



ST ALBANS COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Introduction

This document outlines the Community Safety Plan for St Albans City & District for the 3 years from April 2008. The Plan is produced by the Community Safety Partnership and focuses on reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the district. It underpins and contributes to the District's Community Strategy and is shaped by the Local Strategic Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Safety Agreement. The plan is based on a strategic assessment of the levels of crime, disorder and drug and alcohol misuse in the district; the fear of crime; the results of a public consultation and national crime reduction priorities. This assessment is required annually by the Government.

The Community Safety Plan aims to create a safer St Albans by concentrating on three key aims:

- Reducing crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and alcohol related disorder
- Promoting community safety and reducing the fear of crime

Each of these aims will be achieved by focusing on three objectives:

- Focusing on persistent offenders
- Creating local solutions for local problems
- Engaging with the public and media

The following sections show action that the Partnership intends to take to address its aims and objectives.

Reducing crime will ensure that the Partnership concentrates on reducing those crimes that require the closest attention based on an analysis of crime statistics and residents' concerns. In St Albans District this means vehicle crime, house burglary and burglary of other premises, drug misuse and criminal damage. The Partnership will concentrate on reducing these crimes, informing local residents of what it is doing and letting them know how they can help make a difference. Although "theft from person" offences are low in the district, the Partnership and public agree that tackling these should remain

a priority, as will continual monitoring of domestic violence and hate crime to make sure they do not increase.

Focusing on persistent offenders - The Government has estimated that the worst 5,000 offenders are nationally responsible for approximately 50,000 offences. The Partnership will therefore target the top 15-20 local prolific offenders in three main ways:

- Identifying likely serious offenders as early as possible in order to prevent further offending behaviour
- Catching and convicting the most serious offenders as swiftly as possible
- Rehabilitating offenders after conviction

Anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder continue to be a problem for people in St Albans District. This will be addressed robustly using a number of methods including prevention, education and mediation. However, where necessary, the Partnership will not hesitate to use enforcement measures and apply to the Courts for injunctions and Anti-social Behaviour Orders.

Promoting community safety and reducing the fear of crime is central to the Partnership's work. It is made effective by continual cooperation between our partner agencies to develop good practice and by working to reduce the chances of incidents occurring. Continued effective communication will help people to live, work and study here with confidence which itself ensures a safer district.

Creating local solutions to local problems will be led through community policing and closer working with town and parish councils. It will focus on crime reduction in various locations in St Albans District encouraging reporting of crime and anti-social behaviour and working with local communities to enhance community safety.

Engaging with the public and media - The Community Safety Partnership is committed to regular and positive dialogue with the public so that it may identify and tackle the issues of greatest concern. It will publish a quarterly newsletter to inform people about partnership activity, as well as consult with local communities via ward meetings.

Summary of Partnership Performance

In 2004 the Home Office set us a challenging three year target, based on a 2003/04 baseline, of reducing certain crime types (known as British Crime Survey crimes) by a cumulative total of 18.5%. Partnerships started working on their targets in 2005/06. Our Partnership has done well and has achieved a 25% reduction in crime.

St Albans	Baseline Target 2003/4	Target 2007/8	Actual Crimes 31st March 08	% Reduction (vs Baseline)
Theft of vehicle	529	397	297	44%
Theft from Vehicle	2049	1229	1,148	44%
Vehicle Interference	101	76	73	28%
Domestic Burglary	688	605	515	25%
Theft of Cycle	146	131	186	-27%
Theft from person	309	278	266	14%
Common Assault	549	384	401	27%
Wounding*	558	698	444	20%
Robbery	104	88	79	24%
Criminal damage	2039	1876	1,898	7%
All BCS Reduction	7072	5762	5,307	25%

*Wounding - the target reflects the change in the way crime is recorded

The Partnership believes that the new plan should not only reduce crime and disorder but also contribute towards making St Albans an outstanding place in which to live, work and visit. We will do this by tackling the fear as well as the reality of crime.



Each of the 3 aims shown in the diagram above contributes in its own right to St Albans being a safe place to live, work and visit, but it is only when all three come together that the greatest benefit is achieved. The reduction of crime is a key component; however it does not in itself increase the feeling of safety.

It is important that people are aware of the achievements and improvements that are being made, so that their feelings of being safe are realistic. Therefore reducing the fear of being a victim of crime is as important as reducing the chances of becoming a victim of crime.

The third element of promoting community safety goes beyond solely crime related issues, and also involves improvements in road safety, licensing and fire safety.

It is important that the Community Safety Plan works alongside other local and county strategies in order to have the maximum effect. For this reason, it not only contributes to but also reflects the priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership, Hertfordshire Community Strategy and the Hertfordshire Policing Plan.

Hertfordshire Community Strategy - Long Term Objectives 2008-2021

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods and town centres
- Reduce the fear of crime
- Develop a strong sense of pride in our communities
- Support a vibrant voluntary and community sector which meets the needs of local people
- Encourage communities and individuals to have a greater voice and participate in local decision making

Short Term Actions 2008-2011

- Reduce alcohol related crime and disorder in our town centres
- Reduce anti-social behaviour and disorder
- Reduce the fear of crime, in particular:
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Drugs dealing
- Increase confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System in the County
- Encourage more cohesive communities
- Increase the levels of volunteering
- Increase numbers of people who feel they are able to affect decision making in their local area, especially:
 - vulnerable people (including children)

Hertfordshire Policing Plan priorities:

- To reduce crime, in particular the most serious violent, organised and acquisitive crime
- To protect vulnerable people, including victims of sexual offences
- To target criminals - bringing more offences and serious offenders to justice
- To increase feelings of safety
- To keep young people safe and prevent them from becoming involved with crime or anti-social behaviour
- To reduce anti-social behaviour, including incidents of alcohol-related disorder.

Local Strategic Partnership Priorities:

The strategy will form part of the overall work of the Local Strategic Partnership which is implementing and delivering a vision for the future of St Albans.

1. Ensuring the District is a great place to be
2. Keeping the District healthy
3. Supporting an active community that has pride in itself and cares for the future.

Planning Ahead

Having agreed the Community Safety Plan the Partnership is now developing a work plan and setting performance targets which will support the delivery of the priorities.

Agencies which form part of the Community Safety Partnership are:-

St Albans City & District Council	Hertfordshire County Council
Hertfordshire Constabulary	Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue
Hertfordshire Police Authority	Primary Care Trust
Probation Service, Hertfordshire area	Youth Offending Team

For further information contact the Community Safety Team 01727 819305
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