the Safer Nottinghamshire and the Health and Well-being Board (HWB).

By 2015 the targets are:

- An increase in the number of successful completions of drug treatment.
- A reduction in alcohol related admissions to hospital
- A reduction in substance misuse related crime and disorder
- A reduction in the number of people entering prison with substance misuse issues who are previously not known to community treatment

This strategy will also contribute to:

- A reduction in re-offending rates
- A reduction in domestic violence rates
- An improvement in older people's perception of community safety
- A reduction in mortality from Liver Disease

There are links between problematic substance use and both sexual and domestic violence against women:

- 45% of MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) cases have problematic substance.
- 66% of men accessing perpetrator programmes reported problematic substance use
- 44% of women accessing domestic violence services reported problematic substance use
- 51% of women accessing domestic violence services were affected by own and/or someone else's problematic substance use

Nottinghamshire Probation Trust is also seeing an increase in violent offences linked to alcohol particularly with offenders under 25 years old. Over 60% of offenders known to the Probation Trust who have committed a violent offence have an identified alcohol

The Substance Misuse Strategy Group will deliver the strategy. The Health and Well Being Board will deliver the Health related outcomes and the Community Safety Partnerships will deliver the crime and re-offending outcomes. From April 2013 Nottinghamshire County Council will be commissioning substance misuse treatment and recovery services because of its HWB responsibilities. The funding will come from a ring-fenced public health grant. The diagram below shows the inter relationship of the various agencies.

Figure 16 Roles of Health and Well Being Board and Community Safety Partnerships in Substance Misuse in Nottinghamshire-



Drugs Misuse

Currently the Police, Health Service, Probation, and Community Safety Partnership, Recovery Partnership, BDAS, Criminal Justice, Youth Services and Targeted Support are working together to provide evidence of the nature of the drugs in Bassetlaw and the scale of the problem as there are anecdotal reports of the emergence of MCAT in Bassetlaw. A Briefing Paper was presented to Bassetlaw LSP in November 2012. It is a stimulant drug and could be replacing heroin as the main drug in Bassetlaw. The drug is appearing nationally and has been termed not MCAT but the “white powder” problem. In North Nottinghamshire it is mainly a problem in Bassetlaw with pockets in Ashfield & Mansfield. It is accessible and inexpensive and is used socially as it does not carry the same stigma as other drugs. Anecdotally it is believed that the use of this drug is driving serious acquisitive crime, domestic violence both and violence in the night time economy but it is not showing in the reported crime figures currently.

This is an example of the need to have an evidence- based responsive approach to a problem. A media campaign was launched in November 2012 and training for all frontline staff that are likely to come into contact with the drug or drug user.

Currently the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP)⁷⁴ provides interventions for drug-misusing offenders as previously outlined. To address this new problem the services will need to respond because historically they do not receive many referrals for stimulant abuse. The criminal justice system uses Drug Rehabilitation Requirements (DRR) for Class A substances. Probation Service Officers do not have the power to insist on drug and alcohol treatment if it is the underlying cause of crime. This is a problem that will need addressing in the future.

Funding priorities have been centred on Class A drugs such as 'heroin and crack cocaine' for all partner services such as the Police, Probation. However, all services have identified a fall in presentations of Class A drug use, but an increase in 'legal highs' and cannabis use and all agencies will have to accommodate these changes.

The Panel heard evidence from the local provider Bassetlaw Drug and Alcohol Services. Figures from BDAS show that the number of drug users in treatment in Bassetlaw is around 400. The majority are white males and in the age ranges 25 to 44 years old. The service is now focussed on successful completion of treatment.

A priority for the Panel is that the local treatment services that are in place are maintained. There are concerns that funding will remain in place when the PCC is elected and the Nottinghamshire Health and Well- Being Board is in place from April 2013. The Panel believes that we need a responsive and flexible approach to meet the changing nature of drugs. The Panel identified a need to monitor future changes that may affect local drug and alcohol services in Bassetlaw. This is due to the history of drug treatment services in Bassetlaw. Before the Heroin Enquiry there was a poor local service with the treatment services for Bassetlaw based in Mansfield. Since Bassetlaw PCT was established services have been developed locally with funding from the PCT. Bassetlaw has specific issues as it is a rural area and BDAS developed easy to access services as travelling to treatment is a barrier. From April 2011 management of BDAS has transferred from the PCT to Larwood Group Practices, it operates in all areas except Misterton. Over the past 10 years a good model has been developed for Bassetlaw. A different model is used for the rest of Nottinghamshire based on Local Access Points (LAPS).

There was a discussion about drugs education provided for schools in Bassetlaw - the DARE programme is in primary schools but inconsistent in secondary schools. The Panel believe that it is important to have drugs education in schools.

