

VIOLENT CRIME

A Report by the Chief Constable

SUMMARY

At the previous meeting of this Committee, Members suggested that it would be helpful for them to receive an explanation that would improve their understanding of the true position regarding violent crime.

RECOMMENDATION

That Members note the report.

DETAIL

In April 2005, Cumbria Constabulary reported a 36% increase in Violent Crime. However, this does not necessarily mean that the streets of our communities have become more violent.

There are initiatives and targets which will lead to increases in the level of recorded Violent Crime.

An example of this would be domestic violence, where there is a target to increase the number of incidents reported by 7%. This is linked to grant funding for the county Domestic Violence project from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Local Policing Teams are interacting with the community more and, as such, are informed of, or come across, more incidents of youth disorder, which impacts on the figures.

When comparing the Violent Crime figures from 2004 with 2005, for the months April to September, there are some interesting results, which tend to support the above-described situation.

The total increase in Violent Crime was 24% during this period, which shows that figures are decreasing.

Of these crimes, there had been a 14% increase in Violent Crime, which resulted in some kind of injury to the victim.

There had been a 24% rise in Common Assault reported during this period.

The greatest increases came in those crimes associated with street disorder; a 63% rise in the number of reported cases of harassment and a 42% rise in cases of public order. These rises are directly attributable to officers reporting more crime.

Domestic Violence accounted for 16% of all violent crime in the period examined in 2005.

During the period examined, incidents of Domestic Violence increased by 41%, but there is still more work to be done to increase these incidents to meet our targets with the ODPM.

Michael Baxter
Chief Constable

