



South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership

“Working to make South Staffordshire Safer”

Partnership Plan

2011—2012



Contents

	Page
Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	6
Mission Statement	6
Partnership Structure	7
Strategic Risk assessment	8
Partnership Plan	8
South Staffordshire Locality Structure	9
Joint Operations Group - co-ordinating and monitoring all crime	10
Anti-social behaviour	10
Violent Crime	11
Domestic Violence	12
Serious Acquisitive Crime	13
Burglary	13
Vehicle Crime	14
Business and Retail Crime	14
Road Safety	15
Environmental Crime	15
Other issues	16
Hate Crime, Substance Misuse, Benefit Fraud, Rural Crime	16
Vulnerability	17
Strategic Assessment analytical information	17
The aims of the Joint Operations Group	17
Other Initiatives Supporting Partnership Working	18
Targeted Youth Support	18
Staffordshire Young People's Service	18
Preventing Adverse Risk Behaviour	18
Reducing Re-Offending	19
Geographical Impact Groups	20
Big Society	21
Locality Working	21
PACT meetings	22
Street meetings	22
Face to Face Sessions with the public	22
Community Engagement	22
South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Sector	23
Contact Details	23
Acknowledgments	23
Appendix 1—Partnership Activity Plan 2011-12	24

**Foreword by Councillor Brian Edwards,
Portfolio Holder, Partnerships**

South Staffordshire is a mainly rural area on the north western edge of the West Midlands conurbation. It is made up of small settlements and parishes each with its own identity. There is no single dominant settlement and its uniqueness in Staffordshire is its claim to be a "Community of Communities".

It covers an area of approximately 101,000 acres with a population of just over 106,000. 20.2% of the population are of retirement age or older which compares with 18.5% in England and Wales. The most rapidly increasing sector of the population is the 75+ age group, and over the next 20 years, it is expected that this age group will more than double.

In the recent "Viewpoint Survey" undertaken with our resident's panel, 96% of residents said they felt safe during the daytime with 72% saying they felt safe outside after dark in their neighbourhoods.

The South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership has the shared vision with all its key partners to "make South Staffordshire a safer place in which to live, work and visit" and an important part of our work is contained within the Partnership Plan.

The Partnership Plan and Strategic Risk Assessment are statutory requirements and although the Partnership Plan is a three-year document, it is refreshed annually following the Strategic Risk Assessment, which is an evidence based assessment, relying on actual data obtained from the police and other partnership agencies.

Through the implementation of the Partnership Plan, we will ensure that the concerns of South Staffordshire are addressed appropriately, accurately and swiftly to ensure a "safer district in which to live, work and visit."



Executive Summary

Outlined within this Plan are the key priorities for South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership. These priorities have been identified by the Strategic Risk Assessment and will influence the work of the Partnership for the next twelve months.

The Partnership has seen a 12% reduction in overall crime during 2009-10 which was consistent with the downward trend in crime levels over the past three years. The last four months of 2010 showed a recorded level of crime significantly lower than the historical average.

South Staffordshire is a safe place to live and overall crime figures and incidents of anti-social behaviour have reduced over the last twelve months. In the consultation we hold through our resident's panel 89% of residents felt satisfied with the local area and 26% agreed that anti-social behaviour was being dealt with locally. The main anti-social behaviour issue perceived by residents is speeding (57%) and the greatest safety worry perceived by residents is speeding vehicles through the village centres (59%).

The overall split for being of victim of crime in the district is weighted towards males; however this varies considerably by crime type. The risk of being a victim is highest for the population between the ages of 15 and 49 for females and 10 and 64 for males, with a disproportionate risk experienced by females aged 20 to 24 years and males aged 15 to 19 years.

Further analysis is required for ethnicity of victims as 25% of all know victims of crime had no ethnicity recorded. Where the ethnicity is known, 4% are classified as "Black Minority Ethnic" (BME), compared to less than 2% of the population.

Details of those suspected or accused of crime in South Staffordshire during 2009-2010 are available for 956 offenders. The average age of offenders varies by crime type, with acquisitive crimes most likely to be committed by young offenders (average age between 21 and 23 years) and shoplifting, less serious violence and sexual offences most likely to be committed by slightly older offenders (average age between 30 and 33 years). Females are significantly less likely to be responsible for any type of crime, however almost a quarter of offenders suspected or accused of committing less serious violence are female and 7% are aged between 14 and 20 years.

Despite an above average proportion of offenders living outside of the district, certain types of crimes are committed by offenders who live very close to the crime location. Offenders travel the least distance to commit domestic violence, however in South Staffordshire offenders also travelled short distances to commit criminal damage (average 1.8 miles), sexual offences (average 1.8 miles) and less serious violence (average 2 miles), inferring that these are most likely being committed by local offenders.



The Strategic Risk Assessment is a long-term evaluation of: anticipated crime; disorder; misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances; anti-social behaviour; and behaviour adversely affecting the environment. It should paint a picture of crime and disorder within a Community Safety Partnership area. It is based on data from several partnership agencies and the data is sourced from 2009-2010.

The priority areas to be addressed are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violent Crime
- Domestic Violence (including sexual violence)
- Road Safety
- Business Crime
- Acquisitive Crime (domestic burglary and vehicle crime)
- Environmental Crime

Although these priorities are generally the same as the ones in the 2010 - 2011 Partnership Plan, they will be tackled both generically using campaigns throughout the district and through newly established geographical task groups, where certain types of crime will be tackled on a very localised basis.