⁷⁴ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/reducing-reoffending/dip/>

The Nottinghamshire Substance Misuse Partnership reports on Adult Treatment and Recovery Services. The key performance figures for the provider in Bassetlaw to June 2012 show that

- Clients have to wait less than 3 weeks for the first appointment
- Percentage of successful discharges as a proportion of those in treatment (drugs) - 6.7% compared to an annual target of 10%

Alcohol

The latest figures for England were released in December 2012⁷⁵. The figures for Bassetlaw are as follows:

Figure 17: Profile for Bassetlaw Local Authority Alcohol

Indicator	Measure	National Rank	Regional Average
Alcohol related recorded crime	5.6	151	6.6
Alcohol related sexual offences	0.1	31	0.1
Alcohol related violent crimes	4.0	139	4.9
Mortality from land transport accidents	3.7	320	1.8
Binge drinking (synthetic estimate)	19.1	147	20.1
Alcohol treatment – prevalence per 1,000 population	2.1	40	2.2

Numbers in effective treatment for alcohol (all adults) are increasing across Nottinghamshire. Alcohol is one of the causes of crime and Bassetlaw is about average for the region except for the mortality from land transport accidents. The rate of road deaths in Bassetlaw is higher than average and is a police priority. The numbers in the Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust in alcohol treatment is also around the regional average. It is estimated by BDAS that there are around 200 people currently receiving

⁷⁵ <http://www.lape.org.uk/LAProfile.aspx?reg=e>

alcohol treatment in Bassetlaw. Over 60% of offenders who committed a violent offence have identified alcohol needs and many of the offences have been alcohol related.

Witness evidence suggested that alcohol problems have been given less of a priority but now the funding focus has changed to establish alcohol services. Providers are adopting the same drugs model as a template for alcohol services and early indications seem to confirm that Bassetlaw has problems with alcohol. Currently, BDAS (Alcohol) is averaging 40 referrals per month and as the service is getting more established, this figure is rising.

There are gaps in service provision. A large number of patients require alcohol detoxification which is labour-intensive and expensive. Bassetlaw does not have an in-patient detoxification facility & patients are required to attend The Woodlands in Nottingham which does increase the waiting list. Larwood Group Practices provides 24 separate clinics throughout Bassetlaw per week, as well as home visits as part of community detoxification. BDAS alcohol treatment services also receive referrals from other areas.

The Nottinghamshire Substance Misuse Partnership reports on alcohol treatment services. To June 2012 the percentage of successful discharges as a proportion of those in alcohol treatment was 15.6% compared to an annual target of 55%. The positive is that many in treatment can continue to work.

The figures for alcohol related crime for Bassetlaw do however show a declining picture which has levelled off in 2011/12 as shown in the graphs below:

Figure 18: Local Authority Alcohol related crime in Bassetlaw

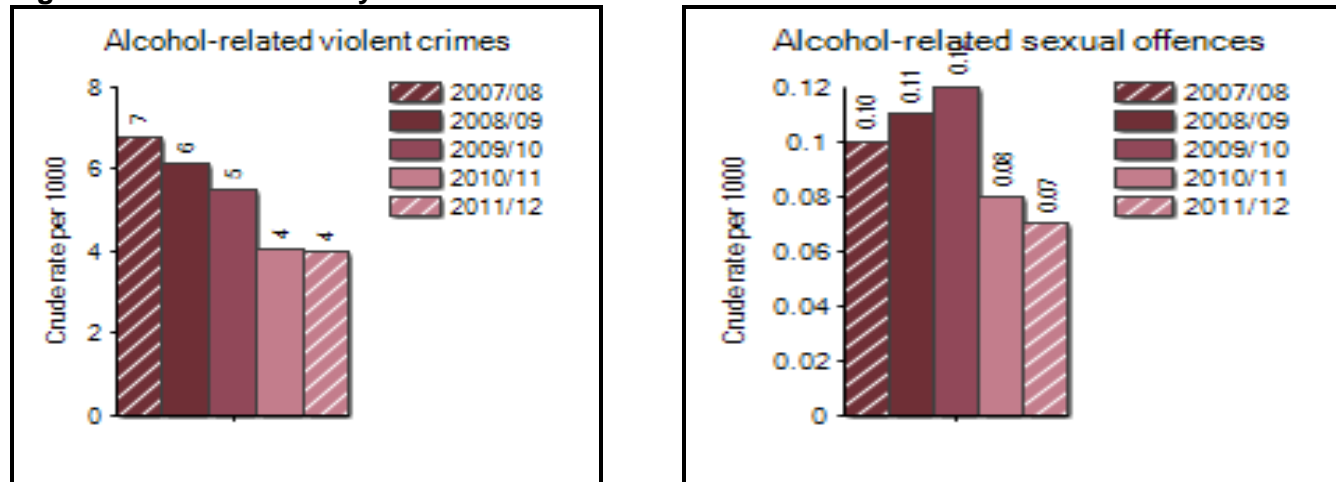
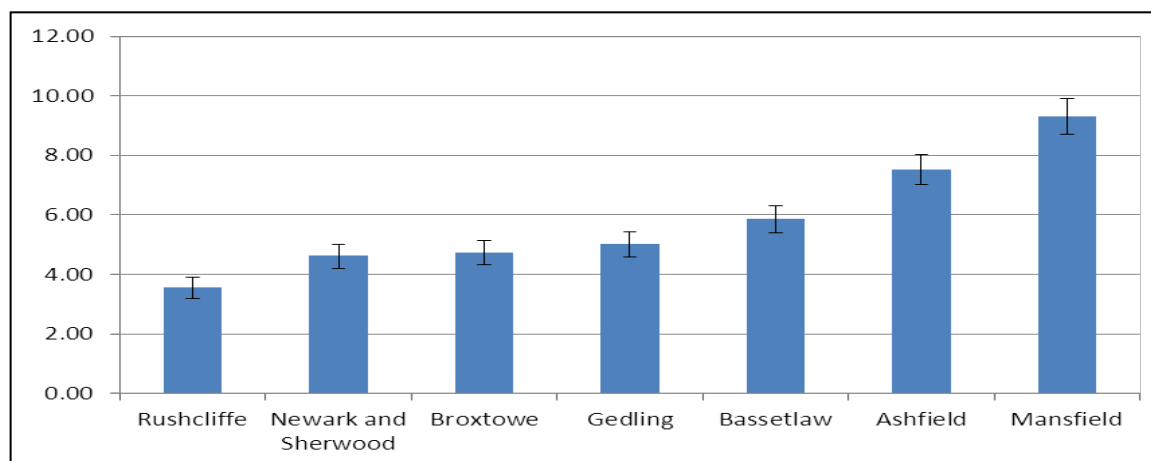


