

HEREFORDSHIRE
CRIME, DISORDER AND
DRUGS REDUCTION
STRATEGY

2005-08

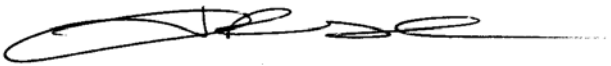
Foreword and acknowledgements

We all know what a huge impact crime, disorder, drugs and anti-social behaviour can have on local communities and everyday life. Even though both local and national crime levels are falling, we must not become complacent, as there are always new challenges to face. It is as a result of this that the Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership continues to develop.

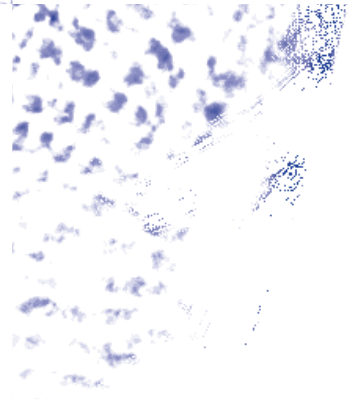
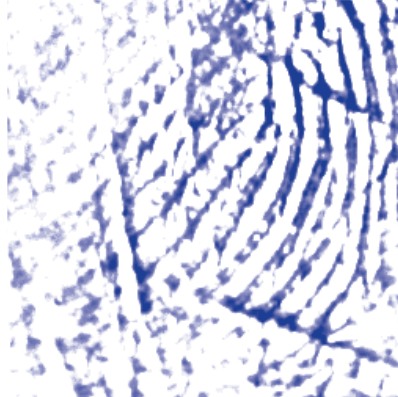
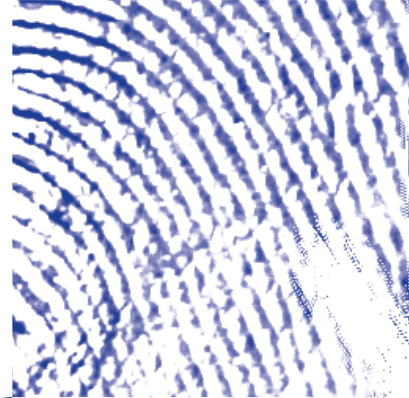
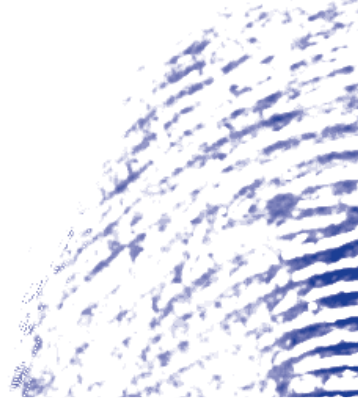
This strategy has been put together in order to both maintain the good working relationships and continue the valuable work already undertaken by the Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership. The focus for the next three years is to ensure that initiatives are linked together and provide people in Herefordshire with tangible improvements to their quality of life, whilst focusing on key priorities and targeting offenders, hotspot locations and victims.

This strategy has been based on an audit of crime, disorder and drugs within Herefordshire and developed in consultation with a wide range of individuals, organisations and agencies within the county.

The Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership would like to take this opportunity to thank all agencies and members of the public who have contributed information and feedback that has helped inform this Strategy.



JANE ROSE
PARTNERSHIP MANAGER



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Introduction

The Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership (HCSDP) is committed to working together to make Herefordshire a safer place to live, work and visit. The HCSDP has been formed by merging the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership and Herefordshire Drug Action Team. The Partnership is also one of the ambition groups of the Herefordshire Partnership.

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on local authorities and the police to act in co-operation with probation services, health authorities and other relevant agencies, to work together to develop and implement a strategy for tackling crime and disorder in their area. This was later amended in the Police Reform Act 2002 to include the police authorities, fire services and the primary care trusts.

Along with the aforementioned agencies, the Partnership also has members from the Youth Offending Service, Registered Social Landlords Forum and the Voluntary Sector Assembly at a strategic level.

Every three years, the HCSDP is required by law to undertake an audit of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the area and to carry out community consultation to determine what the problems are in Herefordshire. We have achieved this by collecting various statistics, surveys, plans and research, by holding focus group and community meetings and by undertaking an in-depth analysis to determine the audit findings. We published the audit results in 2004 and consulted with key stakeholders to determine whether they agree or disagree with the findings.

Community engagement is an important element of HCSDP work and is committed to supporting community and voluntary groups tackling crime, disorder and drugs in Herefordshire.

The HCSDP is required to draw up and implement a three-year strategy to address the problems identified. The strategy is presented in this document and outlines the priority areas and broad interventions that have been identified through the audit and consultation process.

