

Community Safety Strategy 2008-2011

London Borough of Hounslow



**Working in partnership to make Hounslow
a safer place to work, live and visit.**

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Foreword

Hounslow is becoming a safer place to work, live and visit. The borough's strategic assessment shows that we are on target to achieve the 20 percent reduction in recorded crime, set in the 2005/08 strategy. Despite this progress, the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership – the multi-agency partnership responsible for reducing crime and disorder in the borough – acknowledges more can be done. This Community Safety Strategy explains how, working in partnership, we will reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder, substance misuse, work to realise the potential of our young people, and build on a reassured and cohesive community.



Cllr Phil Andrews

Executive Lead for Housing and Community Safety



Mark Gilks

Council Chief Executive



Cllr Peter Thompson

Chair of the Local Strategic Partnership and Leader of the Council

We are pleased to present the borough's fourth Community Safety Strategy. The strategy identifies a number of priorities for action based upon the findings of the Strategic Assessment 2005/07. It sets out our shared priorities, what we are going to do, the crime reduction initiatives we are planning, and how we will measure our progress.

Over the next 3 years, we will be in regular contact with residents, businesses and other agencies. We will be informing you about crime and substance use in your neighbourhood and consult you about community safety. We can only achieve the above, however, with your help. With your involvement, we will be more able to

protect you, your property and work within your community to make your neighbourhood a safer place.

Finally, through this Community Safety Strategy, the Partnership continues to promote community cohesion. Delivering the strategy brings neighbourhoods and communities together to work in partnership to make Hounslow a safer place to work, live and visit. Community cohesion is at the heart of a sustainable approach to make our borough both stronger and safer.



Membership of the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership

We have had a Community Safety Partnership in place in our borough since 1994. The Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 made such partnerships a legal requirement. Our members now include:

- Borough Criminal Justice Group;
- Crown Prosecution Service;
- Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha (representing the Faith Communities);
- Hounslow Community and Police Consultative Group;
- Hounslow Council;
- Hounslow Drugs and Alcohol Action Team;
- Hounslow Homes;
- Hounslow Housing Association Forum (representing the Social Housing Sector);
- Hounslow Magistrates' Courts (Brentford and Feltham);
- Hounslow Primary Care Trust (representing the Health Sector);
- Hounslow Racial Equality Council;
- Hounslow Voluntary Sector Forum;
- Hounslow Youth Offending Service;
- London Fire Brigade;
- London Probation Service;
- Metropolitan Police Authority;
- Metropolitan Police Service;
- Refuge (representing Domestic Violence Services);
- Victim Support;
- West London Business.

Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the work of all partners who have contributed to this Community Safety Strategy.

Introduction

What is the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership?

The Hounslow Community Safety Partnership is made up of a number of partnerships working together. The three main partnerships are the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, and the Youth Offending Service. The full membership is listed on page 2.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is made of agencies that by law must work together, these include the council, Fire and Rescue Authorities, Metropolitan Police Authority, Primary Care Trust and Probation as well as other partners such as the Borough Criminal Justice Group.

The purpose of the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership is:

Working in partnership to make Hounslow a safer place to work, live and visit

What is a community safety strategy?

The review of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has changed certain aspects of how crime and disorder is tackled by the Partnership. The responsible authorities mentioned and other partners are still required to work together to reduce crime and disorder in Hounslow.

The legislative changes were brought in by the Police and Justice Act 2006, but no longer require us to conduct a crime and drugs audit and consultation with stakeholders and residents every three years, which in the past has determined the priorities of the Community Safety Strategy.

We are now required to conduct strategic assessments annually, which will inform priorities for the strategy. A strategic assessment is a detailed study of crime and community safety in Hounslow. It includes:

- Information from the responsible authorities;
- Information from wider partners;
- Information from the overview and scrutiny committee considering crime and disorder matters, where it exists;

- Information provided by the community;
- The previous Community Safety Strategy¹

The National Indicators, Local Area Agreement and Police priorities have been aligned with those in this strategy.

Decisions about these priorities are based on what we have found out from the strategic assessment and what residents have told us from the public consultation.²

A Community Safety Strategy is an agreed plan between partners. It sets out the borough's priorities and how, in partnership, we plan to meet them and make the best use of resources available to us. This strategy includes both general aims as well as more specific planned action, so we can be flexible to adapt to new legislation, changing priorities, and good practice in the field of community safety. It also lists the targets by which we will measure our progress.

Drugs and anti-social behaviour are both local and national priorities that are included in this strategy. This strategy therefore considers community safety in the broadest sense. It brings together partnership working on anti-social behaviour,



¹ Home Office. 2007. Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working. Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships

² Please refer to Annex A for more information

crime and drugs in a single document.

In Hounslow, the Community Safety Partnership has a statutory responsibility for delivering the borough's Community Safety Strategy. This is a key part of the Community Plan developed and endorsed by the Local Strategic Partnership, which brings together all stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

What else will the Partnership have to do?

Reviewing the Strategy

As part of the new duties, the Partnership is required to carry out an annual review. In doing this, we will:

- Analyse the level and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse;
- Analyse the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse since the last strategic assessment;

- Analyse why these changes have occurred;
- Carry out an assessment of the extent to which last year's plan was implemented.³

Hallmark of Effective Partnerships

A national performance assessment framework will be introduced, which will be used to measure the performance of local partnerships. The framework provides an opportunity for partnerships to measure effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. The Partnership's effectiveness will be measured in the following six areas:

1. Empowered and effective leadership
2. Intelligence led- business processes
3. Effective and responsive delivery structures
4. Engaged communities
5. Visible and constructive accountability

6. Appropriate skills and knowledge

What we will achieve with this strategy?

By 2008/2011 the Partnership aims to:

- reduce recorded crime⁴;
- reduce the fear of crime in all areas of the borough and among vulnerable groups;
- increase the confidence in the Criminal Justice System by bringing more offenders to justice;
- make sure young people at risk of offending do not enter the Criminal Justice System;
- prevent re-offending by making perpetrators address their offending behaviour;
- build a reassured and cohesive community.

The next section explains in more detail how we will meet these aims. The last section describes how we will take the strategy forward.

³ Home Office. 2007. Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working. Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnership

⁴ Strategic assessment 2005/07

Priorities

To achieve our borough aims, and to meet national targets, the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership has identified five priority areas:

- Safer neighbourhoods;
- Safer, stronger communities;
- Reducing the impact on crime and harm caused by

- drugs and alcohol;
- Realising the potential of young people;
- A reassured and cohesive community.

Each of these priorities is now introduced in turn. Each section sets out what we aim to achieve, what we will do to meet that aim and our targets for 2008/2011.

Safer Neighbourhoods

Champion: David Bilson, Police Borough Commander

Aim

Working in partnership with the community to prevent and reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime within your neighbourhood.

What we will do:

By 2011, we will:

- Reduce the number of road fatalities and casualties;
- Continue with Safer Neighbourhood Policing;
- Continue to tackle anti-social behaviour which includes:
 - Drug and alcohol related anti-social behaviour;
 - Maintaining the anti-social behaviour action groups;
- Work to reduce criminal damage;
- Target graffiti hotspots;
- Tackle arson and nuisance calls to the Fire Service;
- Reduce the number of thefts from motor vehicles;
- Continue to develop Safer Transport Policing;
- Develop the work around making our town centres safer and reducing business crime.



Road fatalities and Casualties

Aim

Reduce the number of road traffic accidents where people are killed or seriously injured (KSI).

What we will do:

The Traffic and Road Safety Section will:

- Continue to educate children and young people about road safety;
- Continue the work of the Hounslow Road Safety Forum;
- Continue to implement local safety schemes.

Hounslow Council has set its targets in line with the National Road Safety Strategy and also those set by the Mayor of London. The Mayor's more challenging targets require us to reduce the number of KSI by 50 percent by 2010. We are on target to achieve this reduction in most categories of road user, but we remain concerned about motorcycle riders

and children. Our strategy to address these issues is education, engineering and enforcement.

Continue to educate children and young people about road safety

The Road Safety Team has a programme of education that it delivers to all school children in the borough, which is tailored to the needs of each age group. For example, pedestrian and cycling training at junior level, through to motor cycle training at age 16. There is also an education package aimed at parents of pre-school children. We utilise borough wide publicity aimed at all road users, such as drink driving and mobile phone campaigns.

Continue the work of the Hounslow Road Safety Forum

This newly formed multi-agency forum brings together professionals whose concern is road safety in the borough. Their joined-up approach is aimed at using the expertise of all involved to run large scale events, and to engage with other groups such as

Transport for London (TFL) and the London Safety Camera Partnership. (LSCP)

Continue to implement local safety schemes

Each year the Council identifies areas with high casualty numbers for which an engineering measure is appropriate. These include anything from anti-skid surfacing to traffic calming schemes. To date, these local safety schemes have been a successful way of reducing casualties at these locations.

