

# St Albans District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2020/2021



## Introduction

This Community Safety Partnership strategy outlines the Partnership's priorities for 2020/21. 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	Bench Community Rehabilitation Company
Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Hertfordshire Constabulary
Hertfordshire Services for Young People	National Probation Service
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service	Hertfordshire County Council
Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group	YC Hertfordshire

In addition, the Partnership works with other agencies such as British Transport Police, Govia Thameslink, Central Herts Magistrates Bench, Crown Prosecution Service, Trading Standards, Housing Associations, third sector agencies including CGL (Change, Grow, Live) and Safer Places.

Our mission statement this year is **Working for a safer St Albans** and our priorities are focused on achieving this.

## Priorities

- (1) To establish an effective response to violent crime including knife crime, gangs, drug dealing, robbery and criminal exploitation engaging with cross border parties.
- (2) To focus on crime that acquires possessions, including burglary, motor vehicle crime, cyber crime, scams and rogue trading.
- (3) To assist landowners, businesses and the community by tackling rural and heritage issues such as fly tipping, anti social behaviour, road safety concerns and specific wildlife crime.
- (4) To support victims of domestic abuse, tackling perpetrators, raising awareness and educating people around healthy relationships and personal safety.
- (5) To promote health and physical and mental wellbeing for all by tackling hate crime, alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness, street drinking and by assisting vulnerable people, both at home and in the community.

## Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Performance Summary: April 2019 to December 2019

	Deliberate Fires	Primary Fires	Fire Injuries
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	-12% (1078 to 952)	+3% (1039 to 1065)	-10% (62 to 56)
<b>St Albans</b>	-11% (92 to 82)	-12% (139 to 123)	Fallen (10 to 3)

The table below shows a summary of the Partnership's performance against key crime types in the first 3 quarters of the year and compares it to the same period last year.

**Fig 1: St Albans Crime Performance Summary- source Hertfordshire Constabulary.**

Comparison Sheet - ST ALBANS (Between 01/04 and 07/01)											
CRIMES - Year To Date	CRIME				OUTCOME				OUTCOME RATE		
	This Year	Last Year	Change	% Change	This Year	Last Year	Change	% Change	This Year	Last Year	% Change
ALL CRIME	6988	7323	-335	-4.6%	852	779	73	9.4%	12.2%	10.6%	1.6%
▣ ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE	738	714	24	3.4%	39	31	8	25.8%	5.3%	4.3%	0.9%
▣ • ARSON	16	21	-5	-23.8%	1	2	-1	-50.0%	6.3%	9.5%	-3.3%
▣ • CRIMINAL DAMAGE	722	693	29	4.2%	38	29	9	31.0%	5.3%	4.2%	1.1%
▣ BURGLARY	535	587	-52	-8.9%	27	37	-10	-27.0%	5.0%	6.3%	-1.3%
▣ • BURGLARY - BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY	167	131	36	27.5%	9	7	2	28.6%	5.4%	5.3%	0.0%
▣ • BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	368	456	-88	-19.3%	18	30	-12	-40.0%	4.9%	6.6%	-1.7%
▣ • BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL DWELLING	269	369	-100	-27.1%	16	26	-10	-38.5%	5.9%	7.0%	-1.1%
▣ • BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL NON-DWELLING	99	87	12	13.8%	2	4	-2	-50.0%	2.0%	4.6%	-2.6%
▣ DRUG OFFENCES	183	217	-34	-15.7%	134	143	-9	-6.3%	73.2%	65.9%	7.3%
▣ • POSSESSION OF DRUGS	154	183	-29	-15.8%	122	119	3	2.5%	79.2%	65.0%	14.2%
▣ • TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	29	34	-5	-14.7%	12	24	-12	-50.0%	41.4%	70.6%	-29.2%
▣ MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	125	149	-24	-16.1%	26	29	-3	-10.3%	20.8%	19.5%	1.3%
▣ • MISC CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY	125	149	-24	-16.1%	26	29	-3	-10.3%	20.8%	19.5%	1.3%
▣ POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	63	45	18	40.0%	30	22	8	36.4%	47.6%	48.9%	-1.3%
▣ • POSSESSION OF WEAPONS	63	45	18	40.0%	30	22	8	36.4%	47.6%	48.9%	-1.3%
▣ PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	445	527	-82	-15.6%	60	58	2	3.4%	13.5%	11.0%	2.5%
▣ ROBBERY	71	75	-4	-5.3%	11	6	5	83.3%	15.5%	8.0%	7.5%
▣ SEXUAL OFFENCES	202	182	20	11.0%	7	8	-1	-12.5%	3.5%	4.4%	-0.9%
▣ THEFT	1777	1775	2	0.1%	280	225	55	24.4%	15.8%	12.7%	3.1%
▣ • BICYCLE THEFT	125	131	-6	-4.6%	1	5	-4	-80.0%	0.8%	3.8%	-3.0%
▣ • OTHER THEFT	751	853	-102	-12.0%	48	32	16	50.0%	6.4%	3.8%	2.6%
▣ • SHOPLIFTING	787	695	92	13.2%	229	182	47	25.8%	29.1%	26.2%	2.9%
▣ • THEFT FROM THE PERSON	114	96	18	18.8%	2	6	-4	-66.7%	1.8%	6.3%	-4.5%
▣ VEHICLE OFFENCES	811	1029	-218	-21.2%	34	50	-16	-32.0%	4.2%	4.9%	-0.7%
▣ • AGGRAVATED VEHICLE TAKING	3	4	-1	-25.0%	1	1	0	0.0%	33.3%	25.0%	8.3%
▣ • INTERFERING WITH A MOTOR VEHICLE	137	232	-95	-40.9%	7	17	-10	-58.8%	5.1%	7.3%	-2.2%
▣ • THEFT FROM A VEHICLE	459	633	-174	-27.5%	16	27	-11	-40.7%	3.5%	4.3%	-0.8%
▣ • THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH	212	160	52	32.5%	10	5	5	100.0%	4.7%	3.1%	1.6%
▣ VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	2038	2023	15	0.7%	204	170	34	20.0%	10.0%	8.4%	1.6%
▣ • HOMICIDE	0	1	-1	-100.0%	0	0			0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
▣ • STALKING AND HARASSMENT	381	377	4	1.1%	40	22	18	81.8%	10.5%	5.8%	4.7%
▣ • VIOLENCE WITH INJURY	660	726	-66	-9.1%	80	92	-12	-13.0%	12.1%	12.7%	-0.6%
▣ • VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	997	919	78	8.5%	84	56	28	50.0%	8.4%	6.1%	2.3%
DOMESTIC ABUSE (Crimes With DA Flag Attached)	849	790	59	7.5%	94	57	37	64.9%	11.1%	7.2%	3.9%

