

Social unrest and the implications for stock retaining councils

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Outline

- The SLCNG
- Was there rioting?
- What happened and where?
- Landlords' perspective?
- Issues highlighted
- Implications

The SLCNG

- Formed 1995 and now 300+ members
- Not for profit organisation
- Provides support to tackle ASB
- Spreads good practice
- ‘Speaks up’ for members with government etc on ASB matters
- Co-working with HouseMark, CIH and others (e.g. Respect Charter; ASB Accreditation)
- Please visit www.slcng.org.uk

What happened and where?

10 forces experienced more extensive disorder, defined as 20 or more disorder-related crimes recorded:

• Metropolitan Police Service	68%	3,461
• Greater Manchester	11%	581
• West Midlands	10%	495
• Merseyside	4%	195
• Avon and Somerset		fewer than 100 offences
• Thames Valley		fewer than 100 offences
• Hertfordshire		fewer than 100 offences
• West Yorkshire		fewer than 100 offences
• Leicestershire		fewer than 100 offences
• Nottinghamshire		fewer than 100 offences

The offences and the offenders

Offences brought before the court

burglary	45%
violent disorder	26%
theft	16%
robbery	2%
criminal damage	2%

Gender, age and ethnicity

90% were male
10% were female
26% were aged 10-17
27% were aged 18-20.
5% were over 40 years old

- 76% had a previous caution or conviction
- 13% of arrestees affiliated to a gang

An official view (MoJ)

- Overall, the analyses show that the individuals brought before the courts had a complex set of characteristics (age, previous criminal history, socio-economic background and education), with no one factor standing out.
- In terms of the role gangs played in the disorder, most forces perceived that where gang members were involved, they generally did not play a pivotal role.

A landlord's perspective

- Disappointed by media reports
- Wild accounts of an estate that had been destroyed, 'a desolate wasteland'
- Simply not true
- Many residents helped in the clean-up
- Estate suffered very little damage.

A community's perspective

- Upset
- Dismayed by the way they and the estate were portrayed
- Absolutely determined to get area back on its feet

"Pockets in which social housing, once a support for families working hard to give their children something better, has too often become a place of intergenerational worklessness, hopelessness and dependency"

IDS @ Conservative Party Conference 2011

A landlord's perspective

Not encouraging to see Iain Duncan Smith effortlessly link 'dysfunctional communities' that are 'fertile grounds' for drug dealers and violence to housing estates, where problems have been 'ghettoised' and where 'terrible events' go almost unnoticed.

A lazy link between criminality and social housing that must be challenged.

Message is simple. We must broaden the work that is already being done to support and strengthen communities, often by landlords in partnership with police, local authorities and other community agencies. Widen the offer to communities. Don't criminalise and stigmatise, as this will only make the job harder.

Ending gang and youth violence: cross-government report

- **Gov't report into 'what can be done by to stop the violence and to turn around the lives of those involved' recommends:**
 - providing support** to local areas to tackle the problem
 - preventing** young people becoming involved in violence in the first place, with a new emphasis on early intervention and prevention
 - pathways out** of violence and the gang culture for young people wanting to make a break with the past
 - punishment/enforcement** to suppress violence of those refusing to exit violent lifestyles
 - partnership-working** to join up how local areas respond

Implications

- **Police reform**
- **ASB reform**
- **Localism**
- **Police and Crime Commissioners**
- **Emphasis on prevention and support**
- **Co-location**
- **Consortia/strategic alliance approach**
- **Leadership and coordination**
- **Resources**

Thank You!

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