

St Albans City and District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2024-2027



Introduction

This Community Safety Partnership (CSP) strategy outlines the Partnership's priorities from April 2024 to March 2027. It is based on CSP agencies' statistics considered by the Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) at a specific review meeting in December 2023. The priorities are also informed by a wider Strategic Assessment of Crime and Disorder produced by the Hertfordshire County Council Community Safety Unit.

The St Albans City and District 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 Trading Standards, Housing Associations, Oaklands College and third sector agencies including CGL (Change, Grow, Live), Safer Places and Communities 1st.

Priorities

Protecting communities and making them feel safe.

Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

Responding to emerging issues effectively and proportionately.

How the Partnership plans to deliver these priorities

1	Protecting communities and making them feel safe
	<p>The Council will build on its achievements as a White Ribbon accredited organisation to tackle domestic abuse and violence against women and girls (VAWG). This will include reviewing Council policies and offering further training for staff.</p> <p>We will also work in partnership to protect all members of our Community, including groups such as older people who are more vulnerable.</p> <p>In partnership with Morgan Sindell Property Services, the Council will continue with the Phoenix programme, which provides training and mentoring for the victims of domestic abuse, leading to employment and qualifications, with the goal of financial independence.</p> <p>Given the increasing prevalence of Child Criminal Exploitation and organised criminal behaviour, the Council will deliver County Lines workshops in ten local senior schools.</p> <p>Healthy Relationships courses have been very successful in educating young people to avoid abusive relationships and therefore the Council plans to continue providing these to local schools.</p> <p>The Council's Licensing Team will continue its robust checking procedure of taxi drivers with 6 monthly DBS checks (mandatory for all licensed drivers) via the DBS update service. The Licensing Team and Police will continue work to tackle drink spiking incidents, educating licensed premises 'where possible. The Licensing Team contributes to public safety through their work with premises, licensed drivers and a number of smaller licensing areas; public safety is the overarching goal of most licensing legislation.</p> <p>The Council's Environmental Protection Team will continue to work with the Herts Waste Partnership, Police and other external agencies to tackle fly-tipping through the deployment of cameras, signage and the targeting of areas where incidents are high, ensuring that perpetrators are identified and fined/prosecuted. Media campaigns and education also plays a role in combating fly-tipping.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection team will also continue to investigate domestic and commercial noise issues, including out of hours visits and the deployment of noise recording equipment to identify antisocial noise and take appropriate enforcement action. They routinely work with Licencing colleagues to provide advice and solutions for licensed premises and event organisers to resolve and prevent noise issues.</p> <p>The Council has agreed to fund an outreach worker employed by the 'No More' service for a further year. This service works with young people identified by professionals as needing specific intense support to stop them becoming involved in knife crime and other serious criminality.</p> <p>Hertfordshire Services for Young People will continue to offer a local youth offer targeted to vulnerable young people as per the Service priorities. The reduction of risky behaviour and escalation to higher needs services as appropriate, is a priority.</p>

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to provide “Safe and Well” visits to all domestic premises in the District, targeting the most vulnerable in the community and making relevant referrals to support agencies.

They will also work to identify and address risks associated with business premises through their Risk Based Inspection Programme.

They will continue to work with the District Council to engage with people moving into new tenancies, ensuring they receive a Safe and Well visit soon after moving into their new accommodation.

The Driving Home for Christmas, and other road safety campaigns will remind drivers of the dangers of drink/drug driving, speeding, and the use of mobile phones when driving. The Fire Service will actively engage in working with partner agencies to identify and address road safety issues by improvements in the road network where appropriate.

The Service will collaborate with local colleges to provide educational safety talks about arson and driver safety. They will also continue to support other initiatives that aim to improve the safety and welfare of our young people, such as Crucial Crew and Learn to Live. The Service continues to provide interventions for those young people referred to their LiFE programme.

The Police will address increasing community concerns associated with Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), building upon current initiatives. In collaboration with partnership agencies, the Police will:

- Continue VAWG scrutiny panels, where Police, public and partners work together to review incidents and investigations. This increases transparency, improves partnership working and provides learning to improve service delivery.
- Working with licensees and other partners, Police will continue Operation Vigilant. Where overt and covert Police resources are used to identify and target sexual predators targeting vulnerable females linked to the night-time economy.
- Police and partner agencies will continue to work with licensees to safeguard the vulnerable.

Police Neighbourhood Teams will continue to work with local communities, to understand local issues and work with partners to provide safeguarding and reassurance to all communities.

2 Tackling crime and anti social behaviour

Hertfordshire Services for Young People will continue to deliver a service to vulnerable groups, both in the community and as needs of young people require, reacting to the local issues and the young people concerned. The service will continue to look at trends, hotspots, issues and barriers to young people in vulnerable groups with the intended outcome of prevention and escalation.

The Fire Service, through their operational crews and Community Volunteers, will actively target identified areas of St Albans District to carry out regular vigilance checks, identifying possible fire risks and areas with the potential to be targeted by arson.

In partnership with the specialist Council Officers, the Fire Service will assist the response to fly tipping by actively encouraging those who live in and use our countryside to identify hot spots; ensuring this is reported promptly, allowing the Council to address the issue quickly. The Council will continue its work using all available enforcement powers against those responsible for fly tipping.

They will work with rural communities to prepare for, and reduce, the possibility of wild fires, which cause damage to the countryside and the environment, adversely affecting livelihoods by damaging crops and property. They will continue to fulfil their statutory duty to support police, and other authorities, to identify criminal activities and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

Hertfordshire Constabulary Neighbourhood Policing Teams (previously called Safer Neighbourhood Teams) will continue to work with local communities and partnership agencies, to identify and tackle anti-social behaviour. All reports of anti-social behaviour are reviewed. When ASB is identified, this is recorded on a system (Safety Net), accessible by different partners and a problem orientated plan (POP) implemented. This plan identifies the issue and specifies how it will be resolved and who owns what tasks. This is then risk assessed and reviewed at pre-determined dates.

Significant multi-agency work has ensured crime levels in the CSP continue to fall. Successful practices will continue and build upon this. All CSP crime is reviewed daily to identify high risk matters and respond proportionately. Crime trends are reviewed on a weekly basis, with the Service's reactive, proactive and investigative capabilities working collaboratively to tackle any identified area of concern. If a significant threat is identified, additional central covert and overt support will assist.

3 Responding to emerging issues effectively and proportionately.

Using information shared at the operational Joint Agency Group (JAG), Priority Setting Forums, information from members of the public, and statistical sources, the CSP will target resources towards new and emerging issues.

This will include short term targeted measures in hot spot areas and/or larger co-ordinated operations, involving various CSP partners as needed. This will include continued work, which has been successful in tackling dangerous and inconsiderate parking, along with speeding and anti-social vehicle use.

The impact of this work will be reported back through JAG, RAG and the Priority Setting Forum meetings. This will enable work to be scaled back if successful, or another approach considered if not.

The following table shows local crime data in a summary format.

