

Safer South Hams Community Safety Strategy

2005 – 2008



*Partnership
approach
towards an
even safer
South Hams*



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Safer South Hams Community Safety Strategy

2005 - 2008

Foreword

This Community Safety Strategy 2005-2008 has been formulated as a result of the findings of the crime audit conducted in 2004 and comes into force on 1 April 2005. It builds on the work that has been undertaken over the last two strategies (1999 – 2005) and reflects the experience gained by partners during that time.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory requirement on the Police, South Hams District Council and Devon County Council (as lead partners) to jointly develop a multi-agency strategy to reduce crime and disorder in the South Hams. Since April 2003, Devon Fire and Rescue Service, Devon and Cornwall Police Authority and the South Hams and West Devon Primary Care Trust have also become statutory partners on the Safer South Hams Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Community Safety Partnership).

This partnership has offered real opportunities for Partners, including other statutory and voluntary agencies, to focus on the key issues affecting the reduction of crime and disorder, as well as tackling the fear or perception of crime in the South Hams.

Even though the actual levels of crime remain low in comparison with most other parts of the South West, we remain committed to the overall aim of reducing the levels of crime and disorder and particularly the fear of crime, which is disproportionately high. The Partnership is also aware of the effects of anti-social behaviour, in its many forms, which has become a significant factor in the quality of life of residents and visitors to the area.

South Hams and West Devon
Primary Care Trust



DEVON & CORNWALL
POLICE AUTHORITY



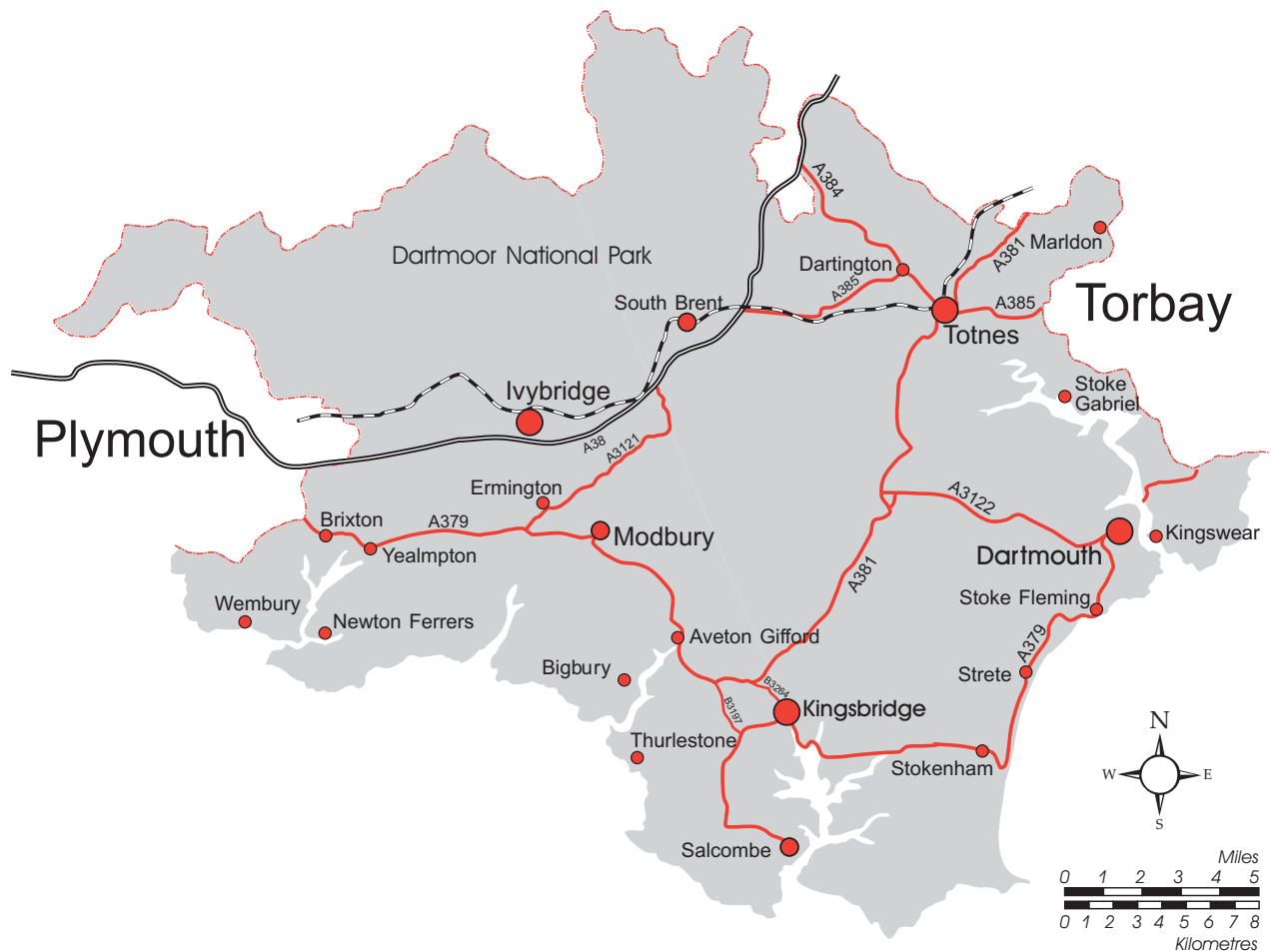
South Hams
District Council



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL



DEVON & CORNWALL
CONSTABULARY



The South Hams Context

The South Hams stretches from the boundaries of Plymouth to the west to the holiday beaches of Torbay in the east, and inland to the hills of Dartmoor and the districts of West Devon and Teignbridge.

