

St Albans District Community Safety Partnership

Annual Report 2018/19



St Albans
City & District Council



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Summary

This report provides details of Community Safety Partnership activity, performance against priorities and the use of the Police and Crime Commissioner's community safety grant.

1. The Partnership – Background

The Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following partner agencies:

- **St Albans City & District Council**
- **Hertfordshire Constabulary**
- **Hertfordshire County Council**
- **Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service**
- **Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner**
- **Hertfordshire Services for Young People**
- **Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group**
- **Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Community Rehabilitation Company Limited (BeNCH)**
- **National Probation Service.**

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 and voluntary sector organisations including CGL (Change, Grow, Live) and SAHWR (St Albans and Hertsmere Woman's Refuge).

The Partnership is chaired by the Chief Executive of the District Council, supported by the Chief Inspector of Police. The Partnership meets quarterly and holds an annual review meeting where performance is assessed, and priorities set for the coming year. The Joint Agency Group (JAG) is made up of operational officers who meet every four weeks to identify current issues and discuss how these can be tackled.

2. Meeting strategic objectives

The Partnership identified five specific priorities for 2018/19 following an assessment of crime and disorder, and consultation with various agencies and the public. These are listed below and were all accorded the same priority:

These priorities formed the basis of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) action plan and other activities during the year.

- 1. To establish an effective response to local and emerging county drug markets, providing support to vulnerable younger people, tackling modern slavery, using social housing and enforcement powers to disrupt activity.**
- 2. To develop an effective multi agency approach to fly-tipping.**
- 3. To focus on local crimes of concern, namely fraud (cyber and face-to-face), robbery, dwelling burglary, car crime and shoplifting, to limit further increases.**
- 4. To engage more effectively with the relevant agencies to support those with mental health problems and other residents who may be affected by the issues involved.**
- 5. To establish relevant and meaningful data collection and information sharing in relation to local offenders, allowing agencies to correctly identify, engage and support them to reduce the local re-offending rate.**

3. Projects and funding

- Onside Football Programme



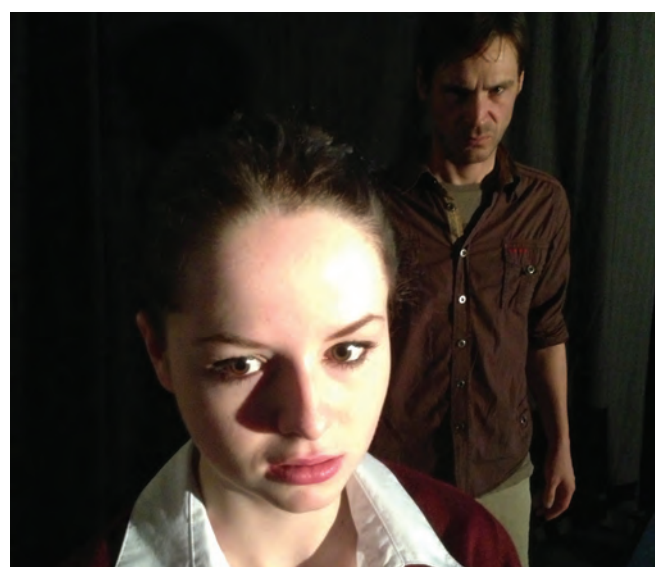
A youth football programme run in partnership with Watford Community Football. The Police and Crime Commissioner provided a grant for 3 years to enable the Council to continue running this very successful programme. Onside operates weekly at five sites across the District, providing football tuition, match-day experiences, coaching opportunities and health advice. There are sessions held in Redbourn, London Colney, Wheathampstead, Harpenden and the Sopwell Marlborough Pavillion Site. Between April 2018 and April 2019 178 children participated including 141 boys and 27 girls. The number of children who continue to attend five or more sessions within a four month period is 117. Onside has continued to engage well with young children but is expanding contacts with local youth clubs and schools to ensure that those who want to attend can have a place.

- Crucial Crew



1049 children from 24 schools in St Albans and Harpenden attended Crucial Crew in March 2019. The Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service were helped by students from Oaklands College to deliver safety messages to Y6 children. This included first aid, road safety, cyber bullying, knife crime and the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Feedback from teachers shows that it was very well received again this year. They have requested that this is continued next year. This is funded by the District Council, Police, Oaklands College and Herts Fire and Rescue.

- Chelsea's Choice



10 schools in the District signed up for Chelsea's Choice which is a hard-hitting drama production provided by Alter Ego Creative Solutions aimed at Year 9 pupils. 1,706 pupils

watched the production. Teachers fed back that it was an extremely effective method to use to get across to young people the risks of sexual exploitation. Alter Ego collected data from students regarding their feedback and the impact of the production. Of the 165 people surveyed from the audience over 92% felt they had a better understanding of issues such as Child Sexual Exploitation, grooming and safe internet use. 92% said they would recommend watching the production to other people their age. This was funded by St Albans District Council.

