



## **St Albans District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2012/2013**

### **Introduction:**

This strategy outlines the St Albans Community Safety Partnership's priorities for 2012/13. It is based on a Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder, anti social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and other data.

The following six priorities have been identified to build a safer St Albans City and District, therefore in no particular order they are;

- To reduce, prevent and detect crimes including dwelling burglary, theft from motor vehicle and theft from person offences.
- To protect vulnerable victims especially children, vulnerable adults and witnesses.
- To prevent and reduce anti social behaviour incidents; prioritising issues of high community impact.
- To reduce, prevent and detect drug and alcohol related offences including raising awareness of the penalties for drugs possession and increasing the education around safer drinking.
- To manage offenders effectively by co-ordinating support and rehabilitation services.
- To provide reassurance and engagement around the work of the Partnership and to actively engage with local communities.

### **Members of 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
Hertfordshire Probation Trust	Hertfordshire Services for Young People.

In addition the Partnership will occasionally work with other agencies such as British Transport Police, First Capital Connect, Central Herts Magistrates Bench, Crown Prosecution Service, Trading Standards, Housing Associations West Herts Partnership Trust and The Community Care Partnership.

This strategy feeds into local and countywide strategies and contributes to and reflects the priorities of the St Albans Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy. The Strategy also reflects the priorities of the wider Hertfordshire Community Strategy and the Police Authority Plan. Full details of these plans are available on request from the Community Safety Team **01727 819305** or on [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)

### **To reduce, prevent and detect crimes including dwelling burglary and theft from motor vehicle and theft from person offences**

The Partnership will prioritise the prevention, reduction and detection of burglary offences with a particular focus on dwelling burglary, theft from motor vehicle and theft from person offences. We will continue to deliver projects and related activity aimed at deterring criminals from entering the District, including sharing information with cross border agencies. The Partnership will continue to focus on targeting the small minority of offenders who carry out a large proportion of all crime. We will continue to target resources at providing information on how to reduce the chances of becoming a victim of crime. CCTV will be used as part of targeted operations to detect and bring those responsible to justice. The Partnership will continue to roll out SmartWater property marking technology in hotspot locations and to repeat victims. We will maintain our work with Neighbourhood Watch and other community forums to increase information and intelligence both to and from the Partnership.

### **To protect vulnerable victims especially children, vulnerable adults and witnesses.**

The Partnership recognises that vulnerable victims may need additional help and support; therefore we will ensure that information about how and where to access help is widely available and accessible. The Partnership will ensure that professionals coming into contact with residents have the skills, training and information to recognise children or adults who may be at risk and how to obtain help for them. We recognise that the needs of vulnerable victims are often complex and can be masked by other issues and therefore the Community Protection team will continue its joined up working which includes domestic violence, safeguarding and mental health interventions.

### **To prevent and reduce anti social behaviour incidents prioritising issues of high community impact.**

St Albans City and District has some of the lowest levels of anti social behaviour in the County. However, the Partnership acknowledges that where this behaviour does occur, it can be very distressing for the victims. Therefore actions to prevent anti social behaviour escalating including education, mediation, family based support and restorative justice, will remain in place as currently provided by the Partnership. We have also introduced diversionary projects such as Onside and the Fire Service's LIFE Project which works with the young people who are most at risk of offending, to provide intensive support. The Partnership will ensure that vulnerable victims receive, wherever possible, appropriate support and rapid action. The Partnership will roll out a Vulnerable Victims Checklist which will help to identify vulnerable individuals. A review of anti social behaviour has also been undertaken by the Partnership and a new anti social behaviour strategy developed. In addition, the Partnership acknowledges that when enforcement action is both appropriate and required, it should be pursued, and the Partnership will not hesitate to do so, when necessary.

**To reduce, prevent and detect drug and alcohol related offences including raising awareness of the penalties for drugs possession and increasing the education around safer drinking.**

Drug misusers very often turn to committing crimes such as shoplifting and theft to fund their drug habit. Targeted police operations such as Operation Crystal will tackle and break the cycle of drugs and crime. The Partnership will also work with local treatment providers to ensure that support and help is available locally and easily accessible. Further work is being developed locally to provide education and awareness sessions for residents including information about drug and alcohol treatment services in the District. In addition the partnership will roll out the Navigator project which will work in local custody suites to ensure that individuals with mental health needs have access to the right services.

In line with national and local media campaigns the Partnership will continue to engage the local media and undertake work in schools and colleges. Projects such as Crucial Crew which aim to increase awareness of personal safety, substance misuse, fire safety and cybercrime amongst young people will also be developed. The Partnership will share information and work towards eliminating the supply of drugs as well as ensuring it supports Hertfordshire's Integrated Offender Management programme (IOM, see below) to rehabilitate, reintegrate and resettle offenders to help break the cycle of offending.

**To manage offenders effectively by co-ordinating support and rehabilitation services.**

A combined approach called Integrated Offender Management (IOM) is a system which provides all agencies engaged in local criminal justice work with a single framework for the management and rehabilitation of repeat offenders. It will ensure that work undertaken through multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA), domestic violence, drug and alcohol services, housing, probation and health all have a co-ordinated approach.

Through IOM the Partnership will continue to focus on offenders who carry out the largest proportion of crime as well as chaotic offenders, ensuring that accommodation, education, training and employment opportunities continue to be developed. The Partnership will work to make the best use of Community Payback schemes to ensure that something is given back to local communities by making offenders repay the community for the wrong they have done.

**To provide reassurance and engagement around the work of the Partnership and to actively engage with local communities.**

Hertfordshire is one of the safest counties in England and St Albans is one of the safest districts in the County. The Partnership recognises that involving

communities in neighbourhood issues is key to engagement and reassurance. Therefore we will continue to ensure that local residents' concerns can be easily communicated through local priority setting forums which are monitored monthly by the Partnership's Joint Agency Group (JAG) as well as in a variety of other ways. The JAG will seek to find solutions and take action to address these concerns and feed any strategic issues on to the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG).

The Partnership will continue to promote public awareness of the range of activities which are being undertaken to tackle crime, anti social behaviour and drug and alcohol misuse. We will engage regularly with the public via the District Council website and publish regular press releases and newsletters in the local printed press advising residents on how to get involved in their local community. Furthermore, we will carry out events such as the market stalls to provide additional information.

### **The Partnership's Performance in 2011**

The table below shows the performance of the Partnership against key crime types from April – Nov 2011 and compares it to the same period the previous year. It shows that all crime is down 9.6% which is 476 fewer crimes.

	April 10 – Nov 10	April 11- Nov 11	Total Change
All crime	4958	4482	476 fewer crimes (-9.6%)
Serious violent crime	26	17	9 fewer crimes (-34.6%)
Assault with less serious injury	266	262	4 fewer crimes (-1.5%)
Serious Acquisitive Crime	933	789	144 fewer crimes (-15.4%)
Burglary dwelling	304	270	34 fewer crimes (-11.2%)
Theft FROM vehicle	488	418	70 fewer crimes (-14.3%)
Theft OF vehicle	101	79	22 fewer crimes (-21.8%)
Robbery	40	22	18 fewer crimes (- 45.0%)

The Partnership is very keen that any projects undertaken are sustainable and produce long term effects. In addition, Equality Impact Assessments will be conducted where necessary.