The groups leading on each priority will develop action plans to combat specific issues that were identified through the audit and consultation process. They will highlight specific partnership initiatives that aim to tackle each of the strategy priority areas. The plans will clearly detail resources required, activities undertaken, and reporting mechanisms as well as performance indicators and expected outcomes.

The purpose of this strategy is to continue working together and making the best use of resources available. Whilst the Police has and will continue to have a leading role in reducing crime, both previous strategies reflect that the Police cannot and do not wish to work in

isolation. We believe, and it has been proven, that by working together we can achieve long-term solutions to crime, disorder and misuse of drugs.



Overarching Partnership targets

Home Office Public Service Agreement targets:

PSA 1:

reduce crime by 15% by 2007-2008

PSA 2:

reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and building confidence in the Criminal Justice System without compromising fairness

PSA 4:

reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System

PSA 6:

increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion



Links with other strategies and plans

The Herefordshire Crime, Disorder and Drugs Reduction Strategy occupies an important place within the broad range of major strategies and plans that in one way or another touch on crime, disorder and drugs, or issues that seek to tackle social exclusion.

The HCSDP recognises the need to ensure that the appropriate connections have been made between these various strategy documents and will be working to ensure that these links are further developed.

The relevant strategies and plans include, amongst others:

National

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Choosing Health (Making Healthy Choices Easy)

Every Child Matters: Change for Children

National Service Framework

National Drugs Strategy

National Policing Plan

The Home Office Strategic Plan 2005 –2008

Local

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Strategy

Connexions Development Plan

Hereford and Worcester Integrated Risk Management Plan

Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Justice Plan

Herefordshire Annual Policing Plan

Herefordshire Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Plan

Herefordshire Children's Fund Plan

Herefordshire Council Corporate Plan

Herefordshire Licensing Policy

Herefordshire Local Transport Plan

Herefordshire Plan

Herefordshire Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan

Supporting People Strategy

Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

West Mercia Probation Service Business Plan

Resource implications

The Partner agencies will continue to make use of existing budgets, and programmes will target expenditure in line with strategic objectives. In some areas, the proposed actions will involve assessing needs and drawing up work programmes, which will need to be costed and considered alongside other spending priorities.

Partner agencies are committed to making available adequate staff resources to ensure the effective delivery of the objectives set out in the strategy. They will strive to obtain additional funding from various sources to meet the objectives.

Summary of audit findings and the development of priorities

The HCSDP has a statutory obligation to undertake an audit of levels of crime, disorder and drugs in Herefordshire. The aim of the audit is to identify overall crime levels in the partnership area, changes in crime levels, hotspots and groups most likely to be offenders/victims. The 2004 audit highlighted some very important issues which need to be addressed in Herefordshire.

The 2004 audit encapsulates secondary sources of statistical information as well as local community points of view through primary research. A number of methods were used to capture the public's concern including questionnaires to local residents, Councillors and Parish Councillors, face-to-face surveying through a trailer tour of the county, and through focus groups. Part of the process also included a questionnaire to local businesses to capture current levels and opinion on business crime. The community research was an inclusive process and a number of the focus groups were aimed at hard to reach and vulnerable groups. This mix of methodology ensured that the qualitative points of view were in place to back up the quantitative data and to establish any concerns the public may have.

Herefordshire in context

Herefordshire has a population of 176,900¹, with an ageing population. The ethnic mix in Herefordshire is low compared with West Midlands and national figures, with only 2.5% of the population from black and minority ethnic populations. Herefordshire is a primarily rural county with one main city and five surrounding market towns. The county has a unitary local authority with co-terminus agency boundaries with the Police, Council, Health and Probation. There are pockets of deprivation in Hereford City and Leominster² and average gross weekly and annual earnings are less when compared regionally and nationally.

Audit findings

The audit highlights that Herefordshire residents generally feel safe in both daylight and evenings but there is some concern when visiting town centres at night. Herefordshire's overall levels of crime in 2004

were lower than the rest of the West Mercia Police Force area, West Midlands, England and Wales. Herefordshire also experienced a decline in overall crime between 2002-04, whereas the rest of the Force and national levels were experiencing a rise. Compared with the most similar Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) family³ Herefordshire also performs well; it was below the average crime rate and the seventh lowest out of the fourteen other CDRPs in the family.

Surveys conducted as part of the audit highlighted that three quarters of Herefordshire residents are generally concerned about crime. The most common community safety concern is the risk of being burgled followed by having their property vandalised and being in a road traffic collision whilst driving. Burglary dwelling has reduced by 5% since April 2001 and the actual figures are relatively low compared with other crime types. Violent crime, criminal damage and "theft (other)"⁴ are the three highest crime types in Herefordshire.

Offences of drink driving and drunk and disorderly have both decreased since the last audit, but it appears that overall alcohol related crime is increasing. There are hotspot areas in Hereford City, the most notable being Commercial Road. General disturbance, assaults, fights and domestic disputes are the most common alcohol related crime, which obviously impacts upon the levels of violent crime in the county.

