

North Herts

Community Safety Plan

Executive Summary

March 2008 to March 2011

Last updated: June 12th 2008 – A living document

The Community Safety Plan is a **strategic plan** that has been shaped through consultation with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.



Executive Summary

This Community Safety Plan has been produced in partnership with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, which consists of senior managers within Local Responsible Authority Groups (RAG) as defined below:

- Hertfordshire Constabulary / North Hertfordshire
- Hertfordshire Police Authority / North Hertfordshire
- North Hertfordshire District Council
- Hertfordshire County Council
- North Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
- East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust

The Vision for North Hertfordshire

'Making North Hertfordshire a vibrant place to live, work and prosper'

This is the vision for our District. It is not solely the Council's vision, but the Local Strategic Partnership's vision. It encapsulates what our largest strategic partnership sees as the future for our district. In order to deliver that vision, a number of strategic plans involving our partners are required, including the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and this Community Safety Plan. The activities described in this Community Safety Plan are not simply derived from our annual strategic assessment; they are informed by and reflect the outcomes of the consultation to inform the district's emerging Sustainable Community Strategy, which in turn contribute to the Authority's own Corporate Planning process.

North Hertfordshire District Council have an agreed partnership **mission** which is

'To work collaboratively with partners to deliver the vision for the district'

Through six strategic objectives, we aspire to deliver communities which are

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| - Safer | - healthier |
| - Sustainable | - equal |
| - Satisfied | - prosperous |

This plan aligns with the 'safer' strategic objective, 'Encouraging responsible citizenship and creating safe communities with less crime and less fear of crime'.

The Key Priorities for the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Shown below are the key priorities identified through the Annual Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder.

Key Priorities:

- Promote reassurance and increase feeling of safety
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal damage
- Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder, in particular alcohol related violent and serious violent crime
- Reduce dwelling burglary
- Reduce vehicle crime
- Increase the awareness of domestic violence

These key priorities are taken into consideration by the County Council to compile a County Community Safety Agreement, which in turn influences Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets. Both of these plans work in conjunction with the Community Safety Plan to tackle crime and disorder. It is important to consider LAA when agreeing the actions identified within this Plan as achieving the LAA targets links to reward grant/future funding.

Community Engagement

Engaging with our communities is important to us. Consultation has taken place on these priorities with the public and key stakeholders to help us prioritise further.

The outcome of the consultation was that overall the key priorities are in the order listed below:

1. Reduce anti-social behaviour and criminal damage
2. Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder
3. Increase the awareness of domestic violence
4. Reduce dwelling burglary
5. Promote reassurance and increase feelings of safety
6. Reduce vehicle crime

Action Plan

Within this plan is an Action Plan which sets SMART targets and details success criteria against each priority using an agreed crime prevention problem solving methodology, which involves addressing all three sides of a crime triangle - Victim, Location and Offender.

The agreed activities and success criteria against each priority are detailed in Appendix A:

Additionally a list of actions built around improving the quality and function of the CDRP have been identified. These actions focus on achieving the Hallmarks of Effective Partnership Working. The Home Office have introduced these hallmarks to CDRPs through a Home Office paper known as 'Delivering Safer Communities'.

The actions identified below will ensure the statutory obligation of CDRP working continue to be met and improved upon.

Hallmarks of Effective Partnership Working, Action Plan

- Value for money reviews are to be incorporated into annual Strategic Assessment
- Review information sharing protocol, to be agreed by all governing bodies
- The Strategy group to hold at least one or more public meetings during each year *A senior representative from each responsible authority should be in attendance.*
- Once per year RAG to review skills and knowledge of group
- Introduce a consultation process to inform Strategic Assessments further
- Improve sharing of depersonalised information
- Extend the delivery of the plan to involve the community itself
- Produce CDRP Logo to raise awareness

- Introduce and Anti – Social Behaviour working group

For more information on the Hallmark of Effective Partnership Working refer to Appendix B

We would like this document to be read and understood by everyone. If you would like to receive it in a different format or language please contact 01462 474000 or e-mail service@north-herts.gov.uk.

Please note that the actual numerical measurement for monitoring targets is in the process of being agreed.

Appendices

Targets / Success Criteria and Activities

Priority - Promote Reassurance And Increase Feelings of Safety, Particularly in neighbourhoods where the Fear of Crime (FOC) is disproportionate to the actual level of crime.

Success Criteria

Reduce the percentage of people surveyed who consider teenagers hanging around on the streets to be a big or fairly big problem by 4% (LAA Target)

Reduce the percentage of people surveyed who consider vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property or vehicles to be a big or fairly big problem in their local area (LAA Target)

Increase the percentage of people surveyed who say that they feel very or fairly safe when outside in their local area after dark by 4% by 2009 (LAA Target)

Associated Success Criteria

- PCSO activity reports reflecting number of NHW Area Co-ordinators contacted each month, equal to the number of NHW Area Co-ordinators in post
- Comparison of pre and post Environmental Action Day evaluations, which focus on signs of community degradation

Activities

- Increase PCSO visibility and awareness
- Introduce new NHW schemes in hard to reach areas and crime hotspot locations
- Conduct CDRP Environmental Action Days
- Introduce a Rural Watch scheme
- Review Mobile Station deployment
- Increase the coverage of Crime Prevention Panel activities
- Communicate Safer Neighbourhood priorities to the wider community
- Improve the content of District Council Internet site
- Establish and target hotspots, where fear of crime is disproportionate to actual crime

Priority - Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Criminal Damage

Success Criteria

Reduce the percentage of people who think that anti-social behaviour is a fairly or big problem.

