



Community Safety Strategy

**Second Year Review
May 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. From this a Community Safety Strategy was produced, to cover the period 2002-2005.

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.

The first year of the Strategy was very much a development year for the Partnership, with the introduction of spending plans and the action plan. Initiatives were undertaken to achieve the targets set-out within the Strategy.

The second year within the Partnership has been extremely busy.

The action plan now stands at over 60 pages as more initiatives are undertaken, reflecting what contributions agencies are making towards achieving the targets within the Community Safety Strategy.

A spending plan was produced and worked to throughout the first year of the Strategy. Other resources were accessed when possible to ensure funding was targeted appropriately.

The MAPS Team has embraced the Governments strategy on Anti-Social Behaviour and with the appointment of an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and the development of a more targeted approach to dealing with anti-social behaviour.

This review will look at an assessment and evaluation of projects and an assessment of targets within the Strategy.

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Community Safety Co-ordinator

BACKGROUND

The Community Safety Strategy of 2002-2005 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

There are some positive results in regards to targets when comparing crime figures for 2002/03 to 2003/04. Currently the situation is as follows: -

- All crime within Chorley has increased by 15%.
- Burglary Dwelling has reduced by 17%.
- All vehicle crime has reduced by 22%.
- Theft from a vehicle has reduced by 20%.
- Theft of vehicle has reduced by 28%.
- All Criminal Damage has increased by 24%.
- Juvenile Nuisance has increased by 9%.
- All violent crime has increased by 98%.

It has to be acknowledged that changes in Police recording of Violent Crime and Criminal Damage have affected the levels reported. Other qualitative research has been carried out by Lancashire Constabulary i.e. checking A&E information, CCTV footage and questioning landlords to find out more information. The result of this would be that although there may be evidence that Violent Crime has increased, it is on a far lower level than the Police statistics are reflecting.

The positive trends emerging from the statistics are that Burglary Dwelling is the lowest it has been for over ten years. This is also the second year a reduction in Burglary has been shown, suggesting a long-term trend. Vehicle crime is also reducing for the second year by a significant amount.

BEST VALUE

In respect of Juvenile Nuisance the Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested in year one that a Multi-Agency Best Value Review was undertaken. This is almost complete, the process has included a baseline being prepared of where Chorley ranks within the Lancashire area, what problems are faced by Councillors, Parish Councils and Businesses in the area and the opinion of the young people of the area. Proposals are being considered as to the approach that is needed by the Council and Partners as to if the issue can be addressed or improved.

PARTNERSHIP SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Partnership underwent a self-assessment between January and March 2004. It was a tool to assess whether the Partnership has the capacity to deliver the Governments crime reduction strategies and if they are receiving support required.

The self-assessment framework was divided into five themes, leadership, audit and strategies, people and partners, resources and processes. The Partnership rated itself against each of the standards. A number of consultation exercises were undertaken to provide as accurate a picture as possible. This was then submitted to GONW along with an improvement plan.

The Steering Group found that improvements for the Partnership emerged naturally from information gathered. They are as follows:

1. More diverse active group membership on the Partnership
2. S.17 Training of new members
3. Terms of Reference/mapping of Partnership
4. Improved linkages to LSP
5. Improved linkages to LDAT
6. Increased information sharing between agencies
7. Clear target setting and terms and conditions when funding allocated
8. Pooled budgets to supplement Government funding.

As Chorley is not in the highest crime quartile there is no requirement to complete the assessment each year. This process has given the Partnership some clear areas of development that can be looked at and planned in over the coming audit year.

INITIATIVES

TOWER SCHEME

The Tower scheme is a Lancashire Constabulary initiative that targets the most active drug users within a sub-division. These people commit crime to finance their drug habit, therefore by positively intervening and offering support, crime can be reduced.

In 2003/04 Tower was funded from the Basic Command Unit Funding and supplemented from the Building Safer Communities Funding.

Performance Measures:

Number of prolific offenders offered service	41
Prolific offenders engaged in treatment programme	19
Number remaining in treatment for at least two months	16

These figures cover the whole of Southern Police Division and not just Chorley Community Safety Partnership area.

It is the intention of Southern Division to implement the Tower scheme throughout the three years funding of the BCU funding.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CO-ORDINATOR

An Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator was appointed using the BCU funding. The appointment was made in June 2003 and will run throughout the BCU funding.

The Co-ordinator significantly contributed to the development of the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, which was adopted by the Partnership. The Co-ordinator leads a group of partners, which includes housing associations, Connexions, YOT, Police, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Wardens, CBC Housing Department and members of the MAPS Team.