Although "theft (other)" is the second highest crime category in Herefordshire it has decreased since the last audit. This crime type directly affected 1,428 Herefordshire residents during 2003-04, 62% of whom were in Hereford City. The majority of offenders tend to be between the ages of 11-30, highlighting the need to work with young people in order to reduce this area of crime.

Vandalism of property was one of the top concerns for Herefordshire residents and councillors. Criminal damage also featured in the top three recorded crimes in the county. Encouragingly it has reduced by 6% since the previous audit. Over half of all offences occur in Hereford City, in the central ward (city centre). Most offenders of this crime are male, aged between 11-20 years old.

¹ 2003 mid-year population estimate, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

² Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2004, ONS

³ Comparison with most similar CDRPs, based on socio-demographic characteristics in order to provide benchmark

⁴ Theft (other) is any other theft crime that is not counted by any other theft category.

Nationally, anti-social behaviour numbers are rising, and Herefordshire is also experiencing this trend with a 2.3% increase since the last audit. Particular aspects of anti-social behaviour are causing problems, which include general public nuisance, abandoned vehicles and disturbance in the street or public place. Registered Social Landlords' most common anti-social behaviour complaint is noise nuisance.

Recorded levels of domestic violence have increased since the last audit by 23.6%, which may reflect an increased confidence in reporting as a result of the Partnership's work over the last three years. Emotional abuse accounts for the majority of reported domestic violence incidents, with the bulk of repeat incidents occurring in Hereford City.

There was a 34.5% increase in the number of drug offences dealt with in Herefordshire. Over half the drug offences involved cannabis or cannabis resin and nearly a third of offences involved heroin. Most occurred in Hereford City and offenders tended to be male, between the ages of 21-30. There was an increase in seizures of heroin, ecstasy and methadone. The aim of drug forums is to empower local communities to tackle local issues and, at the time of the audit, there were seven drug forums in Herefordshire.

There is a high level of car ownership in the county due to its rurality, which will have an impact on the level of road traffic incidents. There has been a decrease in the numbers of road traffic collisions and casualties but it is still a high concern for Herefordshire's residents.

Violence against the person has increased over the last three years and most often occurs between 00.00-01.00 hours during the weekends. Sexual offences have also risen slightly whereas robbery has decreased. Hate crime figures are low in Herefordshire; this is probably due to underreporting. Racially motivated harassment is the most common offence and some 32 racist incidents were referred to the Race Equality Development Officer of Herefordshire Equality Partnership.⁵

Business crime is an increasing priority regionally and this is particularly relevant for Herefordshire. A business crime survey commissioned by the Partnership highlighted that it is an underreported crime; only 35% of those experiencing crime in the

year prior to the survey reported it. The highest incidences of crime were burglary/attempted burglary (22%) and criminal damage (19%).

The numbers of young offenders referred to the Youth Offending Service has decreased but within this there has been an increase in the numbers of females. Some 1,290 young people were recorded as offenders and 723 as victims. Theft and handling offences, violence against the person and criminal damage were the most common offences committed by young people. During community consultation, young people were highlighted as a priority, and it was felt that Herefordshire should invest in the future. A quarter of respondents from surveys during the audit were concerned with the lack of facilities for young people.

The development of the strategic priorities

A steering group was established to oversee the audit and strategy process, a sub-group of the HCSDP strategy group. The processes involved with developing the strategic priorities were as follows:

- 1) A researcher was employed to work with the HCSDP and undertake the crime, disorder and drugs audit. The researcher was engaged to ensure an objective view of the issues facing Herefordshire was established. The development of the audit involved the collection, gathering and analysis of data from many different agencies and sources. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were employed. From the analysis it was clear that a number of areas needed further consideration and were thus suggested as priorities.
- 2) Consultation on the audit findings and suggested priorities took place. This involved a mail-out of the audit to all key stakeholders and an invitation to the HCSDP conference. The Partnership conference was an opportunity to present the findings of the audit and suggested priorities, and to gather feedback and opinion. This included a question and answer session, graffiti boards and feedback slips. The results of the consultation show that young people are a major concern and that anti-social behaviour, alcohol related crime and disorder, drugs and road safety remain issues.
- 3) The Partnership took into account national, regional and local targets and priorities have been outlined in this report.