Community engagement plays a vital role in promoting community safety and addressing local concerns. "Big Society" is the new Coalition's vision, with local people being more involved in the issues that affect them. This concept empowers local communities to have more of a say in their local area, creating the idea of localism which promotes the local production and consumption of goods, local control of government and local culture and identity. It encourages people to take an active role in their communities by volunteering on local initiative for the good of their local area or community. It supports the ideas of charities, social enterprises and co-ops working within local communities to benefit local people by providing services, employment or products.



Introduction

South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership brings together several agencies in the area (statutory, private and voluntary), whose purpose it is to tackle crime and disorder, to reduce the fear of the fear of crime and reassure local communities and to promote community safety within the district

Our Mission Statement: -

“By reducing crime and disorder we will strive to make South Staffordshire a safer place in which to live, work and visit.”

The Community Safety Partnership consists of a strategic group established by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 called the “Responsible Authorities Group”. This group form the legal body required by the Act and is made up of senior representatives from South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Staffordshire Police, South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust, the Police Authority, Staffordshire & West Midlands Probation Trust and the Fire Authority. This group together with a number of statutory, voluntary and private organisations forms the wider partnership.

The Responsible Authorities Group is committed to the partnership and its aims, and have signed up to this twelve-month Partnership Plan on behalf of their organisations below.

Steve Winterflood,
Chief Executive,
South Staffordshire Council

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Councillor Brian Edwards,
Portfolio Holder, Partnerships,
South Staffordshire Council

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Sarah Charles
District Partnerships Officer
Staffordshire County Council

.....

Keith Stubbs,
Area Commander,
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service

.....

Councillor Mrs Kathleen Perry,
Staffordshire County Council

.....

Inspector Pat Shannaghan,
Staffordshire Police

.....

Dave Pearsall JP,
Staffordshire Police Authority

.....

Sue Wardle,
South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust

.....

Paul Levy,
Staffordshire and West Midlands
Probation Trust

.....

Partnership Structure

The Responsible Authority is one of the theme groups under the Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Strategic Partnership is an umbrella partnership that brings together key agencies from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. It is an overarching body to co-ordinate the activities of all the organisations that make an impact on South Staffordshire. Below is the structure of the partnership.

The Community Safety Team is based within South Staffordshire Council and sits within the Policy and Partnership Team. The Service Manager for this team is directly responsible to the Chief Executive for all matters relating to partnerships.



Strategic Risk Assessment

What is it?

A strategic assessment is a study undertaken in the district to establish what the risks are in respect of crime, anti-social behaviour and factors affecting the environment. To be effective, strategic assessments should take place on a regular basis.

A strategic assessment is created in order to:

- To provide strategic guidance to members of the South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership
- To inform decision-making across Partner agencies to ensure best use is made of our mainstream and financial resources
- To provide a detailed strategic assessment of key community safety issues in South Staffordshire that is founded on intelligence and performance led information
- To identify hotspots within the district
- To assist in establishing the priorities, which will identify prevention, community safety, information and enforcement delivery plans and define further information that needs to be collected.

Strategic assessments have the benefit of being able to inform priority setting at a number of levels. Consistency in their content and design means they can be brought together to give central government a clear indication of local needs and what happens to resolve them. This can help to tie in central government policy to local needs. Minimum standards for the National Intelligence Model (NIM) in Community Safety Partnerships should be applied to achieve the consistency required.

Partnership Plan

This plan is based on the results of the Strategic Risk Assessment for South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership (CSP) covering the period 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010. The aim of this document is to provide an accurate picture of the long-term issues affecting the community within South Staffordshire, based on sound evidence and robust analysis undertaken by Staffordshire Observatory, which when considered in the light of Government and local objectives will facilitate the review of the existing Community Safety Strategy.

Contributors to the Strategic Assessment included Staffordshire Observatory, South Staffordshire Council, Staffordshire Young People's Service, Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, NHS for North Staffordshire and South Staffordshire PCT, Staffordshire Women's Aid, Pathway Project and West Midlands Ambulance Service.

This Partnership Plan is a three-yearly document, which will be reviewed annually. The Action Plans contained within this document are a "work in progress" and are developed and updated by the groups annually.

The Strategic Assessment findings were distributed to all partners for consideration and discussed at all meetings of the Community Safety Partnership. This process established the areas on which the Community Safety Partnership needs to focus:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Violent Crime
- Domestic Violence (including sexual violence)
- Road Safety
- Business Crime
- Acquisitive Crime (domestic burglary and vehicle crime)
- Environmental Crime

