

# St Albans District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2022-2023



## Introduction

This Community Safety Partnership strategy outlines the Partnership's priorities for 2022-23. It is based on a local Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, and other data. It is informed by national and local policies including: *Modern Crime Prevention Strategy (Home Office, 2016)* and *Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plans: Everybody's Business (Hertfordshire Crime and Police Commissioner)*.

The St Albans Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is made up of the following partner agencies:

St Albans City & District Council	HCC Services for Young People
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service	National Probation Service
Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group	Hertfordshire County Council

In addition, the Partnership works with other agencies such as British Transport Police, Govia Thameslink, Central Herts Magistrates Bench, Crown Prosecution Service, Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards and Highways teams, Housing Associations, Oaklands College and third sector agencies including CGL (Change, Grow, Live), The Living Room and Safer Places and Communities 1st.

The Partnership will consider the impact of Covid-19 and takes steps to reduce its effect on crime and the causes of crime. The priorities are reviewed every year and the Partnership will consult with residents, businesses and organisations before finalising the document. The focus will continue to be on those issues in our communities with the highest risk of harm. The Partnership will learn lessons from local and national experience and will follow examples of best practice.

Our mission statement has been amended this year to:

**The St Albans Community Safety Partnership is committed to maintaining and delivering safer and stronger communities, making the District an area where people want to live, work and visit** and our priorities below are focused on achieving this for the District.

## Priorities

- **Protecting communities and making them feel safe**
- **Tackling crime and anti social behaviour**
- **Championing mental health and wellbeing**

## Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Performance Summary: April 2021 to Dec 2021

	Deliberate Fires	Primary Fires	Fire Injuries
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	-24% (860 to 654)	-6% (896 to 840)	+85% (33 to 61)
<b>St Albans</b>	-22% (89 to 69)	-11% (111 to 99)	Fallen 4 to 1

## Hertfordshire Constabulary Performance Summary: April 2021- Dec 2021

The table below shows a summary of the Partnership's performance against crime types during the first three quarters of the year and compares it to the same period last year.

Comparison Sheet - ST ALBANS (Between 01/04 and 04/01)											
CRIMES - Year To Date	CRIME				OUTCOME				OUTCOME RATE		
	This Year	2019/20	Change	% Change	This Year	2019/20	Change	% Change	This Year	2019/20	% Change
ALL CRIME	6335	6924	-589	-8.5%	690	848	-158	-18.6%	10.9%	12.2%	-1.4%
ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	582	734	-152	-20.7%	32	44	-12	-27.3%	5.5%	6.0%	-0.5%
BURGLARY	315	527	-212	-40.2%	11	27	-16	-59.3%	3.5%	5.1%	-1.6%
DRUG OFFENCES	176	179	-3	-1.7%	165	137	28	20.4%	93.8%	76.5%	17.2%
MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	122	124	-2	-1.6%	24	27	-3	-11.1%	19.7%	21.8%	-2.1%
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	48	61	-13	-21.3%	27	30	-3	-10.0%	56.3%	49.2%	7.1%
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	468	442	26	5.9%	76	60	16	26.7%	16.2%	13.6%	2.7%
ROBBERY	39	71	-32	-45.1%	5	14	-9	-64.3%	12.8%	19.7%	-6.9%
SEXUAL OFFENCES	181	200	-19	-9.5%	16	12	4	33.3%	8.8%	6.0%	2.8%
THEFT	1437	1753	-316	-18.0%	137	277	-140	-50.5%	9.5%	15.8%	-6.3%
VEHICLE OFFENCES	673	807	-134	-16.6%	14	26	-12	-46.2%	2.1%	3.2%	-1.1%
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	2294	2026	268	13.2%	183	194	-11	-5.7%	8.0%	9.6%	-1.6%
DOMESTIC ABUSE (Crimes With DA Flag Attached)	968	858	110	12.8%	59	93	-34	-36.6%	6.1%	10.8%	-4.7%

  