The area of some 350 square miles encompasses an abundance of rich natural beauty with 60 miles of magnificent coastline and countless villages, hamlets and isolated cottages. Approximately 82,000 people live in the District, with two-thirds of the population living outside the larger towns of Dartmouth, Ivybridge, Kingsbridge and Totnes. The population is expected to grow to nearly 90,000 by 2010, with particular pressure existing for development in the western part of the District.

Perceptions of the South Hams as an area of social and economic advantage can disguise problems such as lower than average wages, above average house prices, problems in accessing services and a decline in some traditional industries. The sparse nature of the District results in services being more costly to provide and an over-reliance on private transport. Small pockets of deprivation exist within larger areas of affluence.

Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership Structure

The Strategy Group of the Partnership meets quarterly at the District Council Headquarters in Totnes and is currently chaired by the Chief Executive of South Hams District Council. The agencies which comprise the Strategy Group include the following:-

- Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
- Devon and Cornwall Police Authority
- Devon and Cornwall Probation Service
- Devon County Council
- Devon Fire and Rescue Service
- South Devon Youth Offending Team
- South Hams and West Devon Primary Care Trust
- South Hams Council of Voluntary Service
- South Hams District Council

Cross Border Working with Partnerships

Over the past three years the Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has increased its working relationship with the neighbouring Partnerships in Torbay, Teignbridge and West Devon. There are a number of reasons for this which include, gaining the benefits of the experiences and skills of other CSPs, being able to jointly fund crime reduction initiatives, and share administration support, which is crucial in managing these teams. Another obvious benefit is the reduction in the number of meetings attended by our partner agencies that often are responsible for a number of neighbouring districts, such as Primary Care Trusts, Youth Offending Team and South Devon Women's Aid.

Improving Local Delivery in Partnership

In the 'Local Area Agreements' prospectus, published in July 2004 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Government outlined the approach it would take to build a more flexible and responsive relationship between central government and a locality, setting out priority outcomes that need to be achieved at local level.

The proposals set out in the prospectus outlined new arrangements to:-

- develop and deliver a range of locally agreed outcomes
- bring together and simplify funding streams
- devolve decision making; reduce bureaucracy and
- join up public services

Central to the proposals is the formation of 'The Safer and Stronger Communities Fund' (SSCF). This merges several existing ODPM and Home Office funding streams, which share a number of closely related objectives. These are aimed at:-

- tackling crime
- reducing the harm caused by illegal drugs
- addressing anti-social behaviour
- improving the poor condition of streets and other public spaces; in particular for deprived neighbourhoods where these issues are often more prevalent

The intention behind the SSCF is to reduce the bureaucracy relating to multiple funding streams and increase flexibility for partnerships to use funding to deliver agreed local and national outcomes.

National Outcomes

Central Government has set high-level national outcomes for the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. These draw on Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and other targets, particularly the new national PSA target to tackle 'liveability' issues and deliver cleaner, safer and greener local environments and the Home Office PSA targets for crime reduction.

The four national outcomes are as follows:-

1. To reduce crime, to reassure the public by reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and to reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs
2. To have cleaner, safer and greener public spaces
3. To increase the capacity of local communities so that people are empowered to participate in local decision-making and are able to influence service delivery
4. To improve the quality of life for people in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods and ensure service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery

2005/2006 should be viewed as a transitional year, in as much as the SSCF brings together existing funding streams and therefore in many cases, partnerships have existing delivery plans with funding already committed. Because it is being viewed as a transitional year, agreements may, therefore, need to be substantially reviewed for 2006/2007, to take account of future developments.

Safer Devon Partnership and Local Area Agreement

During 2005/06, the Government is piloting the introduction of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in 21 local authority areas. Devon is one of these pilots which encompass all the local authorities in Devon, with the exception of the unitary authorities of Plymouth and Torbay. The pilots have focused on three themes:-

- Children and younger people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people

In Devon the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and Community Safety Partnerships have formed the Safer Devon Partnership which will provide co-ordination between the County and District Partnerships and between the Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategies.

The Safer Devon Partnership will also provide the leadership for the “Safer and Stronger Communities” sections of Devon’s Local Area Agreement which will prioritise reduction of:-

- Alcohol and Drug Related Crime
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Volume crime and prolific offending
- Anti-social behaviour
- Prejudice and Hate Crime

Performance Management

Each Community Safety Partnership is required to contribute towards the Home Office national Public Service Agreement (PSA) target of reducing total crime by 15% (PSA 1). The actual percentage reduction that individual partnerships will be required to contribute to this national target depends on the amount of crime in that particular area. South Hams, being a low crime area, will be required to reduce British Crime Survey (BCS) comparator crime over the period 2005/6 –2007/8 by 12½%, with the 2003/4 crime statistics being used as a baseline.