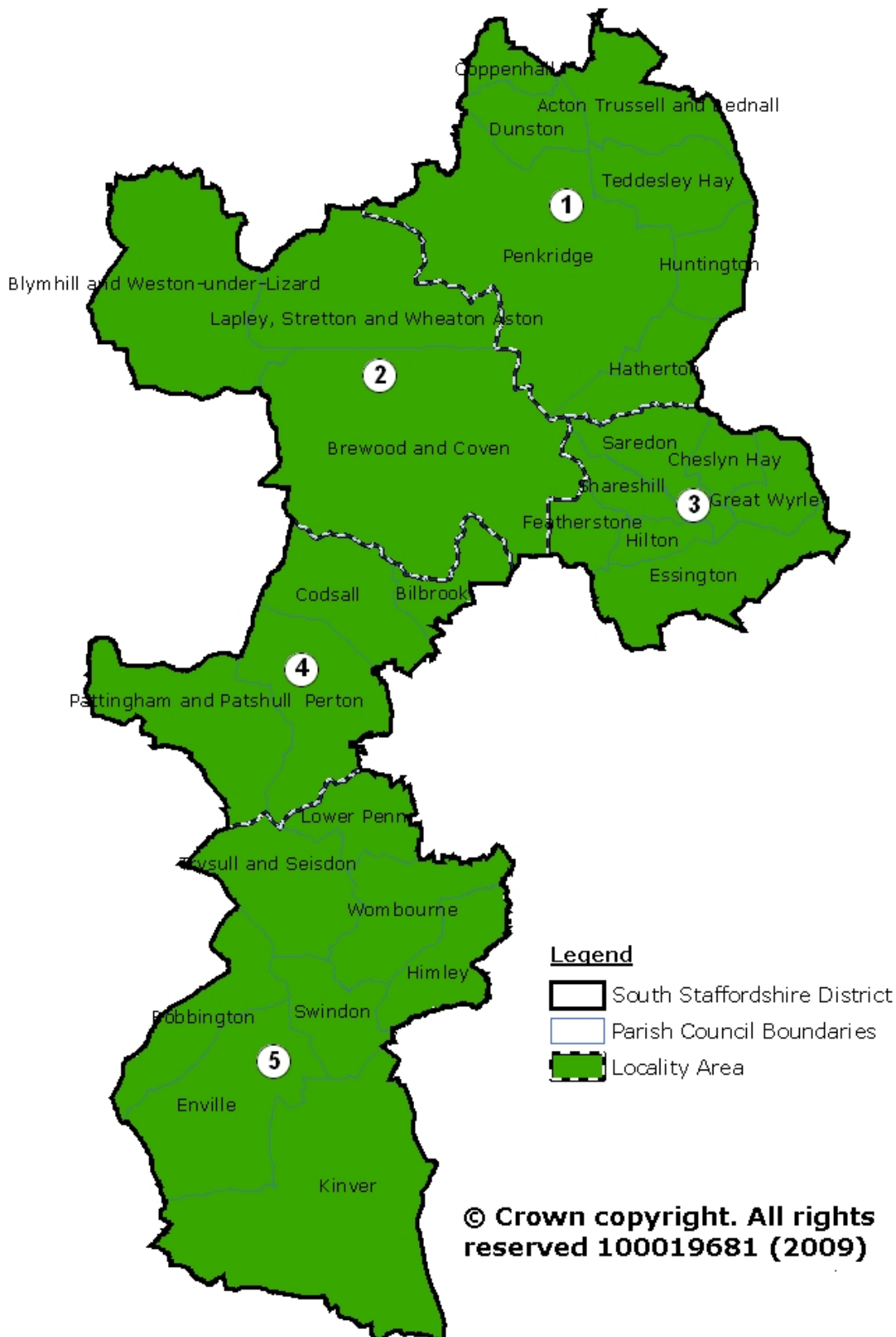
These priorities are being tackled through a Joint Operations Group (JOG) and in identified hotspot locations through local Task Groups, who will formulate their own action plans and analyse current data and statistics in order to target resources.

Other issues relating to crime and disorder will also be discussed and addressed at the Joint Operations Group.

South Staffordshire Locality Structure

Locality working was introduced to South Staffordshire in 2007. The District Council and partners looked at their boundaries and in order to ensure that all partners understood the demographics and issues within a defined geographical area, were delivering services appropriate to a defined geographical area and providing information relating to a defined geographical area, agreed boundaries were drawn up.

The Strategic Assessments feeds into five locality profiles, which builds up a picture of each geographical area outlining not just community safety issues, but health, environment, housing and children/young people. This information enables service delivery to be bespoke to identified needs and resources allocated to achieve maximum impact to local communities.



**Joint Operations Group (JOG) –
co-ordination, monitoring and tasking of partners to tackle the seven priorities.**

Anti-social behaviour

The Strategic Assessment found that South Staffordshire had experienced 3,135 incidents of anti-social behaviour during 2009-2010, which was a reduction of 15% from the previous year. This crime type is included as a priority in both Countywide and Local Partnership Plans and Strategies.

Anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue within South Staffordshire and action, development and strategy needs to be implemented quickly. Current Police data confirms the need for action throughout the district, particularly in relation to the incidents of noise nuisance and misuse of fireworks.

The police state that anti-social behaviour and criminal damage go hand-in-hand, often beginning with low level anti-social behaviour that degenerates into criminal damage. The "broken-window syndrome", as it is called, means that if an area has graffiti, broken glass or vandalism that more of the same occurs as respect for that particular area decreases. It is therefore important that criminal damage is not tackled in isolation, but as part of the whole anti-social behaviour agenda.

In a local resident's survey which is sent to a cross section of residents, 9.9% of residents who responded perceive a high level of anti-social behaviour in their local area (in 2008 the equivalent question indicated 13.5%).

Alcohol has been recognised as a driver for anti-social behaviour and low level violence, plus it has an influence on environmental crime such as littering with the detritus being left in open spaces and other areas around the district. Alcohol will be included within the remit of anti-social behaviour and will be also tackled both in relation to young people and the wider general public.

**Anti-social behaviour between 2006/07 to 2009/10
(Approx. figures by locality)**

Locality	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Locality 1	666	596	496	432
Locality 2	385	276	304	237
Locality 3	1346	1080	1196	925
Locality 4	971	921	964	763
Locality 5	1001	839	722	770



Violent Crime

Anti-social behaviour, if not addressed and attitudes changed, can evolve into low level violence, which is the majority of violence occurring in South Staffordshire, with over two-thirds of reported assaults involving minor injury or no physical injury at all. With no town centres the district has a different violent crime profile from the rest of Staffordshire. Contained within violent crime incidents are the acts of common assault, actual bodily harm, alcohol and drug related violence and other acts of violence in the district be it wounding, attempted murder or stranger violence.