- **Herts Young Homeless (HYH)**



St Albans City and District Council funded HYH education service to provide training sessions to Year 8 students on 'Your Voice, Your Choice'. This session educates young people about healthy relationships between people. 16 sessions were delivered across 3 secondary schools (Beaumont, Townsend and Verulam).

- **Growing Against Violence (GAV)**



St Albans City and District Council, Hertfordshire Constabulary and local educational establishments funded workshops providing information to over 400 local young people on gang membership, using knives and Police activity tackling associated crimes.

Feedback was very positive with 77% of those attending at one establishment reporting the workshops were good. At another the Head stated:

"The students were gripped from the beginning.....many students came into the sessions with negative feelings surrounding the police..... It was interesting to watch their perspectives change as the session leaders carried out the programme. Students came out of the sessions and debated the content amongst themselves which shows the impact the information had on them."

- **Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety (OPALS)**



The first fire service lead took place on 29th November at Trinity Hall, Park Street with 23 residents attending. This location was identified due to the increased number of scam victims and information taken from the Age UK isolation map. The event provided the audience with safety advice from a number of agencies including the Fire Service, Police, Trading Standards, Neighborhood Watch (OWL), Computer Friendly and St Albans Old Peoples Trust. This is funded by the PCC's office as a two year project.

- **Think Safe**



This project has been developed and funded by Herts Fire and Rescue and supported by Herts Constabulary. It has been in place in St Albans since 2014, growing in strength as part of it, a two year funded PCC project has just been completed. The Think Safe scheme has incorporated a three week station-based course and away days, in partnership, with Social Services and the Police to support and educate adults with learning difficulties. It now supports those with physical disabilities too. Through the course, and away days to Hazard Alley, these adults now have the ability to keep themselves safe and educate those around them. This gives these adults an awareness of anti-social behaviour and how to manage if they come across any incidents.

- **Safe & Well Service**



Herts Fire and Rescue funded fire crews to carry out a free home fire safety check service called Safe & Well to any residents who request the service. As part of the visit occupants receive up-to-date home safety advice, free smoke alarms fitted and discuss a fire escape plan. During the visit, if the occupant highlights any areas of concern or help needed the fire service is able to make the appropriate referrals to ensure they gain all the support necessary.

- **Community Horse Patrols (CHIPS)**



3 stables across St Albans City & District – Barley Mow Stables in St Albans, West End Farm in Wheathampstead and Nichols Farm in Redbourn are part of the CHIPS (Community Horse Patrols) scheme. The aim of the project is for volunteer riders to act as eyes and ears in the community. While out hacking, riders are invited to report such things as fly-tipping to the local authority, and any criminal activity to the police. This is funded by Herts Fire and Rescue.

- **HFRS Volunteers Vigilance Checks**



The St Albans Fire & Rescue volunteers meet on a regular basis to carry out patrols in and around St Albans. This is organised by Herts Fire and Rescue. During patrols volunteers have identified fly tipping, which highlighted remains of a cannabis factory on at least two of their finds. The patrols allow them to familiarise themselves with the area while identifying any risks or hazards that can be reported to the relevant partner agencies and who can then take effective action.

- **The Police Cadets**



Funded by Herts Constabulary, 36 young people from St Albans District attend Police Cadets from the age of 14-18 years old. 10 new Police Cadets have joined this year. This is run every other Tuesday and they attend an annual activity camp at Easter. They have conducted a host of events through the year from attending

community events to running crime prevention stalls. They have organised numerous open evenings in Harpenden, London Colney and St Albans featuring crime prevention workshops and displays. They regularly participate in tool marking and property events with the Safer Neighbourhood Team in St Albans town centre and at shops. They have completed several ceremonial duties at St Albans Cathedral and on Remembrance Day.

- **OP Tango**



This is an ongoing joint Police and Council operation to deal with street drinking and associated anti social behavior in the city centre. Officers regularly patrol the streets, give out information and advice about where to get additional help and support. Beds are available at Open Door if a set of criteria is met. Total spending during the year 2018-19.

