

EXETER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

A. OVERALL

When the new Community Safety Strategy was devised in 2005, a Government target was set for Exeter Community Safety Partnership to reduce crime (based on the 2003/04 figures for a set of 10 crimes) by 17.5%. This target was to contribute to a regional South West target of 16.9% and a national target of 15%.

The set of 10 crimes was known as the British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crimes, and comprised domestic burglary, theft from the person, robbery, theft of vehicle, theft from vehicle, vehicle interference, theft of pedal cycle, common assault, wounding and criminal damage.

The table below shows the figures for these 10 BCS crimes for the year to March 2008 and the comparison against the 2003/04 baseline figure. The target for reduction in these crimes of 17.5% by March 2008 was exceeded by some margin. The reduction in these crimes was over 21%, and for all crime the reduction was 25%.

April 2007 to March 2008		EXETER			
		Target	Recorded 2007/08	Recorded 2003/04	%age Change
Crime	Domestic burglary	Reduce by 12%	522	565	-7.6%
	Theft from the person	Reduce by 10%	242	221	9.5%
	Robbery	Reduce by 10%	62	74	-16.2%
	Theft of vehicle	Reduce by 10%	270	364	-25.8%
	Theft from vehicle	Reduce by 20%	893	1598	-44.1%
	Vehicle interference	Reduce by 20%	115	119	-3.4%
	Theft of pedal cycle	Reduce by 20%	371	408	-9.1%
	Common assault	Reduce by 17%	448	661	-32.2%
	Wounding	Reduce by 17%	1057	1383	-23.6%
	Criminal damage	Reduce by 19%	2238	2525	-11.4%
	Total - these crimes		6218	7918	-21.5%
	Total - all recorded crime		10724	14332	-25.2%

The crime figures for the year April 2007 to March 2008 show a reduction of 13.9% on the previous year's figures. In terms of the BCS Comparator Crimes, there was a decrease of 12.6% on last year.

April 2006 to March 2007		EXETER	
		Recorded 2007/08	Recorded 2006/07
Crime	Domestic burglary	522	570
	Theft from the person	242	226
	Robbery	62	63
	Theft of vehicle	270	277
	Theft from vehicle	893	1233
	Vehicle interference	115	135
	Theft of pedal cycle	371	418
	Common assault	448	496
	Wounding	1057	1104
	Criminal damage	2238	2593
	Total - these crimes	6218	7115
	Total - all recorded crime	10724	12449

These are outstanding figures, and the achievement of the 17.5% reduction is particularly remarkable, given the low number of crimes to begin with. Clearly, there have been fluctuations during the 3 years – the burglary figures, for example, having been reduced below 500 in 2004/05 – but the overall reduction by March 2008 is an impressive achievement.

In particular, there have been substantial reductions in motor vehicle crime and violent crime, with a numerically smaller but equally significant reduction in criminal damage.

Vehicle crime has been reduced through the combined efforts of partner agencies, through focus on offenders and target hardening of hot spot areas. The City Council has improved security at car parks, and the CCTV system is constantly being monitored.

Violent crime has reduced because of the combined campaigns to tackle mainly city centre issues around late-night alcohol-related disorder. Joint efforts by police, licensing and Trading Standards to deal with the enforcement interventions have been assisted by the provision of health

focused support services. This is set to continue this year with the further investment by the PCT in alcohol services.

Criminal damage was a focus of attention throughout Devon because of the significant volume of these crimes and the consequent threat to the achievement of the overall target. Analysis of the crime data showed hot spot times for criminal damage to be around late-night economy times, but also around end-of-school times. Initiatives were then put in place, linking Police Community Support Officers with schools, community patrol, Youth Service, etc to target particular known trouble spots and times.

As stated last year, the year saw a continuing effort to work through the changes in the structure and funding of community safety work across Devon, largely brought about by the ongoing development of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). There is now an established Safer Devon Partnership (SDP), but further discussions are still ongoing about the delivery of community safety work across Devon. This has taken a considerable amount of time, partly because of the uncertainty over recommendations from the government's review of the Crime and Disorder Act, but also because of the new performance measurement regimes being introduced from April 2008.

B. NEW DIRECTIONS

The new performance measurement regimes affect both police and local authorities.

The police performance (in terms of partnership working around community safety) is covered by APACS – Assessment of Policing and Community Safety.

Local Authorities' performance is covered by the new National Indicator (NI) set – a suite of indicators to replace the old BVPI regime. Within this suite, there are 34 indicators (one – NI31 - was removed from the original list after consultation) dealing with community safety.

