

# St Albans District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2019/20



## Introduction

This Community Safety Partnership strategy outlines the Partnership's priorities for 2019/20. 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          | Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Hertfordshire County Council               | Hertfordshire Services for Young People     |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary                 | Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service         |
| Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group | Bench Community Rehabilitation Company      |
| 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, third sector agencies including CGL (Change, Grow, Live) and Safer Places.

Our high level strategic aims represent our overarching work, whilst the specific priorities are areas we will endeavour to concentrate on in more detail, dependent upon resources.

These aims and specific priorities for the forthcoming year were developed from a review of data from partner agencies and following a public consultation exercise. We received 903 responses with 577 respondents completing the full survey. This is the largest response the Council has received for this annual consultation. In total 87% of those responding agreed with our aims and priorities, with tackling drugs emerging as an area of very high concern for the public. The total results of this consultation will inform our action plan and approach for 2019/20.

## **High Level Strategic Aims**

- (A) To effectively tackle all crime through effective prevention, detection and prosecution and to manage the most prolific offenders.
- (B) To protect vulnerable adults – victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery, victims of scams and cybercrime, adults with mental health issues, rough sleepers and victims of serious violence.
- (C) To protect vulnerable children – victims of criminal exploitation, gangs, County Lines, crimes involving weapons, child sexual exploitation and those with mental health issues.
- (D) To reduce controlled drug and alcohol misuse including street drinking.
- (E) To effectively tackle anti-social behaviour – environmental, nuisance and personal using available legal powers and preventative supportive/diversionary interventions.

## **Specific Priorities**

- (1) To establish an effective response to knife crime, gangs and criminal exploitation engaging with cross border partners.
- (2) To focus on acquisitive crime (burglary, personal robbery and motor vehicle crime) and local issues of concern such as speeding, road safety, rough sleeping and street drinking in the city centre.
- (3) To assist local farmers, landowners and businesses by tackling rural and heritage crime such as fly tipping, anti social behaviour on private land and specific wildlife crime.
- (4) To support victims of domestic abuse, tackling repeat perpetrators, educating young people around healthy relationships and investigating domestic abuse amongst families.
- (5) To engage more effectively with relevant agencies to support those with health and wellbeing problems by developing procedures and pathways to assist them.

## Partnership Performance

The table below shows a summary of the Partnership's performance against key crime types from April 2018 to January 2019 and compares it to the same period the previous year.

**Fig 1: St Albans Crime Performance Summary- source Hertfordshire Constabulary.**  
**Comparison Sheet - ST ALBANS**

**Year To Date**

This Year CUMULATIVE: Recorded and Detected Date Between 01/04/2018 and 02/01/2019  
 Last Year CUMULATIVE: Recorded and Detected Date Between 01/04/2017 and 02/01/2018

