

**Report to:** Executive

**Date:** 10 June 2008

**Report of:** Executive Member for Livability

**Subject:** Easington Community Safety Partnership  
Strategic Assessment 2008 & Partnership Plan  
Summary Report

**Ward:** All

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To inform Executive of the findings of the Community Safety Partnership's Strategic Assessment for 2008 and proposed interventions identified in the 2008/9 Partnership Plan.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1 I have prepared this report with support from the Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives who is also Chair of the CDRP and consulted with the Director of Community Services. The Assessment and Partnership Plan have been produced by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and informed by various partnership data sets and community consultations.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on Community Safety Partnerships to conduct an audit and produce a strategy on a 3 year rolling cycle. March 2008 saw the completion of the 2005-8 audit and strategy cycle.
- 3.2 In 2007 a review of the Crime and Disorder Act replaced the 3 year cycle with an annual Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan. The Assessment should identify priorities for action and the Plan should set out interventions, which address those priorities.
- 3.3 Local Government Review will also affect the structure of Community Safety delivery in the district from 1 April 2009 as the statutory requirement is for a single Crime and Disorder Partnership for each local authority area ie one covering all of County Durham. A County Durham Community Safety Board has now been formed to oversee the transition to a single partnership body. This Board has now developed a Community Safety Agreement for the county which is drawn together as composite document from the district Strategic Assessments and Partnership Plans.

## **4. Position Statement and Option Appraisal**

### **4.1 Review of 2005/8 Performance**

When the 2005/8 Strategy was set the CSP were given a PSA target by Government Office North East to reduce BCS (British Crime Survey) Comparator Crime by 15% on the baseline year of 2003/4. This overall

target was then underpinned by supporting targets set against each of the comparator crimes listed in the table below.

#### Reducing Crime - BCS Comparator Crimes

Category	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08 Projection	2007/08 Target Reduction		2007/08 Projected Position
<b>BCS comparator crime</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>5,030</b>	<b>6,019</b>	<b>5,876</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>- 15%</b>	<b>4,357</b>	<b>- 5.1%</b>
Common Assault	316	303	292	273	216	-10%	271	-32.0%
Criminal Damage	2397	2368	2656	2707	2,354	-6%	2162	-1.8%
Domestic Burglary	619	476	393	487	493	-25%	458	-20.4%
Robbery	23	14	24	36	22	-4%	27	-4.3%
Theft From a Person	39	35	30	32	37	-10%	31	-5.1%
Theft From MV	898	524	535	641	498	-30%	594	-44.5%
Theft of a Pedal Cycle	98	74	115	89	74	-10%	87	-24.4%
Theft of MV	424	434	428	393	389	-25%	318	-8.3%
Vehicle Interference	148	134	130	123	143	-25%	107	-3.4%
Wounding	382	393	889	869	828	-10%	302	+116.7%

Overall performance has been good but heavily influenced by the adoption of national recording standards for Wounding which resulted in large increases in recorded Woundings from 2005/6 onwards. The achieved reduction of 5% is increased to 14% when Wounding is removed from the equation.

There have been some notable successes within the offence categories with significant reductions in Common Assault (32%) Domestic Burglary (20%) and Thefts from Vehicles (44%). Criminal Damage has fallen only marginally (1%) but it should be noted here that in April 2007 levels of Criminal Damage were 13% up on the base year. Area focussed action planning has supported a 14% reduction in Criminal Damage over the last 12 months.

#### 4.2 Partnership Interventions 2005-8

Examples of interventions that have supported the reduction in crime include:

##### **Operation Milkshake**

Developed in 2006 as a multi agency initiative that aims to provide a high visibility demonstration of the partners working together to address crime and disorder problems on a locality basis. The principal elements of Milkshake are enforcement, reassurance and prevention.

### **Eden Hill Criminal Damage Plan**

The Criminal Damage Action Plan is part of a county-wide initiative to develop a problem solving approach in tackling neighbourhood issues. The Plan focussed upon Criminal Damage as a high volume crime that had risen significantly since 2003/4 across the county and increased by 14% in Easington (2007). The Eden Hill ward was selected as the target location. In 2006/7 there were 160 Criminal Damage offences in the area making it the principle hot spot for the district. The Plan brought together prevention, enforcement, intelligence and reassurance initiatives to reduce Criminal Damage by 35% over a 6- month period. The format of the plan has since been rolled out district wide resulting in 14% reduction over the last 12 months.