⁵ Formerly Herefordshire Race Equality Partnership

Strategic priorities 2005-08

The processes involved in developing the HCSDP strategic priorities for the next three years is outlined in the previous section. This process identified the following priorities:

- 1. Young people**
- 2. Alcohol related crime and disorder**
- 3. Anti-social behaviour**
- 4. Domestic violence**
- 5. Drug supply and drug related offending**
- 6. Drug treatment and harm reduction**
- 7. Offender management**
- 8. Road safety**

The following pages outline the key priorities for the HCSDP. Under each of the priority headings the overall aim is set out and then a brief introduction and justification. The key objectives and baseline data are then outlined. A broad summary of the interventions involved with meeting these objectives is also included. Action plans have been developed for each of the priorities and contain greater detail on the specific interventions and initiatives, these documents are available upon request. The action plans ensure that each initiative is realistic and they provide a basis for ongoing monitoring and evaluation. The baseline year in this strategic document, unless otherwise stated, is 2004-2005 and as such is a projected figure at this time. In terms of the action plans, the baseline will be actual, scrutinised figures for 2004-2005.



Priority One: Young People

AIM: TO SUPPORT THE “EVERY CHILD MATTERS” OUTCOMES THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.

There are many aspects of crime, disorder and drugs that have an effect on young people in Herefordshire. Young people under 17 years old account for 21.4% (approx 37,000) of Herefordshire’s population. Young people are both victims and offenders of crime in Herefordshire. 723 young people under 17 years old were reported as victims of crime and 1,290 as offenders in 2003-04.

There are a number of organisations in Herefordshire (Connexions, Education Welfare, the Children’s Fund, Zig Zag, CLD Youth Counselling Trust, Social Services, Supported Housing for Young People Project and the Youth Offending Service) that work with vulnerable young people in order to protect them from becoming involved, or further involved, in criminal activity and drug use. These organisations intervene at different stages of young people’s lives and support them to achieve their full potential.

In order to address these concerns, the HCSDP will work with the Children’s and Young Person’s Partnership Board to achieve the outcomes stated in the Government’s paper ‘Every Child Matters’, specifically:

- ❖ Be healthy
- ❖ Stay safe
- ❖ Enjoy and achieve
- ❖ Make a positive contribution
- ❖ Achieve economic wellbeing

The paper considers a child and young person in the context of their lives, therefore all of the priorities will also support the improved outcomes for children and young people.



Objectives

1. Reduce the number of first time entrants to the Youth Justice System in Herefordshire by 5% by March 2008
2. Reduce re-offending by young offenders in Herefordshire by a further 5% by March 2006, compared with the 2000 baseline
3. Reduce the number of 0-15 year olds killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in Herefordshire to 13⁶ by 2008
4. Reduce the number of young people (under 25 years old) who are victims of crime in Herefordshire by 6% by 2007-08
5. Reduce young people (under 18 years old) as victims of violence against the person by 10% in Herefordshire by 2007-08

Baseline

Baseline information for objectives one and two will be set during 2005-06

8 0-15 year olds killed or seriously injured, 2004

2,200 young people as victims 2004-05

524 young people victims of violence against the person 2004-05

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Establish effective young persons drug services in Herefordshire
- ❖ Educate young people of the issues surrounding and implications of drug and alcohol misuse, through an integrated approach
- ❖ Targeted work that includes diversion, education and screening towards the most vulnerable adults
- ❖ Increase awareness of domestic violence issues and empowering young people to develop safe relationships
- ❖ Educate young people to be safe on our roads
- ❖ Where appropriate develop and support diversionary activities and community facilities for young people in Herefordshire
- ❖ Develop Prevent and Deter strand of the Prolific and Priority Offenders Scheme in Herefordshire

⁶ These figures reflect a proportional allowance that has been factored in for an anticipated increase in traffic flow on the County road network

Priority Two: Alcohol Related Crime And Disorder

AIM: TO ENSURE A CO-ORDINATED APPROACH TO THE REDUCTION OF ALCOHOL RELATED CRIME AND TO INCREASE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH A PROBLEM ORIENTATED APPROACH TO EDUCATION, PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.

Alcohol related crime is a high national priority, with the recent introduction of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England (2004). The audit confirms that it is still a local concern. Alcohol is a major contributor to crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and is a highly visible part of the night time economy. The audit highlighted that the most common crimes in 2003-04 were violent crime and criminal damage. Alcohol contributes to both of these crimes. Many Herefordshire residents are concerned about visiting town centres at night⁷, mainly attributing this to the fear of assault, mugging and drunken behaviour.

It has been estimated that alcohol misuse now costs the economy £20 billion per year⁸, this cost is borne by various agencies including the Police, Primary Care Trust and Ambulance Trusts. Locally, the cost of alcohol related attendances to the Accident and Emergency Department during just one month in 2004 was £32,762.40⁹.

Underage drinking is also a national priority. In Herefordshire there were only 20 alcohol related incidents involving young people attended by the police (2002-03). This low figure probably reflects the difficulties licensees and others have in identifying the age of drinkers. All the same, underage drinking was raised as a concern during the public consultation.



