

Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership

Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy 2011 - 2014



Refresh 2013 - 2014

Working together to make Herefordshire an even safer place to live, work and visit

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Our Vision: The Community Safety Partnership aims to make Herefordshire an even safer place to live, work and visit

1) Introduction

The Herefordshire Community Safety Strategy is a three year strategy which highlights how the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) plans to tackle community safety issues within Herefordshire. This strategy is revised on an annual basis (this being the third year), through reviewing information provided from a wide range of organisations in a strategic assessment, to ensure that current issues can be taken into account into the activities undertaken by the CSP.

Herefordshire remains a low crime rate area, and partners strive to work together to ensure it remains that way. Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) is a statutory partnership committed to making Herefordshire an even safer place to live, work and visit. We have an excellent record of working in partnership and Herefordshire has seen continued reductions in crime and disorder; over the last 3 year plan (2007/8 2010/11) there was a 13% reduction in recorded crime and in the first year of this existing plan there has been another 2% reduction. However, there is still more that can be achieved and with current budget and resource constraints, it is now more crucial than ever for partners to share resources, information and expertise.

A review of local structures has resulted in changes to streamline Herefordshire's partnership delivery structure by amalgamating strategic boards to avoid duplication and improve efficiency and effectiveness. The duties of Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) are delivered through the Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG).

2) Strategic Drivers

Key strategic drivers have been identified which will impact on the role of the CSP over the next 12 months include the following:

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC): Bill Longmore took up the position of PCC for West Mercia in November 2012. Key responsibilities include: ensuring an effective police force is in place across West Mercia, setting the police and crime objectives for the area; and working with partners and fund community safety activity in their area. From April 2013, the PCC will receive community safety grant funding previously awarded to CSPs from Government. The PCC will have the freedom to commission services from any person or organisation. Together with the other CSPs across West Mercia, Herefordshire CSP is working with the PCC to ensure continued effective partnership working to deliver local community safety priorities. The closer working relationship across the West Mercia CSPs provides opportunities to joint commissioning as well as sharing good practice.

Budget Pressures: all partners within the CSP are experiencing continuing financial challenges which are leading to organisational restructures and reductions in service delivery. However, at a time of reduced resources, the CSP recognises the need for greater partnership working. With reduced financial and staffing resources the CSP needs to ensure that it focusses on delivering against the priorities it has identified. Re-commissioning processes also allow for services to be redesigned to best meet current need, with input from local communities and partners, providing best value for money.

Localism: Partners in Herefordshire have signed up to a localities approach to delivering services and working more closely with our communities. Effective engagement with our communities should lead to improved design and delivery of services as well as greater involvement from empowered communities in addressing the issues which matter to them. Greater community involvement should be considered when commissioning and delivering services.

The shared agenda between Health and Community Safety: Safe communities are inextricably linked with healthy communities. There are direct links with health practitioners dealing with the health needs of victims of crime, treating those with mental health, drug or alcohol problems which make them more vulnerable to crime or more likely to offend. With effect from April 2013, Public Health becomes a local authority responsibility. With this change over, Public Health also become responsible for the commissioning of drug and alcohol services. There is therefore need for effective liaison between Public Health and the community safety partnership. With Health and Well Being Boards now set up to prepare joint strategic needs assessments (JSNAs) and develop joint health and wellbeing

strategies, it is also important to ensure a close and effective dialogue between them and CSPs. In Herefordshire, representatives from the Local Authority, West Mercia Police and the Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group sit on both groups. There have also been a number of joint meetings and this is set to continue. This promotes a joint approach to shared agendas, such as alcohol harm reduction. The annual strategic assessment also supports the JSNA and is incorporated into the one Integrated Needs Assessment.

Emerging National Policy: The Government has published **Draft Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) Bill** – December 2012 which seeks to focus on the needs of the victim, empower communities to get involved in tackling ASB, giving powers to professionals to protect the public more effectively and focus on long term solutions. Included within these measures are the ‘community trigger’ to give victims and communities the right to require agencies to deal with persistent ASB if it has been previously ignored and the ‘community remedy’ to give victims of low-level crime and anti-social behaviour a say in the punishment of offenders outside of going to court. This places a high level duty on local authorities, police and health to deal jointly with these cases. Providers of social housing also have a duty to co-operate. It is likely that CSPs will have a role in supporting this. There are a number of other proposals within the Bill which will impact on individual responsible authorities. The draft Bill is likely to become a Government Bill and announced in the Queen’s speech in May 2013.

