

## COMMUNITY SAFETY



The potential effects of crime and disorder on the quality of life for the people and communities of Neath Port Talbot cannot be overstated. Whilst the incidence of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour remains relatively low compared to many other areas, and the situation has improved considerably over recent years, the impact on victims can far out-weigh the seriousness of any incident. Equally, the fear of crime or anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue for many individual citizens and local communities.

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership has been implementing the 2002-2005 Crime and Disorder Strategy over the past three years. The Strategy's objectives and targets reflect those in the Crime and Disorder theme of the original Community Plan. These have focussed on reducing crime and the fear of crime; tackling anti-social behaviour; reducing youth crime and disorder; reducing the incidence of domestic violence; tackling substance misuse; improving public safety and improving partnership working.

The Partnership has undertaken a community safety audit, which has informed the next three-year Community Safety Strategy for the period 2005 to 2008.

Good progress has been made since the launch of the Community Plan in 2002:

- Overall recorded crime for the period April to August 2004 stands at 4,757 crimes, an 8.3% decrease compared to the same period during 2003.
- There were 763 crimes of domestic burglary in 2002/03 compared to 581 during 2003/04, a decrease of 31.3% and the lowest burglary rate in South Wales.
- Violent crime rose by 8% during 2003/04. However, over the 5-month period April to August 2004, there has been a 26% decrease compared to the same period in 2003.
- Vehicle crime fell from 1,150 in 2002/03 to 937 recorded thefts in 2003/04. A further decrease of 6% was recorded in the 5-month period April to August 2004.
- The number of drug trafficking offences recorded continues to increase, showing the increasing effectiveness of police action to tackle drug dealing.
- Increased activity by Police Community Teams and Estate Wardens, together with the introduction of an anti-social behaviour public hotline have led to an increase in reports of anti-social behaviour. However, positive multi-agency action is now being taken to tackle serious cases. To date 10 anti-social behaviour orders are in place and

15 acceptable behaviour contracts have been agreed with young people.

- The designation of 5 public areas within which the public consumption of alcohol is prohibited. The effectiveness of this initiative will be reviewed prior to introducing any further areas into the regime.
- The Domestic Violence Forum has continued to promote better integrated services for victims of domestic abuse. The Domestic Violence Communities First Partnership is also now well established ensuring that victims of domestic abuse are involved in the development of more effective information, advice and support services.
- The Youth Offending Team has produced 81% of their court reports for young offenders within the standards set by Youth Justice Board.
- A youth strategy, designed to target young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal or anti-social activity, has recently been approved.
- Crime prevention initiatives such as the Feel Safe and Repeat Victims projects, together with the introduction of the anti-social behaviour scheme has helped reduce the fear of crime amongst residents.

The last three years have seen significant changes in both legislative requirements and the resources available to local community safety partnerships. Wide new powers to deal with anti-social behaviour have been introduced recently and pending legislation relating to licensing and

domestic violence will also have a significant impact on our ability to effectively tackle crime and disorder and promote community safety.

### KEY PARTNERS

The Safer Neath Port Talbot Partnership is responsible for the implementation of the key objectives in the Community Safety Strategy. An Executive Group with representation of the five key agencies at chief executive or equivalent level is responsible for the strategic development of the Partnership and is supported by a strategic group, Youth Offending Team Management Board and action groups, such as the Substance Misuse Action Team, that implement key objectives within the strategy.

The key partners in tackling community safety are:

- South Wales Police
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Neath Port Talbot Local Health Board
- Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- South Wales Police Authority
- The Youth Offending Team
- The National Probation Service - South Wales
- Neath Port Talbot Magistrates Courts
- Neath Port Talbot Victim Support
- Afan Tawe Nedd Neighbourhood Watch Association
- Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
- Neath Port Talbot Care and Repair Guiding Hand
- Neath, Port Talbot and Lliw Valley Women's Aid Organisations
- West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Vountary Service

## OUR VISION

Our vision is that by 2015 we will have:

- Reduced the overall level of crime, particularly car crime, house burglary, drug related crime and violent crime.
- Achieved a reduction in the fear of crime.
- Increased the range of diversionary activities for young people involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, criminal or anti-social activity.
- Reduced the incidence of anti-social behaviour in our town centres during the evening.
- Improved the provision of substance misuse treatment services.
- Reduced the incidence of domestic abuse and developed an integrated support service for victims of domestic abuse.



