

Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership Plan April 2009 – March 2012

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VISION

The prime responsibility of the Sustainable Communities Division is to work towards the achievement of cohesive, strong and safe communities, thereby enhancing the attractiveness of Central Bedfordshire to people and businesses. In terms of the Council's priorities, the Community Safety service area takes the corporate lead for "creating safer communities".

In comparison to other similar areas, Central Bedfordshire continues to be a relatively safe area, although it is acknowledged that some communities are much more likely to suffer from the impact of crime and disorder than others. The reduction of crime continues to be high on the Partnership's agenda as is tackling the fear of crime and anti-social behavior. At the same time, the partnership does recognize that it will need to respond to a changing agenda and that public confidence is likely to become one of the main drives for future organisation.

This follows the introduction, from April 2009, of the Home Office single confidence measure, based on the British Crime survey question which asks, ***"How much would you agree or disagree that the police and the local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in (your) area"***

A central aim for the new Partnership is to exceed the Government's minimum standards for partnerships, and to ensure that the hallmarks of effective practice underpin future development.

The LAA –delivery plan

The CSP forms the community safety themed lead for the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Sustainable Community Strategy 2009-10. The priorities for community safety which have been selected from the National Indicator Set (NIS) are set out below:

- Reducing serious acquisitive crime
- Reducing the offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders
- Reducing repeat incidence of domestic abuse
- Increasing the number of drug users in effective treatment

and from the previous LAA

- Increasing the public feeling of safety

Indicator NI 16 - Serious Acquisitive Crime rates

This measures the number of recorded serious acquisitive crimes per 1,000 of the population. This includes burglaries, robbery and theft from or of a motor vehicle. The target for Central Beds by 2010/2011 is –17%

Indicator NI32 – Repeat incidents of domestic violence

This measures the percentage reduction in repeat victimisation for those domestic violence cases being managed by a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The target setting process for this indicator has been deferred by central government until 2009. However, partners have proposed a local target for year one, which is to reduce the 38% repeat incident baseline of 2007/08, to 35% in 2008/09.

Indicator NI 30 – Re-offending rate of prolific and other priority offenders

This measures the change in convictions for Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPO's) over a 12-month period. Targets for this indicator will be agreed on an annual basis according to the size of the PPO cohort

Indicator NI 40 – Number of drug users in effective treatment

This measures the year-on-year change in the total number of drug users in effective treatment for at least 12 weeks. The target is to increase the total number of drug users in effective treatment in Bedfordshire, for at least 12 weeks by +3% or 714 people during 2008/9, above the 2007/8-baseline number of 693, then by 728 or +5% during 2009/10 and 742 or +7% by 2010/11. (Data is held nationally and regionally but is not currently broken down by unitary authority.).

Indicator NI 115 – substance misuse by young people

This will measure progress in reducing the numbers of young people frequently misusing substances. The aim was to establish a baseline during 2008/09 from which targets will be developed for the LAA.

The Fear of Crime target

This is one of 17 LAA reward targets agreed by the Countywide Partnership in March 2006. Specifically the target is to reduce the fear of crime when walking alone outside after dark by 2009. This target is a survey-based perception measure and the baseline was established in 2006 from the Best Value Local Government User Satisfaction Survey. In that survey, all four Bedfordshire Local Authorities asked the question; *'How safe/unsafe do you feel when walking alone (in your area) outside after dark.'*

The target is an 11% increase on this figure, and a reward grant is attached to this target. Work on this target is the responsibility of the theme lead, Chief Supt. Andy Street who is managing it through the Fear of Crime sub group, which is currently coordinated by Central Beds.

Single confidence target 2009-10

There are obvious links between the fear of crime target and the new national confidence target, where the Home Office is expecting a 15% improvement on local baselines by end March 2012. This is a target set for the Police and Local Councils. Locally the target set for the Force (and Local Councils) is 53.9% by end March 2011 and 58.6% by end March 2012, with an interim target of 50% by end March 2010. Processes for implementing this work and measuring the target in Bedfordshire are still being agreed, and the CSP is part of these discussions.