Targets

- Deliver training and education programmes to all children;
- Reduce the number of all casualties;
- Identify and educate the most vulnerable groups of road users.

Safer Neighbourhood Policing

Aim

Build upon the successful implementation of ward policing and continue to work in partnership with communities to identify and tackle local priorities.

What we will do

Each Police sector will:

- Retain a commitment to Safer Neighbourhood Policing;
- Use safer neighbourhood ward panels to identify ward level priorities;
- Improve local accountability.

The main focus of ward based policing is not only to reduce local crime and anti-social behaviour, but also to put the Police back in contact with the communities they serve.

Neighbourhood policing also reduces the fear of crime owing to the high visible presence of these teams, who will have strong links with local people and complement the work of Neighbourhood Wardens.

Safer Neighbourhood teams will engage with their ward-based communities, involving them in problem solving solutions to their specific issues.

Neighbourhood policing

Each ward has a dedicated team of officers made up of one Police Sergeant, two Police Constables and three Police Community Support Officers. The Metropolitan Police Service is committed to maintaining neighbourhood teams that will not routinely be moved away from its area of responsibility to support other policing priorities.

Local priorities

Councillors, residents and businesses will work together using a problem solving approach to tackle local priorities. This will enable neighbourhood teams to react to issues, no matter how small, in a logical and pragmatic manner. Anti-social behaviour is a concern among residents and the neighbourhood teams will be active participants in their local Anti-Social Behaviour Action Groups. The role of Anti-Social Behaviour Action Groups is explained later.

Integrated approach

Each Police Sector is made up of three to five wards that match the Council Area Committee and ward boundaries. The five sectors that make up Hounslow are shown in the map below. These sectors have a dedicated Inspector who is responsible for working with the local community and delivering local and borough priorities. Each Sector Inspector will write an annual plan that both reflects local needs and supports the Community Safety Strategy and the borough's Community Plan. The plan is agreed in consultation with residents and councillors and regular updates are provided to the Council's Area Committees.

Safer Neighbourhoods Wards and Police Sectors



Targets

- To have a minimum of 70 Neighbourhood Ward Panel meetings per year;
- To have a minimum of 60 problem-solving action plans implemented.

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Anti-Social Behaviour

Aim

Working together to reduce anti-social behaviour in the borough

What we will do

The Anti-Social Behaviour Stakeholder Group will:

- Continue to work in partnership to provide a co-ordinated response;
- Address drug and alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) is showing a downward trend. Much of this can be attributed to the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, specifically dealing with low-level ASB and disturbances. The hotspots for this type of crime remain Hounslow Central and Feltham West. ASB by definition has many differing causes, and affects communities in different ways. However, more offences are recorded in the late afternoon and early evening and at these times, alcohol related offences also peak.

Co-ordinated response

We will continue to use multi-agency area-based Anti-Social Behaviour Action Groups (ASBAGs). The ASBAGs identify offenders who perpetrate anti-social behaviour, work towards appropriate remedies to address this behavior, and prevent re-offending. These remedies include voluntarily entered Acceptable Behaviour

Contracts (ABCs) and Parental Control Agreements (PCAs) as well as Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), which although are civil remedies become criminal offences if breached. ASBAGs are responsible for monitoring those signed to ABCs, PCAs and those subject to an ASBO.

The work around young offenders regarding ASB is addressed in the 'Realising the potential of young people' theme.

Drug and alcohol related ASB

An alcohol sub-group has been established to develop an alcohol strategy, which will include tackling alcohol fuelled ASB. We will continue test-purchasing activities to prevent the sale of alcohol to young people under the age of 18.

The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will support this strategy by identifying areas where young people congregate and engage in ASB. They will implement and enforce dispersal orders where necessary.

We will continue to use powers to close down premises linked to Class 'A' drugs and ASB.

Targets

- Maintain the ASBAGs;
- Increase covert operations around the illegal sale of alcohol to young people;
- Increase the number of dispersal orders and crack house closures.

Criminal Damage

Aim

Working in partnership to reduce all criminal damage

What we will do

- Use a problem solving approach, utilising Action Referral Forms;
- The local authority street cleansing teams will work with the Safer Neighbourhood teams to target graffiti across the borough;
- Incorporate the Fire Brigade Cycle Teams (Saddle Project).

Criminal Damage is not only a crime in itself, but it affects perceptions of crime for residents and therefore increases fear of crime. The Criminal Damage Action Group was set up to provide a joined up approach to achieve the criminal damage reduction targets set for the borough. Although we have achieved year-on-year reductions of this crime, the hotspots have remained the town centres of Chiswick, Hounslow and Feltham. The most likely cause of these recurring hotspots is the greater numbers of people using these areas and the increased opportunities to damage property.

Action Referral Forms

The Action Group developed the Action Referral Forms (ARF) based on the Police's Problems Solving Profile approach. The ARF is used by

partners to identify criminal damage hotspots as well as potential/emerging areas

Street cleansing



The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will identify graffiti at a ward level by consulting with their communities. They will liaise with the council street cleansing teams, who will remove the graffiti. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been issued graffiti removal equipment to assist residents with minor incidents. This process will be supported by the Fire Service Cycle Teams utilising ARFs.

The Fire Service cycle teams

The Fire Service will continue with their cycle teams to engage with communities, identify potential fire hazards and reduce incidents of arson. This system has been a major reason for an arson reduction of 47 percent in the latter part of 2007.

Targets

- Reduce criminal damage;
- Reduce arson;
- To increase the number of arson awareness sessions delivered to young offenders

Graffiti

Aim

To reduce graffiti through removal and education.

What we will do

The Criminal Damage Action Group in partnership with the Graffiti Officer will:

- Use the Action Referral Forms to identify graffiti hotspots;
- Use Community Action Days to rid neighbourhoods of graffiti;
- Educate children and young people on the effects of graffiti.

In 2007, we encouraged the public to report graffiti owing to the effect it has on residents' overall perceptions of crime and quality of life. As such, there was a significant increase in reported crime, with hotspots being identified in Chiswick, around Turnham Green and Feltham, around social housing estates. More than 90 percent of offences were on private property with 5 percent being considered racist. We will continue to cite graffiti as a specific objective for the Criminal Damage Action Group.

Use the Action Referral Forms to identify graffiti hotspots

The ARFs can be used by any partner agency to identify where there is graffiti. This form is sent to a dedicated Community Safety Officer,

who sends it to the relevant department for action. This system also provides us with an up-to-date snapshot of where the graffiti hotspots are, and where new hotspots are developing.

Use Community Action Days to rid neighbourhoods of graffiti

The Community Action Days (CAD) have proven very successful, not only in removing graffiti, but in providing a focal point for these community based events. The feedback told us that the fear of crime caused by graffiti and general decay had been reduced by the work completed during these events.

Educate children and young people on the effects of graffiti

We will continue to educate young people of the effects that criminal damage and graffiti has on the environment and on people's perception and fear of crime. We will utilise initiatives such as 'Theatre in Education' where actors perform interactive scenarios with selected young people. They then have the opportunity to learn through participation. The Fire Service will continue with its

Targets

- Increase the use of ARFs to target graffiti;
- Maintain the Community Action Days (CAD);
- Increase education programmes.

Hounslow was identified as one of the worst London boroughs for arson and deliberate car fires over the past three years....

education in Feltham Young Offenders Institute of the dangers and effects of arson.

Tackle arson and unwanted calls to the Fire Service

Aim

To reduce arson and the number of unwanted calls attended by the Fire Service.

What we will do

The Fire Service will in partnership:

- Develop the Community Safety Cycle Project and continue to use Action Referral Forms (ARF) to identify potential fire hazards
- Work to reduce the number of abandoned compressed gas cylinders
- Reduce the number of calls to release people from defective lifts, hoax calls, and unwanted fire alarm signals

Hounslow was identified as one of the worst London Boroughs for deliberately started small fires. The majority of the reported incidents are in the west of the borough, particularly for the setting alight of rubbish. A major contributing factor is the amount of open space in this part of the borough.

The number of unwanted calls attended by fire crews in the borough has increased,

in particular calls to release people from defective lifts. Such calls also include those to automatic fire alarm systems in commercial premises and hoax calls.

Community Safety Cycle Project and Action Referral Forms (ARF)

The innovative cycle project was developed in Hounslow in 2007. It involves Fire-fighters on cycles patrolling the borough, engaging the public, identifying potential fire risks. Once a risk is identified an ARF is generated and forwarded to the LB Hounslow for their action. The ARFs develop an intelligence base of potential and recurring hotspots, including those involving compressed gas cylinders. This simple concept has proven so successful it is being rolled out in other borough across London.