Total spending during the year 2018-19

Onside Football (from the PCC)	£16,020
Crucial Crew (by the Council, Police & HFRS)	£1,000
Chelsea's Choice (by the Council)	£10,000
Herts Young Homeless (by the Council)	£ 1,600
Growing Against Violence (by the Council)	£ 2,100
Think Safe (from the PCC)	£1,125
OPALS (from the PCC)	£500
Total	£32,345

4. Police recorded crime

Police data for your area can be obtained directly by visiting www.Police.uk

	Apr 17– Mar 2018	Apr 18 – Mar 2019	% Change	Numerical Change	% Change in Herts
All Crime	9966	9580	-3.9%	-386	+1.5%
Violence Against Person (Victim based)	2561	2630	+2.7%	+69	+3.2%
Domestic Abuse Crime	1036	1023	-1.3%	-13	+6.2%
Burglary Residential*	723	599	-17.2%	-124	-11.7%
Burglary Residential Dwelling*	560	496	-11.4%	-64	-11.8%
Burglary Business & Community*	221	193	-12.7%	-28	-5.6%
Motor Vehicle Crimes	1182	1357	+14.8%	+175	+13.5%
Theft From Person	129	123	-4.7%	-6	+12.3%
Robbery	104	88	-15.4%	-16	+4.3%
Criminal Damage	1148	925	-19.4%	-223	-8.5%
Drug Possession	271	239	-11.8%	-32	-11.1%
Theft From Shop	944	967	+2.4%	+23	+8.4%
Making Off Without Payment	385	325	-15.6%	-60	-14.4%

The table above shows that St Albans has seen 4% fewer crimes reported than in previous years. Reductions in burglary, theft from person and robbery are particularly pleasing. The results for Hertfordshire as a whole show that the District has outperformed the County in all areas except motor vehicle crime.

5. St Albans District Council Community Protection Team

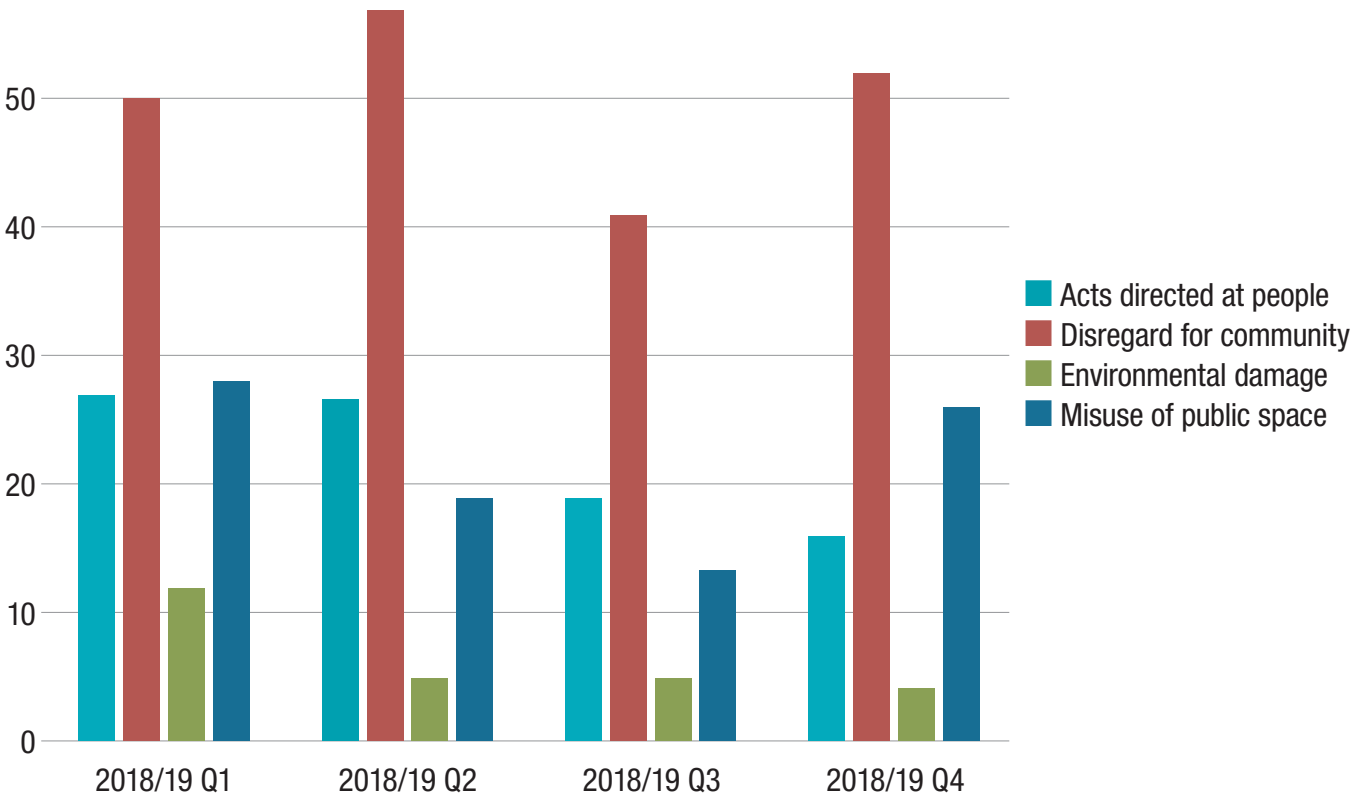
The Community Protection team used a range of methods to deal with anti social behaviour within the District. In general terms there was a reduction in the number of cases being handled, but the cases being managed were more complicated and time consuming. The largest area is investigative activity which comprises interviews with tenants, visits to properties and inspections. This totalled 603 investigation actions. The team served 26 perpetrator warnings; 11 tenancy actions which include Notices of Seeking Possessions;2 Closure Orders and 5 evictions; and 6 injunctions. Four cases went to trial. This totals 657 actions compared to 574 for the period 2017/18.