Objectives

1. To reduce alcohol related disorder¹⁰ by 10% by 2007-08
2. To reduce alcohol related violent crime¹¹ by 6.9% by 2007-08
3. To reduce violent crime in Herefordshire by 6.9% by 2007-08

Baseline

2,290 alcohol related disorder incidents 2004-05

1,421 incidents of alcohol related violent crime, 2004-05

2,814 incidents of violent crime, 2004-05

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Support the Alcohol Referral Scheme, which refers offenders in Police custody and alcohol related A&E presentations to the Community Alcohol Service in order to encourage them to address their alcohol misuse
- ❖ Support the work of the Sports Referral Scheme, which co-ordinates sports based activities for those at risk of or actively engaging in the use of drugs and alcohol
- ❖ Support the roll out of an integrated education programme
- ❖ Develop robust data collection methods
- ❖ Continue to support the Proof of Age Scheme, which provides a young persons identity card. The aim is to reduce the sale of age restricted products e.g. alcohol, tobacco
- ❖ Support the Herefordshire Against Night-time Disorder Scheme (HAND), continuing the 'ban from one ban from all' initiative
- ❖ Encourage and promote the use of Penalty Notices
- ❖ Support anti-drink driving campaigns across Herefordshire
- ❖ Support Police enforcement campaigns
- ❖ Use new licensing legislation to protect citizens and create a safer night time economy
- ❖ CCTV to be actively monitored and used to protect and reassure citizens
- ❖ Enforce bylaws relating to Alcohol Free Zones
- ❖ Examine the locations of Taxi Ranks with regard to their effect on late night dispersal
- ❖ Support the development of clinical work

⁷ 52% of residents surveyed as part of the Audit of Crime, Disorder and Drugs within Herefordshire, 2004

⁸ Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England, 2004

⁹ Figure based on research by Bulmers, February, 2004

¹⁰ Incidents of anti-social behaviour between the hours of 21:00-04:00 most likely suggest an alcohol related incident

¹¹ Incidents of violent crime between the hours of 21:00-04:00 most likely suggest an alcohol related incident

Priority Three: Anti-Social Behaviour

AIM: REDUCE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN HEREFORDSHIRE THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

Anti-social behaviour is a national priority, recognised by the Together Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour action plan (2003). It affects people's quality of life and is therefore a priority for the citizens of Herefordshire. Defining anti-social behaviour can be problematic but the HCSDP uses the following definition:

"In a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as (the defendant)" (Crime and Disorder Act, 1998)

Anti-social behaviour includes a range of issues, including noisy neighbours, vandalism, graffiti and youth nuisance. The main areas of anti-social behaviour raised as concerns in Herefordshire include nuisance neighbours, noise complaints and young people hanging around, which was a particular concern for older people and those with disabilities.

Objectives

1. To reduce anti-social behaviour in Herefordshire by 10% by 2007-08
2. To monitor fear of crime and anti-social behaviour in Herefordshire (in line with PSA 2)
3. To reduce the incidence of criminal damage in Herefordshire by 6% by 2007-08

Baseline

9,410 incidents of anti-social behaviour in Herefordshire, 2004-05¹²

2,452 incidents of criminal damage in Herefordshire 2004-05

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Tackle anti-social behaviour in identified hot spots
- ❖ Utilise community groups, where appropriate, to tackle and deter anti-social behaviour e.g. neighbourhood watch
- ❖ Support and utilise the reassurance and deterrence activities of Community Support Officers and the Herefordshire Special Constabulary
- ❖ Develop diversionary activities for young people
- ❖ Promote the use of available legislation to tackle anti-social behaviour e.g. anti-social behaviour orders (ASBO) and acceptable behaviour contracts (ABC)
- ❖ Support registered social landlords anti-social behaviour officers' activity and enforcement actions
- ❖ Develop strategies to ensure that seasonal workers are safely integrated in the community in Herefordshire
- ❖ Support use of True Vision hate crime reporting packs
- ❖ Promote educational work of the Race Equality Officer

¹² Projected figure based on new counting rule

Priority Four: Domestic Violence

AIM: TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN HEREFORDSHIRE THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT.

Domestic violence is greatly under-reported and is generally recognised as a hidden crime. The personal nature of the crime and the fear of reprisals and stigma often make victims reluctant to report the crime. The Home Office (2004) defines it as:

"Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality."

Encouragingly, there has been an increase in incidents reported to the Police over the last three years, reflecting an increase in confidence among victims. The most common type of offence reported was emotional abuse. The majority of victims are female and between 21-40 years old. Most of the incidents occurred in Hereford City.

There is a clear link between domestic violence and alcohol related crime, with 26% of alcohol related incidents concerned with domestic disputes.

It is recognised that domestic violence has more repeat victims than any other crime¹³. The Partnership defines repeat victimisation as an address visited two or more times for domestic violence. There were 154 repeat victims in 2003-04, mainly in Hereford City.

