



Community Safety Strategy

**First Year Review
June 2003**

INTRODUCTION

During 2001 a Crime and Disorder Audit was carried out to find out the nature and extent of Crime and Disorder within Chorley Borough.

In April 2002 the Multi-Agency Problem Solving Team was formed to be the 'operational' arm of the Partnership and deliver the objectives within the Strategy.

By August, an action plan had been produced to show exactly what actions were being taken mainstream, what actions needed funding within the current financial year and what gaps existed. This has been a working document that is updated every quarter and presented to the Partnership meetings.

A spending plan was produced and worked to throughout the remainder of the year. This did change as the year progressed, which has been supported by GONW, as a reflection of the need to be flexible within Community Safety to meet the needs of the community.

A Communications Strategy was produced and adopted by the Partnership. This would provide a focus for each member agency of the Partnership, to promote Community Safety, not only within the public domain, but also within their own agencies. This would ensure that Community Safety would be promoted whenever possible.

As we emerge from our first year, the MAPS Team wants to inform the Partnership about what has been happening. Each aspect of the initiatives that have been developed, or supported throughout the year will be described.

BACKGROUND

The Community Safety Strategy of 2002-05 was split into seven Priority Areas, which are:

- Crime Reduction
- Road Safety
- Youth Issues
- Town Centre Crime and Safety
- Vulnerable Groups
- Misuse of Alcohol, drugs and other Substances
- Target Areas

Approaches were set out within each Priority Area that would focus the activity of the three years of the Strategy. In addition, a number of crime reduction targets were set within the Priority Areas that link to local and national priorities. The targets are:

- To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 15% by March 2005.
- To reduce the number of vehicle related crimes by 12% by March 2005.
- To achieve a 10% reduction in the number of reported youth incidents by March 2005.
- To achieve a 10% reduction in the number of reported incidents of criminal damage by March 2005.
- To reduce the number of violent crimes committed in the Town Centre by 10% by March 2005.
- To reduce the number of reported disorder incidents in the Town Centre by 10% by March 2005.

Additionally there are other targets, which are not directly associated with crime reduction, but if achieved will lead to a greater feeling of well-being in the local community, for example around Road Safety.

CURRENT SITUATION

Presently there are some positive trends emerging when comparing crime figures for 2002/03, to 2001/02. There are also some areas that need more focus throughout the remaining lifetime of the Strategy. Currently the situation is as follows:-

- All crime within Chorley has reduced by 8.2%
- Burglary Dwelling has reduced by 25.6%
- All vehicle crime has reduced by 11.4%
- Theft from a Vehicle has reduced by 12.3%
- Theft of a vehicle has reduced by 9.6%
- All Criminal Damage incidents have reduced by 5.8%
- Juvenile incidents have increased by 13.8%
- All violent crime incidents have increased by 13.6%

BEST VALUE

In respect of Juvenile Nuisance the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested that we undertake a Multi-agency Best Value Review. The review will be co-ordinated by the Borough Council with support from Crime Concern, but will require input from a number of partners.

FUNDING

The funding for Crime Prevention has been gained from a number of sources. Some of the spending has been outlined below; in particular the initiatives that the MAPS Team have been involved with.

Safer Communities Funding Spending Plan

Priority Area: Crime Reduction

A targeted pilot initiative of Alleygating within Chorley East.

Result: Scheme not introduced due to problems with insurance of the gates. Further work required before scheme can progress, carried over as a scheme into 2003/04, money from 2002/03 redirected.

Evaluation: Scheme still seen as best practice and has the support of the public. Feedback from other schemes has shown similar problems in regards to the issue of insurance and the able for schemes to fail if not resolved.

Increase effectiveness of Neighbourhood Warden Scheme. - £13,000.00

Result: One vehicle, three bicycles and associated safety equipment purchased for use by the Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme. Access to outlying areas now increased.

Evaluation: Initial feedback has been qualitative, from members of the community and Police partners. Both have been supportive and positive. Analysis of areas covered by the Wardens that will benefit the partnership is being developed. The Council further supports the scheme by its expansion in 2003/04.

A strategy with L.A. Housing and R.S.L's to increase security on victims homes - £2348.20.

Result: Security check pads developed based on best practice from Merseyside Police. Continuation of Crime Prevention Packs funded, to enable Neighbourhood Watch groups, community groups, victims of crime and near neighbours to receive up to date crime prevention information.

Evaluation: Burglary is showing a 25.6% reduction in 2002/03, compared to 2001/02. Although this scheme would not claim credit for all this reduction, education and empowerment does play some part in the reduction, which is part of this project. These schemes were only developed due to them having a proven track record of police and public support. The Crime Prevention Packs have been successfully received previously within Chorley and other areas of Southern Division. Before continued support the Police Officers within Chorley were asked about the usefulness of the packs and if they required

any change, once completed the scheme was further supported. The Security Check Pads have been developed based on best practice, with the support of Housing and our RSL's, unfortunately, a similar document has been produced from a corporate level at Lancashire Constabulary. Further work is now required before we can roll out the use of these books.