Work to reduce the number of abandoned gas cylinders in the borough

A combination of the ARFs, the Community Safety Cycle Team and the work of the Criminal Damage Action Group identified abandoned compressed gas cylinders as an emerging and potentially dangerous trend. The cycle teams, supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams are working to reduce this threat. Additionally, the Borough's recycling centre has agreed to allow residents to return used gas cylinders free of charge each June.

Develop partnership working with other agencies and organisations to

Reduce the number of calls to release people from defective lifts, hoax calls, and unwanted fire alarm signals

Partnership working will be developed with a number of other agencies and organisations. To reduce calls to the Fire Service to release people from defective lifts a partnership will be developed with Hounslow Homes. To reduce calls to unwanted fire alarm signals partnership the top 20 premises will be targeted by the Regulatory Fire Team for Hounslow to improve and/or modify their fire safety management. Hoax calls take fire engines away from genuine emergencies and therefore endanger lives. These will be closely monitored throughout the year and increasing trends will be identified and interventions made to reduce them with the support of partner agencies.

Targets

- Maintain the downward trend of arson in the borough
- Reduce the number of calls to unwanted fire alarm signals by 20% by 2010
- Reduce the number of calls to people shut in defective lifts by 20% to 172 by 2011

Motor Vehicle

Aim

Maintain vehicle crime reduction in the borough.

What we will do

The Police in partnership will:

- Continue to hold clinics to examine vehicles for forensic evidence;
- Continue to target persistent and prolific vehicle offenders;
- Continue to notify vehicle owners who leave property on display.

The strategic assessment established that theft from motor vehicles represents 13 percent of all reported crime committed within Hounslow borough. There are two identified hotspots: Chiswick High Road and surrounding roads, and Chiswick Common Road. Feltham as an area accounts for 3 percent of all offences. Although theft from motor vehicles is showing a reduction of approximately 20 percent, we are continuing to concentrate efforts to keep reducing this bulk crime.



Forensic evidence

Clinics are held on a daily basis to obtain the best possible forensic evidence in the fastest time possible. This is the main way that theft from motor vehicles is solved and perpetrators caught.

Persistent and prolific vehicle offenders

The work regarding PPOs is covered in the Safer Stronger Communities priorities on page 14. Vehicle crime offenders are represented in this area of work. We will continue to target both the PPOs and the areas in which they operate, utilizing both covert and overt CCTV.

Working with vehicle owners

We are working with residents who leave property on display in their vehicle, which increases criminal opportunities. When Safer Neighbourhood Officers identify such vehicles, they will trace and inform the owners they have left property in view. Additionally, the Safer Neighbourhood Teams will distribute cards that can be displayed in vehicles stating, 'There is nothing of value left in this vehicle.' This not only acts as a deterrent, but also prompts the owner to take valuables with them.

Targets

- Reduce theft of motor vehicles;
- Reduce theft from motor vehicles;
- Reduce damage to motor vehicles.

Safer Transport Policing

Aim

Work towards making Hounslow's public transport networks safer.

What we will do

Hounslow Police, Transport for London (TFL), local transport companies and British Transport Police (BTP) will:

- Maintain increased patrols on priority bus routes;
- Take positive action to prosecute offenders identified on CCTV;
- Continue to support operation 'Bus Tag' by identifying local graffiti offenders.

Hounslow has established a team comprising one Sergeant, two Constables and 18 Police Community Support Officers, dedicated to patrolling the bus routes, transport hubs and underground stations. They primarily work on 'priority routes', which are identified by Police and London United data as those suffering the most ASB and crime. Managers of the underground network stated their main concerns were ASB, abuse of staff and fare evasion, especially at



Hounslow East, Central and West stations.

Priority bus route

The Officers work from two sites across the borough and patrol those routes that are identified as being a priority. Their primary roles are reassurance, detection, and prevention of crime. Almost half of all reports were for disturbances and fare disputes. The Safer Transport Officers will focus on these offences as well as on reducing the fear of crime for bus users.

Positive action against offenders

All buses in the borough have CCTV fitted. The Safer Transport Teams are using this CCTV footage to identify and prosecute those engaged in ASB and criminal activity on buses. In addition, a 'Text Red' system has been introduced that allows bus drivers to text in any information they wish to Police. This builds up an accurate intelligence picture and provides reassurance for the bus drivers. Weekly clinics have also been introduced at all bus terminals for bus drivers to discuss and share any information with a dedicated Safer Transport Officer.

Operation 'Bus Tag'

This is part of a wider pan-London initiative. Graffiti is more than a crime - it increases the fear of crime and reduces peoples enjoyment of the transport system. All data is shared amongst partners and positive action is taken against all offenders identified.

Targets

- Reduce incidents of ASB on priority bus routes and at transport hubs;
- Reduce criminal damage and graffiti to busses and trains;
- To maintain a strong visible presence on priority bus routes.

Town Centre and Business Crime

Aim

Continue to work in partnership with local businesses to make our town centres safer.

What we will do

Hounslow Business Against Crime (HBAC) and Feltham Business Against Crime (FBAC) will:

- Utilise town centre CCTV to identify and prosecute offenders;
- Maintain additional patrols of town centres in the evenings;
- Continue to maintain information sharing systems with local businesses.

We have expanded the successes of the Hounslow Business against Crime (HBAC) into Feltham town centre (FBAC), to match the development that has recently taken place there. The two Businesses Against Crime Schemes, who act as a conduit between businesses and partner agencies. These two projects have the primary



purpose of trying to reduce retail crime, whilst also looking at general town centre safety and safety planning. We now have over 150 businesses participating in the initiative, have conducted several community events and taken positive action against those who commit crime against the business communities.

Town centre CCTV systems

Regular training is provided to all staff using the CCTV systems. This training includes techniques to identify and concentrate on known offenders and suspicious activity. Staff are also aware of their important role in gathering evidence to ensure high levels of successful prosecutions.

Town centre patrols

There are dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Teams that patrol during the town centres' busiest times, when there are high volumes of shoppers or those likely to be engaged in ASB. This is supported by Operation 'Sphere' where additional police officers are

directed to patrol the town centres at weekends.

Information sharing systems

Both town centres have 'Town Link' radio systems and all signed up members have access. This enables them to talk to one another and the local police town centre team. Additionally, the CCTV operators have a Hounslow Police radio, allowing direct communication with all local Officers. We also use the accredited National Business Information System, that allows us to input and view data regarding all crime committed against businesses in the scheme. This includes storing images of the most prolific offenders. Each town centre also has an album of known and high-risk offenders.

Targets

- Increase interventions against offenders;
- Increase the number of participating businesses;
- Maintain the skill base of town centre CCTV operators.

Safer, stronger communities

Champion: Mark Gilks, Council Chief Executive.

Safer, stronger communities is made up of a number of priorities that affect people, their homes and their communities. These priorities are:

- Tackling Hate Crime (race, faith and homophobic crime);
- Building on the work of the Resettlement of Offenders;
- Reducing serious violent crime;
- Reducing knife and gun crime;
- Reducing personal robbery which includes street robbery and snatches;
- Tackling domestic burglary, including supporting vulnerable victims;
- Building on the multi-agency work of reducing domestic violence;
- Working with the borough's Prolific and Other Priority Offenders.

We will now discuss each priority in turn.



Tackling hate crime (race, faith and homophobic crime)

Aim

Working towards a multi-agency response to tackling hate crime.

What we will do

The Race Crime Stakeholder and Homophobic Crime Stakeholder Groups will:

- Improve confidence of victims in reporting;
- Continue to work with partner agencies in supporting victims;
- Take action against perpetrators using civil legal and non-legal remedies.

Overall, there has been a reduction in the number of racist offences reported to the police. Data provided by Hounslow Homes indicates the west of the borough accounts for the highest proportion of racial harassment reports, specifically around the following estates:

- Waterfield Estate
- Waterloo Estate
- Highfields Estate
- Homecourt Estate

Homophobic crime is a low volume crime, but has a high impact upon victims. We have worked hard to increase reporting and the confidence victims have in us. We will continue in this approach.

Improve confidence of victims in reporting

A touch screen computer kiosk was installed in a gay venue

in Hounslow to allow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to electronically report homophobic crime and access support agencies. The kiosk is the first of its kind in the country. If requested by the person reporting, information is passed onto relevant support agencies including the Police. We will continue to promote this method of reporting through outreach and publicity campaigns.

Continue to work with partner agencies in supporting victims

We will continue to provide training to frontline staff to raise awareness of the impact that race/faith and homophobic crime has on victims. We will also offer practical solutions such as providing target hardening and evidence gathering equipment.

Take action against perpetrators using civil legal and non-legal remedies

We will continue using civil legal remedies and non-legal action against perpetrators of race/faith crime.