Links to other Plans and Strategies – joining-up delivery

Community safety is an important issue for all and cuts across the work of partnerships and agencies focussed on supporting children and young people, health and wellbeing and economic growth and the environment.

Developing local actions which encompass these cross-cutting issues will be a key part of the work undertaken by the partnership in the coming months in both continued development of local action plans, and in the delivery of those actions to address the key priorities for Central Beds.

The links with the following plans and strategies will need to be made and clarified and the LAA process will help to clarify this.

- A Corporate Strategy for Older People 2007-12
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- NHS Bedfordshire - Strategic Plan 2009-2013
- Supporting People Strategy 2006-2011
- Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009
- Local Transport Plan 2006/07 - 2010/11
- Road Safety Strategy - 2010
- Central Bedfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy 2003-2013
- Bedfordshire's Local Area Agreement 2008-2011
- Bedfordshire Drugs Strategy 2005-08
- Alcohol Strategy
- B & L Joint Economic Development Strategy
- Bedfordshire Cultural Strategy 2007-2021
- Bedfordshire Domestic Violence Strategy
- Empty Homes Strategy 2008-2011
- Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2008-2013
- The Policing Plan 2009
- The LCJB Strategy

Integrated Offender Management

In addition to the links above, the CSP recognises that reducing re-offending impacts on crime levels – both in volume and seriousness, thus making communities safer. The Partnership will take an Integrated Offender Management approach to supervising and rehabilitating offenders by drawing organisations together to make the best use of shared skills and resources. This will ensure that the PPO scheme works in conjunction with the DIP arrangements and that local authority services for example housing, social care and education and the CJS are fully integrated to tackle social exclusion and to reduce crime and re-offending.

Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO)

The highest priority will be given to offenders who present a high risk of harm to others or of repeat offending as evidence from Government shows that 10 per cent of offenders commit 50 per cent of crime. Using a joined up approach, all partners will focus on the same group of offenders and prioritise resources with the explicit aim of cutting re-offending.

There are two main groups that look at these priority offenders, The YOT with main responsibility for the Prevent and Deter strand and Police/Probation for the Catch and Convict and Rehabilitate and Resettle strands. This work will all be co-ordinated in future by the PPO co-ordinator when in post and the recruitment process is currently underway (June 2009).

PRIORITIES AND DELIVERY

In March 2009 the new partnership completed its first partnership strategic assessment. The assessment is a statutory duty of Central Beds Community Safety Partnership (CBCSP) under the Police and Justice Act 2006 and will be undertaken on an annual basis.

The Strategic assessment shows that the following areas are priorities for the partnership –

- 1) Most Serious Violence (MSV) including Domestic Abuse (DA) and Sexual Abuse (SA)
- 2) Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) including Burglary and Vehicle crime
- 3) Non Domestic burglary
- 4) Criminal Damage
- 5) Anti-social behaviour
- 6) Substance misuse including Drugs/alcohol
- 7) Fear of Crime, to cover the single confidence target
- 8) Reducing re-offending – through the IOM model

The scanning chart below shows how this conclusion was reached, from the evidence in the Strategic assessment,

Category	PSA	LAA 08/11	National indicators	High volume/ rate	Increasing	High public concern	Comment	Action
Wounding					X		Small increase, although numbers low	Exclude
Most Serious Violence (MSV)	X	X	X		X			Include
Domestic Abuse							National agenda to address	Include
Sexual Abuse/Violence							Statutory requirement for CDRP	Include
Serious Acquisitive Crime	X	X	X	X	X	X	Sub divides into following 4 categories	Include
Domestic burglary				X	X	X	High and increasing in both Mid and South	Include
Vehicle Crime - Includes both TfMV and ToMV				X	X	X		Include