To provide funding to support a community newsletter - £1566.00

Result: Paperclips newsletter produced quarterly to 4,500 residents and 500 other relevant organisations/departments.

Evaluation: Qualitative research has found that organisations are able to communicate with a large section of the community in a target area. Magazine seen as a positive way to promote facilities, crime trends and increases community awareness. Scheme will be supported during next financial year and two other similar schemes in other target areas will also be supported.

Actively promoting Crimestoppers – £112.00

Result: Crimestoppers promoted through newsletters, media, leaflets and posters.

Evaluation: In 2001 Crimestoppers received 158 calls from the Chorley area. In 2002 Crimestoppers received 162 calls. Although this is an increase, to meet the 10% increase by 2005, more work will have to be undertaken.

To target initiatives that have high incidences of burglary and juvenile nuisance - £1,850.00

Result: Mobile CCTV van fitted with a front of van CCTV facility to enable passengers to use CCTV, while being driven around the area.

Evaluation: All Neighbourhood Wardens trained to use van, increased use will be monitored throughout 2003/04.

Vehicle crime reduction scheme - £2603.00

Result: Vehicle crime 'hotspots' targeted, to raise awareness, educated and offer practical advice. Fifty poster cases purchased, used also target 'hotspots'.

Evaluation: Vehicle crime reduced by 11.4% overall for the year. Specific areas, such as Rivington have shown incidents reducing from 29 to 18, when comparing two three-month periods. Anglezarke has shown incidents reducing from 14 to 3 over the same three-month period. Work will be ongoing throughout strategy.

To provide part funding for Automatic Number Plate Recognition system for use over Southern Division - £1040.00

Result: One ANPR system purchased for Southern Division.

Evaluation: This initiative is based on positive results from a week long operation in December 2002, in which showed that when the ANPR system was used for one week across Southern Division, it read 29,362 registration numbers, of which 1049 had information on them. This generated 8 arrests for various offences and the recovery of a

large quantity of class A drugs. A large amount of intelligence was also collected. Lancashire Police will evaluate the development of this scheme.

To provide funding for the ongoing costs of Secured Car Parks to enable two further car parks to be secured - £500.00

Result: Funding provided towards administration costs of reinspection fees for Secured Car Parks within Chorley.

Evaluation: Two further car parks secured, car crime within Secured Car Parks, making Chorley the Local Authority with the highest number of Secured Car Parks.

Priority Area: Town Centre Crime and Safety

To improve communication between retailers and police - £85.11

Result: An up to date photograph album supplied to all members of Town Centre Radio Scheme.

Evaluation: The scheme has been shown to be successful over the nine years it has been running. Further support has been shown this year as the Pub Watch scheme has requested they be allowed to join. This is being progressed.

Priority Area: Vulnerable Groups

To raise awareness and provide vulnerable groups with aids to protect them from distraction burglary - £456.31.

Result: 6 sheltered homes supplied with A3 reminder posters for bogus officials. 6 personal safety talks given. 10 memo minders fitted by Anchor scheme. There have been 47 security checks made, 3 repairs to existing security measures and 61 security upgrades made by the Anchor Scheme within Chorley.

Evaluation: This area needs to be constantly addressed. Previous evaluation by agencies dealing with this type of offence has shown that unless there are constant reminders, the information is forgotten and vulnerability increases. This area will therefore be monitored throughout the lifetime of the strategy and addressed as appropriate.

To install CCTV within the identified area of Clayton Brook shopping area - £4200.00.

Result: This funding, along with £10,000.00 from the Small Retailers Fund and £9,000.00 of private sponsorship has enabled the installation of a CCTV camera and associated running costs in the shopping area.

Evaluation: Due to delays in connections and difficulties in relaying the signal back to the Police station, the equipment is only recently sending pictures back. Therefore there has been no evaluation. This will be carried out over the forthcoming months.

Priority Area: Youth Issues

Young people will be encouraged into mainstream youth leisure facilities and into areas of positive citizenship.

Result: Safer Chorley website set-up

Evaluation: Systems need to be put in place in line with Chorley Youth and Community Services. Possibilities include how many hits the website has been visited.

Partnership Development Funding

This funding has been used to purchase equipment for use within the MAPS Team. It has also provided the funding to provide training or awareness raising of within the Partnership i.e. awareness raising with magistrates, mentoring support for Community Safety Co-ordinator in regards to Section 17, to support the training given to the Neighbourhood Wardens, to fund schools security event and to provide training for the MAPS Team. Newsletters and leaflets were also funded, as was supporting the promotion of Neighbourhood Watch.

This fund was very much targeted to ensuring the development of Partnership working.