In order to properly monitor the success of this target, ten types of BCS crimes, have been identified, against which our targets have been set. These ten crimes incorporate offences in the categories of violent crime, domestic burglary, vehicle crime, criminal damage and some types of thefts.

These BCS comparator crimes should not be confused with the total recorded figures which amounted to 4896 in 2003/4.

To meet the PSA 1 target in the South Hams requires a reduction in these BCS crimes of 349 offences, from 2801 to 2452, this reduction was calculated using a Home Office formula illustrated in the following table.

PSA1 Comparator Crime Target Calculator

The Government expects Community Safety Partnerships themselves to put in place robust performance management and monitoring arrangements that are capable of measuring progress towards agreed targets and outcomes.

South Hams	Target Calculator					
	1. Population 81750	Households 35230				
	No of crimes 2003/04	Rate per 1000	% reduction	Offences reduced	New level	New rate
Theft or unauthorised taking of vehicle (incl. attempts)	121	1.5	15.4	19	102	1.3
Theft from a vehicle (including attempts)	616	7.5	14.8	91	525	6.4
Vehicle interference	50	0.6	14.9	7	43	0.5
Domestic burglary (including attempts) ²	189	5.4	10.3	19	170	4.8
Theft or unauthorised taking of a cycle	63	0.8	0	0	63	0.8
Theft from person	32	0.4	0	0	32	0.4
Criminal damage (excl. 59)	1063	13	10.7	114	949	11.6
Common assault (including on a Constable)	244	3	14.9	36	208	2.5
Woundings (serious and other)	421	5.1	14.8	62	359	4.4
Robbery of personal property	2	0	0	0	2	0
Total of selected offences ³	2801	34.3		349	2452	
Overall reduction to be achieved =	12.5%	¹ 2003 mid-year estimates. Household data are for 2002.				
Reduction achieved by proposed targets =	12.5%	² Rate per 1,000 households				
		³ Overall rates include burglary rate per 1,000 population				

In relation to crime targets specifically, the partnership is expected to make regular and extensive use of iQuanta, the web based performance tool managed by the Home Office. This enables a partnership to monitor its performance against the targets agreed as part of the obligations to deliver the Home Office PSA1 targets.

Performance against each of the targets set within this strategy will be monitored quarterly and presented to the Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership Strategy Group, in order for them to effectively target resources in the priority areas.

Comparison with similar Partnerships

During the period between 2001 and 2004, crime performance was compared with those Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Devon and Cornwall which were most similar to South Hams, e.g. North Devon, West Devon, Mid Devon, Caradon, Torridge and North Cornwall.

As from the year 2004/5, performance will be compared with those CSPs in the United Kingdom which are considered the most similar to South Hams.

Community Safety Partnership Total BCS crimes (Not all crime types)	PSA 1 Comparator Crimes Per 1000 Residents
Avon & Somerset - Sedgemoor	48.143
Devon & Cornwall - Kerrier	46.783
Avon & Somerset - South Somerset	44.88
Avon & Somerset - Mendip	44.432
Hampshire - New Forest	43.685
West Mercia - Herefordshire	39.053
Devon & Cornwall - Teignbridge	38.884
Sussex - Chichester	36.675
Devon & Cornwall - Caradon	35.942
Warwickshire - Stratford upon Avon	35.233
Devon & Cornwall - South Hams	34.263
Gloucestershire - Cotswold	31.278
Cumbria - South Lakeland	28.814
Thames Valley - West Oxfordshire	28.497
Wiltshire - North Wiltshire	28.232
Family Average	38.202

Note: This table which only includes BSC Comparator crimes, was produced by iQuanta

Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Scheme (PPS)

This national scheme was introduced in 2004 in acknowledgement that a small number of offenders commit a disproportionately high level of crime or nuisance. Community Safety Partnerships were given the responsibility of implementing this scheme which consists of three strands:-

Prevent and deter; aimed at young people who are at risk of becoming prolific offenders

Catch and convict: aimed at actively tackling prolific and persistent offenders

Rehabilitate and resettle: aimed at rehabilitating prolific offenders and providing a range of supportive interventions in order to reduce their potential for re-offending

The Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership, together with Teignbridge and West Devon Partnerships, has established a PPS Forum in order to manage this scheme.

Crime audit process

Purpose of the audit

The Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership consists of agencies that have the ability to make a difference to the well being of residents and visitors to the area. However, the Partnership is ever mindful that it needs to understand the reality of life in the district, which can only be appreciated by asking the public about their concerns, and not assuming the Partnership knows what they are. This approach has been taken since the Partnership was created in 1998.

Having identified the concerns of the public, through the crime audit conducted in 2004, the Partnership needs to respond appropriately, within the constraints of its resources, to those concerns while keeping people informed and reassured.

Further detail of how the crime audit was conducted and its findings are contained in a separate document entitled 'Crime and Disorder/Misuse of Drugs Audit Summary (Consultation Document)', which is available on www.southhams.gov.uk or through the Community Safety Partnership Office (details on back cover). This type of audit is an ongoing process, having occurred every 3 years since 1998, as well as annual reviews of the workings of the Partnership.