In addition, the team attends the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) on a monthly basis on behalf of the Council, where local Domestic Abuse cases are reviewed and actions plans implemented.

The team is currently dealing with 16 open cases related to safeguarding.



ASB Incidents Q1-4 2018/19



6. CCTV

The Council's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) operation provides excellent support for the work of the CSP, with systems at 99 separate locations across the District.

In the year 2018-19, the control room dealt with a total of 3,650 incidents; 3004 in St Albans and 646 in Harpenden. This compares to 4,208 incidents in 2017-18; 3,611 in St Albans and 597 in Harpenden. The percentage of incidents in Harpenden has increased by 8% and those in St Albans has decreased by 17%. In both towns, the most recorded type of incident is theft from shop followed by suspicious behaviour.

Proactive use of these cameras has enabled police to actively intervene and stop a number of crimes. Some examples are included below:

- Following an attempted burglary in Harpenden, there was initially no trace of any suspects. However, an operator carried out a search and located a female and male. They were both arrested, the male was found to have 2 crowbars and an axe on him; he was also wanted for failing to appear at Court.
- Operators alerted Police to three males who were riding mopeds anti-socially in St Albans. When attending they found one bike to be stolen and the rider was arrested.



7. Modern Slavery

St Albans City and District Council organised joint training with a charity called Stop the Traffik for Council front line staff and partners including the Police, Herts Fire and Rescue and others. Over 30 people attended and agreed that the session had been hugely informative and raised awareness on the issue. The Council supported Modern Slavery day in October 2018 where leaflets and information were available to the public.



8. Fly-tipping

The CSP held a staged Fly-tip on 19th October 2018 to raise awareness of fly-tipping. This was in conjunction with Herts Fly-tipping campaign – Let's S.C.R.A.P. This helped improve residents' knowledge of fly-tipping. St Albans Council prosecutes offenders. This year 3 people were successfully prosecuted, 3 were issued with fixed penalty notices and 3 were issued with Community Protection Warnings.



9. Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

	Deliberate Fires Apr 2018-Mar 2019	Primary Fires Apr 2018-Mar 2019	Fire Injuries Apr 2018-Mar 2019
Hertfordshire	-1% (1330 to 1328)	-5% (1434 to 1365)	-6% (81 to 76)
St Albans	-33% (163 to 110)	+3% (173 to 178)	Risen 4 to 13

Deliberate fires in buildings, vehicles and other outdoor locations have fallen by 1% across the County and in St Albans this year have fallen by 33%. Primary fires have risen slightly over the same period. A number of initiatives to reduce property fires were undertaken in 2018-19 and these include:



- **Safe & Well** visits by fire crews, targeting the most vulnerable in the community gaining information and making referrals to support agencies. In the past year 261 visits have been carried out in the District.
- **Quick Strike** visits to neighbouring properties, after every dwelling fire to provide reassurance and safety advice to local residents.
- **Risk Based Inspections** of identified non-domestic premises and domestic properties, in particular, high-rise and elderly accommodation.
- **Business Safe and School Safe** audits providing fire safety and arson prevention advice, to improve management of risk and develop relationships with local businesses and schools.

- **Multi-agency community reassurance days** in the District including community engagement days, fly-tipping patrols and multi-agency days in response to issues identified.
- **Reactively and proactively targeting of schools** to deliver key safety messages in an interactive and engaging manner. Educating teachers to identify and report fire setters for further intervention work.
- **Road Traffic Collisions** Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue has attended 584 Road Traffic Collisions during the period April 2018 to March 2019. Eighty of those incidents have been in St Albans District. Redbourn Ward had the highest number of RTCs with 28.
- **Working with local colleges** to deliver safety talks to students both reactively and proactively.
- **Learn 2 Live** road shows providing targeted education to new and learner drivers in all schools and colleges in the District. These were attended in September 2018 by 1,830 students at the Alban Arena. The students attended from Oaklands College, Beaumont, Verulam, Loreto College, Marlborough, Townsend, Samuel Ryder, Sandringham, St Albans Girls School, Nicholas Breakspear.
- **Driving home for Christmas campaign** which delivered RTC awareness to targeted sites throughout November and December.
- **Safety advice to primary schools** focussing on pedestrian safety and awareness.
- **Motorcyclists** receiving road safety awareness through the Biker Down programme that promotes safe riding and gives first aid training.



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