

County Durham Community Safety Board

County Durham Community Safety Agreement

2008/09

Introduction

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a legal duty on responsible authorities to work together to tackle crime, the misuse of drugs, anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the environment. In County Durham the responsible authorities are Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority, District/Borough Councils, Durham Police Authority and the County Durham Primary Care Trust. These authorities, and other cooperative bodies, developed five Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships which have contributed to substantial reductions in crime over the last ten years. Despite this progress community concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour remain and our partnerships recognise that we have to make progressive change in order to meet the challenges ahead.

In order to achieve this we have paid particular regard to the National Community Safety Plan for 2008-11 and have put in place a set of government minimum standards. This will mean we are much more effective in working together to improve peoples quality of life and tackle those community safety issues that are important to our communities.

A statutory requirement set out within the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation of Strategy) Regulations 2007 requires specific action for two tier areas. We have created a County Community Safety Board and have carried out a County Strategic Assessment of community safety issues and developed a plan for improving information sharing.

The County Community Safety Board will oversee progress towards new ways for organisations and partnerships to coordinate their activity. Through the development of the County Strategic Assessment the Board has identified a set of priorities that will respond to community concerns, is based on evidence and underpins the implementation of clear strategies. The assessment has relied upon the exchange of information between public authorities, information gathered by consulting our communities, from national surveys, national policy and from other acknowledged national sources.

The priorities that have been drawn from the County Durham Strategic Assessment have enabled us to identify key crime, disorder, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour issues across the County that would benefit most from a coordinated response across all Community Safety Partnerships and cooperative bodies. The County Community Safety Board will also focus on crime and anti-social behaviour not identified within these priorities through our performance management framework to ensure that emerging trends and issues can be identified and responses developed on a locality basis.

Appendix 2

The assessment that we have undertaken was supported by seven 'local' strategic assessments for each district/borough area. These have been used to develop local partnership plans that demonstrate how issues relevant to particular localities will be tackled.

This Countywide Community Safety Agreement fulfils the final element of the minimum standards and has been developed alongside the local area partnership plans in order that issues that are common across all areas are recognised and responded to at a strategic County level.

This Countywide Community Safety Agreement identifies:

(a) the ways in which the Responsible Authorities in the County area might more effectively implement the priorities set out in these strategic assessments through coordinated or joint working; and

(b) how the Responsible Authorities in the County area might otherwise reduce crime and disorder or combat substance misuse through coordinated or joint working.

By fully embracing change and moving forward together we have agreed a set of strategic commitments that demonstrate how we will develop joint working and coordinate delivery around key priorities:

In particular we will:

- ▶ Coordinate delivery mechanisms at a County-level to address our priorities;
- ▶ Make use of economies of scale in tackling common priorities in order to deliver value for money;
- ▶ Access opportunities for County level funding;
- ▶ Form multi-agency working groups at County level to coordinate the activity of partnerships;
- ▶ Support delivery mechanisms based upon a framework encompassing prevention, early intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation that focuses on the victim, offender and location of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Deliver a consistent and efficient approach to ensure that all our communities are benefiting from the most effective solutions.

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We will evidence this commitment by setting out a clear plan for enabling coordinated or joint working in order that our Responsible Authorities can take the opportunity to make further contributions to the reduction in crime and disorder and combat substance misuse.

What we will do now:

- ▶ Work together to create a community safety team to serve the unitary council from 1 April 2009.
- ▶ Introduce a time-limited task and finish group methodology for time-limited action groups on emerging issues.
- ▶ Develop a consistent model for locality multi-agency problem-solving groups.
- ▶ Implement improvements to information sharing systems and processes through the development of a Data Improvement Plan.
- ▶ Develop a centrally driven performance management framework which ensures alignment of performance measures across the County strategic priorities, the LAA and CDRP plans.
- ▶ Develop a commissioning model that is based on assessed need.
- ▶ Develop an escalation protocol from the delivery groups to the Board.
- ▶ Map existing community engagement mechanisms and processes.
- ▶ Develop a Partnership training and development plan to ensure we have the right skills and knowledge to implement change.