The issue of men as victims of domestic violence was raised through the community consultation, when it was suggested that there should be more support available.

Objectives

1. To increase the number of calls to the Women's Aid Helpline in Herefordshire by 10% by 2007-08
2. To increase the number of domestic violence incidents reported to the police in Herefordshire by 10% by 2007-08
3. To increase the number of arrests for domestic violence by 10% in Herefordshire by 2007-08
4. To increase the number of sanction detections in Herefordshire for domestic violence incidents by 5% by 2007-08

Baseline

1,018 calls to Women's Aid Helpline in Herefordshire, 2004-05

414 reported incidents of domestic violence in Herefordshire, 2004-05

92 domestic violence related arrests, 2004-05

58% sanction detections for domestic violence incidents, 2004-05



Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Adoption of information sharing protocol and multi-agency protocol
- ❖ Establish and address domestic violence training needs among agencies
- ❖ Increase awareness of domestic violence issues and empowering young people to develop safe relationships
- ❖ Raise awareness of local domestic violence services among other service providers
- ❖ Reduce repeat victimisation through education and promotion of services
- ❖ Support delivery of services for male and female victims of domestic violence

¹³ On average, there will be 35 assaults before a victim calls the police (Home Office)

Priority Five: Drug Supply And Drug Related Crime

AIM: TO REDUCE DRUG RELATED CRIME AND SUPPLY.

Supply reduction is a key strand of the Updated National Drug Strategy 2002. Supply will be tackled at every opportunity: internationally, nationally, regionally and locally, to focus on all points of the supply chain.

There are strong links between drug use and crime which has been well documented and much researched. There is clear evidence that as drug use increases so does criminal behaviour¹⁴. This link is particularly strong for users of heroin and crack cocaine, who account for a high proportion of all burglary, robbery and thefts (acquisitive crimes) in order to fund their drug habits. It is argued that tackling drug related crime will have a positive impact on high volume crime, such as vehicle crime and domestic burglary.



Objectives

1. To increase the number of Class A drug supply offences brought to justice in Herefordshire by 25% by 2007-08
2. To increase the numbers in drug treatment in Herefordshire to 500 by 2007-08
3. To record no more than 600 domestic burglaries per year in Herefordshire over the next three years (in line with Herefordshire division target)¹⁵
4. To record no more than 1,086 vehicle crimes per year in Herefordshire over the next three years (in line with Herefordshire division target)¹⁶

Baseline

22 class A drug supply offences, 2004-05¹⁷

400 drug users in treatment, 2004-05

613 domestic burglaries 2004-05

1,092 vehicle crimes 2004-05

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Disrupt drug markets through problem orientated policing and ensure that multi-agency support is provided in affected areas
- ❖ Develop and support drug related crime interventions with Herefordshire agencies and communities
- ❖ Educate Herefordshire communities about drug related crime

¹⁴ Bennet, T (2000) Drugs and Crime: the results of the second developmental stage of the NEW-ADAM programme. Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office.

¹⁵ Over the past 3 years Herefordshire division has seen over 30% reduction in domestic burglaries and the figure is now relatively low. The Partnership would like to maintain this low figure, as a further decrease would not be achievable.

¹⁶ Over the past 3 years Herefordshire division has seen over 20% reduction in vehicle crime and the figure is now relatively low. The Partnership would like to maintain this low figure, as a further decrease would not be achievable.

¹⁷ This figure is an average of 2001-05

Priority Six: Drug Treatment And Harm Reduction

AIM: TO ENABLE PEOPLE WITH DRUG PROBLEMS TO OVERCOME THEM AND LIVE HEALTHY AND CRIME-FREE LIVES.

The problems of drug misuse are complex and require integrated solutions and co-ordinated delivery of services involving education, harm reduction, intelligence and enforcement, social and economic policy, and health. Tackling drugs in Herefordshire requires effective joint working between partnership agencies working at a strategic and local level across rural Herefordshire.

Effective treatment should support problematic drug users within their local area to break away from addiction and crime, and improve their health and quality of life.

Effective harm reduction does not encourage drug use but instead understands that drug use is widespread.

Measures therefore need to be taken to ensure that people who use illicit drugs in Herefordshire are educated and resourced to use with minimum harm to themselves and others.

Objectives

1. To increase the numbers in drug treatment in Herefordshire to 500 by 2007-08
2. To maintain a 72% retention rate in treatment for 12 weeks or more in Herefordshire by 2007-08

Baseline

400 drug users in treatment, 2004-05

72% of drug misusers were retained in treatment, 2003-04

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Provide effective drug treatment services across the county, with clearly defined adult and young persons elements
- ❖ Interventions to reduce the harm caused by drugs in Herefordshire to include tackling blood borne viruses, discarded needles, sharing needles and drug related deaths



Priority Seven: Offender Management

AIM: TO REDUCE CRIME BY TARGETING THOSE WHO OFFEND MOST OR OTHERWISE CAUSE THE MOST HARM TO THEIR COMMUNITIES.