This strategy will set out the concerns of the public which have been identified through the audit process, and suggest ways in which these concerns will be addressed.

Bobbies on the beat

A survey conducted by the police in 2004 highlighted the concern of respondents with regard to the lack of police officers on the beat in towns and villages in the South Hams. The Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership, although not having a responsibility for police staffing and deployments, understands the desire of local people for an increase in visible patrols as a means of reducing crime, particularly anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime.

This strategy confines itself to those priorities, which can be addressed with the resources available to the Partnership. However, the Partnership needs to improve its understanding of policing in the area in order to reassure the public when concerns over policing are raised. The Partnership expects to be kept advised of any significant changes to policing deployments and staffing levels, which may adversely affect the aims and objectives of the three-year strategy, intended to reduce crime and disorder and improve the quality of life for local people. The Partnership will do what it can to influence the maintenance of appropriate policing levels and resist erosion of the overall police establishment in the South Hams.

It is important to note that in addition to those regular police officers based in Ivybridge, Totnes, Dartmouth, Kingsbridge, Salcombe and South Brent, there are a number of specialist officers with area wide responsibility including traffic officers and dog handlers. In addition to these resources are members of the 'extended police family', which includes special constables throughout the district and a Police Community Support Officer, currently based at Totnes.

Crime in the South Hams

A change in crime recording

Prior to examining the following crime statistics it should be noted that a new crime recording system was introduced with effect from 1st April 2002, which meant that any allegation that a crime had been committed must be recorded as a crime, irrespective of whether the victim wished to make a formal complaint. Public order incidents now reported often result in multiple assault crimes being recorded.

This crime recording system has led to marked increases in the reporting and recording of violent crime in the year 2002-3. Increases over the three-year period (2001/2 – 2003/4) therefore, are more likely to reflect increases in recording rather than actual crime. The final column in the following table shows increases from 2002/3 to 2003/4 which is a more realistic representation of crime increase, although it is possible that the new recording system is still having some effect.

Key Crimes in the South Hams

Main Crime Trends South Hams	Recorded Crime 2001/02	Recorded Crime 2002/03	Recorded Crime 2003/04	Percentage change from 2002 - 2004
Criminal damage	606	885	981	+11%
Domestic burglary	195	217	178	-18%
Drug offences	110	148	136	-8%
Other burglary	276	361	317	-12%
Theft from a vehicle	427	516	599	+16%
Theft of vehicle & TWOC	131	158	167	+6%
Violent Crime	355	686	804	+17%
Other Crime	1302	1685	1714	+2%
Total Crime	3402	4656	4896	+5%

(These crime figures relate to the 60 parishes in the South Hams including Holne, West Buckfastleigh and Dean Prior in the Totnes Sector and Roborough/Bickleigh, North Tamerton and parts of Woolwell in the Ivybridge Sector policed by neighbouring districts).

Crime Audit Findings

South Hams remains one of the safest places to live in the UK, with 59.9 recorded crimes per 1000 population (total recorded crime 4896) for 2003/4 compared with the UK average of 113.1 per 1000 population (total recorded crime 5.9 million) and Devon and Cornwall average of 82.1 per 1000 population (total recorded crime 131,453).

Although the statistical picture is encouraging the impact of crime on victims and on communities can be great, therefore ensuring community safety will always be a high priority for the Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership.

Main concerns raised

These are the results a postal survey of a random sample of electors conducted by the police, sent to 4000 residents of the South Hams during the 2004 Crime Audit, showing the percentage of people who were concerned about the following issues.

Issues Raised	% of community concerned
Speeding traffic	47%
Cars parked dangerously	38%
Teenagers hanging around	36%
Perception of crime having increased in the last 2 years	34%
Bikes/skateboards/rollerblades on footways	32%
Drunk or rowdy behaviour	32%
Uncontrolled dogs or dog mess	31%
Feeling unsafe out alone after dark	31%
Rubbish/litter lying around	31%
Vandalism and graffiti	27%
Drug use/dealing	25%
Fireworks	23%
Fear of things being stolen from van/car in next year	22%
Fear of house being burgled in the next year	15%
Fly tipping	14%

Who will address the concerns raised?

The concerns to be addressed have been identified in a variety of ways:-

- Raised by the public during the 2004 Crime Audit
- Highlighted by statutory or voluntary agencies as priorities
- Identified as Stated Government Priorities
- Continuing concerns being currently addressed by Priority Action Teams

These concerns will be addressed by Priority Action Teams (PATs), which work directly to the Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership. The PATs also comprise representatives of appropriate statutory and voluntary agencies, together with members of the public, with the skills and resources to reduce crime, the fear of crime and detect more offences.

High Priority Areas

The Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership recognises traffic issues, alcohol and drug misuse, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, and prejudice related crime as high priorities and will be targeted for specific action over the next three years, recognising that speeding traffic is already being addressed by an established team.

