



St Albans Community Safety Partnership Plan 2009/10

Introduction:

This Partnership Plan sets out the key priorities for the Community Safety Partnership for 2009/10 based on a strategic assessment of the levels of crime, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse in the District.

The Community Safety Plan aims to build a safer St Albans through addressing these four key aims:

- Preventing and reducing crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder
- Protecting vulnerable people
- Promoting the work of the partnership and increasing feelings of community safety

Underpinning all of the above is the Partnership's goal of being able to respond to emerging issues quickly.

Agencies which form the Community Safety Partnership are:

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

In addition the Partnership will work from time to time with other partners which have the ability to add value to successful outcomes, including British Transport Police, First Capital Connect, Central Herts Magistrates Bench, Crown Prosecution Service, Trading Standards and Housing Associations.

It is important that the Community Safety Plan reflects the District's needs and contributes to local and county strategies to have the maximum effect. For this reason it not only contributes to but also reflects the priorities of the Local Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy, the wider Hertfordshire Community Strategy, the Hertfordshire Police Authority Policing Plan and indeed the plans of all Partnership member agencies.

St Albans City and District Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities:

- The Community Safety Partnership is the LSP's delivery arm for the community safety agenda. The Partnership will work to help the LSP's priorities of:
- Ensuring the District is a great place to be
- Keeping the District healthy
- Supporting an active community that has pride in itself and cares for the future.

The Sustainable Community Strategy is going through a refresh this year and the Community Safety Plan will link with it and describe what needs to be addressed to achieve its aims.

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 deliver the Policing Pledge
- In partnership to reduce crime, in particular the most serious violent, organised and acquisitive crime
- In partnership to protect vulnerable people, including victims of sexual offences
- To bring more offences and serious offenders to justice
- To improve community confidence and user satisfaction in police services

- In partnership keep young people safe and prevent them from becoming involved with crime or anti-social behaviour
- Protect the county from terrorism and violent domestic extremism
- Use resources effectively and efficiently with a representative workforce

Preventing and reducing crime.

The Partnership will concentrate on reducing the crimes which affect people the most including vehicle crime, theft, burglary, robbery and violence. It will also work to prevent these crimes happening in the first place by targeting resources and investigating new technology to help in the fight against crime. The Partnership will continue to focus on targeting the small minority of offenders who carry out a large proportion of all our crime. Neighbourhood Watch will continue to receive Partnership support as it develops new schemes in the District.

Tackling anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related disorder

St Albans City & District enjoys comparatively low levels of anti-social behaviour compared to the national average, but where it does occur it can be extremely distressing for the victims. Robust action will be taken to prevent ASB escalating; measures including prevention, education, mediation and family based intervention. However, where necessary, the Partnership will not hesitate to use enforcement measures and apply to the Courts for injunctions and Anti-social Behaviour Orders.

Providing more things for young people to do is a top Council priority and the Partnership will be working to provide activities which divert the small minority of young people who may be on the edge of criminality away from crime and into healthy activities which promote social inclusion, respect for themselves and others and team building skills.

The number of incidents of alcohol-related disorder is quite low in the District. This is due to a range of measures that have been put in place over the last few years. However, that is no reason for complacency and the Partnership will continue to target under-age drinking, working proactively with licensees through Pubwatch and promote sensible drinking levels.

Fly tipping problems escalated in certain pockets of the District last year. The Partnership is already undertaking actions to tackle this blight and will continue to do so in the coming year.

Protecting Vulnerable People

It is important that we all strive to protect the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Partnership will be undertaking activity to help a wide range of vulnerable people. Victims of domestic violence will be helped to find sources of support and advice and we will investigate the possibility of introducing a Sanctuary scheme in the District to enable victims to stay in their own homes. In addition, the Partnership is committed to the prosecution of domestic violence perpetrators wherever possible and changing their behaviour through proven interventions.

The elderly, those whose homes have been burgled, single parents and those who are housebound will be helped by the provision of door chains, locks and spy holes to deter distraction burglars and we will look at the introduction of more No Cold Calling zones, carrying on our work with Trading Standards to identify bogus callers and rogue traders.

The Partnership will continue to monitor hate crime and graffiti and will take swift action where incidents occur. It will also work to ensure that hate crime is not under reported.

Drug misusers often turn to committing acquisitive crime like shoplifting, theft and robbery to fund their drug habit. The Partnership will continue to focus on targeting the small minority of offenders who carry out a large proportion of all our crime, in particular those identified as Prolific and Other Priority Offenders [PPOs]. The Partnership will ensure that PPOs in the District are managed in line with the Hertfordshire PPO Strategy.