### **Youth Issues Forum**

Initially formed in March 2006 the aim of this group was to progress the PPO Prevent and Deter Cohort of young people. The group later expanded to address the needs of young people presenting with incidents of Anti Social Behaviour. The multi agency group consists of some fifteen Partner Agencies from both Prevention and Enforcement, most of whom have signed up to the Premium Specification SLA and who actively contribute to the forum by affording young people and their families 'fast track' to premium services in an attempt to both prevent and/or reduce further offending.

### **Supporting Young People Programme**

Bringing together a range of interventions that seek to reduce risk factors associated with criminality in young people; Positive Futures, Youth Inclusion Programme, EmpowerU (Mentoring) and Out There (Peer Education). Working with a target group of 200 young people, the programme seeks to integrate these interventions to provide an enhanced service to those young people identified as being at highest risk of being drawn into persistent criminality/anti social behaviour. The RICTER self-assessment tool was used to monitor changes in self-perception whilst UMIS was used to monitor changes in arrest rates and intervention times. Positive changes occurred in 7/10 indicators which included personal health, peer relationships, home life etc. Arrest rates fell by 60% over a period of 6 months.

### **Streetsafe Boards & Tasking & Co-ordinating meetings**

The aim of the Boards is to harness the energies of our communities and partners to address crime, the fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and those quality of life issues that contribute to making people feel vulnerable. There are 4 Street Safe Boards, which have acted as successful problem solving groups since 2005. Tasking & Co-ordinating meetings are held on a fortnightly basis for partners to share intelligence and discuss local issues.

### **Arson Reduction**

A joint strategy has been developed to tackle deliberate secondary fires. Fire crews now investigate each deliberate secondary fire and the results are entered onto a Post Incident Action Sheet as an information/intelligence source for the Police, Street Wardens, and Environmental Services. Fire crews have direct access to Envirocall via telephone/e-mail and can arrange for flammable materials to be quickly

removed. Deliberate Secondary Fires have reduced by 29% over the last 12 months.

### **Re-deployable CCTV**

The District's first re-deployable CCTV system was established in 2007. 14 cameras operating on a wi fi (wireless) link have been deployed in anti social behaviour hot spots across the district. The cameras, which record 24/7 can be monitored and controlled from Peterlee Police Station by Council Street Wardens and Police personnel. The purpose of the system is to provide an overt deterrent to anti social behaviour with a continuous recording facility while also providing a monitoring capacity in support of operations and surveillance. With a wireless link the cameras can be easily re-located as operational needs dictate providing a flexible and reactive CCTV resource.

### **Parenting Programme**

The project began in April 2007, when a Senior Parenting Officer and a part time Practitioner were recruited to deliver the Respect Agenda, which advocates that 'Effective parenting can protect against the risks of growing up in a deprived neighbourhood and reduce the likelihood of anti social behaviour and crime.

To date 30 referrals have been received and the Team are working with 24 families and children across the District, This project has now received a 3 year funding extension to take the project through to 2010/11.

### **Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) and MARAC**

Three additional projects to tackle domestic violence have been established; The Specialist Police Domestic Violence Unit, the IDVA role and MARAC's. The IDVA is based within the Specialist Police Domestic Unit in Peterlee. Since commencement on 1 August 07 the IDVA has engaged with 15 women who have reported domestic violence to the police. The role of the IDVA is to support victims and their families and encourage more victims to report domestic violence. This intensive support and advocacy helps to ensure that the victim does not withdraw from the criminal justice process and consequently, more perpetrators are brought to justice.

The MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) supports risk assessment and management processes to prevent further serious harm to the victim and her family and prevent domestic abuse homicide. 20 staff from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies have received specialist training to complete a MARAC risk assessment. A MARAC coordinator then conducts further investigation to make an informed risk assessment and then convenes a multi agency conference to manage these risks and develop a plan to address all of the risk factors.

### **Youth Outreach**

In 2006 the LSP identified a lack of youth outreach support in the district as a contributory factor to youth related anti social behaviour. NRF funding supported the establishment of a team of 4 Youth Outreach Workers who are directed through the ASB Group of the CSP. The Youth Workers are being deployed in ASB hot spot areas to mediate, signpost alternative activities and address anti social behaviour. The team have designated priority areas but also support reactive operational needs

working as a key strand of the enforcement, diversion and educational approach to tackling youth related anti social behaviour.

#### **4.3 Priorities for 2008/9**

The Partnership has agreed the following priorities for the next 3 years 2008-11. These will be reviewed annually as part of the Strategic Assessment process.

- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage
- Reducing Drug, Substance and Alcohol Misuse
- Reducing Re-Offending
- Tackling Domestic Abuse

*Note – Targets have not yet been set as we are awaiting guidance from Government Office*

#### **Tackling Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage**

Anti Social Behaviour is consistently raised as a key community concern in public consultation exercises. Youths Causing Annoyance complaints make up around 60% of the complaints received by the police ie around 3,500 incidents annually. Many of these incidents are relatively low level which leads to questions of definition in that what can appear to be anti social to one person can simply be young people hanging out together to another. What is clear however is that there are a lack of facilities and activities for young people and that this can lead to anti social behaviour which in turn significantly reduces the quality of life for some of our most vulnerable residents.

Hot spot areas for ASB change fairly regularly as problems are addressed by CSP interventions, it becomes fashionable to hang out in a particular place or less frequently, the ASB is linked to a particular individual or group.

Criminal Damage is a crime closely linked to Anti Social Behaviour, which makes up around 30% of all recorded crime in the district. There is a wealth of research to evidence the negative effect vandalism and graffiti etc can have on local communities and the importance of minimising this crime as an integral part of the regeneration of our local communities.

The Strategic Assessment identified the following trends:

#### Anti Social Behaviour

- Easington ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> (highest) in the County for ASB during this period.
- Easington has seen a 20% reduction in Total ASB incidents compared with 2006/07
- Noise complaints reduced from 400 to 206.
- Street drinking incidents increased from 85 to 255.
- 10% (144) of the county's School Exclusions were in Easington. This has reduced from 166 during the same time period in 2006/07
- Rowdy/inconsiderate behaviour accounted for 60% of ASB in Easington.
- Total incidents of deliberate secondary fires have reduced by 29% from 471 to 337 compared to the same time period in 2006/07
- Refuse/container fires accounted for 61% of deliberate secondary fires

### Criminal Damage

- Easington ranked 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the County
- Criminal Damage accounted for 29.8% of crimes in Easington during this period.
- Easington has improved by 15% on the same period from 2006/07 (1317 to 1119)
- Criminal Damage to dwellings and vehicles accounted for 73% of Criminal Damage offences during this period

### ***Proposed Interventions 2008/9***

Interventions will focus around the Governments Respect model by increasing enforcement, diversionary and support services. Actions to include:

- 6 Operation Milkshakes combined with Weeks of Action to provide high visibility enforcement action and support services.
- Increased support services through development of Parenting, Mediation and Floating Support initiatives.
- Extend Youth Outreach Programme linked to Neighbourhood Policing/Management model.
- Implement Common Assessment Framework (CAF) linked to Youth issues Forum (YIF) to identify at risk young people and develop appropriate support interventions/enforcement action to instigate behavioural change.
- Deliver 4 area based Criminal Damage Action Plans replicating the successful Eden Hill Model
- Under take Community Fire Safety and citizenship education in all primary schools.

### **Reducing Drug, Substance and Alcohol Misuse**

Tackling substance misuse is a priority for the Partnership both as a health issue and as major contributory factor to acquisitive crime. On a county level there has been a steady increase in both the numbers of people entering treatment services and the retention rate (81% 2006/7). Easington has the highest number of clients in treatment amongst the county districts but also has the lowest retention rate at 65%. Easington also has the lowest take up from the DIP Arrest Referral Service with only 3% of referrals accepting support from the service.

Alcohol misuse is also a concern, both as a health issue in its self and as a driver of anti social behaviour. Street drinking complaints have risen sharply while binge drinking in Easington is higher than the national average. Easington also has the highest rate of positive breath tests for alcohol in County Durham.

The Strategic Assessment also identified the following:

- Easington ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the County for drug offences
- Stimulant use is increasing and services need to be developed and enhanced for this group of users
- Easington accounted for 14% of Alcohol referrals across the county.
- Admissions to hospital (mainly emergencies) for alcohol related problems in Easington are higher than the County Durham average

- The peak age for alcohol related admissions is 25-29 for men and 45-49 for women.
- Female admission rates under the age of 15 are higher than age 20 to 34.
- Death rates in Easington are higher than the England average
- There appears to be no representation from minority ethnic groups accessing treatment services.
- 59% of the 488 recorded victims of Violence Against the Person offences (linked to Alcohol) were under 29 including 26% who were under 18.

### ***Proposed Interventions 2008/9***

The Partnership will concentrate efforts on getting more people into treatment and increasing the retention rate of those accessing support. Enforcement work will continue as a key strand of the strategy but the added activity will be towards treatment services.