The Partnership has also identified key agencies who can respond to any significant change in crime trends, if or when they emerge, by forming an Intelligence Led Problem Solving Team which will be able to respond to an increase in levels of violent crime, vehicle crime or house burglary, which are subject to PSA1 targets. This team will also address those issues identified by the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPS) Forum that directly affect the South Hams.

Traffic Issues

Speeding Traffic

Speeding traffic was the top concern of the South Hams residents surveyed and will continue to be addressed by the South Hams Traffic Management Group, led by Devon County Council (as the Highway and Traffic Authority), in partnership with the Police. This group will investigate complaints regarding traffic speed and perceived danger. Information gathered from members of the community and by other means will be used to address the 'Road Safety' priority described below, supported by the Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership.

The 'Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-11; Moving Forward' declares 'Road Safety' as one of its 6 'key issues for the next five years' and pledges:

'Devon County Council is committed to reducing the number of casualties on our roads. It works in partnership with other organisations including the Police, health authorities and other local authorities, to improve road safety. Road safety in rural areas, for motorcyclists and managing speed will be amongst the key issues for the next five years.'

Inappropriately Parked Vehicles

Concerns regarding inappropriately parked vehicles will be investigated by the appropriate partner organisation. Any solution of the perceived problem may need to be addressed by the community in conjunction with the relevant authority and enforcement agency.

What will be done?

- a) The previous good work consisting of a combination of education, engineering and enforcement (as appropriate) will continue through the established South Hams Traffic Management Group, which includes representatives from Devon County Council (Highways Authority), the Highways Agency, the Safety Camera Partnership and the Police (Road Safety Officer)
- b) Use will be made throughout the district of the 'interactive road signs' which encourage motorists to slow down in built-up areas with either the flashing 'slow down' words or actual speed shown
- c) Continued use by Neighbourhood Beat Managers of hand held speed guns available for use in all towns and villages
- d) Continued use of the Safety Camera Partnership vehicle which is positioned in towns and villages throughout the district to enforce the speed limits and reduce speeding and collisions

Safer South Hams Community Safety Partnership Priorities

Performance management of priority areas

Alcohol and Drug Misuse

1.1 Rationale

- a) Drugs misuse has serious consequences for individuals, families and communities and is linked with many problems including ill health, family breakdown and crime and can be seen as both a symptom and a cause of social exclusion
- b) The Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has identified predisposing factors relating to drugs misuse which include – cycle of deprivation, school exclusion, growing up in care, living in deprived areas and lack of employment opportunities. It has further noted that education, housing, community activities and support services all have a positive role in providing protective factors to reduce substance misuse
- c) It is accepted that drug misuse is of serious concern to all agencies. However, the South Hams and West Devon Drug and Alcohol District Implementation Group (DIG) recognise the new National Alcohol Harm and Reduction Strategy (March 2004), and feels that alcohol is a more prevalent and significant problem than drugs misuse in the South Hams. This is particularly with regard to the link with violent crime and anti-social behaviour and terms of community perceptions of crime and disorder
- d) Estimates show that between 60 – 80% of acquisitive crime is linked with drug misuse

1.2 Responsible Officer

- Chair of the South Hams and West Devon Drug and Alcohol District Implementation Group (DIG)

1.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- South Hams and West Devon Drug and Alcohol District Implementation Group (DIG), includes representatives from Safer South Hams and Safer West Devon Community Safety Partnerships, Education, Voluntary Agencies, Youth Services, Devon Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), NHS and non-NHS treatment services, Social Services and South Devon Youth Offending Team

1.4 Aim

- To support the Devon Drugs Strategy 2005 – 2008 and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team – Alcohol Strategy, (currently being developed)
- To reduce crime and the harm caused to individuals and communities by alcohol and drug misuse

1.5 Objectives

- a) To reduce the number of reported violent crimes from 421 by 14.8% to 359 by 31 March 2008 (PSA1 baseline figure – 2003/2004)
- b) Engage with 60% of 12 General Practices in providing alcohol screening and brief intervention training by 30 September 2005
- c) Together with the Youth Service and the Wheelz Project, develop four ten week targeted youth projects by 31 March 2006

1.6 Performance measure

- a) The rise /fall in the number of reported violent crimes
- b) Number of GP practices engaged
- c) Number of targeted youth projects
- d) To increase Police referrals to Addaction counselling services by 50% to 6 by 30 September 2005

1.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) Contribute to the review of alcohol services being undertaken by DAAT, and support the development of an alcohol treatment service model for Devon
- b) Further development of alcohol screening and brief intervention training to General Practices and subsequent evaluation
- c) Further development of the alcohol arrest referral scheme offering counselling services by Addaction, (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Agency), for offenders
- d) Contribute to the development of a range of diversionary and preventative services for vulnerable young people e.g Wheelz Project, youth nights, club activities, diversionary events etc.)
- e) Provide a range of information resources and signposting options within the community to educate and inform members of the public on substance misuse issues e.g. Wheelz Project, junior life skills events
- f) Address the problem of binge drinking and chronic drinking amongst all age groups, through awareness raising publicity, police enforcement of legislation/bye-laws, partnership working with Youth Service, SHDC licensing policies, Wheel Project etc
- g) Ensure links are developed between the Community Safety Partnership and the District Council Licensing Officer through representation on the Strategy Group, to ensure identified issues are addressed