Figure 19: By District, Recorded crime attributable to alcohol, all persons, all ages, Crude rate per 1,000 population (2010/11)



There are concerns for the future is that many of the existing local easily accessible services may not exist because of funding cuts and changes to commissioning.

Recommendation:

That the PCC ensures that sufficient resources are made available to the Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership to have a flexible response to drugs and alcohol substance misuse to meet the demands of emerging new drugs and to maintain local service provision in Bassetlaw.

Safer Nottinghamshire Board

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board sets the strategic direction for how crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse is tackled in the County. The four statutory Community Safety Partnerships are responsible for the delivery of local community safety strategies and action plans: and the SNB delivery groups support the SNB and CSPs to implement community safety strategies. The Panel noted the comprehensive performance information produced by the Board every quarter that was useful to elected members.

Project 1 of the Police Authority Transition Programme looked at the governance structures of Community Safety in Nottinghamshire and agreed the future options. Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood CSP has this structure. Also The Safer Nottinghamshire Board has agreed to the PCC to be a Member of the Board subject to his views. The Panel supports this proposal as it will be an opportunity for the PCC to increase his understanding of the problems facing local communities.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council supports the Nottinghamshire Police Authority Transition Programme recommendation that the Nottinghamshire PCC becomes a member of the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.

Hate Crime

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board has identified this as a priority with actions to work with the Holocaust Centre and local schools to tackle hate crime and build up community capacity. The Hate Crime incidents are reported quarterly to the SNB. The Panel did not include this in the scope of the review as they focussed on the areas that would be influenced by the changes to PCC funding. Hate Crime is under reported. The Panel noted the performance of hate crime in Bassetlaw. In the first quarter the number of Hate Crime incidents was 14 with 5 crimes. Compared to the rest of the County, Worksop South East has the highest number with 11 and Harworth is 4th with 8 crimes. Bassetlaw has the highest volume of disabled incident reports in 2012/13 with Harworth and East Retford West wards the problem areas.

Compared to the rest of the County the highest recorded levels of incidents are in Gedling and Mansfield and for crime levels Ashfield and Newark & Sherwood are the highest. Hate crime with the racial element are highest in Gedling and Mansfield.

Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership

Witness evidence from the Bassetlaw Community Safety Team reported that the key priorities are Anti-Social Behaviour, Night Time Economy Related Violence, Substance Misuse, Serious Acquisitive Crime. The Panel has looked at the performance evidence for these individually in the performance figures for Bassetlaw and noted the hotspot wards for anti-social behaviour.

The Partnership workers are funded by BDC. Home Office funding is received via the SNB and other pots of money through partners or external funding sources. The targeted work and resources of the partnership is based on the intelligence provided by the Partnership analyst on a number of key indicators. This shows the effectiveness of the Partnership in tackling crime.