Overview of what our Strategic Assessment told us:

Our Communities are concerned about:

- ▶ Anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Drunken/rowdy behaviour.
- ▶ Speeding traffic.
- ▶ Burglary / theft from their homes.
- ▶ Litter and fly-tipping.
- ▶ Vandalism.
- ▶ People using or dealing drugs.
- ▶ Young people perceived to be causing a nuisance.

They want to see:

- ▶ A greater uniform presence.
- ▶ More facilities for young people.
- ▶ Tougher sentencing.
- ▶ Better parenting.

Children and young people in our communities are concerned about:

- ▶ Traffic.
- ▶ Being treated unfairly because of their age.
- ▶ Their safety in their local area.

Our public authorities are concerned about:

- ▶ Rowdy and nuisance behaviour.
- ▶ Criminal Damage.
- ▶ Alcohol related anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Negative perceptions of young people.

- ▶ Violence in and around our town centres linked with alcohol.
- ▶ Young people as victims and offenders of violence.
- ▶ Young people and alcohol misuse.

- ▶ The need to protect vulnerable people from abuse.

- ▶ Level of re-offending.
- ▶ Impact of unemployment, homelessness, poor education and substance misuse on re-offending.

- ▶ The harm that is caused to individuals and communities as a result of alcohol misuse.

Appendix 2

Purpose

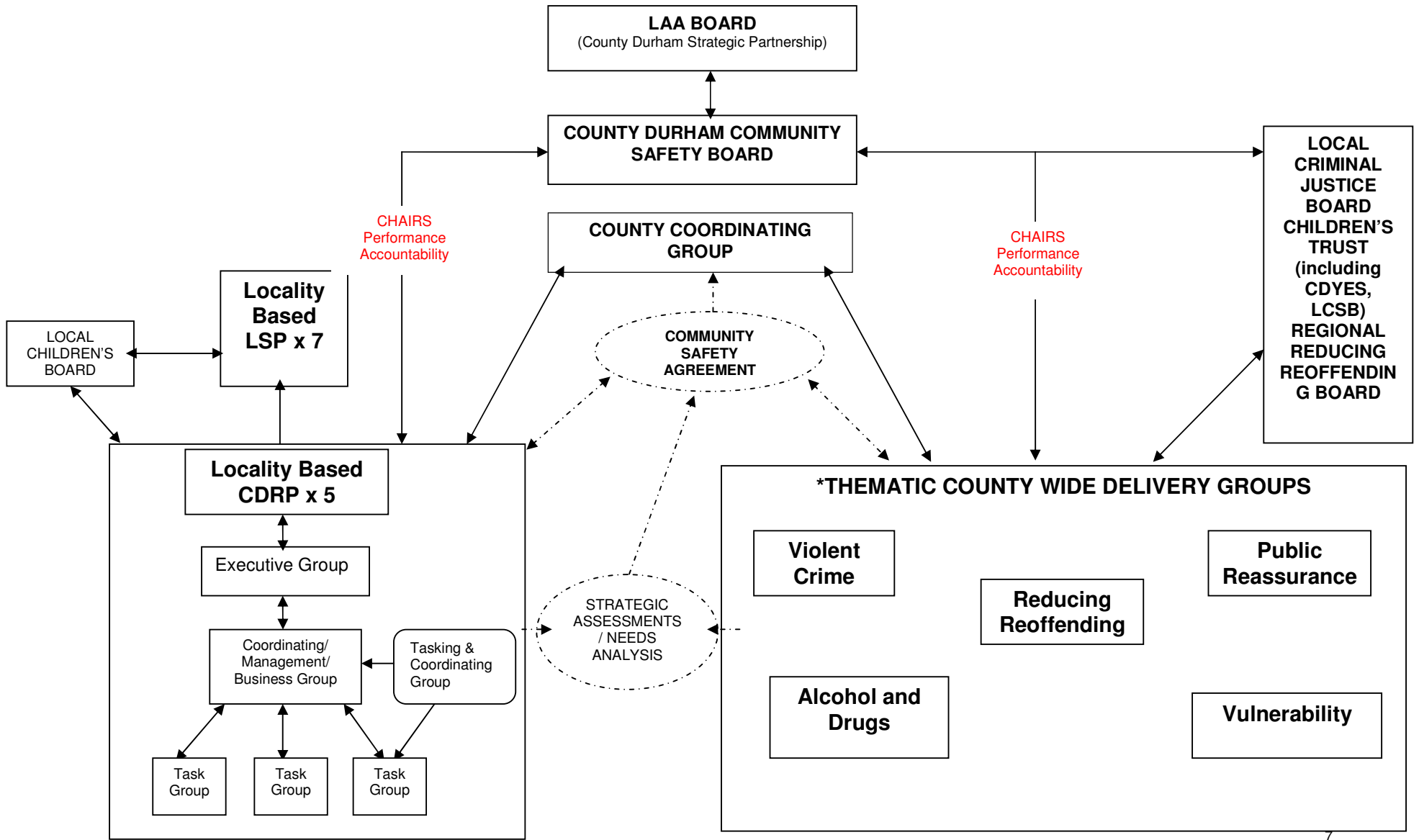
The aim of this agreement is to demonstrate how all relevant bodies within the County will deliver coherent and consistent strategies to tackle the priorities identified within the strategic assessment through coordinated and joint working. It will demonstrate how our partnerships understand our communities concerns about crime and disorder and the most effective ways to respond.