The Government has also released a consultation document on **Transforming Rehabilitation** (January 2013), which describes proposals to reduce the rate of reoffending. This includes rehabilitation of adult offenders managed in the community, including support and services provided to prisoners, those on community orders or suspended sentence orders, and those released from prison. Plan include opening up the majority of current probation services to private companies and voluntary sector organisations on a payment by results basis with an emphasis on preventing reoffending. Only offenders who are assessed as being ‘high risk’ will remain directly within the responsibility of the new public sector probation service. These proposals will mean greater requirement for integration of offender management services.

3) Local Delivery

Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group (HPEG) is delivering on the responsibilities not only for HCSP, but for other partnership areas too.

This group is represented at a senior level, so they have a clear understanding of the issues facing the county and can deploy resources, shape future plans and influence resource allocation through joint evidence led commissioning.

3.1 Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group membership:

- Chief Executive of Herefordshire Public Services
- Herefordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- West Mercia Police
- Third Sector Board
- Hereford and Worcester Fire & Rescue Service
- West Mercia Probation Trust
- Business Board
- HALC (Herefordshire Association of Local Councils)
- DEFRA Agencies (DEFRA agencies are made up of the Environment Agency, Forestry Commission and Natural England)

3.2 Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group's statutory duties include:

- Convene a Community Safety Strategy Group with the responsible authorities working together to reduce crime and disorder (currently the role of HPEG). These will include:
 - 1) Local authority
 - 2) Police
 - 3) Fire and rescue authority
 - 4) Clinical Commissioning Group
 - 5) Probation

(updated to reflect abolition of Local Police Authorities and introduction of Clinical Commissioning Groups)

- Prepare a strategic assessment on crime and disorder
- Produce a community safety partnership plan which lays out what the priorities are and how they will be addressed (reviewed annually)
- Consult and engage with the community

- Formulate and implement a strategy to reduce re-offending by both adult and young offenders (Section 108 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009)
- Prepare an information sharing protocol which must be signed by all responsible authorities. Amendments to the Crime and Disorder Act made through the Police and Justice Act 2006, introduced a duty on responsible authorities to disclose certain sets of depersonalised data at least quarterly
- Ensure that it has a committee with power to review or scrutinise decisions made; or other action taken and to make reports or recommendations (Section 19 - 21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006)
- Establish Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHR), as appropriate, (Section 9 of the Domestic Violence and Crimes Act 2004). This provision came into force on 13th April 2011

In addition to the above, Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states that all “relevant authorities, which includes town and parish councils, have a duty to consider the impact of all their functions and decisions on crime and disorder in their local area”. All authorities must ensure that their organisation can show that crime and disorder issues have been fully considered in their strategic and implementation processes. The Crime and Disorder Act Review (2005) amended Section 17 (mainstreaming crime reduction) and made recommendations that ‘agencies must also take account of anti social behaviour and behaviour that adversely affects the environment and substance misuse’.

4) Progress on Priorities for 2012/13

The following priorities were identified for 2012/13:

- Integrated Offender Management
- Alcohol Harm Reduction
- Empowered Localities
- Education (cross cutting theme)

Progress on performance measures with trends is provided on page 10.

Integrated Offender Management

Objective: To reduce offending and reoffending in Herefordshire by offering a co-ordinated package of interventions for offenders on the IOM cohort.

The IOM Group has focused on developing the seven care pathways for offenders - 1) Accommodation and Support, 2) Education, Training and Employment, 3) Health, 4) Drugs and Alcohol, 5) Finance, Benefits and Debt, 6) Children and Families, 7) Attitudes, Thinking and Behaviour.). An example of this is the care farm initiative called the Shift Farm which provides experience on a busy working farm to clients referred from Probation. Here they are given a chance to learn new skills and subject to performance, are given increasing responsibility and independence in their duties.

During the year, provision has been made for a number of partners to co-locate as a joint IOM team based at Hereford Police Station.

Alcohol Harm Reduction

Objective: To educate and raise awareness of sensible drinking; reduce violent crime linked to alcohol consumption; contribute to a reduction in alcohol-related assaults presenting at A&E; and intervene early to prevent violent crime and disorder.

An Alcohol Harm Reduction strategy and action plan was agreed jointly by HPEG and Herefordshire's Health and Well-being Board, in recognition of the high priority for both Board's agendas. Practical joint working continues to be demonstrated by the A & E Steering Group which continues to play an integral role in identifying trends and hotspots in the county and its database has been utilised for the purpose of delivering needs led enforcement activity. Other initiatives identified through the year have included the development of a street pastor scheme and social media initiatives targeted at the under 25 age group.