The definition of violent crime as recorded by the police includes robbery, sexual offences and "violence against the person" offences such as assault and murder. However, most recorded violent crime amounts to "low-level thuggery" of which around half of incidents involve no injury to the victim.

Although during 2009-2010 most serious violence increased by 17 crimes (71%) this increase may be attributable to a change in recording by Staffordshire Police, however other types of violence have recorded reductions of 4% over the past 12 months. Fifteen percent of violent crime was alcohol related (where the offender was identified as being under the influence); however this is considered to be merely a snap-shot and does not reflect the true extent of alcohol related offending.

Records compiled by South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) indicate that the number of admissions to hospital as a result of a violent assault who live in South Staffordshire fell by 28% in the twelve months from 2008-09 to 2009-10. South Staffordshire currently has the lowest number of hospital in-patients as a result of violent assault in the South Staffordshire PCT area.

Residents in South Staffordshire experience relatively low perceptions of drunk or rowdy behaviour in their local area when compared with other districts and boroughs across the county with 16% of respondents indicating that it was an issue in their local area.

Drug related violence does not score high in the Risk Assessment, however we have a statutory obligation to tackle 'drug misuse' this is to be tackled through both the JOG and the Preventing Adverse Risk Behaviour (PARB) Group, which focuses on risks to young people aged up to 25.

Males are 15% more likely to be victims of violent crime and there is a disproportionate risk between the ages of 10 to 44 for both genders, with the most "at risk" persons being males between the ages of 15 and 19 years.

Violent crimes between 2006/07 to 2009/10 (Approx. figures by locality)

Locality	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Locality 1	273	194	223	208
Locality 2	134	111	106	92
Locality 3	474	332	393	321
Locality 4	260	214	237	206
Locality 5	268	209	215	220

Domestic Violence

During 2009-2010, 28% of all violent crime was recorded as being domestic related, with 7% being recorded as both domestic and alcohol related. This is considerably lower than may be expected and therefore infers a significant level of under-reporting that needs to be improved in order to fully understand the impact of alcohol on these types of crime.

The number of calls received by Staffordshire Women's Aid has increased by almost 17% over the last three years and there is potential for the level of domestic abuse to increase further due to affects of the current recession, linked to an increase in drug or alcohol misuse and financial and/or emotional pressure on relationships.

Chase Domestic Abuse Partnership is a multi-agency team located in Stafford Borough Council. Agencies from South Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock are represented within the team and co-ordinated by a Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, who is responsible for covering both South Staffordshire district and Stafford borough areas.

This double district co-ordination has strengthened the existing networks which have been established in both areas and provide a stronger evidence base on which to bid for external funding.

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) are held fortnightly where partner agencies come together to share information to help increase the safety, health and well-being of high risk victims of domestic abuse and their families. A Stay Safe Scheme is linked to the MARAC process offering victims the opportunity to stay in their own home by target hardening their properties or creating a 'safe room' should the perpetrator try to gain access.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates support victims of domestic and sexual violence, both male and female, through the whole court process and continue working with the victims after the case has been completed.

The number of calls received by Staffordshire Women's Aid from residents of South Staffordshire had increased by 4% during 2009-2010, to over 800 and the number of women supported by the service has increased by 70%. Outreach work is currently being undertaken in South Staffordshire by Staffordshire Women's Aid, supporting both women and men who have been referred for help, advice and guidance by agencies or by self referral.

Staffordshire Police are working in partnership with the Domestic Abuse Partnership in targeting victims of domestic abuse with a pack of information on where they can get support and advice. A perpetrator programme is being developed to work one-to-one with offenders to challenge their behaviour and offending.

Females are 50% more likely to be victims of domestic violence than males and they are aged 20-24. Females are also about 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual violence; 40% of these victims most at risk are aged 12-17, this accounts for just 2.5% of the population.



Serious Acquisitive Crime (including Distraction and Domestic Burglary and Vehicle Crime)

Serious acquisitive crime covers aspects of theft and robbery including street crime, vehicle crime including theft of and theft from vehicles, domestic burglary and distraction burglary.

During 2009-2010 serious acquisitive crime fell by 10%, however within that reduction vehicle crime fell by 18% whilst domestic burglary increased by 8%. Victims of serious acquisitive crime are 40% more likely to be males than females and males are almost twice as vulnerable to theft of property as females, particularly those aged between 15 and 19 years. This type of crime is not usually a personal crime therefore the age and gender pattern of victims is more likely to be linked to personal behaviours and the availability of "desired" items, rather than specific targeting by offenders. For example, young males are perhaps more likely to own, and leave on view, valuable items such as satellite navigation systems, car stereos, laptops and mobile phones and therefore are more likely to be victims.

Serious acquisitive crimes between 2006/07 to 2009/10 (Approx. figures by locality)

Locality	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Locality 1	218	180	172	179
Locality 2	161	151	163	140
Locality 3	503	367	402	375
Locality 4	154	158	176	194
Locality 5	227	255	305	197

Burglary

Burglary is still a problem that needs to be addressed because of the impact it can have on the lives of victims. The risk of experiencing a burglary is not evenly spread, and some households are at greater risk of suffering a burglary than others. Many factors contribute to burglary including the motivation of offenders, the vulnerability of targets and the lack of a deterring presence. Motivation for domestic burglary can include the desire or need for money, opportunism, boredom and peer pressure.

Domestic burglary accounts for over 35% of serious acquisitive crime in the district and vulnerability to this type of crime between males and females is proportional to the population.

Distraction burglary is any crime where a lie, trick or distraction is used on an occupant to gain, or try to gain, access to burgle their home. Offenders will pretend to be on official business from respectable concerns such as utility companies - gas, electricity and water - or the council or they may claim to be tradesmen or workmen calling to carry out urgent repairs.

