

## EXETER COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

## ANNUAL REPORT 2009

**A. OVERALL**

Crime figures were down again during 2008/9. The overall figures are shown below.

April 2008 to March 2009	Recorded 08/09	Recorded 07/08	%age Change
Homicide	0	2	-100
Other violence	1930	2176	-11.3
Sexual offences	148	125	18.4
Robbery	65	76	-14.5
House burglary	572	518	10.4
Other burglary	559	593	-5.7
Theft of vehicle	180	267	-32.6
Theft from vehicle	721	892	-19.2
Other vehicle crime	50	115	-56.5
Theft of cycle	451	371	21.6
Theft from shops	874	898	-2.7
Other theft	1522	1662	-8.4
Handling Stolen Goods	28	14	100
Forgery & other fraud	241	234	3.0
Criminal damage	2318	2247	3.2
Drug offences	372	353	5.4
Other offences	206	129	59.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10237</b>	<b>10672</b>	<b>-4.1</b>

These are outstanding figures, following on from the achievement of the Government target of 17.5% reduction over the previous 3 years.

In particular, there have again been substantial reductions in motor vehicle crime 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.

As in previous years, 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.

Work has been started to look at possible structures for the delivery of community safety work across the county, depending on the outcome of the Boundary Commission recommendations on the future structure of local government in Devon. This work considered models under the 3 options of single unitary, two unitaries, and integrated district and county working.

**B. NEW PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

New performance measurement regimes were introduced in 2008/9 affecting both police and local authorities. These replaced the previous British Crime Survey Comparator Crimes set (a selection of 10 crime types used to measure performance).

Police and Local Authorities and Community Safety Partnerships will be measured against the new set of National Indicators (NIs). Many of these NIs relate to public perception of problems and how

they are handled by agencies. The measurement of these NIs is through the new Place Survey, which will be repeated every 2 years. The NIs monitored in this way are shown below

NI 17	Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
NI 21	Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime 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 27	Understanding of local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police
NI 37	Awareness of civil protection arrangements in the local area
NI 41	Perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour as a problem
NI 42	Perceptions of drug use or drug dealing as a problem

The Place Survey was carried out in September/October 2008, and the results for the community safety indicators are shown below.

NI 17	16.6%	down from 21% in 2006 (lower score good)
NI 21	26.6%	higher score good
NI 22	31.5%	higher score good
NI 23	28.4%	this is down from 43.2% in 2006 (lower score good)
NI 27	20.0%	higher score good
NI 37	16.0%	higher score good
NI 41	34.3%	down from 37.8% in 2006 (lower score good)
NI 42	23.4%	down from 33.8% in 2006 (lower score good)

The following NIs are routinely (quarterly) monitored by the Community Safety Partnership

NI 15	Serious violent crime
NI 16	Serious acquisitive crime
NI 20	Assault with injury crime rate
NI 28	Serious knife crime rate
NI 29	Gun crime rate

The figures for these crimes for 2008/9 are shown below.

NI 15	62	down from 63 in 2007/08
NI 16	1538	down from 1761
NI 20	905	down from 996
NI 28	73	down from 80
NI 29	9	up from 8

### **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 was 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 2009/10, 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 Challenge and Support project has been established, with funding from DCSF. 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, including specialist support where there are alcohol-related problems.

There are also new developments being planned: a Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) will focus on young people in a small area of Exeter, who are increasingly at risk of falling further into criminal behaviour; and a Youth Crime Action Plan Family Intervention Project (YCAPFIP), which will deal with families where the young person has been involved in the criminal justice system already – probably more than once.

## **F. PREVENT**

Of course, in some respects the most significant single event of the year was the bomb incident at the Giraffe café in Princesshay. The initial response by agencies, businesses and the public was excellent, and normality was restored very quickly. The focus of attention switched to Plymouth as the investigation progressed.

The Government had already produced a Counter-Terrorism strategy, CONTEST, but there had been no information to indicate any immediate risk in this area.

Since then, there has been a considerable amount of work done, some of it alongside the Devon Community Cohesion Planning work, but also much of it local to Exeter, with the City Council and police having several meetings with local community leaders.