Priorities

The priorities identified by our County Strategic Assessment and to which this agreement will provide a particular focus are:

1. Improving public reassurance in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, including a focus on reducing criminal damage.
2. Reducing serious violent crime across County Durham and in priority locations e.g. where there are links with violence and the night time economy.
3. Tackling domestic abuse with specific emphasis on achieving a coordinated approach.
4. Ensuring there is a coordinated approach to tackling re-offending, with a particular focus on Prolific and Priority Offenders and Drug misuse.
5. Reducing the harm to individuals and communities caused by alcohol misuse.
6. Developing and implementing an information improvement plan in order to bridge the significant gaps in data sharing and improve the quality of 'Intelligence Products'.

Our new Community Safety Framework



Priority 1: Improve Public Reassurance in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour, including a focus on criminal damage.

High Level Outcome

- ▶ **Improved quality of life within our communities**
- ▶ **People feel safe in their communities**

What we will do now

Put in place a County Public Reassurance Group in order to:

- ▶ Develop a countywide Media / Communications Strategy which will ensure public have access to the facts about what is happening in their area and promotes a positive image of County Durham.
- ▶ Work cooperatively with Children & Young Peoples Partnerships to develop positive activities for young people and promote the positive contributions young people make.
- ▶ Ensure a coordinated approach to tackling high volumes of criminal damage, fire setting, graffiti and other environmental issues that impact on quality of life.
- ▶ Oversee the current LAA stretch targets for the reduction in Secondary deliberate fires, perceptions of anti-social behaviour and first time entrants into the Criminal Justice System.

What we will work towards

- ▶ Identifying best practice and implementing it across the County.
- ▶ Delivering a neighbourhood approach to public reassurance which helps people feel they can influence decisions and are empowered to make a positive contribution.

Our measure of success

1. A reduction in the proportion of residents reporting that their quality of life is affected by anti-social behaviour to 65.5% by March 2009 (Current LAA Stretch Target).
2. A reduction in the number of secondary deliberate fires by March 2009 (Current LAA Stretch Target).
3. Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area (Respect) **NI 22**.
4. Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity (Respect) **NI 23**.
5. Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem (Respect) **NI 41**.
6. Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem (Respect) **NI 42**.
7. Young peoples participation in positive activities **NI 110**.
8. A reduction in the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system **NI 111** (Current LAA Stretch Target).
9. A reduction in the number of criminal damage offences.
10. Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and Police **NI21**.

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Priority 2: Reduce Serious Violent Crime across County Durham and in priority locations, e.g. where there are links with violence and the night-time economy.

High Level Outcome

▶ Improved safety within our communities

What we will do now

Develop a strategic group for tackling serious violent crime with a particular focus on:

- ▶ Implementing relevant aspects of the national violent crime action plan.
- ▶ Developing a short term group to provide a support mechanism for delivery in respect of developing a Night Time Economy strategy, with minimum standards to support initiatives which are replicated across Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, including StreetSafe/NightSafe and identify how County level resources can support them.