Robbery							Low numbers and not increasing	Exclude
Non Domestic Burglary				X	X		This crime type fluctuates and continues to be of concern	Include
Criminal Damage				X		X		Include
ASB	X	X	X			X	High public concern supports inclusion, further performance monitoring to be developed	Include
Hate crime							Hate Crime partnership unable to provide data to support inclusion as a priority	Exclude
Substance misuse, including alcohol	X	X	X			X	Statutory requirement for CDRP	Include
Knife crime							Although police have National Community funding to tackle knife crime, data does not support inclusion as a priority	Exclude
Nuisance vehicles/Roads policing						X	Data available does not support inclusion as a priority. Forums and SNT's address issues locally. Review in 2009/10 assessment	Exclude
Fear of Crime/Single confidence target	X		X				LAA reward attached to target. Police leading on work	Include

							and partnership continue to support in order to work on the national single confidence target	
Reduce reoffending	X	X	X			X	Partnership to support this work through IOM scheme	Include

To support the Community Safety Plan the partnership will build on existing action plans, and as appropriate develop new ones to tackle the priorities above. These plans will be reviewed in line with the annual refresh of the strategy. Progress will be measured by comparing performance with Most Similar Groups (MSG) of CDRP/CSP's through iQuanta data and seek to improve the ranking within that group. Where there are shared priorities across the county, the partnership will ensure that these are approached in a joined up and cost effective manner, avoiding duplication of effort and resources.

Local Targets

The following local targets have been agreed for the J Divisional area:

Robbery	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	301	276	-8%	253	-8%	233	-8%	-23%
M Beds	38	37	-3%	36	-3%	35	-3%	-8%
S Beds	154	142	-8%	131	-8%	120	-8%	-22%
C Beds	192	179	-7%	167	-7%	155	-7%	-19%
Total	493	455	-8%	420	-8%	388	-8%	-21%

House B	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	893	814	-9%	743	-9%	677	-9%	-24%
M Beds	391	381	-3%	371	-3%	361	-3%	-8%
S Beds	791	726	-8%	666	-8%	611	-8%	-23%
C Beds	1182	1107	-6%	1037	-6%	972	-6%	-18%
Total	2075	1921	-7%	1780	-7%	1649	-7%	-21%

ToMV	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	398	364	-9%	334	-8%	306	-8%	-23%
M Beds	231	225	-3%	221	-2%	216	-2%	-6%
S Beds	369	350	-5%	333	-5%	316	-5%	-14%
C Beds	600	575	-4%	554	-4%	532	-4%	-11%

Total	998	939	-6%	888	-5%	838	-6%	-16%
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TfMV	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	1284	1162	-10%	1052	-9%	952	-10%	-26%
M Beds	785	761	-3%	739	-3%	718	-3%	-9%
S Beds	1243	1132	-9%	1034	-9%	944	-9%	-24%
C Beds	2028	1893	-7%	1773	-6%	1662	-6%	-18%
Total	3312	3055	-8%	2825	-8%	2614	-7%	-21%

SAC	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	2876	2616	-9%	2382	-9%	2168	-9%	-25%
M Beds	1445	1404	-3%	1367	-3%	1330	-3%	-8%
S Beds	2557	2355	-8%	2164	-8%	1991	-8%	-22%
C Beds	4002	3759	-6%	3531	-6%	3321	-6%	-17%
Total	6878	6375	-7%	5913	-7%	5489	-7%	-20%

Cr d. ex 59	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	2847	2645	-7%	2512	-5%	2436	-3%	-14%
M Beds	1553	1470	-5%	1411	-4%	1369	-3%	-12%
S Beds	2242	2085	-7%	1981	-5%	1922	-3%	-14%
C Beds	3795	3555	-6%	3392	-5%	3291	-3%	-13%
Total	6642	6200	-7%	5904	-5%	5727	-3%	-14%