Anti-social behaviour

2.1 Rationale

- a) Tackling anti-social behaviour is not only a priority for the Home Office but across the whole of government. On 14 October 2003 the Home Office launched the TOGETHER campaign and published an action plan 'Together: Tackling Anti-social Behaviour'
- b) The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 expects the police and local authorities, along with other agencies, to work together with local people to tackle anti-social behaviour
- c) Although the South Hams is a very low crime area, there are 'quality of life' issues, which cause nuisance, annoyance and environmental damage to this 'area of natural outstanding beauty'. These issues are regularly complained about by those who live, visit or work in the district and may take the form of:-
 - Graffiti
 - Abusive and intimidating language
 - Excessive noise, particularly at night
 - Drunken behaviour
 - Dog fouling and nuisance
 - Litter
 - Criminal damage particularly to cars and property
 - Abandoned vehicles
 - Fly tipping
 - Related deliberately set fires
- d) Although the public perceive the above examples of anti-social behaviour more as a nuisance or form of harassment, the majority are clearly defined as criminal offences

2.2 Responsible officer

- Chair of Anti-social Behaviour Priority Action Team

2.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- **Anti-social Behaviour Priority Action Team**, a group of representatives from South Hams Community Safety Partnership, as well as Environment Agency, Registered Social Landlords and South Devon Youth Offending Team

2.4 Aim

- To improve the quality of life for people in the South Hams by reducing levels of anti-social behaviour

2.5 Objectives

- a) Produce a Police profile of ASB in the South Hams in order to establish a baseline by 30 September 2005
- b) Once baseline established, ensure no increase in the number of ASB incidents reported to the Police (using current Police national incident recording standards) by 31 March 2008
- c) To reduce the numbers of reported criminal damage offences from 1063 by 10.7% to 949 by 31 March 2008
- d) To reduce the number of deliberately set primary fires (DFRS) from 34 (2001/2) by 10% to 30 by 31 March 2010
- e) To reduce the number of deliberately set secondary fires (abandoned vehicle, refuse, waste) from 40 (2001/2) by 10% to 36 by 31 March 2010 – linked to ASB issues

2.6 Performance measure

- a) Number of incidents of anti-social behaviour reported to the Police
- b) Number of criminal damage offences reported to the Police
- c) Number of deliberately set primary fires (DFRS records)
- d) Number of deliberately set secondary fires (DFRS records)

2.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) Further develop the ASB escalation protocol in order that all partners are aware of, and engage appropriately in multi-agency work to identify and target responses to those behaving in an anti-social manner
- b) Further develop links between DCC, SHDC, Police Registered Social Landlords and DFRS to address deliberate fire setting problems, particularly with regard to abandoned vehicles and badly managed waste (rapid removal of abandoned vehicles and refuse schemes and Community Action Days)
- c) Further develop links between SHDC and appropriate partners e.g., the police, Registered Social Landlords and private land owners to deal with incidents of excessive noise, graffiti, litter, dog fouling and fly tipped waste to maintain the quality of the street scene and wider public realm
- d) Develop data sharing mechanisms between partner agencies in order to establish an accurate multi-agency profile of incidents of ASB
- e) Recognise that a large amount of ASB is alcohol related and ensure links are established between the ASB Priority Action Team and the DIG to address these issues
- f) Continue to target problem individuals or areas through the appropriate mechanisms and interventions, e.g. ASB protocol, PPS, community mediator, ASB co-ordinator and/or appropriate diversionary activities

Domestic Violence and Abuse

3.1 Rationale

- a) Domestic violence and abuse is a crime, the impact of which cuts across all social, geographic and cultural groups, male as well as females, and same sex relationships
- b) 14,452 incidents of domestic violence were reported to the Police in Devon during 2003/4
- c) In 2003/4, 30% and 2004/5, 27% of violent crime recorded by the Police in the South Hams was domestic violence related
- d) South Devon Women's Aid Helpline took 1150 phone calls in 2003-04
- e) 2 women a week in the UK are murdered by current/former partner
- f) Every minute of every day throughout the UK Police receive a domestic violence related call
- g) 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence at some stage during their lives
- h) In any one day 7000 women and children are living in refuges in the UK
- i) In a survey published in March 2005, 1 in 5 teenage girls have been subject of violence by their boyfriends

3.2 Responsible Officer

- Chair of the South Hams and Teignbridge Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum

3.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- South Hams and Teignbridge Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum, includes representatives of South Hams and Teignbridge Community Safety Partnerships, Devon Education Welfare Service, Kingsbridge and Dartmouth Youth Enquiry Service, local solicitor, Probation Service, Primary Care Trust, South Devon Women's Aid, South Devon Mediation, Tor Homes, Victim Support, Samaritans, Social Services, Surestart, Police Domestic Violence Officers

3.4 Aim

- To support the Devon – Against Domestic Violence and Abuse (ADVA) Strategy 2005 – 2008 which includes:-
 1. Community support / intervention services for survivors, perpetrators and children
 2. Criminal Justice interventions
 3. Training and Awareness Raising
- To reduce domestic violence and abuse and increase the safety of victims/survivors

