

REDUCING HARM CAUSED BY DRUGS ACTIVITY UPDATE

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the panel with an update on the work being undertaken in support of the Police and Crime Plan objectives to reduce harm caused by drugs and alcohol, which are: 2: To reduce the volume of violent crime with an emphasis on addressing the harm caused by alcohol through partnership working, and 3: To reduce the harm caused by drugs with a focus on treatment, and targeting those that cause the most harm.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 As previously reported to the Panel, Community Safety Partnership have agreed to incorporate objective 2 within their local delivery plans. The PCC supports partners using the West Mercia Grant scheme to provide targeted funding to drive better outcomes.

2.2 The following legislation is relevant:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on local and police authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of their activities and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder

Schedule 9 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 expanded the scope of Section 17 to include ASB, substance misuse and set out 6 hallmarks for effective partnership working:

- i. Empowered and effective leadership
- ii. Intelligence led business processes
- iii. Effective and responsive delivery structures
- iv. Community engagement
- v. Visible and constructive accountability
- vi. Appropriate skills and knowledge

Section 108 of the Police and Crime Act 2009 places a duty on CSPs to formulate and implement a strategy to reduce reoffending by adult and young offenders. The legislation also changed the status of the Probation Service to a Responsible Authority on CSPs.

2.3 The CSPs play a critical role in understanding violent crime and the harm caused by Alcohol, as well as their role in reducing the harm caused by drugs. Each CSP has a framework in place which assesses violent crime and alcohol related crime.

Violent crime is classified by West Mercia Police as either violence against the person with injury, or violence against the person without injury. These are the two main classifications for recording violent crime. The police are able to add various interest markers, such as drugs and alcohol, which is how most crime with either drugs or alcohol as a factor are captured.

2.4 In addition, each CSP has a framework in place which assesses substance misuse. The framework is usually led by a substance misuse commissioner. Performance management linked to substance misuse is captured via Public Health's National Drug Monitoring Treatment system (NDMTS).

2.5 Significant work is already underway to improve governance and performance management arrangements linked to CSP delivery plans, as well as the West Mercia and Warwickshire drugs strategy.

2.6 We are currently reviewing substance misuse commissioning arrangements across West Mercia, as the PCC would like to ensure that there is a consistent level of service provision across the policing area.

2.7 The OPCC along with Public Health England led a review of the drug testing on arrest and drug intervention programme. The review highlighted several areas for improvement. A working group has been set up and is taking the recommendations forward.

2.8 We have continued to strengthen our approach to reducing the harm caused by drugs through our integrated offender management teams and partnership approach. Over the past six months we have tested over 600 IOM nominals for drugs upon arrest. As a result 310 tested positive and were referred onto appropriate services. We continue to focus on identifying offenders who pose the highest risk of harm to our communities and if those offenders do not fully engage with the IOM process, we will work together with our partners to ensure they are caught and convicted for any offences they commit. Drug Testing on Arrest and IOM performance is managed daily by our local IOM teams. Data is aggregated and submitted to the LCJB on a monthly basis.

2.9 In order to support the delivery of reducing supply and demand, we are building capability and capacity within local policing teams to carry out and support the work done by our serious and organised crime resources. This will help the area identify, disrupt and bring to justice offenders who supply controlled substances.

2.10 We continue to support partners and organisations to work with offenders to break the cycle of offending through our grant scheme.

3. CURRENT PERFORMANCE

3.1 A review of the performance data indicates that there has been a statistically significant increase in both violence against the person with injury and violence against the person without injury. The data indicates that there has also been a statistically significant increase in violent crime with a domestic abuse marker.

3.2 The increase in crime in some instances is over 20% over the past six months. The OPCC is working with the Alliance's performance team and analysts to create a problem profile of violent crime and domestic abuse. We are awaiting several reports providing the PCC and partners with a richer understanding of the problem profile linked to violent crime and domestic abuse.

3.3 The draft problem profile is modelling crime by type, location, time and is plotting the hot spots onto GIS maps which will help partners identify where and when the crime is taking place in order to assess if their responses and delivery plans are adequate.

3.4 The draft problem profile has highlighted concerns in the following areas: Telford and Wrekin, Worcestershire and Shropshire. Herefordshire appears to be an exception at the moment, so an investigation into why the increases seen in other areas are not being observed in Herefordshire is underway.

3.5 The draft products will be available by the middle of December 2014 and will highlight performance in detail. As mentioned above the performance is statistically significant above last year's performance and in Telford's case, above their 4 year average.