So far the group, through the Co-ordinator has dealt with over fifty issues of anti-social behaviour. More than half are still ongoing at various stages i.e. monitoring of ABC's ASBO's, eviction notices and pending prosecution. The issues so far resolved have been through diversionary interventions, relocation of offenders and public re-assurance. There are currently four ASBO's in place and twelve ABC's.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUBSTANCE MISUSE WORKER – Youth and Community Service and Drugline.

These posts, one full-time and one third post, offer support to young people in relation to legal and illegal substances, bring funded through the Building Safer Communities Fund. It is a free and confidential service offering practical support and information. The posts deal with drug education, agency referrals, a drop-in service and outreach work. The projects establish links with socially excluded people through outreach and community based contacts, signpost young people to the appropriate services.

The projects have dealt with over 500 young people per year. They work within the target areas of the Community Safety Strategy and have built-up liaison with the local agencies in the area. Work within schools has been developed, for education with both teachers and pupils.

CRACK COCAINE WORKER

This post serves the whole of Southern Division, with Chorley receiving one third of a post, funded through the BSCF. The aim of the project was to offer a range of services to meet the needs of Crack Cocaine Users at any stage of their drug use and to offer training, information and constancy to better increase the capacity of professionals and other workers in providing services for Crack Cocaine users.

The project has experienced some difficulties, some to do with the large area to be covered, the accommodation available for the service and the amount of time needed by clients. There have also been some concerns with the number of referrals from the Chorley area. Enquiries have been made as to whether this has been because agencies are not referring clients to the service, or if there was not the need within the area. Unfortunately, no conclusive evidence has been available.

DIGITAL CCTV FACILITY

The Chorley CCTV monitoring station has been serviced by an analogue recording system since its inception. This is now almost ten years old and technology has moved on considerably since then. In an effort to maintain the effectiveness of the CCTV station funding was provided from Building Safer Communities Fund and CBC mainstream fund to install a digital recording facility. This was based on advice from PSDB. Early

feedback from the Operators within the CCTV station is positive; they are able to track incidents easily, providing an improved service.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CONFERENCE

Once again the Partnership supported the annual Neighbourhood Watch Conference from BSCF. The attendance of Co-ordinators increased from last year's figures, from approximately one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty. During the conference the proposed three-year development plan for Neighbourhood Watch was issued. This will give a focus to Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch and the Co-ordinators within the area and allow for planned development. Funding was also supplied from BSCF to enable room hire costs to be met when a new scheme was being started.

PROPERTY MARKING SCHEME

In the first year of the strategy equipment was purchased to supply relevant bodies with ultra violet lights and permanent uv pens. It was felt that this scheme needed to be continued, as equipment had been distributed. This year 40 ultra violet key rings for supply to Neighbourhood Wardens, Community Beat Managers and Police Community Support Officers were purchased. Ultra violet lights were purchased for supply to Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, to enable them to check property and promote property marking and 500 UV pens were purchased for new neighbourhood watch schemes, repeat victims of burglary and for Police Officers to promote property marking. As the burglary dwelling figures within Chorley are the lowest in over ten years, it is important that the downward trend is maintained and crime prevention is carried out to educate residents of the area.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS TRAINING

During the year six new Neighbourhood Wardens were employed, to extend the scheme within the area. It was important to have the Wardens trained to the Security Industry standard therefore funding was supplied from BSCF, to supplement the mainstream funding used to employ the Wardens.

VEHICLE CRIME AWARENESS RAISING

Funding was supplied to provide posters and leaflets to target specific areas within the area to educate vehicle users on crime trends and offer crime prevention advice.

AWARENESS RAISING OF TOWN CENTRE BAR STAFF

The Town Centre night-time economy brings with it crime and disorder issues. The local PubWatch stated that training for staff was an issue, so to complement other work that was underway a number of conflict management courses and drug awareness courses were run for bar staff and door staff through BSCF. A course was also run for licensees, to educate them on their current responsibilities and the responsibilities when the new licensing act is implemented. Although the staff trained have found the courses useful, the high turn-over of staff within the licensed trade would call into question the long-term effectiveness of this scheme.

ALLEYGATING SCHEME

Alleygating is seen as best practice throughout the country in regards to reducing burglary, criminal damage, nuisance fires and reducing fear of crime. The first Alleygating scheme was introduced through BSCF and involved working with residents, probation and PAiCE. The gates have been well received within the community, with a number of enquiries about the expansion of the scheme.