## OUR AIMS

This is what we wish to do together:

1. Continue to emphasise local community policing both in terms of intelligence-led approaches to tackling crime and reassurance initiatives in local communities.
2. Provide locally targeted community safety initiatives aimed at reducing the fear of crime.
3. Continue to develop the multi-agency anti-social behaviour scheme, improving capacity to tackle specific instances of anti-social behaviour.
4. Target prolific and other priority offenders, endeavouring to minimise re-offending through effective rehabilitation and resettlement procedures.
5. Continue to promote "secure by design" standard for new and existing facilities and developments.
6. Continue to promote better reporting of incidents of domestic violence, developing co-ordinated support services for victims and introducing fast-track prosecution for perpetrators.
7. Introduce initiatives to reduce the incidence of criminal damage and arson.
8. Ensure young offenders are speedily processed through the criminal justice system, developing initiatives to prevent them from re-offending.

## OUR AIMS (continued)

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| <p>9. Continue to provide training and educational opportunities for young people on community safety issues, particularly substance misuse.</p> <p>10. Expand substance misuse treatment and prevention services.</p> <p>11. Implement the new licensing policy with the aim of reducing alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour and improving community safety, particularly in our town centres.</p> <p>12. Tackle irresponsible attitudes to the sale of alcohol and other age-restricted products, including fireworks, carrying out test-purchasing exercises and strictly enforcing the laws relating to under-age sales.</p> <p>13. Continue to promote a safe and fair trading environment for consumers and businesses, vigorously enforcing consumer legislation.</p> <p>14. Continue to support local neighbourhood watch schemes and work with the voluntary and community sector to find local solutions to local community safety problems.</p> <p>15. Monitor the impact of crime on the business sector, developing initiatives to tackle any emerging issues.</p> <p>16. Continue to work with the local media to improve positive</p> | <p>coverage of community safety initiatives and projects thereby providing reassurance to local communities and reducing the fear of crime.</p> <p>17. Expand social inclusion initiatives within the Black and Minority Ethnic communities and other minority communities.</p> |
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**OUR TARGETS**

**By 2009**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To reduce overall crime by 15.7%</li> <li>2. To reduce theft of vehicles by 26.8%</li> <li>3. To reduce theft from vehicles by 27.5%</li> <li>4. To reduce house burglary by 21.4%</li> <li>5. To reduce criminal damage by 7.4%</li> <li>6. To reduce wounding by 9.4%</li> <li>7. To reduce the incidence of racially motivated crime (baseline and targets to be set during 2005/06).</li> <li>8. To increase the controlled drug arrests in the Port Talbot sector by 5%.</li> <li>9. To increase the number of seizures involving Class A drugs by 5% year on year.</li> <li>10. To dismantle or disrupt three drug trafficking groups per year.</li> <li>11. To increase by 3% the number of offenders charged, reported for summons or cautioned in respect of trafficking of Class A drugs.</li> <li>12. To ensure 100% arrest referrals for all drug offences to relevant partner organisations.</li> <li>13. To increase the number of arrests for all types of drug offences.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. To reduce the number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour by 5% in 2005/06, 3% in 2006/07 and 2% in 2007/8.</li> <li>15. To increase the number of individuals receiving intervention from Anti-social Behaviour Outreach Worker who do not progress to the ASBO stage (baseline and targets to be set during 2005/06).</li> <li>16. To improve the level of public satisfaction with the anti-social behaviour service by analysing survey forms issued to all public complainants (baseline and targets to be set in 2005/06).</li> <li>17. To monitor the number of anti-social behaviour orders, acceptable behaviour contracts and warning letters issued by the Anti-social Behaviour Team.</li> <li>18. To increase the arrest rate in domestic violence cases where the power of arrest exists from 62.6% (2004/05) to 75% in 2007/08.</li> <li>19. To monitor the number of offenders referred to the Probation Service IDAP course for perpetrators of domestic violence (baseline and targets to be set at the end of 2005/06).</li> <li>20. To reduce the number of withdrawals by victims to the specialist Domestic Violence Court</li> </ol> |
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## OUR TARGETS (continued)

(baseline and targets to be set at the end of 2005/06).

21. To develop local indicators and targets relating to the effectiveness by substance misuse treatment and prevention services by August 2005.
22. To develop local indicators and targets relating to criminal justice processes both for young offenders and prolific offenders by August 2005.
23. To increase the number and geographical coverage of neighbourhood watch schemes (baselines and targets to be set during 2005/06).
24. To reduce the fear of crime measured by Citizens' Panel surveys in 2005 and 2007.
25. To reduce the number of deliberate fires by 5% per annum.
26. To develop local indicators and targets relating to the number, range and outcomes of diversionary activities for young people by August 2005.

## RELATED STRATEGIES, PLANS AND DOCUMENTS

- Crime and Disorder Strategy 2005-2008
- Annual Policing Plan
- Substance Misuse Action Plan 2005-2008
- Annual Youth Justice Plan
- Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy
- Youth Crime and Anti-social Behaviour Prevention Strategy