What we will work towards

- ▶ Developing a robust indicator that captures the challenges around alcohol related violence.
- ▶ Ensuring a focus on alcohol-related violence is included within the strategic approach to alcohol harm reduction.
- ▶ Developing a consistent approach to licensing and under-age sales of alcohol.
- ▶ Carrying out research to develop a more comprehensive understanding in terms of victimisation and patterns of offending.
- ▶ Monitoring for signs of gun, knife & gang crime and learn from areas of the country where this crime has emerged.

Our measure of success

1. A reduction in the 'assault with injury crime rate' **NI 20** (Baseline available July 2008).
2. Serious violent crime rate **NI 15**.
3. Serious knife crime rate **NI 28** (monitoring only).
4. Serious gun crime rate **NI 29** (monitoring only).

Priority 3: Tackle domestic abuse with specific emphasis on achieving a co-ordinated response

High Level Outcomes

▶ **Reduce the harm caused by domestic abuse**

What we will do now

- ▶ Deliver a strategic countywide response to domestic abuse through the Countywide Domestic Abuse Executive.
- ▶ Develop a countywide strategy for 2008/11.
- ▶ Consider developing Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) across all areas of the County.
- ▶ Identify the feasibility of providing additional Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.
- ▶ Review service design for the delivery of services linked to Local Government Reorganisation.
- ▶ Develop a performance management framework.

What we will work towards

- ▶ Developing common standards for service delivery.
- ▶ Reviewing funding arrangements.
- ▶ Further developing links with the Local Criminal Justice Board.
- ▶ Developing a commissioning model across the County.
- ▶ Exploring the potential for a pooled multi-agency centralised team.

Our measure of success

1. The % of the county covered by Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

Priority 4: Ensure there is coordinated approach to tackling re-offending, with particular focus on Prolific and other Priority Offenders and Drug Misuse.

High Level Outcome

▶ **Reduce re-offending across County Durham**

What we will do now

In collaboration with the Local Criminal Justice Board:

- ▶ Develop a County strategy for the Prolific and Priority Offenders Scheme within the new Community Safety Framework. This should be supported by a clear performance management framework that evidences positive outcomes across all pathways to services.
- ▶ Establish a strategic re-offending group to incorporate existing governance arrangements for Prolific and Priority offenders and Drug Intervention Program within the new community safety framework.

What we will work towards

- ▶ Reviewing and implementing the National Drugs Strategy.
- ▶ Developing an integrated model for offender management.
- ▶ Ensuring there is a link in to the regional re-offending forum.
- ▶ Developing strategic pathways through key services to ensure offenders have the support they need to stop their offending behaviour.

Our measure of success

1. Adult re-offending rate for those under probation supervision **NI 18.**
2. Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders **NI 19.**
3. A reduction in the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders **NI 30.**
4. An increase in the number of drug users in effective treatment **NI 40.**
5. Young offenders engagement in suitable education, employment or training **NI 45.**
6. Young offenders access to suitable accommodation **NI 46.**

Priority 5: Reduce the harm to individuals and communities caused by Alcohol Misuse

High Level Outcome

- ▶ **Reduce the harm caused by alcohol**
- ▶ **Improved health and wellbeing**

What we will do now

In collaboration with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team:

- ▶ Developing a multi-agency strategic alcohol group.
- ▶ Develop a countywide multi-agency alcohol strategy.

What we will work towards

- ▶ The production of a County wide alcohol strategy.
- ▶ Developing a cross policy response to alcohol harm.
- ▶ Developing referral systems and effective alcohol treatment services for Criminal Justice System clients.
- ▶ Providing support for carers and parents of alcohol/drug users.
- ▶ Raising awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol issues.

Our success will be measured across the Indicators within Priority 1, 2, 3 and 4. In particular we will focus on:

1. A reduction in the 'assault with injury crime rate' **NI 20** (Baseline available July 2008).
2. A reduction in 'Alcohol-harm related hospital admission rates' **NI 39**.