Currently there were gaps in prevention and intervention due to a lack of resourcing but the Community Safety Team has been strengthened by the Supporting Families' Team in October 2012 which is funded through the Department of Communities and Local Government and Nottinghamshire County Council. Payment is by results. The Community Safety Team has a long term view to change attitudes within local communities to identify families at risk of future anti-social behaviour and encourage increased education and skills levels to improve employment opportunities. Bassetlaw has some unique challenges because of its demographic and geographic location and by partnership working these can be tackled.

The Panel has concerns that the future funding of the partnership will be controlled by the PCC and a possible commissioning process for services. The PCC is not automatically a member of the Partnership unlike the Police Authority. The Panel suggested that there is a need to involve the PCC in the process as legislation allows this.

The Community Safety Partnership will need to increasingly demonstrate with a strong evidence base that the CSP is Value For Money to maintain the funding support for community safety from the PCC. The Panel noted the robustness of the evidence base of the Partnership which shows that crime is reducing against priorities.

Partnership Plus

Partnership Plus is an example of a different approach and has now been adopted countywide. This involves examining data sets in a ward to identify the issues and all services in an area work together. Social, cultural and organisational changes take time but the outcome is a reduction in crime. This is linked to improving health, better educational attainment and less poverty. More police resources help but the cycle needs to be broken with jobs and positive role models to stop the long term drivers of crime. It is about prevention and intervention for long term change.

Harworth Partnership Plus has been successful and will be exiting by December 2012 as it is a strong community with individuals who want to make a difference. There is a good Policing structure with PCSOs and a good community structure with Safety Volunteers and a Youth Café to help young people apply for jobs.

There are also services being delivered in Bassetlaw that are not being delivered elsewhere such as 123 Alcohol Project. Under 18's found with alcohol on the street by the Police are at risk. The Team contact the parents and encourage the young people to go on an Alcohol Workshop which includes sexual health. This has extended to Ashfield and Mansfield.

The Panel heard evidence of what is happening in the community such as work in local schools in Worksop North West with parents, grandparents and children and the Family Intervention programme. A project started in Harworth to rebuild bikes is being rolled out to Rhodesia and Sandy Lane. The Panel recognised the good practices that are being developed in these areas and wanted this approach to be supported by the PCC in the future.

The Panel had concerns that once support is removed from an area that has achieved its targets for crime reduction the problems may re-emerge if insufficient resources are not maintained.

Performance

Each District has a small set of Safer Nottinghamshire Board/ Police Crime and Anti Social Behaviour targets. The targets in Partnership Plus areas have been set to encourage above average reductions in All Crime.

Current Performance in Bassetlaw shows that All Crime (-11%) and ASB (-36%) are exceeding target reductions of -8% and -10%. The violence target has not been met to date (-2% compared to -8%). This is mainly due to an increase in sexual and violence without injury offences and DV. Vehicle Crime and violence are the key areas for Bassetlaw. The Partnership Plus Areas are not currently meeting targets although All Crime and ASB are down. Worksop South East is providing the most challenges to reduce crime. Youth crime performance continues to be outstanding, with an approximate 27% reduction in the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) when compared to the previous year. The rate of re-offending has also reduced from 14.7% to 13.2%.

Data for Community Safety Partnerships 2nd Quarter 2012/13 indicates that the CSPs which are areas for concern in relation to All crime, when compared to their Most Similar Groups (MSGs) are Mansfield and Bassetlaw (in 10th position at the end of this quarter).

Partnership Plus –Worksop North West and Worksop South East are the priority areas not currently achieving their rolling 12 month targets.

Bassetlaw: 15th position for theft of vehicle in MSG down 1 place and not achieving target.
14th position for theft from vehicle and not achieving target
2nd position for robbery – achieving target
6th position violent crime – achieving target

These figures have to be seen in the context of the reducing crime rate across Bassetlaw as a whole and demonstrate that there are hotspots where the Police and its partners have to make further progress in crime reduction by targeting resources to have effective outcomes.

4.1.8 Working together for a Safer Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2013/2014

The Strategic Assessment priorities for 2013/14 require target information and the PCC may change these. However, there will be a focus on the Partnership Plus areas.

There are two Partnership Plus Areas in Bassetlaw for 2013/2014:

Workshop South East with issues of:

- Child Poverty & Educational skills
- Anti Social Behaviour and metal thefts
- Shed burglaries
- Town centre and Night Time Economy
- Alcohol projects – 1,2,3 plus the Risk Factor
- I Belong project to reduce hate crime

Workshop North West with issues of:

- Metal Theft and increase in drugs offences
- Extensive work with the Family Intervention Project
- Problematic street drinking
- Problematic teenagers

The SNB will also be adding additional targets for violence, domestic violence, reducing re-offending, substance misuse, hate crime and ASB.