## How the Partnership plans to deliver the 2020/21 priorities.

Priorities	
The partnership has used all available information and data across its members, including a detailed risk matrix system to inform and set its priorities for 2020/21.	
<b>1</b>	To effectively respond to violent crime including knife crime, gangs, drug dealing, robbery and criminal exploitation engaging with cross border parties.

The District, like the country has seen an increase in violent crime, particularly involving knives. A number of initiatives will be carried forward from last year, for example the biannual focus on knife crime via Operation Sceptre planned for March and September 2020. The Police will be undertaking more test purchasing on knives and warning businesses that it is illegal to sell knives to anyone under the age of 18.

Following a successful pilot last year, the partnership will work with educational providers to produce specific knife crime programmes in more secondary schools. Sessions delivered by 'Growing Against Violence' and Breaking the Chain, a new drama warning of the dangers of carrying a knife as well as discouraging gang membership, will be available in some schools.

The partnership will continue to support Hertfordshire's Serious Violence Strategy whose aims include the reduction in 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.

Last year the CSP was part of a successful County wide funding application to the Police & Crime Commissioner for four project workers to work directly with local young people who at risk of committing violent crime. These workers have identified specific young people who need their support to stop them becoming involved in serious crime.

The Police will focus on tackling supply and on reducing the demand for illegal drugs in the District. The local Safer Neighbourhood and Operation Scorpion teams will execute warrants and will act on intelligence to disrupt drug supply networks and arrest those involved in County Lines. The Police and Community Protection Team will work in partnership to seek closure orders on those premises associated with drugs misuse.

The police will continue to deploy plain clothes and uniformed resources in public areas to prevent robberies and will investigate any such offences promptly and robustly.

**2** To focus on crime that affects people and communities, including burglary, motor vehicle crime, cyber crime, scams and rogue trading.

The partnership will continue to advise on crime prevention via community engagement events and Online Watch Link (OWL) messages. The Police Operation Scorpion concentrates on burglary and involves police officers doing proactive patrols throughout the District. Burglary will remain a key focus area for the Police.

Theft from motor vehicle has dropped but the taking of cars particularly keyless car theft has increased and the partnership will reinforce the message to be vigilant about locking cars and ensuring that keys are kept securely away from the vehicle.

The partnership will support the Older Peoples Activity Learning and Safety events which focus on personal safety. Partners will provide literature, crime prevention items and advise older people on avoiding rogue traders and bogus callers. The partnership will ensure that people are educated about scams and cybercrime and are able to take steps to guard against type of fraud. Further free digital skills courses for the over 65s will be available, run in conjunction with Oaklands College.