Targets

- Provide awareness-raising of the effects of hate crime in schools;
- Awareness training for partners, to help them recognise what hate crime is and how to deal with it effectively;
- To increase civil remedies and non-legal action against perpetrators.

Building on the work of the resettlement of offenders

Aim

Continue to build on the work of the resettlement of prisoners back into our community.

What we will do

The Resettlement Strategy will:

- Ensure prisoners are successfully resettled back into the community;
- Ensure each person released has a case manager;
- Hold multi agency case conferences for all released.

The resettlement strategy ensures prisoners and their families will receive support from a multi-agency group, to help them to reintegrate back into the community. We will provide assistance in the following seven areas (pathways):

- Accommodation;
- Education training and employment (ETE);
- Mental and physical health issues;
- Alcohol misuse;
- Drugs dependency;
- Finance, debts and benefits;
- Supporting families and children of those released.

Ensure prisoners are successfully resettled back into the community

We will work with all agencies necessary to ensure that there

Targets

- Reduce re-offending;
- Increase compliance with licence conditions;
- Increase the number of offenders engaging within the seven pathways.

are robust systems in place. This will afford offenders the best opportunity to resettle back into our communities.

Identify case manager or offender manager

We will guarantee that each person released has an identified case manager. This case manager will work with the offender to identify their individual needs, and ensure that these needs are met.

Case conference

Case conferences involving all the relevant agencies will take place six weeks prior to the release of the offender. Once in the community, the case conferences will continue ensuring that the offender is fully engaged and all the available services are provided. The case manager, as detailed above, will coordinate this.

We will guarantee that each person released has an identified case manager....

Reducing Serious Violent Crime

Aim

Work to reduce serious violent crime in the borough.

What we will do

The Partnership will:

- Support the local Police in their investigation of all violent crime;
- Continue to provide additional late evening patrols to deter disorderly and violent behaviour;
- Support victims and their families of serious violent crimes through the provision of a Family Liaison Officer.

Serious violent crime impacts not just on the victim, but also on family and close friends. Hounslow borough is still experiencing a general downward trend in this crime, while London as a whole is generally showing an increase. The town centres of Hounslow and Feltham are our hotspots, with two peak times. These are 3pm to 5pm, which is school leaving time and could explain the increasing trend of young people being involved in this crime type and 9pm to 1am, which is when most alcohol related violence takes place.

Support police investigations

There are many support mechanisms in place to assist in reducing violent crime.

For example, CCTV control centres, specifically those in Hounslow and Feltham town centres, will be used in the investigations. Operation 'curb' has been implemented in Hounslow, which directs resources and intelligence towards reversing the trend of serious violence by young people on young people.

Provision of late evening patrols (Operation 'Sphere')

In response to increasing town centre violence at night, particularly in Hounslow and Feltham, additional late night patrols have been provided. Operation 'Sphere' is proving successful in not only dealing with this increase in violent crime, but the high visibility of the officers reassures those enjoying the night time economies.

Support for victims

Every victim (and family members) of a serious violent crime are allocated a Family Liaison Officer (FLO). All FLOs are specially trained and will be the single point of contact for the victim and relatives, providing support, advice and updates of the investigative progress.

Targets

- To reduce wounding;
- To reduce serious violent crime in our town centres.

Reducing knife and gun crime

Aim

Work to reduce the number of crimes involving knives and guns.

What we will do

The Partnership will:

- Continue to work with schools to raise awareness of the dangers of carrying knives;
- Use metal detectors to prevent knife and gun crime;
- Use Police powers to search those carrying knives and guns and to work with the Crown Prosecution Service to prosecute offenders.

Recent events across London have highlighted that youth-on-youth violence is increasing and sometimes results in a murder. Hounslow has not experienced the levels of violence seen in other boroughs, however, we are not complacent. We have already undertaken some preventative work. This is discussed in the realising the potential of young people section.

Work with local schools

Police are currently working with local schools to introduce metal detectors at a single entry point, to stop young people from taking knives into their schools.

The Police Schools Officers are working with secondary teachers to deliver lessons

highlighting the dangers of carrying knives and the tragic circumstances that may occur through their use.

Metal detectors

The Metropolitan Police Service has provided each of its boroughs with search arches (large metal detectors) and hand held metal detectors. This new equipment will assist Hounslow Police to detect those who possess a weapon such as a knife or gun. The overall aim is to prevent the carrying of these weapons.

Using the Criminal Justice System

The Police will continue to use all powers available to them to identify those carrying any weapons and work with the Crown Prosecution Service and the courts. The aim is to arrest and bring offenders before a court for punishment.

Targets

- Engage more schools and other establishments such as pubs and shops;
- Reduce the number of young people carrying knives and guns;
- To increase the number of offenders brought to justice

Reducing personal robbery

Aim

To reduce personal robbery which includes street robbery and snatches.

What we will do

The Partnership will:

- Continue to raise awareness through crime prevention;
- Use new CCTV technology in identified hotspots;
- Continue to proactively monitor persistent and priority offenders.

Street robbery and snatches commonly referred to as muggings, represent three percent of all reported crime committed within Hounslow. Currently, the average offending rate in Hounslow is approximately two-per-day. However the perception held by some members of the community is that the offending rate is actually much higher. There are three hotspots: Hounslow High Street, Feltham High Street and Chiswick High Road, including the area around Turnham Green.

Crime prevention

The Partnership will continue to use various methods of communicating crime prevention advice. We use the local papers, the council's residents' magazine "Hounslow Matters", and can provide booklets with a host of crime prevention advice. The Crime Prevention Officers give numerous talks to a variety of groups around the borough and can provide personal attack alarms at such events.

CCTV

The Partnership has updated the CCTV in the borough to improve the quality of evidence it produces, to support identification and prosecution of offenders. Police are able to access, view and control a number of partner agency CCTV systems in the borough, including parking enforcement and town centre cameras. We also purchased a mobile CCTV vehicle, which can be deployed at short notice anywhere and own 20 portable 'domehawk' cameras. This new technology allows the Partnership more coverage of the borough and the opportunity to target areas where crime is being committed. We have the ability to be proactive in targeting hotspot areas and supplying resources to react to CCTV evidence.

Repeat offenders

The work to manage repeat offenders is addressed through the Resettlement Strategy and the Persistent and Priority Offender Scheme. These have been described in their own sections.

Target

- To identify and monitor the most serious offenders;
- To increase prosecutions where offenders are caught on CCTV;
- To make crime prevention advice widely available.

Tackling residential burglary including supporting vulnerable victims

Aim

Continuing to reduce domestic burglary, and to support victims and likely victims of domestic burglary.

What we will do

The Domestic Burglary Stakeholder Group will:

- Continue to support all victims of burglary;
- Aim to target harden properties of vulnerable people such as the elderly;
- Identify known and new offenders and target them for arrest

Residential burglary in the borough has seen sustained reductions over the past five years. The strategic assessment had identified seasonal trends and potential venues enabling the police to plan operations and additional patrols during these periods.

The most persistent and enduring hotspot for residential burglary is Chiswick. The overall method of entry in all of the hotspots is force/smash rear doors and windows. Cash, laptops, cameras and jewellery are the main types of property being stolen.

Working with victims and potential victims

The Partnership will continue to work to prevent offences in

the first place by taking action to make offending harder to commit. For example, working with residents to control access to alleyways, to cut back overgrown gardens and refresh the appearance of homes of older people utilising operation 'payback'. This is effective in tackling distraction burglary too.

Target hardening

We will continue to provide improved security measures to the most vulnerable, such as older people.

The Crime Prevention Officers have secured the homes of 2,500 vulnerable residents in the borough. This is part of the Home Security Scheme, described in 'A reassured and cohesive community' section (page 19).

Working with offenders

The work to manage repeat offenders is addressed through the Resettlement Strategy and the Persistent and Priority Offender programme. These have been described in their own sections.

Target

- Increase the number of vulnerable victims and potential victims receiving support;
- Increase the number of initiatives to target harden homes and vulnerable areas;
- To reduce residential burglary.

Build on the multi-agency work of reducing domestic violence

Aim

Increase support for survivors, educate children and hold perpetrators accountable.

What we will do

The Domestic Violence Policy Group will:

- Work towards providing emotional and practical support to victims;
- Deliver preventative work with young people in order to reduce the incidence of this crime in future years;
- Work on improving services for victims with drug and/or alcohol dependency.

Domestic violence offences over the last five years have experienced sustained reductions. This is mainly due to the positive arrest policy and the continued partnership work carried out in the borough. Data provided by the Hounslow Domestic Violence Outreach Service indicated 76 percent of victims were repeat victims and 40 percent had drug or alcohol dependency.