CRIMES - Monthly	CRIME				OUTCOME				OUTCOME RATE		
	This Year	2019/20	Change	% Change	This Year	2019/20	Change	% Change	This Year	2019/20	% Change
ALL CRIME - APR	657	793	-136	-17.2%	91	94	-3	-3.2%	13.9%	11.9%	2.0%
ALL CRIME - MAY	699	790	-91	-11.5%	75	97	-22	-22.7%	10.7%	12.3%	-1.5%
ALL CRIME - JUN	772	783	-11	-1.4%	62	120	-58	-48.3%	8.0%	15.3%	-7.3%
ALL CRIME - JUL	692	754	-62	-8.2%	75	107	-32	-29.9%	10.8%	14.2%	-3.4%
ALL CRIME - AUG	727	759	-32	-4.2%	57	93	-36	-38.7%	7.8%	12.3%	-4.4%
ALL CRIME - SEP	701	764	-63	-8.2%	72	88	-16	-18.2%	10.3%	11.5%	-1.2%
ALL CRIME - OCT	651	783	-132	-16.9%	74	72	2	2.8%	11.4%	9.2%	2.2%
ALL CRIME - NOV	731	742	-11	-1.5%	95	95	0	0.0%	13.0%	12.8%	0.2%
ALL CRIME - DEC	628	675	-47	-7.0%	68	76	-8	-10.5%	10.8%	11.3%	-0.4%
ALL CRIME - JAN	77	81	-4	-4.9%	21	93	-72	-77.4%	27.3%	114.8%	-87.5%

## How the Partnership plans to deliver the 2022/23 priorities.

Priorities	
The partnership has used all available information and data available to its members, including a detailed risk matrix system to inform and set its priorities for 2022/23.	
1	<b>Protecting communities and making them feel safe:</b> Violence against women and girls, child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation and modern slavery, hate crime, extremism and radicalisation, improving youth safety, tackling serious youth violence, reducing youth offending, providing diversionary and preventative programs.

The Council is working to become a white ribbon accredited organisation in order to make a difference within the District and to help end violence against women and girls. This will include holding an awareness and fund raising event and signposting women who are experiencing violence to where they can get help. The partnership will investigate opportunities to improve the safety of the District ensuring that **all** people feel safe within our communities. Domestic abuse literature will be available in our communities through leaflets and posters in places of high visibility and at a variety of events throughout the year. Additional training will be given to local GP surgeries and other professionals who request it. The Partnership will promote DA awareness campaigns and will continue to support the Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline wherever possible.

The Partnership will continue to prioritise Domestic Abuse (DA) and the Community Protection Team will attend the bi monthly Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) meetings to review serious cases. Medium risk cases will be referred to Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) for guidance and support. The Council's team will work with the Police and the Fire Service to protect those at risk by installing fire proof letterboxes, additional lighting and other security measures.

The Council has appointed a lead champion on domestic abuse who is trained to advise Council staff on all DA issues. Training will be regularly reviewed for front line staff and council contractors who deal with council tenancies.

The Council will tackle perpetrators by taking possession action against Council tenancies and will liaise with the Police to prosecute offenders in order to keep families safe.

The Partnership recognises the impact that DA has on families and young people and the Council will fund Herts Young Homeless to provide a 'Healthy Relationships' course, "Your Voice Your Choice" to Y8 and Y9 pupils for those schools who request it. The course teaches young people the key elements of a healthy relationship, how to recognise a toxic relationship, and about giving consent.

The Partnership will examine Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR) from other areas of the County and will implement the recommendations to ensure that lessons are learnt.

The CSP will work together to support victims of sexual assault, modern slavery and human trafficking so that they can get the help they need to restart their lives. Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple forms of exploitation. Possible victims are reviewed at monthly Joint Agency Group (JAG) meetings.

The Council will fund the popular drama production on Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) called 'Chelsea's Choice' to Year 9 students in 10 secondary schools in St Albans and Harpenden. The productions are being supported by HCC Services for Young People which will give students the opportunity to disclose, share and discuss information, following the production.

The Partnership will work together to raise awareness and reduce the risks of extremism and radicalisation in the District. The CSP will strengthen its relationships with local groups to devise projects to support communities. The Council and Police will attend Channel Panel meetings and take forward actions as needed to safeguard those at risk of radicalisation.

The No More project is a replacement for the St Giles SOS project, and outreach workers will work with young people who have been identified by professionals as needing specific intense support to stop them becoming involved in knife crime and other serious criminality.

HCC services for Young People (SfYP) and HCC Specialist Adolescent Service (SASH) work in partnership with appropriate agencies to ensure that young people have access to appropriate support, both statutory and non-statutory.

SfYP will continue to deliver a local Youth Offer with a maximum of 20 projects per week across the St Albans District. These projects include locality, targeted and diversionary programmes with the outcome purpose to move young people away from risky behaviour and to understand actions and consequences.

Targeted prevention programmes are designed to work with a small cohort of young people already or at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Programmes in 2022/23 will continue to address the issues of risky behaviour, criminal and sexual exploitation and emotional and mental health wellbeing.