It is estimated that out of a million active offenders, 100,000 offenders have three or more convictions and are responsible for half of all crime. The active offender population is not static, 20,000 individuals leave this pool every year and are replaced by another 20,000 offenders. The most active 5,000 of this group are estimated to be responsible for one in ten offences. The Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPO) Scheme has been rolled out nationally to concentrate on this small group of offenders.

The scheme has three strands to ensure that offenders and potential offenders are supervised at every stage:

- ❖ Prevent and Deter – to stop people (overwhelmingly young people) engaging in offending behaviours and graduating into prolific offenders;
- ❖ Catch and Convict - actively tackling those who are already prolific offenders; and
- ❖ Rehabilitate and Resettle – working with identified prolific offenders to stop their offending by offering a range of supportive interventions. Offenders will be offered the opportunity for rehabilitation or face a very swift return to the courts.

The Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) aims to take advantage of opportunities within the criminal justice system for accessing drug-misusing offenders – many of whom are difficult to access by other approaches – and moving them into treatment, away from drug use and crime.



Objectives

1. To reduce the offending behaviour of individuals engaged with the Drugs Intervention Programme in Herefordshire by 2007-08
2. To reduce the offending behaviour of individuals engaged with the Prolific and Priority Offenders scheme in Herefordshire by 2007-08
3. To increase the numbers in drug treatment to 500 in Herefordshire by 2007-08
4. To reduce recorded crime by 15% in Herefordshire by 2007-08

Baseline

400 drug users in treatment, 2004-05

13,181 recorded crimes in Herefordshire, 2003-04

Please note that the DIP and the PPO programme are new schemes in Herefordshire, as such there is no baseline data for 2004-05 and no targets set. The baseline year will be 2005-06 and from this the measurement and targets for the schemes will be established.

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Develop Priority and Prolific Offender Scheme in Herefordshire. To include the three strands of: Prevent and Deter, Catch and Convict and Rehabilitate and Resettle
- ❖ Develop and implement the DIP to include a housing related floating support service provided by Stonham Housing Association
- ❖ Support Partner agencies' use of offender management techniques in line with the Adult Drug Treatment Plan e.g. Community Rehabilitation Orders and the Arrest Referral Scheme

Priority Eight: Road Safety

AIM: TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS ON HEREFORDSHIRE'S ROADS.

Herefordshire has a higher than average level of car ownership. Road safety, speeding vehicles and reckless driving are a primary concern for Herefordshire residents. The issue of road safety has been a priority for the Herefordshire Community Safety and Drugs Partnership for the last three years.

During this time the group have worked with many partner agencies. Personal injury collisions have reduced by just over 11%, the numbers of casualties have been reduced by nearly 19% and those killed or seriously injured have fallen by 13% for the same period.

There were 595 people admitted to the Accident and Emergency Department at Herefordshire County Hospital between April 2001 and March 2004, spending a total of 2,737 days in hospital.

There are 139 accident cluster sites in Herefordshire, many of which have received interventions or are under investigation. Engineering works to improve these sites may include improved signage, lines and road surfaces, installation of speed cameras and schemes to improve visibility.



Objectives

1. To confine the number of those killed or seriously injured in collisions to 157¹⁸ in Herefordshire by 2008
2. To reduce the number of those slightly injured in collisions to 769¹⁹ in Herefordshire by 2008

Baseline

141 killed or seriously injured in 2004

783 slightly injured in 2004

Broad interventions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- ❖ Undertake activities that support the objectives of the Local Transport Plan
- ❖ Implement educational campaigns with partner agencies
- ❖ Support delivery of cycling training
- ❖ Support delivery of National Driver Improvement Courses
- ❖ Support Police enforcement measures
- ❖ Introduce measures to reduce traffic speed to improve both safety and the quality of life on urban access roads
- ❖ Introduce measures to reduce the impact of traffic on rural settlements
- ❖ Promote the development of cycling and walking routes and facilities with particular emphasis on increasing the safety and convenience of these modes

¹⁸ Figure reflects a proportional allowance that has been factored in for an anticipated increase in traffic flow on the County road network

¹⁹ Figure reflects a proportional allowance that has been factored in for an anticipated increase in traffic flow on the County road network.

Partnership delivery structure and accountabilities

The Partnership is supported by multi-agency Implementation Groups, which include private, public, charitable and voluntary groups. Each theme has an Implementation Group of lead officers set up to tackle the issue over the next three years. Each group will be required to implement the SARA²⁰ problem solving model and develop, agree and publish action plans that highlight the range of activities that will be implemented.