Distraction burglary is a rare but a very distressing crime that mainly affects the most vulnerable members of our society, especially the elderly with the average age of victims being 78 (Home Office Good Practice Guide 2002). However, in general older people are the least likely to be victims of crime. Otherwise known as "Bogus Callers" this type of crime can result in emotional and financial stress to their victims many of whom do not report the crime because they feel unnecessarily embarrassed.

**Burglary of dwellings between 2006/07 to 2009/10
(Approx. figures by locality)**

Locality	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Locality 1	51	39	37	47
Locality 2	26	40	30	38
Locality 3	159	83	98	128
Locality 4	48	47	64	84
Locality 5	56	81	128	92

Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime accounts for 61% of serious acquisitive crime in the district, with 666 crimes recorded during 2009-2010. Of these 76% were theft from motor vehicles and 24% were theft of motor vehicles. For theft from a motor vehicle, vehicle equipment and accessories such as registration plates, radio/CD players and satellite navigation equipment are most vulnerable, followed by monetary items and then power tools.

Nationally vehicle crime has dropped by more than 66% since it peaked in 1995. Although nearly 1.5 million vehicle-related thefts were recorded in 2007-08 having security equipment on a vehicle - especially an immobiliser - makes it more than ten times safer than a vehicle with no security equipment.

**Vehicle crime between 2006/07 to 2009/10
(Approx. figures by locality)**

Locality	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Locality 1	133	126	122	131
Locality 2	116	108	130	95
Locality 3	247	271	294	237
Locality 4	65	96	100	95
Locality 5	122	157	173	96

Business and Retail Crime

Although crime is a cause of concern for many businesses, during 2009-2010 business crime in South Staffordshire reduced by 31%. There is not a full picture of business crime in the district as in most instances crime reports do not differentiate between whether the victim was an individual or a business, but it is important to remember that business crime is not a victimless crime. The only separately reported crime against business is theft from shops.

Business crime can also have a debilitating impact on local communities, whereby people can become fearful of visiting their local shops where the threat of anti-social behaviour in or around the retail premises is prevalent. Following on from this business can suffer reducing profitability and increasing prices.

Road Safety

Staffordshire County Council are now leading road safety initiatives through the Casualty Reduction Partnership, providing support, information and assistance with local projects. During 2009 road traffic collisions including death or serious injury decreased by 6%.

The vast majority of accidents occur due to road user error, with speed being a key causation factor. There is also a direct link to the severity of injury sustained. For example, hit a pedestrian at 40 mph and they are almost certain to die, hit at 20 mph, most will survive.

In South Staffordshire males are 40% more likely to be involved in a road traffic collision than females and males are three times more vulnerable to serious injury and 70% more likely to be killed than females. The most vulnerable group involved in road traffic collisions is young males between the ages of 15 to 19 years; they account for a 13% of all casualties recorded in South Staffordshire.

Reducing vehicle speed will play a significant part in influencing child pedestrian and cyclist casualties, especially within key areas of deprivation. Speed is also a key factor within young driver and motorcyclist accidents.

In a local resident's survey which is sent to a cross section of residents, 57% indicated that speeding was their top concern in their local area.

Road safety figures (Killed or seriously injured) between 2006 to 2009 (Approx. figures by locality)

Locality	2006	2007	2008	2009
Locality 1	13	12	7	9
Locality 2	7	9	5	6
Locality 3	22	16	15	15
Locality 4	4	6	8	3
Locality 5	24	13	19	15

Environmental Crime

Fly tipping, graffiti, litter, abandoned vehicles and dog fouling are all environmental-crimes, which have a detrimental effect on the environment, and they are all crimes.

These crimes within South Staffordshire are known as "signal crimes" and if not tackled lead to further crimes and an increase in the fear of crime occurring in the vicinity. With the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 powers are now in place for enforcement.

Fixed Penalty Notices are being issued by South Staffordshire Council Enforcement Officers and prosecutions are being undertaken by South Staffordshire Council.

Other issues

Hate Crime

The Home Office definition of a "Hate Crime" is "any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate". Hatred is a strong term that goes beyond simply causing offence or hostility. Hate crime is any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by an offender's hatred of someone because of their: race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality or national origins; religion; gender or gender identity; sexual orientation or disability.

Hate crime can take many forms including: physical attacks – such as physical assault, damage to property, offensive graffiti, neighbour disputes and arson; threat of attack – including offensive letters, abusive or obscene telephone calls, groups hanging around to intimidate and unfounded, malicious complaints or verbal abuse or insults - offensive leaflets and posters, abusive gestures, dumping of rubbish outside homes or through letterboxes, and bullying at school or in the workplace.

Hate Crime and Drugs Misuse does not have a high score in the Risk Assessment, however as previously stated, we have a statutory obligation to tackle 'drug misuse' and all partners agreed it would best sit in the JOG where work could be commissioned.



Hate Crime is also monitored and addressed at South Staffordshire Council within the Equality and Diversity Reference Group, through which all policies and documents are Equality Impact Assessed.

CACH (Chase Against Crime of Hate) is an organisation established to monitor hate crime within South Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock and works with partner agencies to address issues that arise.

Substance Misuse

Drug and alcohol related issues are brought to the Joint Operations Group for discussion by partners and relevant agencies engaged to address the issues as appropriate. For longer term measures in relation to drug, alcohol and young people, these will be addressed by the Preventing Adverse Risk Behaviour Group (please see page 18)

Benefit Fraud

South Staffordshire Council Revenues and Benefits service is working to reduce benefit fraud and error in the benefit system, by increasing the number of customers who understand what the council expects from them, and what they can expect from the council. The Revenues and Benefits service, in conjunction with the JOG, is working to achieve community outcomes such as increasing people's quality of life, by improving the service that is provided locally and increasing the economic prosperity by specifically supporting the reduction of crime, supporting people back into work and reducing homelessness.