- Treatment Services to target Heroin and Crack Cocaine users at specific known user locations.
- Increase the retention rate of people staying in treatment for a minimum of 12 weeks by developing support packages that encourage users to maintain engagement with the programme.
- Increase engagement with prolific offenders in custody by providing training for staff in motivational interviewing techniques
- Develop referral systems from the Criminal Justice system to alcohol treatment services.

### **Reducing Re Offending**

The 2005 Crime and Disorder Strategy identified that 4% of offenders were responsible for almost 25% of all crime highlighting the need to break the cycle of offending in this small target group while pursuing a rigorous enforcement policy against those that continue to offend. A national Priority and Prolific Offenders (PPO) Strategy has now been introduced which involves Catch and Convict, Re-habilitate and Re-settle and Prevent and Deter strands.

In September 2007 Easington had 10 PPO's on the Catch and Convict strand of which 4 were in custody. 2 PPO's were on the Rehabilitate and Resettle strand and 10 young people were on the Deter strand.

The Strategic Assessment also identified the following;

- Easington accounted for 27% of County Probation clients
- Easington ranked 1<sup>st</sup> for the number of clients in the County.
- Of the Easington Probation clients 83% were male (86.2% county rate) and 17.% female (13.8% county rate)
- The highest proportion of Probation clients were aged 20-24 with (34%)
- 12.% of Probation clients are in transient/short term accommodation
- 46% of Probation clients are unemployed
- 23% of Probation clients are unavailable for work
- 50% of Probation clients have reading/writing/numeracy problems

- 33% of Probation client offences in Easington were VAP and public order offences.

### ***Proposed Interventions 2008/9***

There is an explicit problem with PPO's and other Offenders coming out of prison and falling back into the same cycle of offending behaviour. Research has shown that intensive 1:1 support is needed to help offenders break the cycle and re-enter society with housing, employment/training and drug treatment key elements that need to be addressed on an individual basis.

- Further development of the Offender Management Unit at Peterlee which manages the districts PPO's by providing support services, monitoring compliance with probation orders and co-ordinating enforcement actions.
- Establish a pathways project, which includes mentoring support and links to education, training and employment to support PPO's in breaking the cycle of offending and gaining employment.
- Develop links with housing providers to support PPO's in gaining accommodation.
- Extension of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel (YISP) to include 10-17 yr olds identified as being at high risk of becoming future PPO's

### **Domestic Violence**

The district has a high rate for Incidents of Domestic Violence in comparison with the rest of the county. The 1,305 reported incidents in 2006/7 represented a 6% increase on 2004/5. The need to address Domestic Violence as a priority issue for the CSP is supported further by the severity of the assaults and the repeated nature of the violence that is often suffered by the victim together with the impacts on children and other family members. There were 2 domestic violence homicides in 2006/7. 189 women were supported by Domestic Violence Forum Services and 63 women and children were accommodated at the Women's Aid Refuge.

The Strategic Assessment also identified the following:

- Easington has the highest rate of reported assaults in the county
- Easington has a rate of 9.95 per 1000 population<sup>1</sup> as compared to 8.07 across the County
- 26% of the incidents reported in County Durham during this period were in Easington
- 41% of Probation clients have experienced domestic violence (compared with 39% across the County). Of these clients, 49% had been victims of domestic violence and 81% perpetrators of DV.

### ***Proposed Interventions 2008/9***

The East Durham Domestic Violence Forum provides centre based, outreach and children's services for women suffering Domestic Violence. Interventions for 2008/9 will seek to increase the capacity of the Forum

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locally while the service is reviewed across the county as part of LGR. In the next 12 months the CSP will seek to:

- Develop the MARAC and IDVA initiatives, which acted as county pilot programmes increasing support for those women at greatest risk of serious harm.
- Provide training for front line staff from partner agencies in identifying Domestic Violence and signposting people to support services.
- Establish a “Safe House” in the district.
- Pilot a Perpetrator Programme.

## 5. Implications

There are no **financial** implications attached to the report. **Legal** implications and **Policy** implications are attached to the dissolution of the district CDRP's. **Risks** attached to a single CDRP are being addressed through the LGR Community Safety work-stream. The Partnership Plan will be widely publicised using various media to ensure that the detail is **Communicated** to local people. The Assessment and Plan support the **Corporate** objective of Making the District Safe.

## 6. Recommendations

Executive are requested to note the priorities outlined in the Strategic Assessment and the proposed interventions for 2008/9.