The identified challenges to the Partnership in 2013/14 are the changes to the health service /drugs and alcohol work with the abolition of the PCTs, funding reductions in intervention/prevention work in the Community Safety Grant allocation 2013/2014. The Panel recognises the need to have long term solutions to the underlying problems in some Bassetlaw communities despite the current financial situation. The Panel were impressed with the way partner agencies cooperated in the common agenda of

crime reduction. BDC is supportive of the concept of Partnership Plus as it directs resources to the areas of high criminogenic need and obliges agencies to work together in partnership. BDC therefore would urge the PCC to maintain this approach for 2013/14 .

Recommendation:

That the PCC will maintain the funding for the Partnership Plus approach to crime reduction in the new Police and Crime Plan 2013-2017.

4.2 Review Bassetlaw District Council's relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Police and Crime Panel and Establish a Forward Plan of priorities and resources for policing Bassetlaw.

4.2.1 Role of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

As previously stated Community Safety in Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood is a two tier process with the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. The aim is to

- Sharing of information, ideas, projects and initiatives to get better value for money
- Ensure that early intervention and prevention is adopted where possible to reduce longer term costs
- Use intelligence and analysis to target resources effectively.

The legislation states that this Committee should meet at least once per year and currently Bassetlaw District Council Overview and Scrutiny and Newark and Sherwood Overview and Scrutiny Committees have an annual Joint Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood Crime and Disorder Partnership. It is proposed that this Committee should meet more frequently so that it can align with the key decision making timetable of the PCC. The PCC will be responsible for commissioning community safety projects and the CSP will need to ensure that it contributes to the Commissioners outcomes in the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan to sustain future funding. The Panel considered that the role of this Committee should be strengthened to meet its future challenges.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council works with Newark and Sherwood District Council to strengthen the role of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood Community Safety Partnership is effective and the partnership is subject to effective Member scrutiny and performance management.

4.2.2 Police and Crime Commissioner Role

Nottinghamshire Health and Well Being Board⁷⁶

The aim of the board is to find out what Nottinghamshire needs to improve health and well-being and to develop a strategy to deliver this. Its membership includes 5 County Councillors, 2 District Councillors and NHS Commissioning Groups. The maximum number on the Panel is 20 members and this is the reason that the number of District Councillors has been restricted. Bassetlaw District Council is trying to increase the number of District Councillors on the Board. It should also be noted that Nottinghamshire Police are also not represented on the Health and Well-being Board. BDC passed a Council resolution in December 2012 to support representation of all the districts in Nottinghamshire on the Board. The Panel noted that the Board had responsibility for issues such as substance misuse which affect crime. Currently it is intended that the PCC should attend Board meetings where the subjects to be discussed are relevant to crime. The Panel would prefer that the structure is evaluated to include the PCC as a member of the Board, especially in relation to the allocation of resources and strategic direction on substance misuse.

Recommendation:

That the PCC evaluate his role in relation to the Nottinghamshire Health and Well-Being Board.

4.2.3 Governance Structures

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel (NPCP)⁷⁷

There is a need for Bassetlaw District Council to have internal governance arrangements that will ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner is robustly scrutinised through the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel. The Home Office has not produced guidance on the way that the process should be monitored. BDC has chosen the scrutiny model and appointed an Overview and Scrutiny member onto the Police and Crime Panel who reports back to the BDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The membership is renewed each year. In order to maintain the direct link to the Nottinghamshire PCP in future years it is proposed that the representative should always be a member of Bassetlaw's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

⁷⁶ <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/caring/yourhealth/health-and-wellbeing-board/>

⁷⁷ <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/partnerships/police-and-crime-panel/>

In addition at certain times the NPCP has to make decisions in a short time period such as the consultation on the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, the agreement of the precept and the confirmation process of the appointment/dismissal of the Chief Constable. There needs to be a clearly defined internal process for the delegated authority to make decisions without reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

As explained in the Policing Protocol section this is a scrutiny panel to scrutinise the PCC on certain issues. It does not hold him to account. The PCC is the sole decision maker and is only scrutinised after the event. Details of the Nottinghamshire Panel can be found on this link. The Panel is now established with an increased representation for Nottingham City from two to four members subject to the approval of the Home Office.

The political balance of the NPCP is:

Labour 7

Conservatives 4

Independent 1

Lib Dem 1

In addition there are 2 Co-Optees on the Panel.

There was a discussion about many of the complex decisions that the representative on the NPCP would have to make including the veto, confirmation of the appointment of the Chief Constable and consultation on the Police and Crime Plan.

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan

As reported in the Transition Arrangements for the Nottinghamshire Police Authority the PCC will be producing a Police and Crime Plan and partners, the public and local authorities including Bassetlaw District Council will be consulted. The evidence collected by this review can support Bassetlaw District Council in the consultation process. Subsequently the priorities that the elected PCC has identified are in agreement with many of the recommendations of this Panel. The Nottinghamshire PCC has identified the following priorities:⁷⁸

- Fight for extra resources for our Police who face budget cuts. Already nearly 300 Police Officers have lost their jobs.
- Improve and enhance neighbourhood policing by recruiting an extra 150 Police Officers backed by 100 more PCSOs.
- Work with local councils and others to cut anti-social behaviour by 50% and clamp down on yobbish behaviour.
- Make sure that the victims of crime are treated as people, not cases, and properly fund Victim Support.
- Give extra priority and resources to domestic violence and crimes against women.