Rural Crime

The rural nature of the district means that there are crimes of a rural nature, such as equine crime, badger baiting and farm equipment being stolen. These crimes usually involve high costs and extra reassurance to the farming communities and livery stables.

The Community Safety Partnership regularly consults with a Rural Focus Group; Neighbourhood Watch includes a section specifically aimed at rural communities (Rural Watch) and Staffordshire Rural Policing Liaison Group tackles all aspects of rural crime across the county enforcing the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1081, The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wild Mammals Act 1996.

Vulnerability

People within our local communities are vulnerable to different types of crime. Violent crime victims are more likely to be young males aged 15-19, but both genders have risk between the ages of 15 and 49 years. Domestic Violence victims are more likely to be female aged between 20 to 24 years. The Partnership will look at who is vulnerable to which types of crime and work with partners to target these particular groups, raising their awareness and offering them help and support to make them less vulnerable.



Strategic Assessment Analytical Information

The Strategic Assessment for 2010 began to build up a profile of the district in relation to the crime type, indicating which crimes were on the increase and which has shown a decrease and then it began to unpick priority neighbourhoods and establish where in South Staffordshire most community safety issues occur. It then analysed vulnerability of the district and explored the geography of victimisation, linking with where offenders live and community safety issues.

All this information provided, has given the Community Safety Partnership a direction in which to focus resources and target specific activity. Working with partners through the JOG and using agreed actions laid out in Crime Action Plans, campaigns can be put into place in the hotspot locations for key issues.

A Partnership Activity Planner is attached at Appendix 1, outlining the campaign focus during the year and who will lead on behalf of the partnership.

The aims of the Joint Operations Group

- To reduce the incidents of anti-social behaviour
- To reduce the number of violent crimes
- To reduce the number of repeat incidents of domestic violence
- To address the issue of sexual violence
- To monitor the influence of alcohol and drug misuse on crime
- To reduce serious acquisitive crime
- To build closer links with the local business community
- To raise awareness of Distraction Burglary and how to tackle it
- To determine localities in which to focus resources through analysis using the offender, victim, location profile and to encourage community participation.

Other Initiatives supporting partnership working:

Targeted Youth Support

Targeted Youth Support (TYS) is a multi-agency group who deal with specific cases of anti-social behaviour providing a range of solutions. This group meets regularly to discuss individuals who have come to the attention of one or more of the member agencies. Suitable interventions are discussed, ranging from advisory letters, applications for Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) to referrals to the Family Intervention Programme or Integrated Youth Support Services.

Targeted Youth Support and the use of the Common Assessment Framework has embedded under Staffordshire Young People's Service, and is now being aligned to Families First and the multi agency Local Support Teams. The agencies who comprise the group will still meet on a regular basis to share information about their services and to provide updates on their current areas of work, identifying trends to be addressed and joint working. Following the update professionals will network so they can liaise and pick up referrals directly as opposed to the whole group discussing individual young people due to restrictions and appropriate use of confidential information sharing and consent.

Staffordshire Young People's Service

Staffordshire Young People's Service (SYPS) is made up of various organisations working in partnership to support young people in accessing services, including information, positive activities, advice and guidance. SYPS is working with young people in South Staffordshire to:

- Provide more positive activities for young people, to engage with them and empower them to shape the services they receive and to provide places to go and things to do including sufficient educational and recreational leisure time activities.
- Provide information, advice and guidance to young people to help them make more informed choices and ensure the information we are giving is independent, high quality and comprehensive.
- Encourage more young people to volunteer, become involved in their communities and take up active citizenship.
- Provide better and more personalised intensive support for all young people who are in greatest need and at risk of poor outcomes through targeted youth support schemes which include: open access support, using universally available activities to identify, engage and support young people with needs; direct support, providing tailored and integrated support to young people with additional needs and approaches to tackling teenage pregnancy, substance

Preventing Adverse Risk Behaviour

Most young people do well at school; make a successful transition to adult life and go on to build successful careers and families. But not all young people are on this path and many experience problems in their teenage years. Examples include falling behind at school, experiencing health problems or getting involved with drugs, criminal and other unacceptable behaviour.

Key factors that may contribute to young people participating in adverse risk behaviour include: Poor parental supervision and discipline; Family conflict; Parental attitudes that condone anti-social and risk taking behaviours; Neglect; Low achievement in school; Aggressive behaviour including bullying; Disadvantaged neighbourhoods; Community disorganisation and neglect; Friends involved in risk taking behaviours.

Through the Preventing Adverse Risk Behaviour (PARB) Group, agencies will focus upon how to provide better and more personalised intensive support for young people who are at risk of poor outcomes, have serious problems or get into trouble. The three priority areas of risk in South Staffordshire are teenage pregnancy, substance misuse and road safety.

This group links into the Community Safety Partnership and into the District Children's Board for inclusion in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Reducing Re-Offending

The prolific Offender strategy is coordinated by the Community Safety Partnership and is a multi agency approach involving Police, Crime Prosecution Service (CPS), Prisons and Probation working together. The scheme consists of three complimentary strands: Prevent and Deter, Catch and Convict, and Rehabilitate and Resettle.

At present the Prolific Offender Strategy focuses on the most persistent offenders, but South Staffordshire has very few. However, due to the geography of the region, the district is almost certainly impacted upon by offenders from its' neighbouring regions of West Midlands (18%) and Cannock Chase (8%).