The Partnership will also support the work of the countywide Choices and Consequences (C²) project, which targets the most persistent PPOs. (C²) aims to break the cycle of reoffending by offering these offenders an opportunity to engage in treatment and stay out of prison provided they admit all previous offences. The project also offers offenders, who enter the scheme on a voluntary basis, opportunities for training and work. Those on the project are regularly tested to ensure they remain drug free and are also expected to pay something back to their local community by means of visible interventions such as Community Payback. But it is not a soft option - those who commit further offences or fail to engage with the programme are returned to the Court for full sentencing. The Partnership will continue to refer suitable candidates to the C² programme.

The Partnership will continue to educate people about drugs and alcohol in line with national campaigns and the Hertfordshire Drug Strategy as well as through the local media and work undertaken in schools and colleges. We will share information and continue to work with others to eliminate the supply of drugs as well as ensuring that appropriate help advice and treatment is available to those who need it.

The Partnership will also work with all communities to help them minimise opportunities for people to be radicalised by extremist views, wherever those views originate from.

Promoting the work of the partnership and increasing feelings of community safety

Hertfordshire is one of the safest counties in England and St Albans is one of the safest districts in the county. However the actual crime levels are not mirrored by people's perception of crime. For this reason, the Partnership will be working to promote public awareness of the range of activities which are being carried out to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and make people safer in their homes and on the streets of the District.

We will continue to keep our website up to date and to publish our quarterly newsletter in local newspapers as well as regular press releases telling you of our success stories.

The Partnership will give local communities the opportunity to identify projects where offenders can pay their debt to society by improving the environment through visible Community Payback projects. We will work alongside the Mayor to promote such projects and help demonstrate the activity of the Partnership and the positive impact on the local community.

The Partnership’s Performance in 2008/09

2007/08 finished with the Partnership exceeding its challenging Home Office target of reducing crime by 18.5% over three years by achieving a 25% reduction. In reality this meant some 2,400 fewer crimes and therefore a significant reduction in the number of victims of crime over the three year period. We have been recognised by Government Office as one of the best performing Community Safety Partnerships in the Eastern Region.

This year has been a year of setting new baselines and working with some new targets. We have continued to track our performance against key crime types and results are listed below for the nine month period April 2008-December 2008:

	April to Dec 2007	April to Dec 2008	
All crime	7,215	6,872	343 fewer crimes
Serious violent crime	28	30	2 more crimes
Assault with less serious injury	334	372	38 more crimes
Burglary dwelling	349	438	89 more crimes
Theft from Vehicle	859	755	104 fewer crimes
Theft of Vehicle	242	250	8 more crimes
Robbery	66	65	1 less crime

To the end of December 2008 all crime was down 4.8% against the same period last year.

Performance

The Partnership’s performance will be measured against a range of national and local indicators.

Planning ahead

The Partnership still needs to build stronger links with the District Children’s Trust Partnership and with the Health and Social Care Partnership and this will form part of the work plan for the coming year.

The Partnership is keen that any projects it undertakes should be considered in terms of sustainability and the evidence of their impact – that is they should have a long-lasting effect wherever possible.

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken on the Community Safety Plan and the projects the Partnership undertakes will also consider the six strands of the Equalities agenda, namely: age, disability, gender, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Equalities impact assessments will be carried out to ensure as far as practicable that the Plan and any actions or projects arising from it do not have an adverse detrimental effect in any of the following areas. Additionally, where any adverse impact of the Plan or any actions is identified the Partnership will seek to overcome this.

Age	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on any age groups, while acknowledging that some actions will need to be targeted by age, for example protecting vulnerable older or young people.
Disability	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on any persons with disabilities, while acknowledging that actions may need to target issues such as abuse of persons with mental health or learning difficulties. Actions will comply with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.
Gender	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on the basis of gender while acknowledging that actions may need to target issues such as domestic violence which affects more women than men.
Race	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on the basis of race while acknowledging that actions may need to target issues such as hate crime and the quick removal of racist graffiti. The effects of any enforcement will be monitored to identify any indirect discrimination against any race.
Religion	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on the basis of a person's religion while acknowledging that actions may need to target issues such as hate crime. The effects of any enforcement will be monitored to identify any indirect discrimination against any religion.
Sexual Orientation	This assessment will determine whether or not there is a detrimental impact from the Plan or any actions arising from it on the basis of a person's sexual orientation, while acknowledging that actions may need to target issues such as homophobic crime.

Having developed the Community Safety Plan, the Partnership is now developing a work plan to address its key priorities.