To reduce Criminal Damage

Associated Success Criteria

- Implement at least 1 diversionary project and 1 education project during 2008/09
- Reduce reports of ASB, in particular rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour
- Reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage to parked vehicles
- Reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage to dwellings
- To achieve an increase on the number of ABC's
- To achieve a reduction on Deliberate, Vehicle and Primary Fires

Activities

- Increase police patrols in hotspot locations
- Increase the number of ASB Contracts issued
- Identify and source funding for diversionary projects in conjunction with partnership agencies
- Provide educational youth projects aimed at addressing ASB
- Hold Arson Awareness weeks
- Identify young people at high risk of offending and refer to LIFE project
- Intelligence lead deployment of CCTV to at least 4 locations
- Signage erected at hotspot locations to deter ASB

Priority - Reduce Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder, In Particular Alcohol Related Violent and Serious Violent Crime

Success Criteria

Reduction alcohol related crime and disorder

Prevent an increase in the number of serious violent crimes

Associated Success Criteria

- Reduce the number of complaints of people drinking in the street
- The number of Intelligence led test purchasing operations taken place with enforcement activity where appropriate

Activities

- Close scrutiny of licensing applications and interventions where appropriate
- Issuing of warnings for or prosecutions of licensing offences, and /or the review of premises licenses
- Run test purchasing operations at identified hotspot locations
- Conduct operations at hotspot locations, seizing alcohol and issuing FPN for disorder
- Pilot Safer Pubs and Clubs initiative
- Promotion and extension of schemes similar to 'Think 21'. Encouraging retailers to thoroughly enforce age restrictions.
- The provision of seasonal drink awareness campaigns to promote sensible alcohol consumption
- Provision of Taxi Marshalling service
- Training of front line staff of Drugs Paraphernalia finds and reporting of
- Introduction identification and assessment of alcohol problems using accredited assessment tool
- Referral of clients with alcohol problems to community pharmacist for assessment
- Establish how accredited schemes may assist tackling drugs and disorder and if appropriate accredit staff
- To expand existing pub watch scheme

Priority - Reduce Dwelling Burglary

Success Criteria

Reduction in Dwelling Burglary

Associated Success Criteria

- Increase in the number of SAFE referrals by 5%

Activities

- Expand operation SATURNALIA and STAGGER, providing crime prevention advice across the district
- Targeted deployment of memo cams with a view to identifying offenders
- Production of doorstep crime prevention calendar, distributed to the elderly within the community
- Safer Neighbourhood Officers to develop intelligence to support disruption of detection
- Increase in number of referrals to SAFE scheme, who in turn will add locks and bolts to vulnerable peoples homes
- Increase the number of 'No Cold Calling Zones' in hotspot locations

Priority - Reduce Vehicle Crime

Success criteria

Reduction in Vehicle Crime

Associated Success Criteria

- The number of Operation Tarantulas taken place and the number of letters issued to drivers advising not to leave valuables on display

Activities

- Proactive crime reduction patrols to hotspot locations
- Bespoke crime prevention advice provided to victims and neighbouring community
- Provision of high profile crime prevention campaign through poster, leaflets and local media under 'Operation Tarantula' (*overarching name for all vehicle crime operations*)
- Make best use of both static and mobile ANPR cameras to identify stolen and offender vehicles both generally and within hotspot locations

Priority - Increase The Awareness Of Domestic Violence

Success Criteria

Reduction in the number of DV repeat Victim reports

Associated Success Criteria

- The number of activities taken place to communication Domestic Violence helpline
- *Additional criteria to be identified as year progresses*

Activities

- Full risk assessment on all reports of Domestic Violence
- Participate in 'White Ribbon' Domestic Violence week
- To establish how 'Independent Domestic Violence Advisors' and 'Multiple Agency Risk Assessments' are working in other Areas and establish their value for money and possible introduction to North Herts
- Domestic Violence Helpline communicated widely across the District
- Engage with schools to participate in poster competition, raising awareness of Domestic Violence Helpline.

Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships

Empowered and Effective Leadership

Partnerships need to ensure that there is the right level of representation and involvement to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of their communities. Partner agencies should review representation on CDRPs in order to pool their combined knowledge to better identify the key issues within the community and understand clearly how to tackle them. Having the right 'decision making' people around the table is integral to effective partnership working

Intelligence-led Business Process

Information sharing, appropriate analysis and response lie at the heart of effective partnership delivery. This Hallmark places a statutory requirement on CDRPs to produce an annual Partnership Strategic Assessment to inform a rolling 3 year Community Safety plan. In Hertfordshire, the priorities identified within CDRP assessments and those identified at County level form the basis of this County Agreement which in turn has fed into the Local Area Agreement process. To support effective information sharing, it is now a requirement for each responsible authority to sign up to an information sharing protocol.

Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures

Partnerships must ensure that robust governance arrangements are in place, having clear links between the strategic Responsible Authority Groups (RAG) and operational Joint Action Groups (JAG) via performance management frameworks. RAGs hold the responsibility and accountability for delivering local Community Safety Plans.

Engaged Communities

Partnerships have an obligation to consult and involve their communities on all aspects of community safety and particularly those diverse groups who will be most affected by the partnership plan and actions. Through consultation and the gathering of community intelligence, communities can influence the annual Strategic Assessment process.

Visible & Constructive Accountability

To make CDRPs and their decisions accountable to local people it is now a requirement to publish a summary of the annual Strategic Assessment and partnership plan and bring it to the attention of the local community as widely as possible. Partnerships need to have a communications strategy, setting out clearly how they intend to engage communities in this process.

Appropriate Skills & Knowledge

This Hallmark underpins all the National Standards. It is essential that those who sit on partnerships have the appropriate skills and knowledge to deliver local plans and Local Area Agreement outcomes and targets.