Priority 6: Develop and implement an information improvement plan in order to bridge the significant gaps in data sharing and improve the quality of 'Intelligence Products'.

High Level Outcome

▶ **Effective, evidence-led partnerships**

What we will do now

- ▶ Develop a time-limited multi-agency Data Champions Group to facilitate effective information sharing.
- ▶ Develop and implement a Data Improvement Plan.

Within the lifetime of this agreement we will

- ▶ Implement a Customer Relationship Management Database for capturing, tracking, recording and sharing incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to all services within each of our local authorities, meeting the National Standards for Incident Recording.
- ▶ Share information that enables us to understand more about victims and offenders of violent crime.
- ▶ Share information that enables us to understand more about victims and offenders of domestic abuse.
- ▶ Develop a greater understanding of the links between alcohol, young people and anti-social behaviour.
- ▶ Do more to ensure we share information that will enable us to be better informed about how to reduce re-offending.
- ▶ Develop data and information about the misuse of alcohol that will help us understand the extent of the problem and the best way to work together to respond effectively to it.
- ▶ Develop the creation of new Accident and Emergency data sets relating to alcohol and violence.
- ▶ Develop data in respect of drug misuse.
- ▶ Review and update our information sharing protocols.

APPENDIX 1: Overview of National, Organisational and Partnership Priorities

Appendix 2

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2008-11

- PSA 23 Make Communities Safer
 - Reduce the most serious violence
 - Progress on serious acquisitive crime
 - Tackle local priorities; increase public confidence
 - Reduce re-offending
- PSA 24 Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive CJS for victims and the public
- PSA 25 Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs

HOME OFFICE CRIME STRATEGY 2008-11

- Stronger focus on serious violence
- Continued pressure on anti-social behaviour
- Renewed focus on young people
- New national approach to designing out crime
- Continuing to reduce re-offending
- Greater sense of national partnership
- Freeing up local partners, building public confidence

FORCEWIDE PRIORITIES 2007/08

- Combat terrorism and protect our communities
- Combat and disrupt organised crime groups
- Protecting vulnerable people from the risk of serious harm
- Reduce the harm to communities caused by alcohol and drugs
- Make communities safer and more cohesive (including NHP and ASB)

NORTH BCU PRIORITIES

- PPO's
- Domestic abuse
- ASB, Disorder and local crime issues
- Drug problems causing significant harm to communities
- Reduce harm to communities caused by organised crime

SOUTH BCU PRIORITIES

- PPOs
- Class A Drugs
- Assaults and Domestic Abuse
- Dwelling Burglary
- Rowdy Nuisance behaviour

Proposed LAA SAFER priorities 2008-2011

- Reduce incidents of domestic abuse
- Reduce re-offending
- Reduce first time offenders
- Reduce anti-social behaviour
- Safer roads

COUNTY DURHAM STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2008/09

- Improve public reassurance in relation to anti-social and crime
- Reduce serious violent crime across County Durham and in priority locations
- Tackle Domestic Abuse with emphasis on achieving a co-ordinated approach
- Reduce re-offending with focus on PPO and drug misuse
- Reduce the harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol misuse
- Improve Information Sharing

CDRP Priorities

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DURHAM	DERWENTSIDE	EASINGTON	SEDGEFIELD	WEAR VALLEY	TEESDALE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violent Crime - Domestic Abuse - Criminal Damage - Anti-Social Behaviour and Public Reassurance - Drugs and Alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Violent Crime - Domestic Abuse - Criminal Damage - Anti-Social Behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anti-social behaviour including Criminal Damage - Reducing drugs, alcohol and substance misuse - Reducing re-offending - Domestic abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Domestic Abuse - Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Misuse - Anti-Social Behaviour (including Criminal Damage) - Offending and Re-Offending (including PPO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wounding - Burglary Dwelling and Burglary Other - Criminal Damage and ASB - Reducing offending (to include tackling the cross cutting drivers of drugs and alcohol misuse). - Domestic Abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wounding - Domestic Abuse - Criminal Damage and Anti-Social Behaviour - Reducing offending (to include tackling drug and alcohol misuse as cross cutting drivers) - Reassurance