Small Retailers Funding

This £10,000.00 funding was put towards a scheme for CCTV within Clayton Brook. It was linked in with the Safer Communities Funding and has been described in that section.

Communities Against Drugs Funding

Many of the projects within this scheme have been three-year projects, funding posts. These are currently being evaluated. Other one-off schemes have included:-

- Supporting the extension of CCTV within Chorley Town Centre
- Supporting the extension of CCTV within Southlands High School
- Supporting the Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme
- Supporting Police Operation

Other Funding

Funding has also been accessed from other sources throughout the year to support initiatives such as:

- Private sponsorship to support Small Retailers fund.
- Streetlighting funding to support 4 schemes within Chorley.
- LANPAC funding to support Anchor Staying Put Scheme.
- Additional Partnership Development Funding to support Community Classroom, Neighbourhood Watch Conference and Domestic Violence Awareness Raising.
- Street crime fund to support mobile phone marking initiative.
- This does not include funding attracted by the target area groups such as PAiCE, or Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch. It also does not include the amount of mainstream funding that is directly, or indirectly supporting Community Safety.

ACTION PLAN

In order to monitor the Strategy an action plan was developed that would show the work being carried out against each approach. It would also identify gaps and focus work being undertaken. Although the approaches were set-out in 2002, it is acknowledged that this is very much a working document, to change throughout the lifetime of the Strategy. Each quarter the document is updated and presented to the Partnership, to show the type of work being undertaken.

PRIORITY AREAS

Areas of work that may not have been supported through funding streams, but have been supported and developed by the MAPS Team and other Partners, have included:-

Crime Reduction

Promotion of Neighbourhood Watch and increasing communication in 'hotspot' areas. Giving crime prevention advice to victims and referring on to other agencies. Working with schools to improve school security. Working with Planning Departments and Planners to work towards Secured By Design. Work towards extension of CCTV system with the town. Raising awareness with regards to vehicle crime and educating motorists. Using display van to promote crime prevention.

Road Safety

Work with Lancashire Road Safety Partnership has resulted in twelve sites of community concern being targeted with speed enforcement cameras. More sites will be put forward as the community feeds information through to the MAPS Team.

Youth Issues

Working with agencies to develop safe play areas within the Borough. Work within schools has included raising awareness on bullying, bonfire safety, arson, drugs and personal safety. Further work with schemes such as the Youth Referral Scheme and GRIP scheme.

Town Centre Crime and Safety

Work has been carried out with the Town Centre Retailers to improve the Town Centre Photograph Album Scheme. The Town Centre Radio Scheme has been developed and expanded. The CCTV system within the town has been extended and plans made for further development.

Vulnerable Groups

Work with vulnerable groups has developed, through work with Age Concern, offering crime prevention and personal safety advice. The Anchor Staying Put scheme has been supported through a successful bid to LANPAC for funding. Other vulnerable groups have been supported in ways that have included, developing third party reporting facilities in three areas, working on Multi-Cultural events in the town, working with the Asian Women's Forum, working on the Racial Incidents Panel and working with Chorley Mosque. Other

groups have been identified that will be approached over the second year of the Strategy, in order to support other vulnerable members of the community.

Misuse of Alcohol, Drugs and other substances

A closer working relationship is being developed between agencies. Work with LDAT is being developed to ensure communication improves between LDAT and the local Drug Action Group. Work in schools is being carried out in regards to drug education.

Target Areas

Work within target areas to increase communication, raise awareness of crime trends and inform the community of sources of help. Whenever possible, the Target Area Groups will be supported.

THE FUTURE

Initiatives are already underway for the second year of the Strategy. These include the development of the Alleygating scheme, the appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator (part-time) and the improvement of how anti-social behaviour is dealt with in the Borough, a Domestic Violence Co-ordinator, shared with South Ribble, the adoption of the Drugs Strategy within Chorley and closer working with Lancashire Drug Action Team. Initiatives that started in year one will continue to be supported i.e. vehicle crime, but focus will also be placed on areas that targets are not being met i.e. Juvenile Nuisance and violent crime.

CONCLUSION

The first year has been one of development. Although it is the second Community Safety Strategy, it is the first one that has had the focus of the MAPS Team, working towards sustainable solutions.

There are areas that still need development. Crime trends will be monitored and actions taken to address and maintain levels. Work within the Partnership will also be developed to ensure that all Partners are supporting Community Safety fully and encouraging a multi-agency solution to problems.

Funding opportunities will also be maximised. Funding for the second year has been combined into one funding stream. This will contribute to a more co-ordinated approach to initiatives. Mainstream funding will also be sought on initiatives wherever possible, to ensure maximum effectiveness of the funding available to Chorley. Additional funding will be sought, as funds become available.

As stated within the Strategy, the structure set-up to deliver will be continually monitored and evaluated. If changes are necessary they will be made, ensuring that the Strategy reflects the true nature of Community Safety within Chorley.