3.6 One anticipated factor contributing to the increase is related to focus by the Alliance on improving its crime recording practices, which has seen a marked increase in the use of designated markers used in crime recording to identify crimes in which either alcohol, or domestic abuse feature. While the above may account for the increase in the recording of domestic abuse and alcohol related crimes, it does not provide the appropriate analysis outlining the +20% increase in recorded violent crime.

4. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR IMPROVING GOVERNANCE

4.1 The PCC has been working with CSPs and the Local Criminal Justice Board to agree a framework which will provide the PCC with the appropriate level of assurance that key outcomes are being delivered and that risks and issues are being addressed accordingly.

4.2 The PCC, LCJB and CSPs recognise that there are good local governance arrangements in place. The gap exists in assessing performance across West Mercia and in ensuring that outcomes linked to PCC grants are delivered. Moving forward the PCC and LCJB have agreed with CSPs that outcomes linked to CSP delivery plans would be reviewed twice a year. The Director of Public Health for Worcestershire will chair each review.

4.3 The reviews will be designed to add value to local governance arrangements, as they will be designed to provide partners with the opportunity to identify critical gaps in service provision and to work with the OPCC to address those gaps.

5.CONCLUSION

5.1 Focused work and activity is now underway in support of these Police and Crime Plan objectives and will be further strengthened and developed over the coming months.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Panel are invited to consider the report.

Annex A – Performance overview

	YTD	YTD Last Yr	% Change	v 4yr avg
Herefordshire	4729	5230	-9.6%	-17.3%
North Warwickshire	9692	10234	-5.3%	-9.1%
North Worcestershire	9213	8527	8.0%	-11.5%
Shropshire	7013	6853	2.3%	-9.5%
South Warwickshire	6629	7352	-9.8%	-18.2%
South Worcestershire	9234	8632	7.0%	-7.4%
Telford & Wrekin	6011	5769	4.2%	-5.0%

Table 1: Overview of total recorded crime: Violence against the person – Data to Oct 2014.

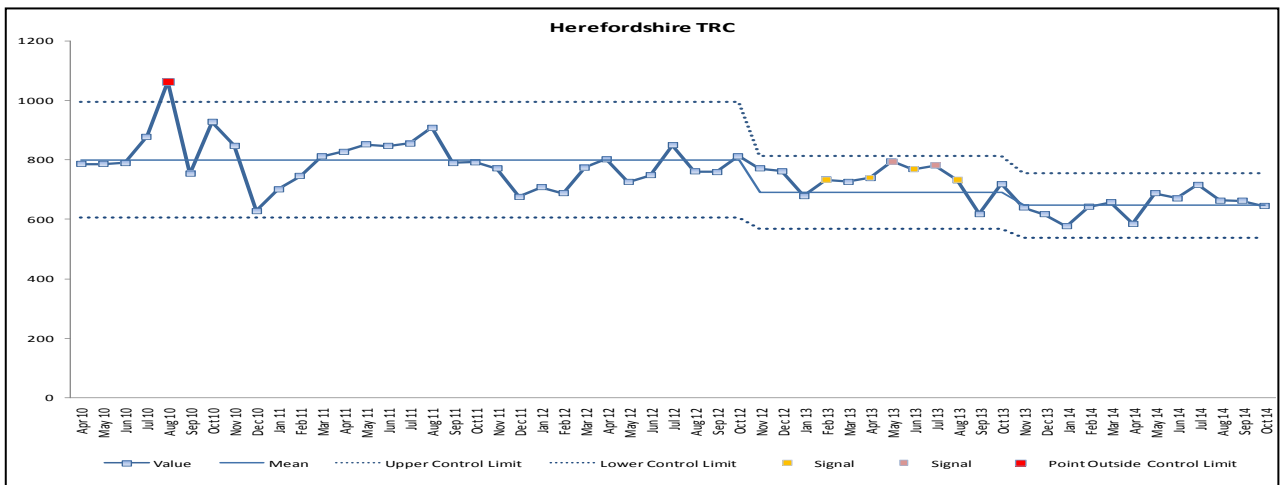


Chart 1: Total Recorded Crime: Violence against the Person – Herefordshire 2010 to 2014