Work towards providing emotional and practical support to victims

In the last three years, the Hounslow Domestic Violence Outreach Service expanded, and we saw the development of the Refuge Floating Support

Service. The Hounslow Safer Homes (Sanctuary) Project, gives victims the opportunity to stay safely within their own homes, by providing extra security. We will continue to provide this service.

Preventative work with young people

The Learning to Respect education programme has been delivered to 53 schools throughout the borough. This programme won the Mayor of London's award for outstanding contribution to educating children and young people on domestic violence. We will continue with this initiative.

Improving services for victims with drug and/or alcohol dependency

Over the last two years, work has begun to improve services for victims with drug and/or alcohol dependency who are experiencing domestic violence. An extensive training programme has been delivered and a pilot is currently underway to build on the work of this programme.

Targets

- To reduce domestic violence;
- To increase the number of schools participating in the Learning to Respect Programme;
- To increase the number of agencies working with victims who have drug and alcohol dependency

Build on the multi-agency work to safeguard vulnerable adults

Aim

Increase support for vulnerable adults at risk of abuse

What we will do

The Safeguarding Board coordinates this work and will:

- Oversee the training and preventative work
- Continue providing emotional and practical support to victims
- Manage the interagency procedures

In recent years there have been a number of public enquiries into the failure of the NHS and Social Services to respond appropriately to the cases of vulnerable adults at risk of physical, emotional and financial abuse. Locally Safeguarding Procedures have been reviewed and updated and an extensive multi-agency training programme has been delivered.

Oversee the training and preventative work

One of the most successful aspects of the work in the last four years has been the Adult Abuse Awareness two hour briefing sessions that are provided to any staff working with vulnerable adults in Hounslow with over 1100 staff attending these sessions. These sessions are provided at the workplace and at a time to suit each organisation.

More comprehensive one day courses are also provided for managers. The outcome of this work is raised awareness and increased referrals and we will continue to deliver this programme.

Continue providing emotional and practical support to victims;

The number of Adult Abuse cases reported and investigated has risen in the last five years from 38 to 300. The team coordinates investigations, support to the victims and ongoing monitoring where the abusive situation continues. One area of focus is the increasing numbers of cases of vulnerable adults identified and supported through the Council Customer Financial Affairs team and this work will be expanded during the next year.

Manage the interagency procedures

It is notable that 34 of the 300 abuse reports received in 2007/8 were so serious that they required Police involvement. These 34 reports to the police led to two convictions, both carrying jail sentences. In addition to the police involvement described above 48 cases were referred to the Domestic Violence Outreach Service for joint work with Safeguarding Adults. During the current year the operation of these newly revised procedures will be reviewed.

Targets

- To increase public awareness of abuse of vulnerable adults amongst all sections of Hounslow's communities
- To increase reporting of possible cases of abuse of vulnerable adults
- To increase the numbers of cases of vulnerable adults supported through the Council Customer Financial Affairs team
- To increase the numbers of professionals who have attended the multi-agency courses on awareness of abuse of vulnerable adults

Working with the borough's Prolific and Other Priority Offenders

Aim

Provide a range of effective interventions to reduce re-offending by our Prolific and Other Priority Offenders.

What we will do

The Prolific and Other Priority Offenders steering group will:

- Provide a range of interventions, including treatment;
- Work with prisoners to prepare them for resettlement into the community;
- Provide intensive supervision of Prolific and Other Priority Offenders (PPOs) not engaging in the programme.



Half of all crime is committed by 10 percent of offenders. The PPO Programme aims to reduce re-offending in this group. We will adopt the 'carrot and stick' approach. We will ensure those adult offenders identified as PPOs receive priority treatment and other interventions to reduce their offending. If they fail to engage, they will be subject to intensive supervision by the Police and Probation and we will fast track them back into prison. This overlaps with the work of the Resettlement Strategy.

Provide a range of interventions, including treatment

We will utilise services provided in Pharmacia House, an award winning 'one stop shop', that provides treatment for offenders with drug dependency. We will support PPOs who have housing difficulties and/or can not find work. These are some of the services offered to PPOs engaging and attempting to redress their offending behaviour.

Work with prisoners to prepare them for resettlement into the community

We will make contact with a

Hounslow PPO who is due for release. We will establish their needs, prepare an action plan and meet them at the prison gate. This will give us the best opportunity to ensure their engagement with all services offered. We will explain to the PPO that failure to engage with the programme will result in them being fast-tracked back into prison.

Intensive supervision of PPOs not engaging

If an identified PPO refuses, or is unable to engage, their behavior will be discussed at the weekly case conferences. Their action plan will be updated with an agreed course of action. They will be subject to an intensive supervision regime and if necessary, fast tracked back into prison. This will also apply if they breach their release conditions, or the terms of their licence.

Targets

- Reduce the re-offending rate of our PPOs by at least 10 percent;
- Retain a proportion of PPO clients engaged in treatment;
- To have at least four contacts per week with our PPOs.

Reducing the impact on crime and the harm caused by drugs and alcohol

Champion: Nick Relph, Chair of the Drugs and Alcohol Action Team.

Aim

Reduce the impact on crime and the harm caused by drugs and alcohol.

What we will do

The Drugs and Alcohol Action team will:

- Work with partners to reduce the supply of illegal drugs;
- Reduce alcohol and drug-related anti-social behaviour and crime;
- Develop and implement the borough's Alcohol Strategy;
- Provide treatment to drug offenders committing crime.

We will implement services in Hounslow based on the national drugs strategy. We will continue with our multi-agency approach, utilising Pharmacia House, our integrated 'one stop shop', that provides treatment for those with drug dependency. Our needs assessment established what services are required for our problematic drug users (PDU). One major outcome is the difficulty in engaging and retaining in treatment, male PDUs who are under 34 years old and who's preferred drug is crack.

As part of the Arrest Referral

programme, any offender, including PDUs, arrested for a 'trigger offence' (acquisitive crime), will be subjected to a mandatory drugs test. If positive, they will be required to have an assessment conducted by a drugs worker. If they fail to engage with the drugs worker, they can be charged for this too.

Alcohol misuse continues to be an issue for the borough especially alcohol-fuelled ASB. Alcohol-related incidents are on the rise compared to the past two years. The hotspot location for alcohol-related incidents continues to be town centres, in particular Hounslow. Part of the strategy to tackle this issue, was the introduction of a Controlled Drinking Zone (CDZ) in Hounslow town centre. We will be exploring the possible expansion of this concept to other parts of the borough.

Young people are now beginning to present themselves at treatment agencies. We will incorporate actions to deal with the emerging issues surrounding young people. We will work with our partners to ensure that licensing laws are enforced and where necessary we will conduct test purchasing operations and serve closure notices if required.

Reducing supply

We will share intelligence and work with national and regional drug enforcement agencies. Locally, we will coordinate Police operations to stop illegal drug dealing

and we will increase the seizure of illegal drugs and associated assets. There will be more interventions when people are brought into Police custody, including increased drug testing and access to treatment services for those who have been arrested for drug 'trigger' offences. Increasingly the work of reducing the impact on crime and harm caused by drugs and alcohol is linked to health promotion and treatment. It is important to make these links if we are to have any significant impact on reducing this area of crime.

Reducing alcohol and drug-related anti-social behaviour and crime

We will reduce the impact of drug and alcohol related ASB and crime on our communities. We will continue to enforce the licensing laws to ensure pubs and clubs are safe and orderly, and off-licences are selling alcohol responsibly. We will make effective use of the powers in the ASB legislation to close down premises associated with Class A drugs and ASB. We will continue the work of the Controlled Drinking Zones in the borough.

We will work to educate local communities to make them aware of the health and social costs of drugs misuse and binge drinking. We will also be encouraging communities to provide intelligence, dissuade people from using drugs and alcohol, and help users access appropriate treatment.

Develop and implement the borough's alcohol strategy

We will be writing an alcohol strategy for the borough that will examine responsible drinking, licensing issues, domestic violence, enforcement and treatment. We will conduct a needs assessment, which will form part of the basis of the strategy. It is important that we begin to map unmet need, and the A&E Alcohol Brief Intervention Pilot will provide us with localised data that Hounslow has not gathered before.

Provide treatment to drug offenders committing crime

Through the Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) we will continue to assess and refer offenders into treatment who have tested positive for Class A drugs upon arrest. Drug assessments will continue to be undertaken at Feltham Magistrates' courts, or as directed by the Magistrates for those offenders being considered for bail. This work overlaps with the Resettlement Strategy and PPO programme.

Targets

- Increase the number of PDUs accessing and remaining in effective treatment;
- Increase prosecutions for illegal drug use and supply;
- Increase the number of young people accessing young peoples drugs and alcohol services.

Realising the Potential of Young People

Champion: Christine Pangbourne, Head of Youth Crime Reduction.