⁷⁸ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Your-PCC/Priorities.aspx>

- Be fair and honest. .

Following the consultation the Plan may be amended and the draft will be presented to the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel on 15th January 2013 and will be published by the end of March 2013.

Precept

The PCC precept to fund the Police will be decided by 31st January 2013 and the NPCP has the power of veto.

Bassetlaw District Council Internal Process

The establishment of Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel means that the BDC Constitution will need to be amended to accommodate the requirements to support the new scrutiny role.

Bassetlaw District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee

There is a need for Bassetlaw District Council to have internal governance arrangements that will ensure that the Police and Crime Commissioner is robustly scrutinised through the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel. The Home Office has not produced guidance on the way that the process should be implemented but left it to be decided locally to suit local needs. BDC has chosen the scrutiny model and appointed an Overview and Scrutiny member onto the Police and Crime Panel. The membership is renewed each year. In order to maintain the direct link to the Nottinghamshire PCP, in future years it is proposed that the representative should always be a member of Bassetlaw's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In addition at certain times the NPCP has to make decisions in a short time period such as the consultation on the PCC's Police and Crime Plan, the agreement of the precept and the confirmation process of the appointment/dismissal of the Chief Constable. There needs to be a clearly defined internal process for the delegated authority to make decisions and for those decisions to be reported back to the Council.

Recommendation:

The BDC representative on the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel should always be a member of Bassetlaw Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

That the BDC internal processes should be via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and amendments made to the Council's Constitution so that the delegated authority of the BDC Member on the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel is clear.

Role of the District Council – Chief Executive and Leader

This is an opportunity for District Councils to be involved in shaping local services. The Panel agreed that working with the PCC should be a supportive process. The aim is to work together to improve policing in Bassetlaw. There is a possible role for the District Council - direct working with the PCC through networks and the District Leaders Forum.

Recommendation:

That the Council explores all possibilities to establish a direct working relationship with the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Data Sharing

The SNB has reported the importance of information exchange for effective multi-agency working. The Nottinghamshire Information Sharing Protocol (ISP) began in 2009. The ISP governs the exchange of information between partners of the SNB and supports the Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and other crime and disorder partnership groups. The SNB will be reviewing the protocol in June 2013 to simplify information sharing, especially with the changes from April 2013 to public health responsibility.

It is important that Policing resources are allocated on evidence and there is also need for the District Council to understand the resourcing priorities and decision making process of the Police and Crime Commissioner. During the course of the review the members have realised that much of the information is restricted due to the sensitivity of the data. This could be assisted by increased responsible data sharing with all partner organisations. The Panel would ask the PCC to review the data sharing protocols.

Recommendation:

That the Police and Crime Commissioner explores the options for more flexibility in data sharing with partners

Community Involvement

This is an opportunity for District Councils to have a say in Policing and provide the PCC with local intelligence on concerns of local residents. The PCC will not be able to engage with the one million plus residents of Nottinghamshire without a support network and BDC can offer to be part of this network. Councillors are aware of what is important to their local community. There needs to be a mechanism to collect feedback from councillors and report to the PCC.

The PCC has set up a website with a Have Your Say section⁷⁹ for residents to be involved directly. BDC can raise the awareness of its residents and the opportunity to be involved via the BDC website.

Recommendation:

That Bassetlaw District Council investigates the way that local member concerns and the concerns of the local community on police and community safety issues can be registered with the PCC.

⁷⁹ <http://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Take-Part/Take-Part.aspx>

5. Conclusion

There have been significant changes to Policing in England and Wales in 2012 as a result of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The key changes were the introduction of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to replace the unelected Police Authority and for the first time District Councils were given the opportunity to be involved with the introduction of the Police and Crime Panels which scrutinised the PCC. The Review had to consider much detailed background information to gain an understanding of the impact of the introduction of the Nottinghamshire PCC to the existing Policing Structures. The Panel wanted to have sufficient knowledge of Policing, how it operates and its governance structures before making its recommendations. It was also a learning opportunity for the Members to understand the internal governance structures that Bassetlaw District Council would need to meet its obligations to the PCC and the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Panel. The Council can provide local detail to assist the PCC in his role.

The Panel recognises that the Council should have a supportive and positive role to inform the key decisions of the PCC in deciding the Policing priorities in the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Plan. The findings of the Panel should assist in this process. Policing is complex and Nottinghamshire Police works in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships, the Local Criminal Justice Board, Victim Support, Adult and Children Safeguarding Boards, County and City Health and Well-Being Boards, other emergency services, voluntary and community groups. The Panel concluded that Bassetlaw already has in place partnership and multi-agency working to tackle crime and the causes of crime and the recommendations of the review aim to support, maintain and improve this where possible.