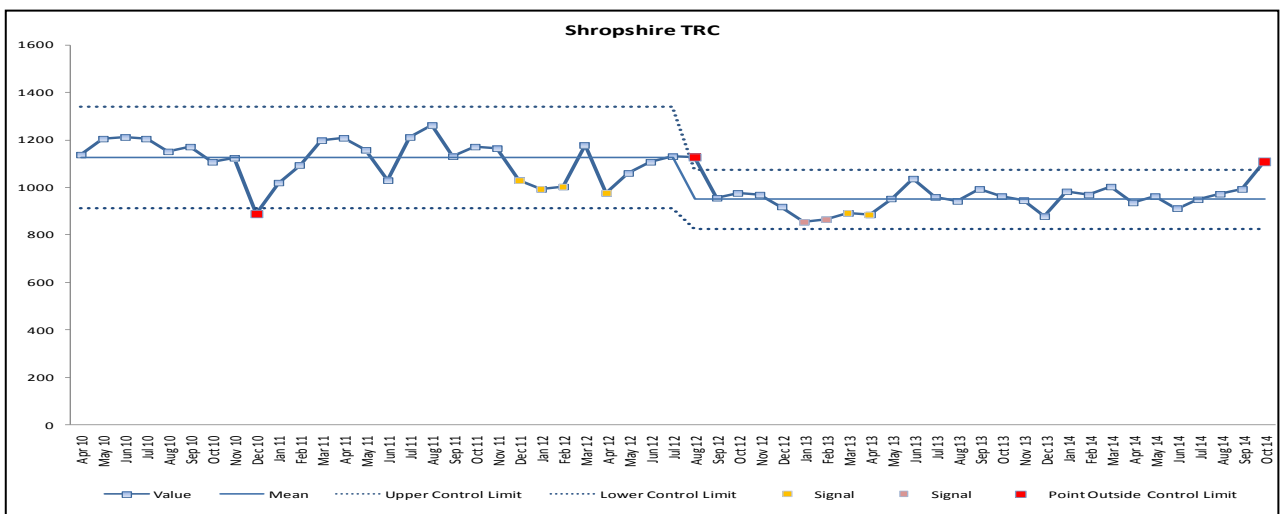


Chart 2: Total Recorded Crime: Violence against the person – Shropshire 2010 – 2014

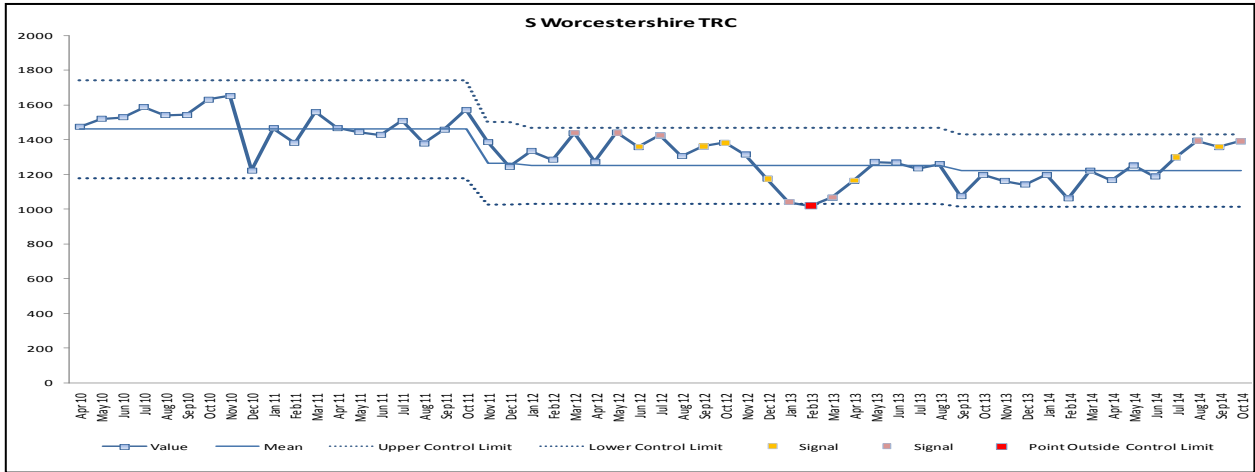


Chart 3: Total Recorded Crime: Violence against the person – S. Worcestershire 2010-14