Aim

To reduce youth crime by supporting young people to achieve the best possible outcomes through a preventative approach.

What we will do

The Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Stakeholder Group will:

- Forge better links between the Community Safety Partnership and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board;
- Work to reduce the number of young people at risk of offending and re-offending;
- Develop a partnership framework to address youth-on-youth violence.

The Partnership is fully committed to working together to help all children and young people achieve the five outcomes in the Every Child Matters agenda.

We will support the work of the Children and Young People's Plan 2007-2010 which seeks to prevent problems, intervene early, support families and parents and build stronger and united communities, as well as consulting and involving children and young people

more, and expanding the work on partnership and prevention.

The Youth Offending Service and Connexions commissioned a study to ascertain perceptions of safety and crime amongst young people. Whilst the study overall shows a relatively positive experience among young people living in Hounslow, it also highlighted that young people felt having more things to do will prevent them getting involved in criminal activity. It also showed that young people themselves often feel unsafe because of other young people, especially in parks and open areas.

The findings of the Strategic assessment indicate:

- There are less young people who have come in to the criminal justice system for the first time, especially in central Hounslow and Heston;
- There has been a recent emergence of young people associating with gangs;
- Intelligence on gangs and youth ASB has seen a significant increase of 71% from 2005/06 to 2006/07, but this still forms a small proportion of the overall crime;
- The two main hotspots for youth crime remain Hounslow Town Centre and Feltham High Street;
- Victims are mainly white males aged between 12 and 23 years old and offenders are white and black males aged between 15 and 16 years old.

...young people felt having more things to do will prevent them getting involved in criminal activity.

Community Safety and Children's Services

The Community Safety Partnership and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will continue to work closely together to promote safer communities and secure better outcomes for children and young people. The Partnerships share priorities to reduce young people coming in to the criminal justice system, to reduce re-offending and to increase places to go and things to do and the engagement of children and young people in these activities. The partnerships also share the objective to increase support to parents to be responsible for their children.

This work will include the development of the Integrated and Targeted Youth Support, Extended Services, Integrated Early Intervention Services and encompassed within the implementation of the Common Assessment Framework. The Integrated and Targeted Youth Support will be introduced to improve the accessibility of services to young people throughout the borough. The aim is to assist young people to successfully make the transition to adulthood. The role of Children's Centres and Extended Schools will be to continue to help prevent

children and young people in engaging in ASB and crime. The aim of the Common Assessment Framework is the early identification of children and families who need support. This support will be provided by a team that looks specifically at that child's needs. This will be co-ordinated by a lead professional and supported by Early Intervention Teams with access to specialist input where required.

In addition to this, the Partnership will continue to support the intergeneration work currently undertaken to promote the positive influence older people can have on young people. For example, through projects such as the Probation and Youth Offending Team formal placements and informal opportunities such as Pensioners Alone at Christmas.

Young people at risk of offending and re-offending

We will continue with a multi-agency preventative approach. The focus will be early intervention, community involvement, effective information exchange, and working in consultation with young people and their families.

We will use existing projects, and develop new initiatives to address emerging issues.

These include:

- Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP);
- Youth Inclusion and Support Panels (YISP);
- Anti-social behaviour action groups (ASBAGs);
- Junior Youth Inclusion programme (Junior YIP);
- Detached and Outreach Youth Service Teams (DOT);
- Work with parents;
- Sports opportunities;
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Positive activities for young people

PAYP is a targeted programme specifically targeted at those at risk of offending, young carers, young people in care, those leaving care, those at risk of exclusion from school and those not in education, employment and training. It is designed to deliver programmes of positive activities that divert young people and offer them better chances in life that overcome barriers and reduces poor outcomes for them.

Youth inclusion and support panels

There are two YISPs. N-gage, working with 8 –13 year olds and the Senior YISP working with 14 –17 year olds. These multi-agency panels work to provide a support package for young people at risk of becoming involved in ASB and criminal activity.

Anti-Social Behaviour Action Groups (ASBAGs)

The work of the ASBAGs are described in the Safer, Stronger Communities section.

Junior Youth Inclusion Programme

The Junior YIP targets young people at risk aged 8-13. It is based in Hanworth and managed by Hounslow Action for Youth This project works with the parents of the young people using the accredited and highly regarded Triple Parenting Programme (Positive Parenting Programme).

Detached and Outreach Team

The four Detached and Outreach Teams, target areas in the borough where there are high levels of youth crime and ASB. They provide a variety of activities and diversionary projects to encourage young people away from this lifestyle.

Parenting Programme

The Parenting Programme aims to develop key skills for parents to support their child in addressing their offending behaviour. This programme offers parents, one-to-one, group work, workshops and drop-in sessions.

Sports opportunities

There are many projects using sport as a focus to divert

children and young people from engaging in ASB and criminal activity. For example, the Kickz Soccer Initiative, which was established by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Football Association. In Hounslow Brentford Football Club Community Sports Trust lead in delivery of this initiative by providing free football and other sporting sessions at two hotspot locations in the borough.

Safer Neighbourhood Team Projects

Five of the 20 safer neighbourhood teams have identified youth diversionary activities via consultation in their neighbourhoods. A range of activities has been provided.

Reduce re-offending

We will continue to support a number of initiatives that address young people’s offending behaviour and reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Following a rigorous assessment, individual programmes are drawn up for each young person. The assessment considers the risk of re-offending, the risk of self-harm, or harm to others and the needs of the young person.

The young people considered most likely to become prolific offenders receive additional input and scrutiny via the Prevent and

Deter strand of the Prolific and Priority Offenders scheme.

Serious Youth on Youth Crime

Nationally there are growing concerns around the emerging level of youth on youth crime. This is a new area of work for the Partnership. Locally a seminar was held with key stakeholders to look at how, in partnership, we can address this area of crime. The following was agreed:

- Set up a multi-agency working group to take forward this area of work;
- Develop and implement a partnership approach to protect young people from serious violence;
- To ensure young people are consulted.

Targets

- Reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time;
- Reduce the rate of young people re-offending in the borough;
- Develop the work on youth on youth crime;
- Continue to support the development of partnership work to engage young people at risk of crime and anti-social behaviour.

A reassured and cohesive community

Champion: Howard Simmons, Council's Assistant Chief Executive.

Aim

Working in partnership to build a strong, vibrant and united community.

What we will do

Reduce the fear of crime;

- Work in partnership to facilitate a more cohesive community;
- Improve community engagement;
- Review the Communications Strategy;
- Implement the Tension and Conflict reporting systems;
- Disseminate crime prevention advice.

In Hounslow we want to see communities that are strong, vibrant and united. We want to work with local people to help us identify problematic areas and help us to reduce crime and substance misuse in their neighbourhoods. We believe that this will not only positively impact on their fear of crime, but more importantly meet the needs of the community we serve.

Reduce the fear of crime

The strategic assessment established that during the financial year 2007/08, the Partnership has achieved its highest score of fear of

crime, with 85 percent of respondents in the Resident's Panel⁵ Survey stating that they felt safe outside during the day. This represents the highest score for three years. Although residents also felt safer after dark (35 percent stating they felt safe or fairly safe) compared with last year, less than 40 percent of respondents throughout the period covered felt safe or fairly safe outside after dark. In town centres, this is reduced to 67 percent feeling safe in daylight hours and 16 percent during the hours of darkness.

By using the Resident's Panel Survey, we established that 73 percent of residents felt that people get on together well in the borough and 59 percent believed that residents respected one another.

Overall, the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Policing appears to be the most significant factor that makes residents feel safe.

Facilitate a more cohesive community

The Partnership has contributed to building a common purpose of bringing communities and neighbourhoods together.

The council commissioned a study to consider the underlying causes of youth disengagement from mainstream society, the significance of any tendency to support extremist views and turn to extremist organisations.

As a result of the 'A Window of Extremism

Report', the council is now developing an action plan based on its key findings and recommendations. This is supported by the Partnership.

Community engagement

The Partnership already makes information available to the public, but we believe we can do more. The Police and Justice Act 2006 has extended our duty to go beyond consulting to actively engaging the community in the work of the Partnership. We will also make use of existing consultations such as the Residents Panel Survey to inform its work.

Another statutory requirement for the Partnership is to hold one or more public meetings throughout the year.⁶ The purpose of these meetings are to inform local residents of what we are doing, help us shape the work to reflect the needs of the community and to encourage communities to help us tackle crime and disorder.

We will continue to involve community groups and leaders in all the work of the Partnership. They will remain represented on the Partnership board and in its stakeholder groups. We will ask them to help deliver parts of the Community Safety Strategy. At neighbourhood level, the community will be consulted using the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Ward Panels.

We will continue to use the Police Community

Consultative Group (PCCG) as a consultation arm and will involve them in the work of the Partnership.