Empowered Localities

Objective: Encourage communities throughout Herefordshire to become involved in making their communities safer, adopting a multi-agency approach as well as building the capacity of practitioners and community leaders.

Projects are developed that address issues identified within communities, through parish councils, parish plans, ward members, local policing teams as well as the Quality of Life Survey and 'Your Community Your Say' events. Key issues identified in 2012/13 have included: speeding traffic, litter/ rubbish, lack of leisure/ play opportunities for young people, drug misuse, increased support for Neighbourhood Watch schemes and rural crime. An example of how the CSP has responded to one of these issues it through the purchase a

laser speed gun for Special Constables in rural areas that have expressed concern to the local police and the Safer Roads Partnership (SRP) regarding speeding traffic in their locality. This would normally be in areas not covered by SRP intervention. As such it is a local resolution to a local problem operated by volunteer police officers.

Education (cross cutting theme)

Objective: To inform and influence the behaviour of young people, to equip them to make informed life choices.

Education was agreed as a cross cutting theme in 2012/13 as the CSP felt that by enabling young people to make informed life choices can effect behaviour and prevent young people getting into difficult and vulnerable positions. A key outcome identified was the development of an educational package which seeks to include input from road safety, personal protection, alcohol and substance misuse, domestic violence and abuse, internet safety, hate crime and many other topics relevant to the young community. As an initial offer the CSP is working with West Mercia Women's Aid to introduce the delivery of sessions in selected primary schools designed to promote healthy relationships and raise awareness about domestic abuse to year 5 and year 6 pupils.

Herefordshire Community Safety Performance Overview 12/13

Priority and Performance Indicator	2012/13 Target	Data Source	Performance and trends							
Priority 1: Integrated Offender Management (including domestic abuse)										
Reduce Prolific and Priority Offender re-offending. (Lower is better)		Ministry of Justice	Q1 11/12	Q2 11/12	Q3 11/12	Q4 11/12	Q1 12/13			
			No data is currently available							
Repeat incidents of domestic violence	40%	MARAC Coordinator, West Mercia Police	Q1 11/12 38%	Q2 11/12 39%	Q3 11/12 41%	Q4 11/12 43%	Q1 12/13 42%	Q2 12/13 42%	Q3 12/13 36%	
Increase the percentage of individuals exiting treatment who are drug free - opiate and/or crack users (OCU's). (Higher is better)		Public Health	Q1 11/12 41%	Q2 11/12	Q3 11/12 35.1%	Q4 11/12	Q1 12/13	Q2 12/13		
			Data not yet available							
To maintain the current stable levels of total recorded crime in Herefordshire during 2012-13. (Lower is better)	Maintain level of 9501	West Mercia Police	Q1 11/12 2522	Q2 11/12 2553	Q3 11/12 2238	Q4 11/12 2188	Q1 12/13 2278	Q2 12/13 2372	Q3 12/13 2350	
Priority 2: Alcohol Harm Reduction										
Reduce Violence against the person (VAP) with injury by 1% in 2012/13. (Lower is better)	1044	West Mercia Police	Q1 11/12 281	Q2 11/12 281	Q3 11/12 253	Q4 11/12 240	Q1 12/13 257	Q2 12/13 254	Q3 12/13 245	
Priority 3: Empowered Localities										
Increase the number of people who feel safe in their local area. (Higher is better)		C&SS and Quality of Life surveys	Q1 11/12 52%	Q2 11/12 54%	Q3 11/12 57%	Q4 11/12 59%	Q1 12/13 61%			
			QoL Survey also reports that 74% feel safe after dark; 96% feel safe during the day							
Education - fits across all 3 HCSP priorities										
Road Safety										
Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Herefordshire roads – Resident priority. (Lower is better).		Herefordshire Council	Q1 11/12 26	Q2 11/12 18	Q3 11/12 18	Q4 11/12 33	Q1 12/13 14	Q2 12/13 10		

5.1 Introduction

It is a statutory requirement for HCSP to develop an annual strategic assessment. To help inform the Police and Crime Plan of the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner as well as local priorities, the annual strategic assessment was conducted by the end of October 2012. Information was gathered from various sources such as survey results, data collection from partners including police, probation, registered housing providers, local authority, courts, youth offending and third sector organisations. Desktop analysis combined statistical data, local intelligence and community concerns. The assessment was also able to reflect the findings of the 2012 Quality of Life survey of Herefordshire residents. Information from the community safety strategic assessment will be updated and inform Herefordshire's Integrated Needs Assessment (Understanding Herefordshire), ensuring a more holistic approach is taken.