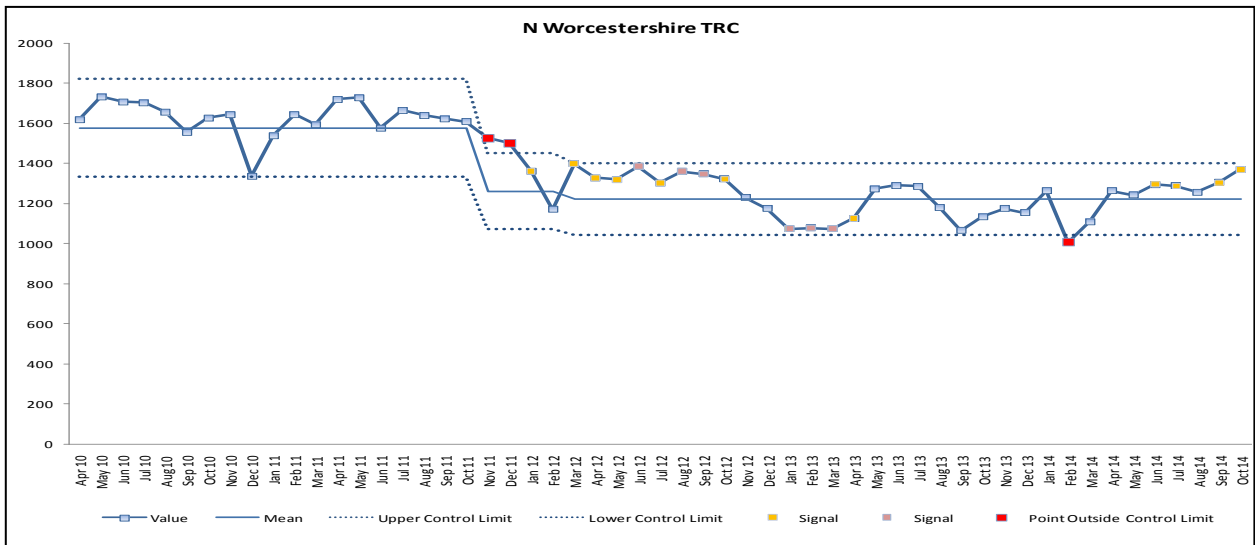


Chart 4: Total Recorded Crime: Violence against the person – N. Worcestershire 2010-14

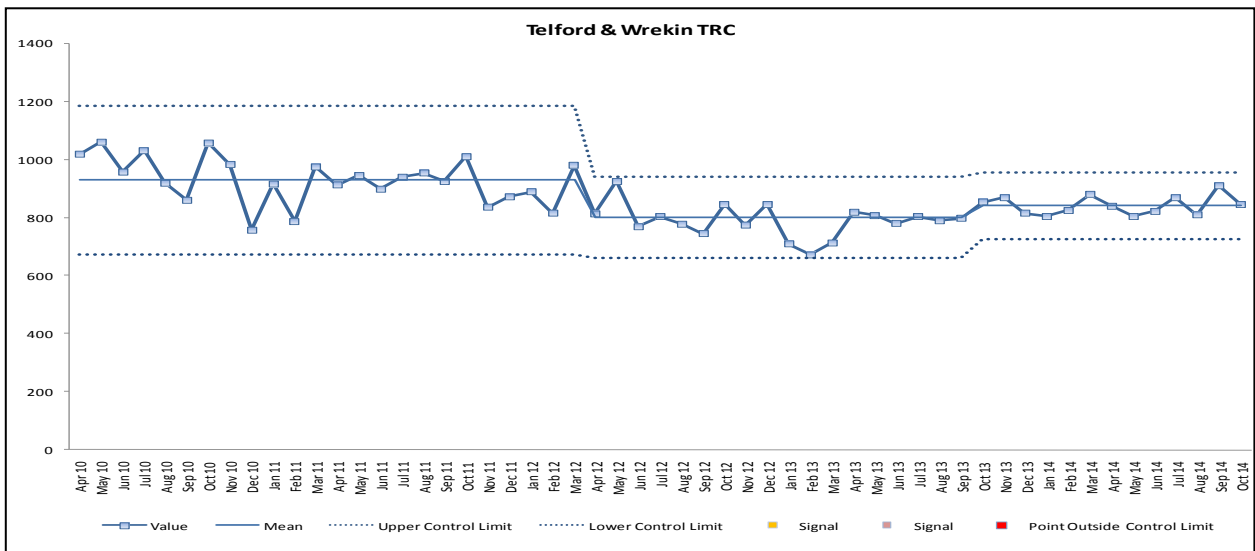


Chart 5: Total Recorded Crime: Violence against the Person – Telford – 2010-14

Summary analysis:

A review of the data linked to violence against the person indicates that most offending takes place on Friday and Saturday evenings between the hours of 21:00 and 01:59. Alcohol is a significant factor. As mentioned earlier in the report, the OPCC is anticipating a couple of detailed products which will outline the offending behaviour in greater detail. The reports will be cascaded once validated and cleared for publication.

Performance linked to drugs is housed on NDMTS. A review of the performance indicates that there are issues with referring treatment naïve offenders into the service, along with the length of time services users remain on treatment. As part of the review into drug testing on arrest and our drug intervention programmes, the Alliance has shifted ownership of Drug Testing on Arrest the Head of Criminal Justice and Custody for the Alliance. The Alliance are currently reviewing their policy for testing on arrest and referring into treatment services as the current processes were not designed to support treatment naïve offenders as well as they could do.

Moving forward, the OPCC will look to each CSP to manage and deliver effective substance misuse services. The OPCC will support the delivery of those services through appropriate grant / commissioning arrangements.