

Regeneration Delivery Group (RDG)

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State of the Neighbourhoods (SON) Crime Theme Report

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Presented on behalf of the Evaluation Reference Group (ERG)

Purpose

To inform RDG of issues relating to crime floortargets raised by analysis of the SON database¹. Recommendations are made for key issues RDG needs to consider followed by supporting evidence.

Recommendations

- 1. ERG supports the choice of revised floortargets² and recommends that more detailed analysis looking at this broader range of crime categories³ is essential to understand the relative increase in total reported crime across NR areas.*
- 2. Interventions should be focussed on those NR areas reporting persistently higher crime rates including: St Pauls; Lawrence Hill; Barton Hill; Hartcliffe and Withywood and Knowle West.*
- 3. Further research and evaluation is needed to explain whether the relative increase in total reported crime in NR areas is reflecting growth in criminal activity or in reporting behaviour (perhaps prompted by improved confidence to report crime).*
- 4. Between 2001/02 and 2003/04, both reported crime and fear of crime, decreased significantly⁴ in Lawrence Weston. There is a need to explore (and where possible transfer) successful interventions in this area which may have contributed to such improvement.*
- 5. Between 2001/02 and 2003/04 both St Pauls and Lawrence Hill saw significant decreases in their reported robbery rates. This relative success needs to be understood and built upon given that the two areas still accounted for 40% of all robberies in NR areas in 2003/04.*

¹ Analysis of SON crime data (Source: Avon & Somerset reported crime 2001/02 – 2003/04)

² Recently revised Bristol Partnership Floortargets include the 10 BCS comparator crime categories

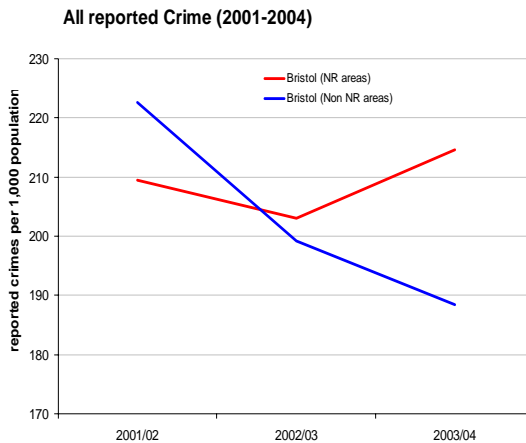
³ Using British Crime Survey (BCS) comparator crime categories

⁴ Reported crime (total, robbery, burglary, MV crimes) & fear of crime fell more than 25%.

Evidence

Evidence is based solely on SON data, summarised and numbered here to correspond with recommendations on the previous page.

1. The gap between reported crime in NR areas and non-NR areas has increased significantly between 2001/02-2003/04 (see graph below).



However, this increasing gap is not significantly reflected in the other floortarget categories (robbery, burglary, vehicle crimes) over the same period. This suggests that crimes other than these are more significant contributors to the increasing 'total reported crime' gap between NR and non-NR areas.

2. In 2003/04 the NR areas with the highest total crime rates⁵ included St Pauls (628 per 1,000); Lawrence Hill (452 per 1,000); Hartcliffe & Withywood-Teyfant (302 per 1,000); Barton Hill (262 per 1,000); Hartcliffe & Withywood-Whitehouse (247 per 1,000); Knowle West (234 per 1,000).
3. Data provided in SON is based on reported crime only. It is therefore not possible to directly attribute changes in the data to actual criminal activity. 'Fear of Crime'⁶ appears to be falling across the city, which may suggest an increased confidence to report crimes to the police.
4. Lawrence Weston is the only NR area to see significant decreases in its reported crime rates across all floortarget categories. The area has seen the largest actual reduction in reported crime (-344 between 2001/02 and 2003/04) of all the NR areas. Total reported crime decreased by 49 per 1,000 (-25%). Reported burglaries decreased 36 per 1,000 (-60%). Reported robberies decreased 2 per 1,000 (39%). Reported thefts from motor vehicles decreased 9 per 1,000 (-48%). Reported thefts of motor vehicles decreased 10 per 1,000 (-51%).

⁵ 'highest total crime rate' = where rate is above the NR area average

⁶ 'Fear of Crime' indicated by % survey respondents who thought crime & safety was getting worse in their area (Source: BCC QoL Survey – randomised household survey of 3-4,000 respondents)

5. The recorded robbery rate in St Pauls decreased from 94 per 1,000 in 2001/02 to 39 per 1,000 in 2003/04 (-59%). The recorded robbery rate in Lawrence Hill decreased from 32 per 1,000 in 2001/02 to 15 per 1,000 in 2003/04 (-55%). Despite representing just 10% of the population of NR areas, 40% of reported robbery in all NR areas in 2003/04 was still reported in St Pauls and Lawrence Hill.

Note: SON provides some breakdown of reported crime by gender and ethnicity. Analysis is not being undertaken at this time due to incomplete reporting. Avon & Somerset Constabulary has recently improved reporting in these areas and subsequent analysis will be possible in due course.

Where next?

ERG suggests that these recommendations initially be made to the Safer Bristol Partnership (SBP) and shared with Avon & Somerset Constabulary.

ERG also welcomes further suggestions from members of RDG for where, to who and how these recommendations should be expressed.