3.5 Objectives

- a) To establish a baseline for incidents of domestic violence and abuse reported to the Police by Nov 30 2005
- b) To increase the number of contacts made to South Devon Women's Aid by victims/survivors by 50% from 65 (2004/5) to 98 by 31 March 2008
- c) Increase levels of reporting of incidents to the Police to county average of 11.4 per 1,000 population by 31 March 2008
- d) To increase the reporting of domestic violence and abuse incidents to the Police by 15 % by 31 March 2008 (once the baseline figure has been established)
- e) To develop and finalise a South Hams District Council employer policy for domestic violence and abuse by 31 March 2007

3.6 Performance measure

- a) Number of incidents of domestic violence reported to the Police
- b) Number of referrals to South Devon Women's Aid
- c) Published SHDC Domestic Violence Policy

3.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) To raise awareness of DVA through publicity campaigns/events, such as posters, car park tickets, media, bus tickets etc.in order to:-
 - encourage all groups who suffer violence in the home to report such incidents
 - increase awareness of the seriousness of domestic violence and abuse, its effects and consequences, throughout the wider community
 - promote a sense of trust between survivors/victims (including children) of domestic violence and abuse and agencies
- b) To provide ongoing level 1 and 2 training for those who, within organisations, may be in a position to identify or deal with, domestic violence
- c) To work in partnership with South Devon Women's Aid to provide an enhanced level of information to support victims and survivors (including children) of domestic violence and abuse
- d) To encourage relevant representation from agencies and community members (particularly survivors of domestic violence and abuse) onto the Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum
- e) To encourage statutory community safety partners to develop DVA policies on behalf of their employees

Prejudice Related Crime

Within the South Hams and neighbouring districts are residents and visitors who become victims of crime by virtue of being from a minority ethnic background, being gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or trans or suffering from some form of learning disability.

The Association of Chief Police Officers' definition of hate crime has been rewritten to include; 'A crime where perpetrators prejudice against an identified group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised'.

Action against Race, Religion and Faith Prejudice

4.1 Rationale

- a) All of the 320 black and minority ethnic (BME) respondents of the Cultural Audit 2003, which took place in South Hams and Teignbridge, had experienced some form of anti-locution (badmouthing)
- b) Surveys have shown that racial harassment and other racial crimes are both seriously under-reported and under-recorded
- c) Research indicates a high level of racist incidents in rural areas in comparison to the size of the local ethnic minority population

4.2 Responsible officer

- Chairs of the South Hams Against Racism Priority Action Team (SHARPAT) and Teignbridge Against Racist Incidents (TRIPAT) Priority Action Teams

4.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- **South Hams Against Racism Priority Action Team (SHARPAT) and Teignbridge Racist Incidents (TRIPAT) Priority Action Teams** - a group of representatives from South Hams and Teignbridge Community Safety Partnerships, as well as representatives from the Devon Race Equality Council, members of black and ethnic minority groups, community members and Travellers Education Service

4.4 Aim

- To combat race, religion and faith prejudice in the South Hams

4.5 Objectives

- a) To increase the number of reports of race, religion and/or faith aggravated incidents/crimes to the Police in South Hams from a 2004/05 baseline of 16 by 50% to 24 by 31 March 2008
- b) To establish a baseline for the number of returned self-reporting forms by 31 March 2006
- c) When baseline established, to increase the number of self-reporting forms returned by 50% by 31 March 2008

4.6 Performance measure

- a) Number of race crimes/incidents reported to the Police
- b) Number of self-reporting forms returned

4.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) To raise awareness of race, religion and/or faith motivated hate crime through publicity campaigns/events in order to:-
 - increase confidence of our Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community, leading to an increase in the reporting of racially motivated hate crimes
 - raise awareness of support available and make referrals where appropriate
 - encourage BME members of the community to be engaged with SHARPAT
 - promote good race relations
- b) To further action the findings of the Cultural Audit and consider a repeat survey
- c) To review all race, religion and/or faith motivated hate crimes and incidents reported with a view to providing a multi-agency prospective on addressing preventative measures
- d) Find ways of obtaining reliable figures to show the extent of race crimes through True Vision, on-line and third party reporting and feedback from voluntary/support organisations
- e) Ensure relevant organisations, not currently engaged, are represented on SHARPAT, in particular, representation from religious, faith and belief groups within the South Hams
- f) SHARPAT members to provide appropriate level of information and support to assist victims of racial crimes
- g) Develop closer links with neighbouring districts through similar Priority Action Teams
- h) Consider ways of developing a network of support for those who may suffer from race, religion and/or faith motivated hate crime

Action against Homophobia and Transphobia

5.1 Rationale

- a) National and local research shows that homophobic and transphobic incidents are either not reported to the Police or vital information is withheld, primarily due to mistrust
- b) People who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans (LGBT) in a rural area can feel extremely isolated and have few support mechanisms; this is particularly exacerbated in this rural area