The HCSDP will develop a robust performance management system to ensure clear accountability and performance improvement is achieved. Each group will be required to report back quarterly on performance and financial progress against their action plan initiatives to the Strategy Group and decide if any remedial action is necessary to ensure strategic priorities are being addressed.

The HCSDP Strategy Group will be the responsible body locally, and the Government Office for the West Midlands will in turn monitor performance of the Partnership on behalf of the Home Office. The HCSDP team (shown below) has the day-to-day responsibility for co-ordinating the delivery of the strategic priorities on behalf of the Strategy Group.

Contact details

If you have any issues you wish to discuss, or would like a copy of the audit report, please contact using the following details:

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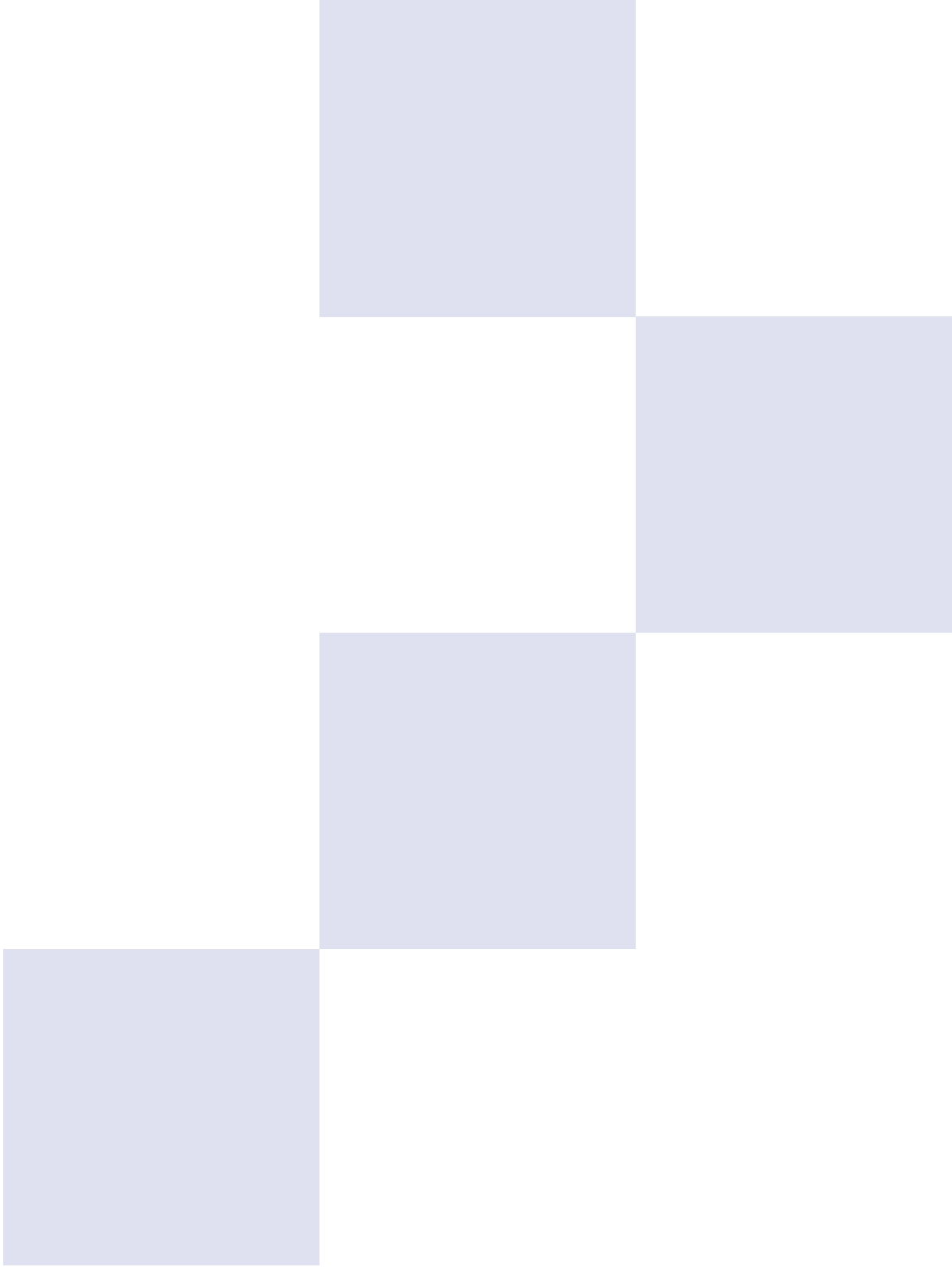
Tel no: 01432 383523

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²⁰ Scanning, analysis, response, assessment (SARA) is a problem solving tool that has been used for some time as an integral part of community policing, often referred to as problem orientated policing (POP).





HEREFORDSHIRE CRIME, DISORDER
AND DRUGS REDUCTION STRATEGY 2005-08