Hounslow Against Racial Harassment (HARH) have worked to develop a service user forum, whereby key stakeholders of this forum attend activities organised by our partners, as a means of getting feedback from users on their experiences of accessing support when reporting racial harassment and crime.

The Borough Users Form (BUF) is used to consult service users on various aspects of drug and alcohol services and the work of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT). The membership is made up of ex-users and those in treatment. The BUF is regularly consulted on how services are delivered in the borough as well as participating in writing and reviewing the yearly Treatment Plan. They also have a seat on the DAAT Board and Joint Commissioning Group.

Communications strategy

Communication is an important community safety tool. It helps reassure and build confidence in our communities, partners and professionals about what we are doing to reduce crime and substance misuse. It also helps manage people's expectations and is an opportunity to invite communities and partners to participate in schemes to improve community safety.

⁵Hounslow Resident's Panel Survey report February 2008

⁶Home Office. 2007. Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working. Guidance for Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships

We will update and improve on the existing communications strategy to ensure it reflects the priorities and work outlined in this document.

Implement the tension and conflict reporting systems.

Hounslow, along with two other London boroughs, was chosen by Central Government to pilot the 'Understanding and Monitoring Tension and Conflict in Local Communities' model. This model looks specifically at preventing tensions in the community through working in partnership with agencies by sharing information. We will continue to develop this work

Disseminate crime prevention advice

We will publish crime prevention advice on the Partnership's website. This will enable the community to take steps to protect themselves and their property. For those residents not e-enabled we will make use of Hounslow Matters, the borough's magazine.

Ringmaster System

Our Ringmaster system is a free service for all residents who sign up to the scheme. We will provide crime prevention advice, inform you of crime patterns and trends, news of activity in your area and public announcements. We can provide this information in a variety of formats including text, e-mail, telephone messages and fax.

It is a two-way system that allows members to provide information to the Police and partners confidentially

Home security scheme

With this scheme, any resident who is over 60, or considered vulnerable can apply, or be recommended for this free service. A Crime Prevention Officer will conduct a survey of your home and complete a report of what locks, security devices and secure intercom systems you require to secure your house. We will then send a trained Safer Neighbourhood Officer to fit these devices for you. Additionally, we will conduct a fire safety survey, and if appropriate, fit fire alarms. We have completed this service to more than 2,500 houses in the borough and will continue this service for the period of this strategy.

Neighbourhood Watch scheme



A Police Community Support Officer from each Safer Neighbourhood Team on each ward is now responsible for all the Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in their area.

Tackling Extremism

Aim

To reduce the risk of radicalisation amongst vulnerable groups.

What we will do

The Partnership will:

- Provide education for vulnerable groups and the wider public;
- Gather information regarding tensions within our communities;
- Prevent marginalisation;
- Build capacity and implement projects.

In 2003, Britain's first suicide bomber was from Hounslow and since then, a handful of young people have been questioned about their involvement in the London bombings and the UK terror plot in the summer of 2006. The Police and other agencies have also reported that far right extremists are actively operating in different parts of the borough. This was particularly identified in the West Area Study, which highlighted an increasingly socially excluded white community.

Education for vulnerable groups and the wider public

We support and run a number of projects that promote community cohesion. These are being used to build dialogue and co-operation between vulnerable sections of the public.

Gather information regarding tensions within our communities

We have established a Tension Monitoring Group, which comprises key partners. The aim is to gather and share information and concerns on a weekly basis. The information gathered forms a vital part of the planning processes in both the long and short term.

Prevent marginalisation

In 2007, the council commissioned Professor Ted Cante and the Institute of Community Cohesion to undertake a major study of far right extremism and religious fundamentalism in the borough. The council and its partners are currently developing an action plan in response to the report's findings. We will implement this action plan in year one of this strategy.

Build capacity and implement projects

Hounslow Council is leading on a sub regional Pathfinder Programme specifically focusing on tackling violent extremism in the Muslim communities. The council will be continuing to develop projects and work with key partners.

Targets

- Increase information regarding concerns within our communities;
- Increase counter terrorism briefings with our partners;
- Increase the number of young people engaged in diversionary projects.

Taking the strategy forward

The Partnership recognises there is a lot that can be achieved in taking forward this strategy. We have built upon the lessons and good practice from the last strategy and taken into account recent changes. To make best use of our resources and to encourage more joined-up action, we will continue to work with the structure adopted in the previous strategy.

Champions

Each of the five priorities has a champion responsible for overseeing and delivering their part of the Community Safety Strategy. The champion is a senior officer who can assist if there are difficulties and barriers to partnership working. In addition to this, they will be responsible for commissioning projects to meet their targets outlined in their priority.

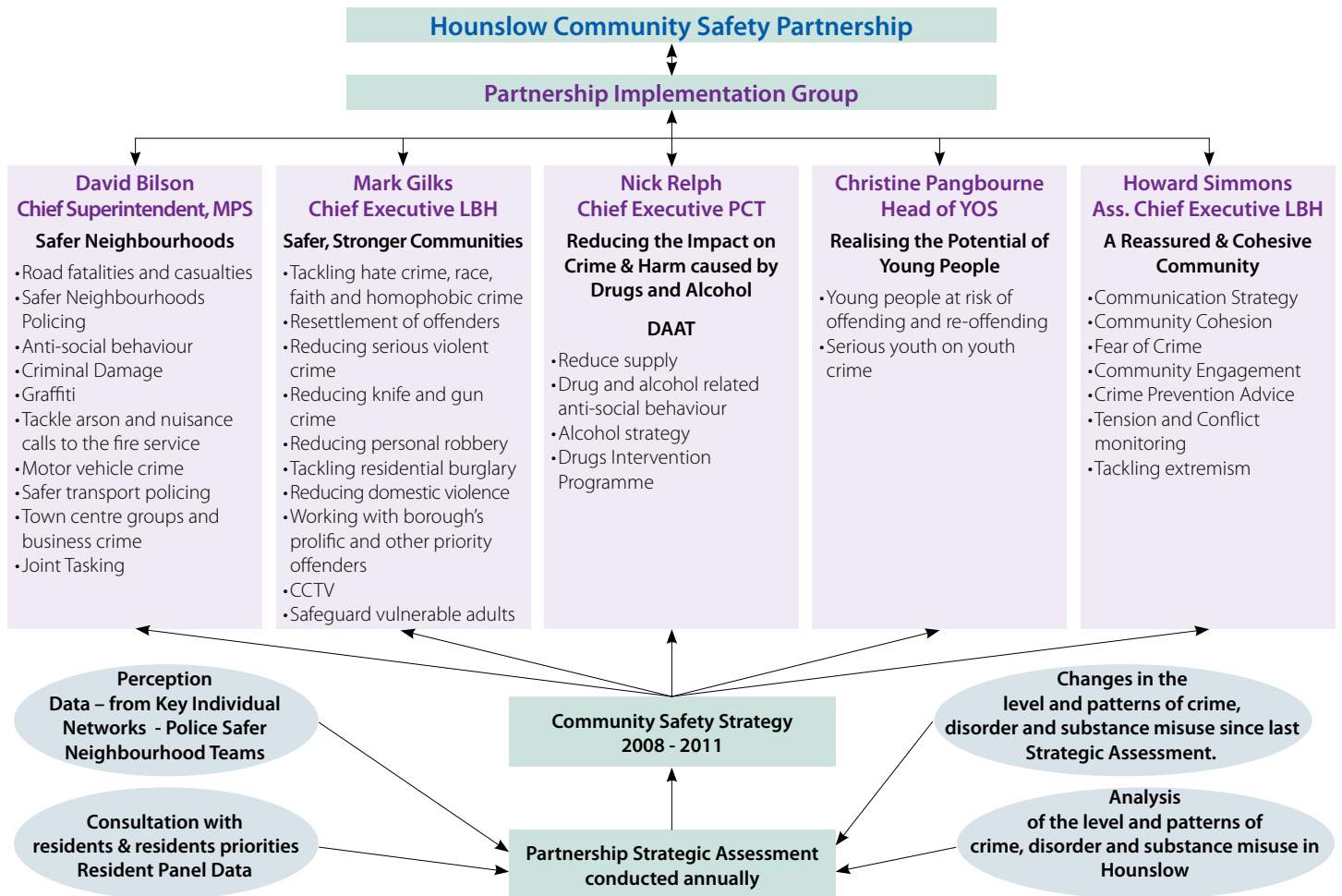
Stakeholder groups

For each priority there is a stakeholder group taking forward the work. The stakeholder groups will:

- Deliver the strategy.
- Each group will consist of the key stakeholders who can contribute to, or have an expertise in, the specific priority. A lead officer will be appointed to facilitate each group;
- Use an intelligence-led approach to write an annual

action plan. The action plans include details about the specific tasks, milestones and targets for the activities of the group to meet the aims of the Community Safety Strategy;

- Decide if it needs to establish sub-groups or project teams to undertake specific pieces of work;
- Report on progress back to the Implementation Group via their Champion.