SfYP will work from their centres in Harpenden and St Albans and will offer Detached Working in areas of high anti-social behaviour where groups of young people gather and in other areas young people will benefit from working with experienced Youth Workers.

SfYP will continue to work in partnership with the appropriate agencies in the District and County to ensure good quality provision is available to the vulnerable young people in the area.

Intensive referral work will continue for SfYP, receiving referrals for bespoke 1-1 work with young people with complex issues. SfYP will work with the young person and refer on as appropriate and broker into projects that can best address individual young people's issues and needs.

The Partnership will engage with all communities through face to face events, social media, Community Voice (door to door) campaigns and surgeries, in order to listen to needs and concerns. This ensures that that informed resource allocation decisions can be made and problem-solving plans can be created and implemented.

The council operates a network of Closed Circuit Television cameras (CCTV) that covers some streets, open spaces, car parks and housing within the District. It also has four systems that are moved around 'hot spots', to assist in tackling crime and/or anti-social behaviour or roads identified as part of the government's Safer

	<p>Streets programme. The CCTV is primarily in place to prevent and detect crime, to promote Community Safety and to help reduce the fear of crime and disorder. A multi-agency monitoring group meets quarterly to discuss performance issues, incidents of interest, current hot spots and possible locations for the re-deployable CCTV systems.</p> <p>The Partnership will work with communities and work with the government's StreetSafe scheme to identify any places where people report feeling unsafe and seek to make improvements where possible.</p>
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>Tackling crime and anti social behaviour:</b> high crime locations, high volume crimes and those that have a high community impact nuisance, rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour; vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting; street drinking and related behaviour and environmental damage</p>
	<p>Crime and anti-social behaviour will be tackled with a 'Prevention First' and problem-solving approach.</p> <p>The Partnership will proactively seek to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour before it happens, whilst responding to emerging trends or changes in public concern (i.e. violence against women and girls).</p> <p>All crime in the District, like the county, has seen a decrease compared to last year. This is largely attributable to the lockdown restrictions in 2020 and 2021 which restricted some activities.</p> <p>Offences within "the possession of a weapon" category are down on the previous year, and the CSP wants to maintain the progress made in 2020 and 2021. The biannual focus on knife crime via Operation Sceptre will go ahead in the Spring and Autumn 2022 and the Police will be working with Trading Standards to carry out further test purchasing on knives and giving the latest guidance to those businesses which fail the test. Specific knife crime programmes will be targeted to young people and those considered most at risk from this crime type.</p> <p>The Partnership supports Hertfordshire's Serious Violent Crime Strategy the aims of which include the reduction of the number of people carrying and using knives, early intervention to stop people becoming involved in gangs, support for those already involved in serious violence and robust enforcement where necessary. The Partnership will raise awareness of all the initiatives around violent crime.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviour, including street drinking and begging, will be tackled by joint working between enforcement and treatment outreach services. The Council works with the Police to try to stop begging and to signpost homeless people to Open Door and other charitable organisations that can assist them. The Fire Service will actively target areas of St Albans District to carry out regular vigilance checks to identify possible fire risks and areas targeted by arson.</p> <p>Both the Police and the Council can issue Community Protection Warnings (CPW) and Notices (CPN) to make individuals aware of the consequences of anti-social behaviour and stop it reoccurring. The Partnership will work to reduce anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods using all powers at its disposal. This includes warning letters, mediation, injunctions, closure orders and ultimately possession proceedings.</p>

The Police will issue Dispersal Notices if certain areas of the City and District experience high levels of anti-social behaviour.

Thefts **from** motor vehicle have declined this year. The Partnership will promote the “if you leave something on show, expect it go” message throughout the year and continue to remind residents to ensure that unattended vehicles are always locked and keys are kept securely away from the vehicle.

Operation Scorpion is the district’s proactive policing team, which focuses on disrupting criminals through intelligence led patrols and proactive operations. Burglary, theft and robbery will remain a key focus area because of the impact it can have on the victim.

The Partnership will work to reduce anti-social behaviour in neighbourhoods using all powers at its disposal. This includes warning letters, mediation, injunctions, closure orders and ultimately possession proceedings.

The Partnership will conduct community engagement events (as far as any restrictions connected to the pandemic allow) as this is an effective way to disseminate information and resources relating to personal and home security.

The Police will also encourage residents to sign up for the Online Watch Link (OWL) messaging service which keeps people informed of what's going on locally and offers the latest crime prevention advice.