The role of the Police is to serve and protect the people in the County and City of Nottingham. The Panel acknowledges that Nottinghamshire Police is changing the way that it works to meet the budget reductions set by Central Government of £42.3m over 4 years to 2015. It is also aware that there will be changes to funding for Community Safety, Victim Support, Drug Improvement Programme and Youth Justice. The PCC and Police will face challenges in meeting the pressures placed on the service.

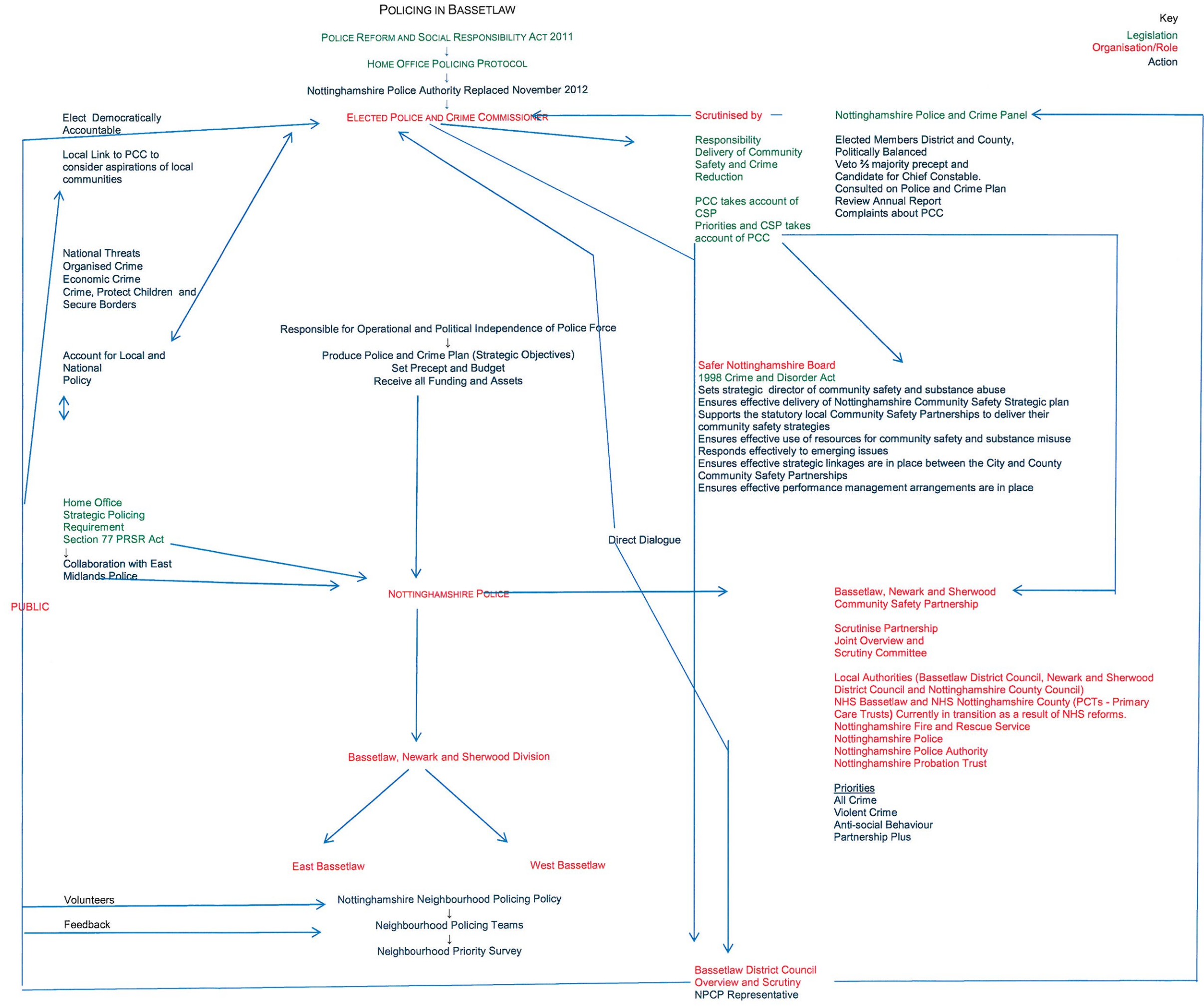
The Police have operational independence from the PCC. Decisions have to be made by the Police to meet their operational requirements that make efficient and effective use of available resources. The Panel has made recommendations which may require additional resources but this is mainly because of the geography and unique features of Bassetlaw located in the North of Nottinghamshire. The Panel concluded that local service provision should be retained and maintained in Bassetlaw wherever possible for the residents to have access to the services that they need.