Offenders as a starting point to being resettled into the community are assessed to identify their level of needs in relation to alcohol or drug misuse, accommodation, finances, education, training or employment.

Details are available for 40% of all offenders within South Staffordshire and 41% of these were not in employment at the time of the offence and a quarter of these offenders have problems with education, training, financial management and income. Half of these offenders had issues with alcohol and a fifth issues with drugs. When compared with all other Community Safety Partnerships across Staffordshire County, South Staffordshire has a higher than average proportion of offenders with any physical or mental health conditions. Effective management of offenders can help to prevent serious acquisitive crime and offences linked to drug and alcohol misuse.

Integrated Offender Management is an initiative to integrate services relating to offenders under one umbrella, which will provide several different strands to offender management being co-ordinated by one Steering Group. Initially piloted in South Staffordshire, Stafford and Cannock the IOM programme evaluation outlined how partners had changed the way they were working with offenders to enable the programme to impact on short term offenders with drug and alcohol issues, and to work with the family of an offender. The opportunities of creating a Total Offender Management Programme, which, through partnership working, would improve the way in which offenders are "controlled" and "changed" is being worked upon, beginning with a Partial Offender Management Model being rolled out throughout the county of Staffordshire by April 2011.



Geographical Impact Groups

The Community Safety Partnership have found it useful to explore where and when crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse issues occur and establish which locations in South Staffordshire record the highest concentration of all recorded crime.

In light of this analysis the Partnership is going to focus on the top three hotspot locations, to work on a very local level to tackle and combat the community safety issues affecting each location. These three groups will be locally based in Great Wyrley, Penkridge and Wombourne and of a time limited nature.

The majority of known offenders live within these key hotspots, which suggests that a lot of crimes are committed by local offenders. Information shows that the average distance between the crime location and the offender's home address is just three miles, therefore when work is undertaken in these locations focus will be made on the victims (identifying any vulnerability), offenders (are there any drivers to the individuals who offend i.e. alcohol, drugs etc.) and locations of crimes (can the opportunity for crime be designed out?).

The remit of each group will be to create a set of sustainable outcomes which can continue beyond the life of the group, be owned by the local community and be a starting point on which local people and community groups can build community spirit within their local area. An action plan involving people living within each location will be developed and a library of projects, ideas, programmes, initiatives are identified and a "skill set" drawn up. This "skill set" can then be transferred to other hotspot areas.

Other outcomes of the these groups will be to deliver solutions at a very local level by identifying the root causes of some issues and other partners will be invited to join, as issues are flagged up, with a view to them becoming a much more focused locality group, concentrating on the holistic picture.

These groups will not develop in isolation but will link into, or even be incorporated into, existing initiative, projects or groups working in the local area.

This concept then links in with the Area Based Budgeting initiative introduced by the new Coalition Government, whereby the decisions for spending and deploying resources are made on a local government level.



Big Society

“Big Society” is the Coalition government’s vision for a redefinition of the relationship between communities and the state. The intention behind it is to move away from a culture where people look to officials and government to solve their problems to a culture where people solve the problems they face themselves aided by government.

Big Society has been described as being made up of three strands:

- Social action where people give their time and effort to cases that affects them
- Public service reform where centralised bureaucracy that wastes money is removed and the range of public service providers is increased
- Community empowerment where neighbourhoods take charge of their own destiny

The Big Society concept in relation to community safety relies on structures such as Neighbourhood Watch, Pub Watch and Community Speed Watch which encourage local residents to give some their time on a regular basis to help make their neighbourhoods safer. These structures also provide an opportunity over time for increasing the extent of public involvement and volunteering for other roles in the community.



There are various ways in which the Community Safety Partnership engages with local communities.

Locality Working

Locality Working is about improving quality of life within the community and the way in which services are provided within the community. This involves:

- Gaining a better understanding of what works well already and what needs to be improved.
- Improving communication between the different levels of local government and the community
- Developing new ways to deliver services more flexibly
- Improving the way that service providers work together in partnership
- Supporting the community to solve its own problems

Information is provided by all partners in order to build up a profile for each of the five locality areas. A consultation is then undertaken with small public focus groups and elected members forums for their comments and suggestions.

Locality Delivery Plans are subsequently drafted to allocate resources and identify initiatives, projects, programmes and services to be delivered in each locality according to the evidence contained within the locality profiles. The Strategic Assessment contributes information to build up the picture of community safety in the five areas and the Community Safety Partnership leads on certain aspects of the Locality Delivery Plans.

There is a framework of consultation which can be used within localities:

PACT meetings

Bringing South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, Staffordshire Police, Parish Councils, other relevant agencies, young people and other members of the public together to highlight crime and disorder problems within a local area. Ideas and initiatives are suggested and implemented, ensuring that the local community is part of the solution. PACT Meetings bring South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership, Staffordshire Police, Parish Councils, other relevant agencies, young people and other members of the public together to highlight crime and disorder problems within a local area. Ideas and initiatives are suggested and implemented, ensuring that the local community is part of the solution.

Street Meetings

these are very localised meetings in areas where residents are highlighting issues of concern in relation to crime and disorder. The Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Neighbourhood Police Officer and Police Community Support Officer invite South Staffordshire Community Safety Partnership and other relevant agencies to meet with residents to address these local concerns.

Face-to-Face Sessions with the public

Face-to-Face Sessions is where the senior representatives of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) meet the public to hear their issues and let them know about action that they have taken or will take to tackle them.

It is important that residents are given an opportunity to raise issues and equally it is just as important that the CSP tell the public about action that has been taken. Through the Face-to-Face Session it is hoped that public perceptions will be changed, Fear of Crime reduced and reassured that South Staffordshire is a low crime area.