5.2 Strategic Assessment key findings

- Herefordshire has low levels of crime and this is a priority for residents (47% of residents reported in the Quality of Life Survey 2012 that levels of crime are the most important factor in making somewhere a good place to live).
- People report feeling safe in Herefordshire (96% of residents feel safe in their local area during the day).
- Alcohol-related harm remains a concern for the county. Specifically alcohol-related assaults linked to the night-time economy; 45% of violence against the person offences having an alcohol marker.
- Offending and re-offending is significant in the 18 to 30 age range. From West Mercia Probation data (September 2011), there was a 12.4% reoffending rate, with high numbers of re-offenders in the 18-30 year olds (47%).
- Domestic abuse is a growing concern in Herefordshire; there continues to be an increase in the number of calls to the Women's Aid Helpline from Herefordshire year on year, with a 5% increase in 2011/12; 30% of all violent crimes in Herefordshire have a link to domestic violence and abuse; the percentage of repeat cases heard at Herefordshire's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) was 42% in September 2012; in an audit carried out by Children's Services in April 2012 domestic violence was a factor in 53% of Common Assessment Framework cases, 39% of looked after children cases, and 64% of child protection cases.

- There have been upward trends in rural crime, violence against the person and shoplifting. The CSP will monitor these and develop co-ordinated actions as appropriate.
- Mapping of crime and disorder is done at a local level. Hotspots will be reported to MATAC as appropriate for co-ordinated action.
- Whilst there was a significant increase in numbers killed and seriously injured on Herefordshire roads during the period Jan –March 2012, figures have now reduced significantly, but the HCSP will continue to monitor.

Further details are available in the Strategic Assessment Refresh – August 2012.

6) Herefordshire Community Safety Priorities 2013/14

Following the annual strategic assessment, Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership has identified the following priorities for 2013 -14:

Item	Priority	Co-ordinator	Key Partners
Priority 1	Integrated Offender Management (IOM)	West Mercia Probation Trust	Police, Providers, Herefordshire Council, Courts Service, Magistrates Court
Priority 2	Alcohol Harm Reduction	West Mercia Police and Herefordshire Public Health	Public Health, Licensees, Providers, HAND
Priority 3	Empowered Localities	Herefordshire Council	HALC, Third Sector, Police
Priority 4	Domestic Violence and Abuse	West Mercia Police	Herefordshire Council, Probation, CCG, Providers

Domestic Violence and Abuse has been included for 2013/4 due to feedback from partners and some initial research indicating that this is a growing cause for concern. A more detailed needs assessment is now being conducted, with a commitment to prioritise agreed actions. The CSP will be taking this work forward into 2013/14 and this is reflected in this now being shown as a priority.

Education is included as a cross-cutting theme, to focus attention on education and awareness raising with young people to enable them to make informed lifestyle choices.

Whilst drugs are not a specific priority, it is recognised that **substance misuse** is a cross cutting issue as it impacts across all priorities. A change of adult drug treatment provider in

Herefordshire, drug policy and new funding models are all key issues which need to be managed to ensure drug treatment in the county continues to provide better outcomes for service users and their families. Public Health with the local Health and Wellbeing Board will drive the change and will work closely with Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group in delivering reductions in substance misuse and ultimately crime in Herefordshire. HPEG supports the intention of Public Health to explore the development of a more co-ordinated approach, through the revitalisation of the Drugs and Alcohol Team (DAAT), which will help ensure effective commissioning and communication.

Keeping people safe on the county's roads is also regarded as hugely important by the CSP. The Partnership continues to monitor safety on Herefordshire roads, although it is not a specific designated CSP priority, as partners are presently working together to address this issue.