It appears from the evidence that the strength of Bassetlaw is the multi-agency partnership working and also the problem solving approach of the MARAC. As organisations respond to the economic climate and change working priorities it is important that all the partners including the Police continue to support partnership working as an effective way of making communities safer and reducing crime. The Bassetlaw view is that partnership working is the best way to achieve a positive outcome in the community. People care about the place and the community and that can make a difference. An intelligence-led and problem solving approach can succeed which does not necessarily require large amounts of additional resources, especially at a time of reducing finances. The Panel recognises that there has to be a balancing of factors which will produce effective outcomes for the local communities and hopes that this report will contribute to the process.

6. Appendices

6.1 National and local factors affecting Bassetlaw

The following diagram shows the inter-relationship between, national legislation, national and local policy frameworks and local delivery agencies.



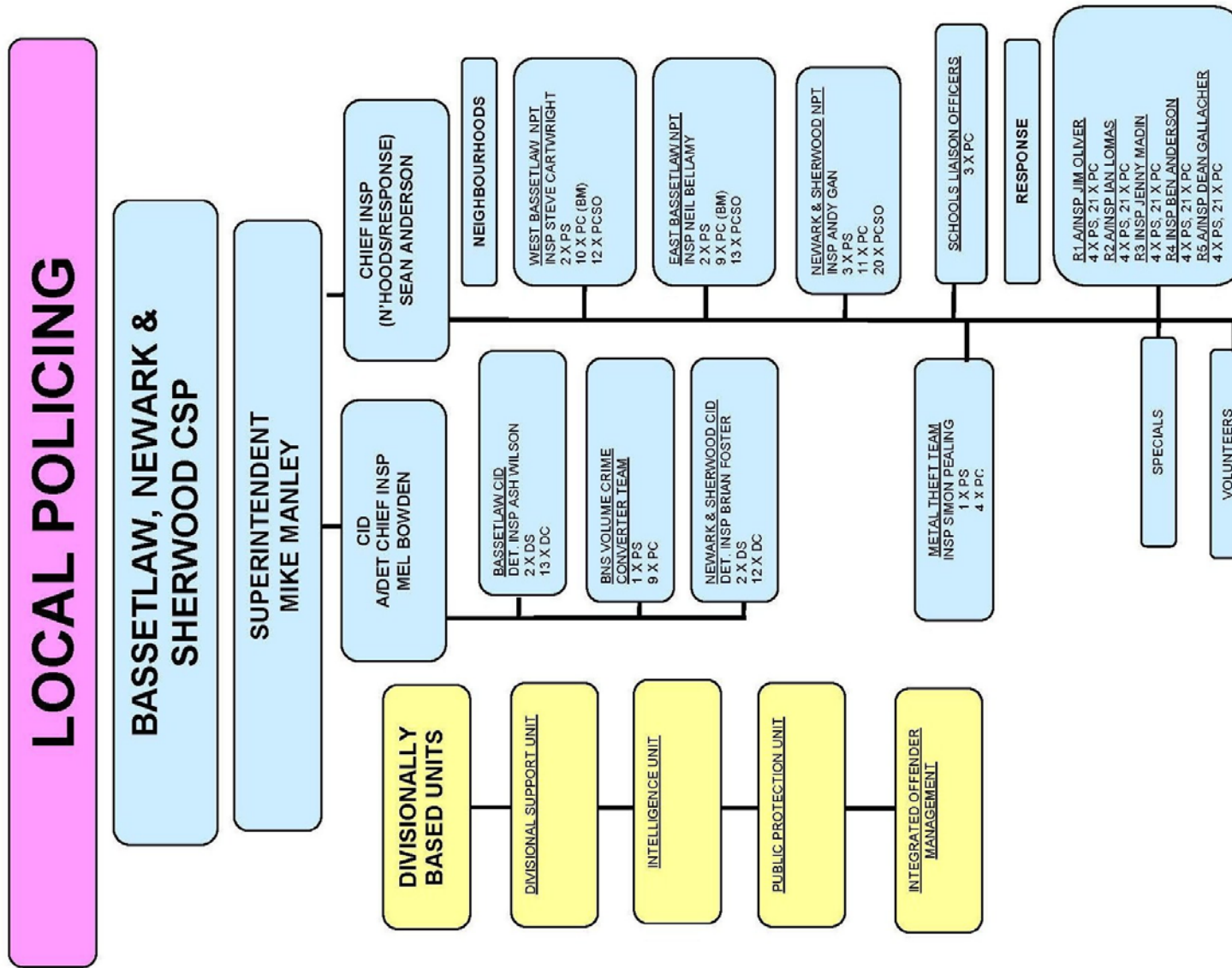
Key

Legislation

Organisation/Role

Action

6.2 Local Policing in Bassetlaw



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