Other B	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	1014	973	-4%	944	-3%	916	-3%	-10%
M Beds	549	527	-4%	511	-3%	495	-3%	-10%
S Beds	804	760	-5%	726	-4%	704	-3%	-12%
C Beds	1353	1287	-5%	1237	-4%	1199	-3%	-11%
Total	2367	2260	-5%	2181	-3%	2115	-3%	-11%

Theft fr P	2007-08	2008-09	% chge	2009-11	% chge	2010-11	% chge	3 yr % chge
N Beds	273	256	-6%	245	-4%	235	-4%	-14%
M Beds	42	42	0%	42	0%	42	0%	0%
S Beds	135	128	-5%	122	-5%	116	-5%	-14%
C Beds	177	170	-4%	164	-4%	158	-4%	-11%
Total	450	426	-5%	409	-4%	393	-4%	-13%

Performance and targets will be monitored on a monthly and quarterly basis through the partnership.

RESOURCES

Partnership action plans will be managed through the local Operational Delivery Group (ODG). This group consists of key partnership stakeholders including representatives from the 5 organisations that are statutory partners: Police, Police Authority, Fire Authority, Local Authority, and PCT

Statutory partners and other organisations attending the ODG will support the work of the partnership through the provision of their core resources and services.

The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2011 will be managed and monitored through the partnership. This provides an excellent partnership link at a strategic level, and the partnership has also commissioned work on Sexual Abuse and this should be completed by July 2009.

The partnership will continue to work with Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (B: DAT) to implement the local drug and alcohol strategy, and the partnership will also implement the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for the area.

The partnership has provided funding towards a Prolific and Priority Offender Scheme (PPO) Co-ordinator, who will be in post later this year. A small number of prolific offenders cause a large amount of local crime, and as such the main priority is to reduce the re-offending rate of prolific offenders, which is linked to reducing crime rates.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

The performance management arrangements will form part of a wider framework that is designed to ensure the citizens and communities of Central Bedfordshire are fully engaged and informed.

In addition to performance measurement against LAA targets and local targets, there has been a range of other mechanisms for assessing crime and disorder. These have now been simplified with the introduction of the Assessment of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) which will be aligned to the National Indicator set for local authorities.

iQuanta remains as a further useful tool to allow comparisons with other similar partnerships against performance. In addition the partnership will measure itself against the national minimum standards for partnerships.

The partnership will also set criteria by which funded activities are monitored against local priorities and targets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Previously, a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by both Mid and South Bedfordshire local authorities to develop community engagement

mechanisms. As a result, Central Bedfordshire has a number of Community Safety Groups and forums operating on a voluntary basis, identifying local issues, actions and solutions. Other mechanisms including problem solving groups and targeted initiatives to address specific issues also exist within the area.

In the south of Central Bedfordshire there are three priority estates, Downside, Parkside and Tithe Farm, each of which has an estate plan which identifies local community safety issues and the activities to address them.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

As part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) Reform programme, the Home Office has developed the 'hallmarks of effective partnerships'. The hallmarks have been introduced to:

- Ensure all partnerships are functioning to an acceptable level of performance
- Embed an intelligence led way of doing partnership business
- Enable communities to see the difference that effective partnerships can have in their area
- Ensure that local communities are involved in shaping local priorities
- Support the development of skills and knowledge across the partnership
- Increase partnership accountability in addressing crime and disorder matters

The six hallmarks are:

- Empowered and Effective Leadership
- Visible and Constructive Accountability
- Intelligence –led Business Processes
- Effective and Responsive Delivery Structures
- Engaged Communities
- Appropriate Skills and knowledge

Each hallmark contains two elements

- New statutory elements for partnership working
- Suggested practice to achieve increased effective partnership, using the statutory requirements as a foundation

In addition to this, the guidance for each hallmark is structured around what is defined as the 'key aspects of partnership business' – which are

- Lead and Guide
- Assess
- Plan

- Deliver

The partnership is currently reviewing its local working practices against these standards and will implement the necessary changes and improvements over the coming months.