- c) Potentially up to 10% of residents in the South Hams (8000) may at sometime be a victim of this type of crime due to their sexuality (Source: Kinsey Research)
- d) 72% of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) adults reported a regular history of absenteeism at school due to homophobic harassment. 50% who had been bullied at school had contemplated self-harm or suicide - 40% had made at least one attempt to self harm. (Source: Social exclusion, absenteeism and sexual minority youth - Rivers, 1,2000)
- e) 82% of secondary school teachers said they were aware of verbal homophobic bullying and 26% were aware of physical homophobic bullying (Survey "Bullying - don't suffer in silence", DfES, 2002)

5.2 Responsible Officer

- Chair of Spectrum

5.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- **Spectrum** - a group of representatives from South Hams, Teignbridge, Torbay and West Devon Community Safety Partnerships as well as representatives from the Intercom Trust, Eddystone Trust, Victim Support, LGBT health project and volunteers from the LGBT community

5.4 Aim

- To reduce homophobic and transphobic prejudice related crime

5.5 Objectives

- a) To increase the number of reports of homophobic and transphobic crimes to the Police in South Hams from a 2004/05 baseline of 6 by 50% to 31 by 31 March 2008
- b) To establish a baseline for the number of returned self-reporting forms by 31 March 2006
- c) When baseline established, to increase the number of self-reporting forms returned by 50% by 31 March 2008

5.6 Performance measure

- a) Number of homophobic/transphobic hate crimes reported to the Police
- b) Number of self-reporting forms completed

5.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) To raise awareness of the work of Spectrum throughout the South Hams aiming to provide an appropriate level of information and support to assist victims of homophobic/transphobic crimes
- b) Sustain and improve engagement with LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual or Trans) members within the community, with the focus on encouraging their participation with Spectrum

- c) Continue to encourage reporting of such crimes and ensure such reports are dealt with in a positive and sensitive manner in order to generate greater trust and confidence
- d) Raise awareness of the support groups available and how to make referrals, where appropriate
- e) Promote a sense of trust between authorities and those who are LGBT leading to an increased level of reporting
- f) Increase awareness of the issues within the wider community to dispel myths and stigma and discrimination which currently exists
- g) Find ways of obtaining reliable figures to show the extent of this crime, e.g. True Vision, On-line and Third Party reporting, seeking to establish a baseline
- h) Working through Spectrum educate the public about acceptable behaviour through active marketing with a particular focus on young people

Action against Disabilities Prejudice

6.1 Rationale

- a) There are about 500 adults registered with learning disabilities in South Hams and West Devon. A national survey entitled 'Are you being bullied?' was carried out in 1999 by Mencap with people with Learning Disabilities, which found that nine out of ten respondents experienced bullying in the previous year. Two-thirds were bullied on a regular basis and almost one third were suffering from bullying on a daily or weekly basis
- b) Mencap concluded from the survey, in their 'Living in Fear' report that people with a learning disability can face prejudice and widespread discrimination that often makes them feel like outcasts and prevents them from taking a full part in society. The Mencap survey suggested that the bullying of people with a learning disability is institutionalised throughout society
- c) Mencap research shows that the incidents of bullying towards those with learning disabilities are either not reported to the Police due to barriers of communication or a lack of understanding of the needs of the reporting person
- d) People who have learning disabilities in a rural area can feel extremely isolated and have few support mechanisms
- e) It is necessary to take positive steps to overcome the issues that people with learning disabilities have with the Police and authorities, and address possible lack of training

6.2 Responsible Officer

- Chair of South Hams and West Devon Learning Disabilities Priority Action Team

6.3 Team responsible for addressing this priority

- **South Hams and West Devon Learning Disabilities Priority Action Team** - a group of representatives from South Hams and West Devon Community Safety Partnerships as well as community members and representatives from Social Services and the voluntary sector

6.4 Aim

- To reduce prejudice related crime that affects those with learning disabilities within the South Hams

6.5 Objectives

- a) To establish a baseline of learning disability prejudice related crimes by March 31 2006
- b) When baseline established, to increase the recording of learning disability prejudice crime between 1 April 2006 and 31 March 2008
- c) Redesign of PIP Pack ready for publication by 30 September 2005

6.6 Performance measure

- a) Number of crimes reported to the Police
- b) Completion of redesigned PIP pack

6.7 Areas for action and further development

- a) To raise awareness of learning disability prejudice related crimes through publicity campaigns/events/workshops in order to:-
 - raise awareness of the support groups available to those with learning disabilities who suffer from prejudice related crime and how to make referrals where appropriate
 - increase awareness of the discrimination issues within the wider community
- b) Support the further development of the People in Partnership (PIP) Packs through representation on the Steering Group. (The PIP packs are designed to encourage the reporting of crimes towards those with learning disabilities and provide a means of training appropriate agencies to respond to these crimes)
- c) Develop ways of rolling out PIP Pack training to practitioners and registered users in South Hams
- d) Find ways of obtaining reliable figures to show the extent of this crime, seeking to establish a baseline
- e) Commission further 'Get Changed' theatre company awareness raising events to secondary schools/public sector organisations
- f) Action findings of the recent South Hams and West Devon survey entitled 'Are you being bullied'
- g) Ensure relevant organisations and those with learning disabilities are represented on the Priority Action Team

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