Herts Constabulary has a policing drone team and St Albans is the county lead in this area. Local officers have been trained to deploy drones in order to detect and deter rural crime, environmental and wildlife crime.

The Partnership will investigate new ways of ensuring that people are educated about scams and cyber crime – if something sounds too good to be true, it usually is. New leaflets are available from partners and banks which help people to guard against scams and fraud. The very popular free digital courses run in conjunction with Oaklands will resume, giving people the opportunity to learn how to keep safe online.

The Priority Setting Forums held quarterly in London Colney, Harpenden and St Albans, determine the main local issues. Ward Councillors, Neighbourhood Watch members and residents meet to discuss and set the priorities for each area for the next 3 months. The priorities must be evidence based.

The CSP will continue to raise awareness of flytipping in the District and remind householders of their duty of care to dispose of waste responsibly. The Council’s Enforcement Officers are committed to investigating fly tipping offences and to prosecuting where necessary. The Partnership liaises closely with the Herts Flytipping Group and has agreed to share intelligence with the Environment Agency. Road stops will be conducted with the Police and Trading Standards to ensure that waste is not dumped illegally and ensure traders have the correct waste carriers’ licences. The Council’s waste management team coordinates with the contractor to minimise graffiti and littering in the District.

**3** **Championing mental health and wellbeing:** Suicide prevention, support services, tackling drug and alcohol misuse, safeguarding

The Partnership will work together to share and inform on training opportunities to increase education, awareness, and response. Training and resources should include referral pathways and signposting for children, young people, and adults. Partners will also take the opportunity to share best practice and case studies to ensure courses and training being provided is relevant and current.

The Partnership will also share learning and best practice with local GPs to raise awareness and share resources, including those available through the Healthy Hub, so that they are able to appropriately signpost service users to the multitude of support services available in the District. This will include continuing to raise awareness about domestic abuse and the resources available to support victims.

The CSP takes its role of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults very seriously. All agencies will liaise quickly and efficiently to organise and attend a Multi Disciplinary Team meeting to ensure that right measures are put in place. Working with Care4Freedom and the Community Mental Health Team, the CSP will explore all avenues to keep vulnerable people safe.

The Council will respond promptly to all requests from Herts County Council (HCC) for information regarding children on Children Protection Plans and will support the delivery of the plan.

All partners will remain vigilant when working within the community and make timely referrals to get early intervention for vulnerable people. Key identified agencies will continue to create effective routes into treatment for people with drug/alcohol and mental health problems, known as dual diagnosis. At times this may require the lead agency to seek advice from the relevant professional agency and coordinate partnership meetings to gain support for those in need and especially when a person is in immediate crisis.

The partnership will organise walkabouts to identify street drinkers and give them advice about how and where to seek help.

Working with cross border partners, the Police will persist in disrupting drugs supply and in pursuing those involved in County Lines to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) will continue to tackle the supply of illegal drugs in the District and will work with Operation Scorpion to execute warrants at properties where intelligence indicates dealing is taking place. The Community Protection team will collaborate with the Police to serve closure orders on premises associated with drugs misuse.

Partner agencies will utilise support services such as counselling, mental health support, and substance misuse treatment. It may also include safeguarding or protecting individuals and children where appropriate.

The Council endorses the work undertaken by Communities First to make a positive impact on the wellbeing of local people. The Partnership will recommend these services to residents where possible.

The Partnership will make full use of the 'Safe and Well' service provided by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service targeting the most vulnerable in the community and make referrals to support agencies.

Working alongside the road safety and sustainable travel team at Hertfordshire County Council, the Partnership will support the road safety and walking to school weeks during the year and promote healthier, safer and greener journeys. The CSP will promote cycle marking events and will liaise with British Transport Police to reduce cycle thefts at stations. The Fire Service will collaborate with local colleges to provide virtual educational safety talks around arson and driver safety.

The Drive Home Safely for Christmas campaign will remind drivers of the dangers of drink/drug driving, the use of mobile phones when driving as well as speeding. The Partnership recognises that speeding on "rat runs" is of great concern to residents and will monitor the Speed Indicator Devices throughout the District. The

Fire Service will collaborate with local colleges to provide virtual educational safety talks around arson and driver safety.

This strategy feeds into local and countywide strategies and contributes to, and reflects, the priorities of St Albans District's Strategic Partnership. The strategy also reflects the priorities of Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Plan. Full details of these plans are available on request from the Council's Community Protection Team (see <https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-safety/>).