| Crime Group                                    | CRIME     |           |        |          | OUTCOME   |           |        |          | OUTCOME RATE |           |          |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|----------|--------------|-----------|----------|
|                                                | This Year | Last Year | Change | % Change | This Year | Last Year | Change | % Change | This Year    | Last Year | % Change |
| ⊞ Against The State Offences                   | 520       | 573       | -53    | -9.2%    | 223       | 306       | -83    | -27.1%   | 42.9%        | 53.4%     | -10.5%   |
| ⊞ All Crime                                    | 7318      | 7543      | -225   | -3.0%    | 757       | 1130      | -373   | -33.0%   | 10.3%        | 15.0%     | -4.6%    |
| ⊞ Drug Possession                              | 177       | 170       | 7      | 4.1%     | 113       | 141       | -28    | -19.9%   | 63.8%        | 82.9%     | -19.1%   |
| ⊞ Motor Vehicle Crime                          | 1020      | 911       | 109    | 12.0%    | 48        | 62        | -14    | -22.6%   | 4.7%         | 6.8%      | -2.1%    |
| ⊞ Theft From Motor Vehicle                     | 627       | 562       | 65     | 11.6%    | 26        | 29        | -3     | -10.3%   | 4.1%         | 5.2%      | -1.0%    |
| ⊞ Victim Based Crime                           | 6732      | 6805      | -73    | -1.1%    | 531       | 811       | -280   | -34.5%   | 7.9%         | 11.9%     | -4.0%    |
| ⊞ Theft From Shop                              | 691       | 691       | 0      | 0.0%     | 181       | 250       | -69    | -27.6%   | 26.2%        | 36.2%     | -10.0%   |
| ⊞ Public Fear Alarm or Distress                | 479       | 451       | 28     | 6.2%     | 40        | 61        | -21    | -34.4%   | 8.4%         | 13.5%     | -5.2%    |
| ⊞ Theft If Not Classified Elsewhere            | 841       | 864       | -23    | -2.7%    | 29        | 53        | -24    | -45.3%   | 3.4%         | 6.1%      | -2.7%    |
| ⊞ Assaults Without Injury                      | 866       | 813       | 53     | 6.5%     | 51        | 114       | -63    | -55.3%   | 5.9%         | 14.0%     | -8.1%    |
| ⊞ Violence Against Person (Victim Based)       | 2009      | 1966      | 43     | 2.2%     | 189       | 291       | -102   | -35.1%   | 9.4%         | 14.8%     | -5.4%    |
| ⊞ Assaults With Injury                         | 678       | 731       | -53    | -7.3%    | 81        | 97        | -16    | -16.5%   | 11.9%        | 13.3%     | -1.3%    |
| ⊞ Domestic Abuse Crime                         | 774       | 784       | -10    | -1.3%    | 57        | 138       | -81    | -58.7%   | 7.4%         | 17.6%     | -10.2%   |
| ⊞ Burglary Residential                         | 454       | 499       | -45    | -9.0%    | 29        | 13        | 16     | 123.1%   | 6.4%         | 2.6%      | 3.8%     |
| ⊞ Burglary Residential Dwelling                | 365       | 383       | -18    | -4.7%    | 26        | 9         | 17     | 188.9%   | 7.1%         | 2.3%      | 4.8%     |
| ⊞ Theft From Person                            | 98        | 82        | 16     | 19.5%    | 6         | 3         | 3      | 100.0%   | 6.1%         | 3.7%      | 2.5%     |
| ⊞ Stalking And Harassment                      | 369       | 330       | 39     | 11.8%    | 21        | 49        | -28    | -57.1%   | 5.7%         | 14.8%     | -9.2%    |
| ⊞ Making Off Without Payment                   | 260       | 315       | -55    | -17.5%   | 9         | 24        | -15    | -62.5%   | 3.5%         | 7.6%      | -4.2%    |
| ⊞ Theft Of Motor Vehicle                       | 150       | 159       | -9     | -5.7%    | 3         | 13        | -10    | -76.9%   | 2.0%         | 8.2%      | -6.2%    |
| ⊞ Robbery                                      | 69        | 81        | -12    | -14.8%   | 4         | 9         | -5     | -55.6%   | 5.8%         | 11.1%     | -5.3%    |
| ⊞ Rape                                         | 61        | 65        | -4     | -6.2%    | 0         | 3         | -3     | -100.0%  |              | 4.6%      | -4.6%    |
| ⊞ Serious Sexual Offences                      | 154       | 162       | -8     | -4.9%    | 7         | 9         | -2     | -22.2%   | 4.5%         | 5.6%      | -1.0%    |
| ⊞ Criminal Damage                              | 728       | 890       | -162   | -18.2%   | 32        | 84        | -52    | -61.9%   | 4.4%         | 9.4%      | -5.0%    |
| ⊞ Burglary Business And Community              | 128       | 163       | -35    | -21.5%   | 7         | 9         | -2     | -22.2%   | 5.5%         | 5.5%      | -0.1%    |
| ⊞ Racially and Religiously Aggravated Offences | 85        | 103       | -18    | -17.5%   | 5         | 19        | -14    | -73.7%   | 5.9%         | 18.4%     | -12.6%   |
| ⊞ Burglary Residential Non Dwelling            | 86        | 116       | -30    | -25.9%   | 3         | 4         | -1     | -25.0%   | 3.5%         | 3.4%      | 0.0%     |
| ⊞ Drug Trafficking                             | 38        | 45        | -7     | -15.6%   | 23        | 29        | -6     | -20.7%   | 60.5%        | 64.4%     | -3.9%    |

**Key:** RISE in Crime or FALL in Outcome / Outcome Rate is reported as: **RED**  
 FALL in Crime or RISE in Outcome / Outcome Rate is reported as: **GREEN**

## How the Partnership plans to deliver the 2019/20 specific priorities.

| <b>Specific Priorities</b>                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
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| 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 2019/19. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1</b>                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>To establish an effective response to knife crime, gangs and criminal exploitation engaging with cross border partners.</b></p> <p>The District has seen an increase in the number of incidents that have occurred with young people and knife crime.</p> <p>The Partnership is focused on tackling knife crime across the District. St Albans City &amp; District Council and the Police are sourcing educational providers to produce a specific knife initiative at a local secondary school.</p> <p>The Partnership works with Hertfordshire's Serious Violence Strategy. This has a number of aims including a 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.</p> <p>The Police are working with the Home Office on a knife crime campaign in March 2019. There is an annual knife crime amnesty planned for September 2019 which is part of Operation Sceptre. The County and District will be involved in promoting these initiatives.</p> <p>The CSP is part of a County Wide funding application to the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for four project workers. If successful, these officers from the St Giles Trust, will work directly with local young people at risk of committing violent crime.</p> |
| <b>2</b>                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>To focus on acquisitive crime (burglary, personal robbery and motor vehicle crime) and local issues of concern such as speeding, road safety, rough sleeping and street drinking in the city centre.</b></p> <p>The Partnership works closely together on projects to tackle acquisitive crime.</p> <p>Burglary, robbery and motor vehicle crime are unfortunately tackled daily by the Police. Every burglary that is reported is personally visited by a uniformed officer, Detective and a Scenes of Crime officer. The Police visit local neighbours to advise them of any burglaries and provide crime prevention advice. The Police use the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme - Online Watch Link (OWL) to disseminate crime prevention messages to the District. The Police have 'Operation Scorpion' in St Albans District which involves dedicated officers doing proactive burglary patrols at all times. They have recently started a pilot in St Albans where they have identified a street and provided the residents with 'camera door bells' to investigate if this proves to be a deterrent. These door bells provide an instant alert when someone presses the doorbell by linking to a mobile phone.</p>                                                                                                                                                                              |

It has been found burglars often check if a home is empty (by ringing the doorbell) before carrying out a burglary. This is a proactive response to drive down crime.