Priority Setting Forums are held three times a year for London Colney, Harpenden and St Albans. Local councillors, Neighbourhood Watch Schemes and residents meet to set the local priorities for that area for the next 4 months. Each priority is based on evidence to ensure that the priorities are set correctly

The partnership will make full use of the 'Safe and Well' service provided by HFRS and the Crucial Crew scheme to promote fire prevention awareness across different age groups.

- 3** To assist landowners, businesses and the community by tackling rural and heritage issues such as fly tipping, anti social behaviour, road safety concerns and specific wildlife crime.

Considerable work was undertaken last year to raise awareness of flytipping in the District and this remains a priority for the partnership. Householders need to recognise their duty of care to dispose of waste responsibly and to learn how to report incidents. Improvements will continue to be made through various initiatives and ultimately, prosecutions.

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.

The partnership will work alongside the road safety and sustainable travel team at Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and will support the charity 'Brake' with Road Safety week in November 2020. We will encourage the Walk to School week and will raise awareness of road safety to Y6 children via our Crucial Crew event.

The Fire service will run the Drive Home Safely for Christmas campaign making drivers aware of the dangers of drinking and driving as well as speeding. Speeding in the District is generally managed by Highways (HCC) but the Police do run regular speed awareness campaigns. The many Speed Indicator Devices (SID) in the District have reduced vehicles' speed especially on the "rat runs".

The partnership will make full use of the county's first local policing drone team, which has the capability to deploy drones in an effort to deter and detect rural crime.

- 4** To support those impacted by domestic abuse, tackling perpetrators, raising awareness and educating people around healthy relationships and personal safety.

The partnership will continue to focus on Domestic Abuse (DA) as St Albans still has a large number of incidents. The Community Protection Team (CP) 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 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 will examine domestic homicide reviews (DHR) from other areas of the County.

The Council has appointed a lead champion on domestic abuse who is trained to advise Council staff on all DA issues. Training will be given to front line staff and to council contractors who deal council tenancies. The partnership will support DA awareness week in November 2020 and will continue to raise awareness locally of the issue.

The Council will fund the charity Herts Young Homeless to provide a 'Healthy Relationships' course to Year 8 & 9 pupils for those schools who have requested it. It educates young people on the key elements of a healthy relationship and how to recognise a relationship which is toxic.

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 YC Hertfordshire who will give young people the opportunity to disclose, share or discuss information, following the production.

**5** To promote the physical and mental wellbeing of all and specifically target hate crime, alcohol and drug misuse, homelessness, street drinking and the support of vulnerable people, both at home and in the community.

The partnership recognises that individuals who commit crime and anti-social behaviour often have mental health issues which need to be addressed. Therefore the team will continue to work with different agencies including mental health, drug/alcohol and floating support services to help people maintain their accommodation and encourage them to lead healthier lifestyles.

The team continues to tackle street drinking in the city centre. The Police will issue Dispersal Notices if certain areas of the city experience high levels of anti-social behaviour. The partnership will organise walkabouts in the city centre to identify street drinkers and give them advice about how and where to seek help.

There has been considerable focus on the rough sleepers in St Albans town centre. The partnership is working with Hightown Praetorian who provide support to rough sleepers and run the Open Door night shelter in Bricket Road, St Albans. There is a dedicated street and recovery worker to assist the rough sleepers with accommodation. The Council works with the Police to try to stop begging in the high street and to sign post the homeless to Open Door and other charitable organisations who can assist them. Both the Police and the Council can issue Community Protection Warnings (CPW) to make individuals aware of the consequences of begging.

The partnership works with Herts County Council (HCC) on the support that is given to people with drug and alcohol issues. This is currently provided by the contractor Change Grow Live (CGL). The Council will publicise drop in sessions which are being held at the Open Door by CGL.

The partnership will continue to attend meetings with the Community Mental Health Team to share information and plan action for high risk cases. In particular relevant agencies have been asked to develop a more effective route into treatment for people with drug/alcohol and mental health problems, known as dual diagnosis.

We have also requested that Hertfordshire County Council considers a higher level of local provision from the contracted drug and alcohol provider, CGL, when the new contract for this service commences.

The partnership will work with local GP's to raise awareness and share material so that they are able to sign post service users to the multitude of support services in the district.

This strategy feeds into local and countywide strategies and contributes to and reflects the priorities of the St Albans 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 Community Protection Team **01727 819305** or on <https://www.stalbans.gov.uk/community-and-living/community-safety/>

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