Community Engagement

Engagement is the involvement of the public, either as individuals or as a community, in policy and service decisions which affect them. In practice this involvement can take a number of different forms. The three main forms of engagement are:

1. Information gathering - the collection of information about public attitudes and requirements through surveys, etc.
2. Consultation - members of the public and the council work together for a defined period to discuss a particular policy or service issue. People are brought together as representatives of the demographic profile of a particular community in a focus group or as a citizen's panel
3. Participation - members of the public and the council work together, on an ongoing basis, on a range of policy or service issues, through a Community forums for example.

A key difference between these three kinds of engagement is the extent of the "dialogue" that takes place. The word "dialogue" refers to the exchange of views, ideas and concerns between different groups, such as between a neighbourhood community and a neighbourhood policing team.



South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Sector

The Community Safety Partnership wants to encourage more people to get involved, whether it be reporting crime or taking on a more active role. South Staffordshire Community and Voluntary Action (SSCVA) is an umbrella body which supports, develops and promotes voluntary action for local voluntary and community groups in South Staffordshire.

SSCVA provides practical advice, information and support on all aspects of setting up and running voluntary and community groups.

They help voluntary and community groups to

- Access the services they need to meet the needs of their service users
- Work in partnership with statutory agencies providing public services
- Link with each other and key agencies through networking events
- Deliver the best possible services to their users
- Meet the needs in their local communities

SSCVA's Lottery-funded CATALYST Project provides outreach development support for local voluntary and community groups. Their development workers help individuals establish or develop their voluntary or community group. They can offer assistance in setting up a group and writing a constitution; in registering the group as a charity; in finding sources of funding; in completing grant applications; and with providing access to training.

SSCVA run regular CAN (Community Action Network) meetings for paid or voluntary community workers in South Staffordshire to share information and exchange ideas.

Furthermore, SSCVA is also closely involved in partnership work, both as members of SCIO (the Staffordshire Consortium of Infrastructure Organisations) and active in the work of the Local Strategic Partnership, focussing much of its work on agreed local priorities and adopting a Locality-based way of working. SSCVA have been commissioned by the LSP to run new twice-yearly "Community Voice" network meetings in each of the 5 Localities, enabling better and more effective sharing of concerns between the sector, statutory partners and others.

The coalition government sees a greater role for volunteers in the future but funding projects or initiatives for volunteers to become involved with is becoming less viable with recent spending cuts and reduction in funding.

A new way of moving forward in order to implement the Big Society is to encourage more participation from local people which will empower communities to make changes in services being delivered locally. Unfortunately the partnership's budget will not be able to support or sustain this type of work but a possible source of funding may be available to community groups themselves from the Big Society Bank. This will use money from dormant bank accounts along with funds from the private sector to provide finance to bodies lending to charities and social enterprises.

The Community Safety Partnership has already established strong working relationships with community groups such as Friends Groups, Youth Forums, Older Person's Groups and Local Action Groups. Village Agents are now working within all of the five localities and provide a valuable source of local Intelligence as they meet and support local communities, raise awareness of local services and build better local communication networks.



Acknowledgments

The Community Safety Partnership wishes to thank all of the statutory and voluntary agencies and individuals who have contributed to the creation of this Partnership Plan and the community for their involvement at the consultation phase.

Partnership Planner 2011-2012
Updated regularly on www.sstaffs.gov.uk

JOG Meeting Date	Current Campaigns	Planned Future Activity	Lead
8 th March 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Doorstep Crime (Police & Trading Standards) -10/3/11 Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting Wombourne (Police Authority, Police, CSP, FARS) 11/3 Sloppy Slippers Perton (SSDC & multi-agency) -16/3/11 FARS 10 week 'older persons' course commences Brewood Fire Stn 11/3/11 -28/3 Disability/Hate Crime Awareness Day at SSDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School Holidays 8/4/11 – 26/4/11 -For May: End of GCSE Exams -School Holidays 30/5/11 -5/6/11 -Car Boot Sales 	Gecko for Locality 3
5 th April 2011		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bikers Night For July: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last Day of Term 27/7/11 School Holidays commencing 27/7/11 – 5/9/11 For July: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Burglary Awareness doors/windows left open 	Kev Wilcox
3 rd May 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Olive branch Training (FARS) at SSDC -28/5 Huntington Pride Fun Day 		Police
31 st May 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -9/6 PACT meeting Codsall 		Police DV Co-ordinator
28 th June 2011			
26 th July 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -V Festival (Multi-agency) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For September: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Freshers' Week – Rodbaston College -Seatbelt Campaign 	Irene Williamson

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JOG Meeting Date	Current Campaigns	Planned Future Activity	Lead
23 rd Aug 2011		For Oct: -Operation Good Guy	FARS/Trading Standards
20 th Sept 2011	-Freshers Week -22/9/2011 PACT meeting Kinver	For Nov: -Alerts to Defrosting Vehicles	CSP
18 th Oct 2011	-Operation Good Guy	Dink/Drive Xmas Crime Awareness	Police Police
15 th Nov 2011	-Alerts to Defrosting Vehicles -8/12/2011 PACT meeting Perton		
13 th Dec 2011	-Drink/Drive -Domestic Abuse -Christmas Crime		
January 2012			
February 2012	School half term	Shed Burglary	Police
March 2012		ASB May half term	



South Staffordshire
Community Safety
Partnership

“Working to make South Staffordshire Safer”

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- An audio version of the Partnership Plan is available on request
- If you require the Partnership Plan to be available in a different language, please contact the Community Safety Partnership
- Please visit our website for more community safety information