Motor vehicle crime continues to be high in St Albans. The Police are focusing on increasing motorists' awareness of their responsibility to ensure their car is secure when left unattended. The Police advised that 90% of theft from motor vehicles occur when vehicles are left unlocked.

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

The Police and the Council will continue to be present at community engagement days such as the OPALS event which focuses on personal safety and ensuring property is kept secure. The Police provide literature, free crime prevention items and help to teach individuals different ways to keep them safe.

We continue to work alongside the road safety and sustainable travel team at Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). The Partnership supports the charity 'Brake' with Road Safety week which is the week commencing 18-24<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This will involve an awareness campaign for the week in the Council Offices. The partnership will support the road safety team in other events across the year.

The Partnership works with 'Think', the Government's road safety campaign. We have planned a Road Safety workshop with 'Crucial Crew'. This is organised for Year 6 pupils across St Albans and Harpenden primary schools to make them aware of risk and dangers of everyday activities.

Speeding in the District is generally managed by Highways (HCC). The Police do run regular speed awareness campaigns which are managed by the Road Policing unit. They publicise these events using Social media 'Twitter'.

There has been a lot of focus on the rough sleepers in St Albans town centre. The Partnership is working with Hightown Praetorian who provide support to rough sleepers living on the street and they run Open Door night shelter in Bricket Road, St Albans. They have a dedicated street and recovery worker to assist the rough sleepers with accommodation. The Council is working with the Police to try and begging in the high street. The Partnership is issuing Community Protection Warnings (CPW) to make individuals aware of the consequences of begging. The Partnership will be organising an engagement day where information leaflets will be given to rough sleepers.

The Partnership 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 run engagement days with street drinkers to help reduce the number of people drinking in the street.

The Partnership is working 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 be publicising drop in sessions which are being held at the Open Door, night shelter by CGL.

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| <b>3</b> | <b>To assist local farmers, landowners and businesses by tackling rural and heritage crime such as fly tipping, ASB on private land and specific wildlife crime.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|          | <p>Flytipping remains a priority for local residents. St Albans City &amp; District Council's Environmental Compliance team will work jointly with the Community Protection team to reduce fly tipping. A staged flytip is planned for this year. The Council has previously organised such events in St Albans town centre to raise awareness of householder's legal responsibilities and how to report incidents.</p> <p>The Partnership liaises closely with the Herts flytipping group. Through various initiatives and prosecutions, St Albans has moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> best District in the county and this work will continue in 2019/20. There has been a marked improvement in the number of recorded incidents of flytipping in the borough compared to last year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>4</b> | <b>To support victims of domestic abuse, tackling repeat perpetrators, educating young people around healthy relationships and investigating domestic abuse amongst families.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|          | <p>The Partnership continues to focus on domestic abuse as St Albans has seen an increase in the number of incidents. The Community Protection Team will attend safeguarding and multi agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) meetings. We will look to learn from domestic homicide reviews (DHR) from other areas of the County.</p> <p>The Partnership will work together to ensure referrals are made to MARAC and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) where appropriate. We continue to tackle perpetrators by taking possession action against Council tenancies and the Police continue to prosecute offenders.</p> <p>The Community Protection team will have a lead champion on domestic abuse which is organised by Herts Sunflower (HCC). They will be fully trained to advise all Council staff on domestic abuse issues and resources.</p> <p>The Council is funding the charity Herts Young Homeless to provide a 'Healthy Relationships' course. This will be rolled out in Spring 2019 to 5 secondary schools, Year 8 or 9 pupils in the St Albans district. This helps to educate young people on the key elements of a healthy relationship which will improve domestic abuse awareness.</p> <p>St Albans Council is also funding 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 (HCC) who will offer young people help if they need it, following the production.</p> |

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| 5 | <b>To engage more effectively with relevant agencies to support those with health and wellbeing problems by developing procedures and pathways to assist them.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|   | <p>The Council recognises that in order to help prevent anti-social and criminal behaviour often support needs to be put in place to help individuals with mental health issues.</p> <p>The Partnership is continuing to work with different support agencies including mental health, drug/alcohol and floating support services to help people maintain their accommodation. We will continue to attend specific meetings with the Community Mental Health Team to share information and plan action for high risk cases.</p> <p>In particular we have asked relevant agencies to develop a more effective route into treatment for people with drug/alcohol and mental health problems, known as dual diagnosis. Often it is hard to determine which agency will accept responsibility.</p> <p>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.</p> |

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 [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)