Several of the APACS indicators overlap with the NI suite

Police and Local Authorities and Community Safety Partnerships will be measured against these NIs. Some NIs have been chosen as the priority ones for each partnership, but all 34 community safety indicators will have to be monitored. The list is below.

- NI 15 Serious violent crime
- NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime
- NI 17 Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- NI 18 Adult re-offending rates for those under probation supervision
- NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
- NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate

- NI 21 Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police
- NI 22 Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area
- NI 23 Perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and consideration
- NI 24 Satisfaction with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour
- NI 25 Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour
- NI 26 Specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence
- NI 27 Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council and police
- NI 28 Serious knife crime rate
- NI 29 Gun crime rate
- NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders

- NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence
- NI 33 Arson incidents
- NI 34 Domestic violence – murder
- NI 35 Building resilience to violent extremism
- NI 36 Protection against terrorist attack
- NI 37 Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area
- NI 38 Drug-related (Class A) offending rate
- NI 39 Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol-Related Harm
- NI 40 Number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment
- NI 41 Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem
- NI 42 Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem
- NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody
- NI 44 Ethnic composition of offenders on Youth Justice System disposals
- NI 45 Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, training and employment
- NI 46 Young offenders' access to suitable accommodation
- NI 47 People killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- NI 48 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents
- NI 49 Number of primary fires and related fatalities and nonfatal casualties

Many of these NIs relate to public perception of problems and how they are handled by agencies. The measurement of these NIs will be through the new Place Survey, arrangements for which are in hand through Local Authorities for implementation in September/October 2008. This will be repeated every 2 years.

The NIs chosen for Exeter, as part of the process for agreeing the Devon Local Area Agreement set of indicators, are as follows :

NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime
NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders
NI 20 Assault with injury crime rate
NI 25 Satisfaction of different groups with the way the police and local council dealt with anti-social behaviour
NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders
NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence
NI 33 Arson incidents
NI 39 Rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol-Related Harm

Additionally we have included some community safety indicators from the other blocks of NIs.

NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying
NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System
NI 115 Substance misuse by young people

The overall emphasis on public perception (11 out of the 34 community safety NIs) will probably dictate an increased importance on community engagement and communications. This fits with existing work which has been developed this year.

C. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Police have been developing the PACT process – Partners and Communities Together – to engage with communities and establish the main local concerns which the police, and other agencies, need to tackle.

The City Council has established a pilot project My Neighbourhood in 4 areas of the city, with the same basic objectives as the PACT process.

Other partner agencies (PCT, Probation, Prison) are developing their own outreach and community development capacity, working in conjunction with other existing projects wherever possible.

These existing developments put us in a good place to be able to find out and tackle community concerns, which will link with the NI expectations.

D. OTHER PROJECT WORK

The change in performance measurement framework does not alter the Partnership's underlying ethos of : Early identification ; Early intervention ; Diversion ; Treatment ; Enforcement; Rehabilitation.

Funding has again been limited during the year, so the additional projects were fewer in number than previously and focused on work around early intervention and diversion activity.

Targeted work by the Youth Service over several years has seen reductions in anti-social behaviour in certain areas at certain times of year. For example, diversionary activity during the Halloween/Bonfire Night period has been effective in reducing such ASB, and the partnership has funded additional service provision at this time, and during the summer holiday period.

The Respect Festival and the Kick-It-Out anti-racism campaign were supported, along with Domestic Violence Awareness-raising Week. Campaigns with messages targeted at young people around alcohol misuse, and various small pieces of work were funded across all of the themes, usually making small amounts available quickly to support community initiatives.

E. FAMILY INTERVENTION PROJECT / YOUTH TASK FORCE

The Family Intervention Project has been established in the city and is receiving regular referrals from a variety of agencies. There have been challenges in finding sufficient numbers of staff, and so the project has not reached full capacity during the year. However, it has already been clear that the intensive work with individual families can bring about significant change in behaviour.

The project has sufficient funding available to operate during the year 2008/09, but for the following year, government funding will reduce to cover approximately half of the required amount for the annual expenditure.

The government's Respect team has moved over from the Home Office to the Department of Children, Schools and Families, and this has brought a slight change in emphasis, but also further funding opportunities for new projects.

The new Youth Task Force has made £100,000 available to Exeter (with reducing amounts for the next 2 years) to establish a Challenge and Support project. This is similar to the Family Intervention Project, but for young people. The intensive working model, with diversion and support, but with challenge to behaviour, is now applied to those young people identified through the Anti-social Behaviour Escalation Process as being at the stage of needing to have an Acceptable Behaviour Contract. The ABC will set out acceptable behaviour, but also offer support services to the young person.