Implementation group

The aim of the Implementation Group is to:

- Co-ordinate delivery of the Community Safety Strategy
- Monitor the progress of the objectives in the strategy
- Manage allocated spends against the priorities.

Resourcing the strategy

It is now a statutory requirement to include in this strategy how partners will resource the priorities. The Partnership will continue to utilise external funding streams to fund activities to meet the priorities outlined in this strategy.

Monitoring and review

The Community Safety Team will support the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership in meeting its statutory duties and provide advice, practical support and coordination of the delivery of the overall strategy. Progress will be regularly monitored and reviewed and reported to:

- The Local Strategic Partnership;
- The Council Area Committees;
- Police Community and Consultative Group;
- The Partnership:
 - on progress of the strategy;

- the borough's performance compared to other similar boroughs;
- Government Office for London.

The Partnership will structure its business cycle to support more effective reporting back to the Partnership Board and Government Office for London.

Strategic assessments

We will take full account of the Strategic Assessments that will be completed annually. This will ensure that as new crime trends or behaviours emerge, we will be fully aware of them and in a position to prevent or tackle these issues as they arise. This will not, however, divert us from the targets we have set in this strategy.

Joint tasking

The borough recently set up a multi-agency joint tasking forum. This forum examines what is happening in the borough and then tasks all the resources at their disposal to prevent and detect crime and to provide public reassurance.

Local Strategic Partnership

The Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together all stakeholders across the public, private and voluntary sectors

and provides a high level forum for the development of the Community Plan and service planning. The LSP launched its Community Plan, 2007-2010 'Building A Safer and Stronger Community' and is an important part of the LSP's vision for a better quality of life for local people.

The chair of the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership is represented on the LSP. The structure chart below shows the links between the LSP and the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership.

Training

The Partnership will continue to provide training to professionals to increase their understanding of the impact of crime on victims and communities. This is particularly important in areas of crime where there are high rates of repeat victimisation. This training will also include Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Equality Impact Analysis

The Hounslow Community Safety Partnership has a

Links between the Local Strategic Partnership and the Hounslow Community Safety Partnership.



⁹The Council has an explicit duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do so.

legal duty to ensure that the strategy does not disadvantage any section of the community. An Equality Impact Analysis assessment has been carried out using the framework developed by the council. The areas that were considered included gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity/race and faith. The work of the Partnership also extends to include those with mental health needs. The assessment revealed that the strategy has no negative or adverse impact on any sections of the

community. We will ensure the various initiatives help promote the five objectives of the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policy.

Information sharing

Effective information sharing is the basis for good partnership working and essential in reducing crime. We will revise and update current systems for new partners to join the Information Sharing Protocol. We will continue to demonstrate that the Partnership is sharing information fairly

and appropriately to support victims, those 'at risk', and taking action against offenders and potential offenders.

Working with high risk offenders

The Partnership will continue to support the various multi-agency panels in the borough to address the more serious crimes and offenders, and ensure the appropriate links with mental health services are made where necessary. For example:

- The Multi-Agency Public Protection Panel which

looks at offenders due to be released back into the community;

- The Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Panel addressing high-risk cases of domestic violence in the borough;
 - The Priority and prolific Offender scheme (PPO) that deal with the borough's worst offenders;
- This is not an exhaustive list, and we will ensure we are flexible enough to take on new areas of work should they arise.

Annex A

Public Consultation

Methodology

The Partnership conducted a public consultation in March 2008. The consultation was carried out using a questionnaire circulated in a local newspaper. The questionnaire asked specific questions relating to priorities that emerged from the Strategic Assessment. Additionally, an e-form was also available on the council website for people to complete.

The results of the public consultation were analysed and compared to the findings of the Strategic Assessment.

The first stage of analysis identified common priorities. The second stage examined differences between what people said and the findings of the Strategic Assessment.

A total of 163 questionnaires, including e-forms were completed and returned.

Results

The majority of those who responded were aged 40 years or older and there was an equal breakdown of men and women. 16 percent described

themselves as having a disability. The ethnicity of those responding reflected the make up of the borough.

The key findings of the public consultation were:

- When asked, 'do you think there has been a reduction in crime in your neighbourhood?' There was an almost equal number replying yes as there was no.
- The majority who stated there had not been a reduction attributed this to young people committing ASB, crime and just hanging around. Being a victim of crime was the second highest reason given. Acts of criminal damage and graffiti were also cited as key indicators.
- The majority who felt that there had been a reduction attributed this to their personal knowledge and experiences. Neighbourhood watch schemes were thought to be a crime-reducing factor.
- Although many respondents thought that the presence of police, including Safer Neighbourhood Teams, was a factor in reducing crime in neighbourhoods, others

believed that the lack of Police contributed to an increase in crime.

- Respondents were asked to list the top three priorities in their neighbourhood, which they felt that the partnership should address.
- The majority of those who responded viewed supporting young people as the number one priority. There was particular reference to groups of young people hanging about. In order to support young people better, more facilities are required.
- The second priority for respondents was to increase the number of Police Officers patrolling the streets. This included high visibility of safer neighbourhood teams in their wards
- Drugs and alcohol was the third priority at a neighbourhood level. Respondents felt that more was needed to be done to tackle alcohol and drug fuelled ASB and crime.
- When asked to list the borough-wide priorities, answers provided by respondents matched the

neighbourhood priorities.

- People consistently think that crime is much higher than it actually is. The consultation reinforced this notion, with 63 percent of respondents feeling that there had not been a reduction in crime in the borough. This is contrary to the 20 percent reduction in recorded crime achieved over the past three years.
- When asked to make any other comment, no new priorities emerged. All statements supported the priorities already identified.
- The respondents stated that the most effective method in communicating the work of the partnership, was through the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. This was followed by using the local newspapers and finally Hounslow Matters magazine.
- 66 percent of respondents agreed that the information in the questionnaire summary matched their own experiences or perceptions.

If you would like this document in audio-tape, Braille or interpreted in your own language, please call 020 8583 2503 or email: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Albanian Nese deshironi te keni kete dokument ne audio kasete, Braille (gjuhen e te verberve) ose te perkthyer ne gjuhen tuaj ju lutemi thirrni 020 8583 2503 ose email: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Arabic اذا رغبت بالحصول على هذه الوثيقة مسجلة على شريط تسجيلي او بلغة برايل او مترجمة للغتك الرجاء الاتصال على هاتف: 020 8583 2503 او عبر البريد الالكتروني: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Farsi اگر شما مایل به دریافت این مدرک به صورت نوار صوتی، به خط بریل برای نابینایان و یا ترجمه شده به زبان خود هستید، لطفاً با شماره تلفن 020 8583 2503 و یا پست الکترونیکی زیر تماس بگیرید:
community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Gujarati જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજ ઓડિઓ ટેપ ઉપર, અંધવિપિમાં (બ્રેઇલ) અથવા તમારી પોતાની ભાષામાં તેનો તરજૂમો કરવામા આવે તેવી ઇચ્છા હોય તો કૃપા કરી 020 8583 2503 ઉપર ફોન અથવા ઇમેઇલ કરો: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Hindi यदि आप यह दस्तावेज़ सुनने वाली टेप, बेल में या हिन्दी में चाहते हैं तो कृपया इस नंबर पर फोन करें: 020 8583 2503 या इस पते पर ईमेल करें: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Panjabi ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ, ਬਰੇਲ ਜਾਂ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ: 020 8583 2503 ਜਾਂ ਇਸ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਈਮੇਲ ਭੇਜੋ:
community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Somali Haddii aad rabto warqaddan oo ku duuban cajeladaha maqalka, ama ku qoran farta loogu talagalay dadka aragga ka laxaadka la' ama afkaaga laguugu akhriyo, fadlan soo wac 020 8583 2503 ama email u dir: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Urdu اگر آپ اس دستاویز کو آڈیو ٹیپ، بریل (بائینوں کے لیے) یا اس کا آپ کی زبان میں ترجمے کی صورت میں حاصل کرنا چاہیں تو برائے مہربانی اس نمبر پر رابطہ کیجئے: 020 8583 2503 یا پھر اس پتے پر ای میل بھیجئے: community.safety@hounslow.gov.uk

Who do I contact to find out more?

Further information can be found on Hounslow Council's website (http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/home/a-z_services/c/community_safety.htm).

Alternatively, the Community Safety Team can be contacted by: -

Letter Community Safety Team, London Borough of Hounslow, The Civic Centre, Lampton Road, HOUNSLOW TW3 4DN

Email Community.Safety@hounslow.gov.uk

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