7) Work Plan – 2013/14

The table below provides an overall work plan for activity for 2013/14. Each priority will draw up a more detailed action plan

Priority / Activity	Objective	Description	Outcome	Measures / Assessments
Integrated Offender Management	To reduce offending and reoffending in Herefordshire by offering a co-ordinated package of interventions for offenders on the IOM cohort.	Continue to drive the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme including developing pathways away from reoffending and to embed joint working through the co-location of IOM team based at Hereford Police Station.	Reduce re-offending. Expand the service provision available to offenders to facilitate a change in behaviour.	Reduction in reoffending. More offenders accessing services (7 pathways to reduce reoffending).
Alcohol harm Reduction (joint priority with Health & Wellbeing Board)	To educate and raise awareness of sensible drinking; reduce violent crime linked to alcohol consumption; contribute to a	Coordinated data collection and monitoring of alcohol related risk and harm in Herefordshire leading to more effective targeting	Reduced number of alcohol related violent crimes and incidents. Reduced hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse.	A reduction in the number of alcohol related assaults. Reduction of alcohol related incidents of domestic violence

Priority / Activity	Objective	Description	Outcome	Measures / Assessments
	<p>reduction in alcohol-related assaults presenting at A&E; and intervene early to prevent violent crime and disorder.</p> <p>To develop a vibrant and professional night-time economy.</p>	<p>of resources.</p> <p>Deliver social marketing campaigns to reduce inappropriate levels of alcohol consumption, supply of alcohol to young and vulnerable people and to reduce alcohol lifestyle risk factors.</p> <p>Provide targeted educational interventions.</p> <p>Improved understanding of the link between alcohol misuse and domestic violence and abuse.</p> <p>Develop clear alcohol commissioning intentions to address community safety and offending related alcohol issues.</p> <p>Control inappropriate sale of alcohol.</p>		<p>and abuse.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of alcohol related A & E attendances.</p> <p>A reduction in the number of alcohol attributable hospital admissions in under 18 year olds.</p>
Empowered Localities	<p>Build capacity of practitioners and community leaders to work in communities to identify and implement local solutions to community safety issues.</p> <p>Adopt a multi-agency approach, (including involving</p>	<p>Raise awareness of community safety issues.</p> <p>Capture good practice and ensure it is shared across Herefordshire.</p> <p>Provide reassurance to communities where people report</p>	<p>People feeling safe.</p> <p>Communities involved in community safety issues.</p> <p>Work in partnership to implement solutions to resolve community safety issues.</p>	<p>Maintain levels of the number of people that report feeling safe in their local area.</p>

Priority / Activity	Objective	Description	Outcome	Measures / Assessments
	communities) in priority areas where community safety is a concern. Encourage communities throughout Herefordshire to become involved in making their communities safer.	feeling unsafe. Multi agency tasking to resolve community safety matters with a focus on localities.		
Domestic Violence and Abuse	Address the harm caused by domestic abuse and reduce the number of repeat MARAC cases.	Complete a detailed domestic violence and abuse needs assessment to understand and inform strategic and operational decisions regarding interventions and services to address domestic violence and abuse in Herefordshire. Develop and implement agreed actions arising from the needs assessment.	A clear picture of the prevalence of domestic abuse in Herefordshire, to commission services smartly and direct existing resources most efficiently. Reduce incidents of domestic abuse and avoid the number of repeat MARACs through effective care planning.	Increased number of domestic violence and abuse victims accessing support services leading to positive outcomes. A reduction in the number of children exposed to domestic violence and abuse.
Education	To inform and influence the behaviour of young people, to equip them to make informed life choices.	To work with schools and colleges to inform pupils on community safety issues including: road safety, hate crime / bullying, alcohol / drug misuse, domestic violence and abuse, finance and budgeting.	Changed behaviours of young people that make informed choices and decisions.	Increased numbers of young people with an understanding and awareness of community safety issues which can effect their quality of life. A better understanding of how they can address such issues.

8) Equality and Diversity

HCSP is committed to effectively serving all members of the community and ensure that actions and plans consider all groups and sections of Herefordshire's communities. The partnership have signed up to the Herefordshire Equality and Human Rights Charter and recognise that some people may experience discrimination and be disadvantaged because of their individual characteristics or social identity, including (but not limited to) their race,

disability, gender, age, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership. Equality and diversity issues will be considered when commissioning services in order to ensure that no group is excluded and to make certain that those who are most vulnerable and in need of help and support, are taken into account.

Preventing people from becoming victims and offering support to those who are, will be fundamental to all HCSP Priority Groups. The Herefordshire Equality and Human Rights Charter is available at: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/diversity.

For more information on community safety, please visit the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/communitysafety.

9) Review

HCSP will undertake regular reviews based on annual strategic assessments. A new three year strategy is due to be developed for implementation from April 2014.