MAPS TEAM TRAINING

One of the remits of the MAPS Team is to introduce best practice within the area. This fund enables the MAPS Team to attend training courses in relevant areas to keep up to date with changes in legislation, initiatives and technology.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CO-ORDINATOR

In April 2003 the Domestic Violence Co-ordinator previously employed by South Ribble was employed to cover both South Ribble and Chorley. This post has worked to increase reported incidents of Domestic Violence and to improve agency working and facilities provided. Incidents of Domestic Violence have increased from 2002-2003 = 1,113 to 2003-2004 = 1229. Awareness raising campaigns have been held including the 16 days of action in November 2003. The post is to be funded during the year 2004/05, in which the post will be evaluated.

DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Funding was supplied to part fund a post within Culture, Sport and Community Development and to provide funding to support diversionary activities for young people within the Borough. The post has been mainstreamed in the financial year 2004/05, due to its effectiveness. The diversionary activities provided are part of a large, wide-ranging programme of activities available during school holidays.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS FOR TARGET AREAS

Two of the target areas produced two newsletters for the first time. These will be evaluated throughout the next year. One target area produced three newsletters, 5000 copies on each circulation. Feedback has been obtained from agencies using the newsletters to advertise services and community feedback through the community classroom. Every issue leads to numerous responses about articles and related issues.

SECTION 17 TRAINING EVENT

Funding was provided to facilitate a training event for Partners regarding Section 17 and its implications. Over 50 people attended the event. Feedback was extremely positive, both on the day and since the event. Ideally, part of the event would be taken to every partner agency, linking in with the improvement plan, but cost may have an impact on this.

PART FUND ANPR VEHICLE

Funding was provided to part fund an ANPR vehicle for Southern Division, in Partnership with the other two CDRPs in the area. Unfortunately due to operational policing issues the vehicle has been directed to one area and no evaluation is available at this time.

CCTV CAMERA EAVES LANE

The final year of funding from Small Retailers in Deprived areas was put towards a CCTV camera along the Eaves Lane area of Chorley. This funding was supplemented by BSCF. The area was chosen as it is a target area and based on Police statistics was second after Clayton Brook, which had been targeted in 2002/03. Evaluation will be carried out, but due to a late installation date there is none available at the moment.

SECURITY MEASURES FOR DISTRACTION BURGLARY VICTIMS

Through the Anchor Scheme 10 memo minder distraction burglary alarms were purchased for fitting to victims homes to prevent repeat victimisation. From the questionnaires sent out one month after alarms fitted there has been 100% satisfaction with the product and service given. Extra security is also offered when alarms are being fitted, funded through the Anchor scheme, helping further to reduce fear of crime.

REPLACEMENT CAMERA OF MOBILE CCTV UNIT

The mobile CCTV van has been functional for a number of years. In order to keep up to date with technology a new camera was fitted to the van. This has been developed hand in hand with the training of all Neighbourhood Wardens to use the facility throughout the area.

SECURED BY DESIGN CAR PARK COSTS

Chorley continues to have one of the highest levels of Secured By Design car parks within the County. The acknowledged disadvantage of the scheme is the year on year administration costs, charged by the scheme. To enable the Local Authority to continue applying for the award an amount of funding was provided to meet some of the administration costs. Evaluation of the scheme shows that car parks covered remain virtually crime free.

OTHER FUNDING

Funding received late in the year provided funding for Domestic Violence support i.e. events, mobile phones for victims and alarms. Funding from Government Office underspend provided funding for a binge drinking awareness raising campaign. Funding from LCC provided part funding of the Community Safety Co-ordinator's Post and diversionary activities within the Borough.

Streetlighting funding was accessed for two schemes within Chorley.

A Lanpac bid was successful in receiving funding for CCTV at Eldon House, covering the new mosque.

- This does not include funding attracted by the target area groups or Chorley and District Neighbourhood Watch. It also does not include the amount of mainstream funding that is directly, or indirectly supporting Community Safety.

GROUPS WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIP

M.A.P.S. TEAM

The team has expanded with the introduction of the Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator. It continues to have close links with agencies, especially groups such as the Neighbourhood Wardens.

DRUG ACTION GROUP

During the year a review was undertaken within the Chorley Drug Action Group, the end result being the production of a Drugs Strategy. These findings were shared with the Drug Action Group in South Ribble. One area of development was closer working relationships with the group at South Ribble and with Lancashire Drug Action Team. After consultation, it was decided to merge the Chorley and South Ribble Drug Action Groups. This has been done successfully. Many agencies cover both areas; this is less of a drain on resources and an opportunity for a full picture of services, gaps and best practice to emerge.

With regards to closer working relationship with LDAT, an interview was held with the Community Safety Co-ordinator on how to improve the relationship. Due to staff changes within LDAT there has been no evidence of closer working as yet, but it is hoped that this will be developed over the coming year.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR GROUP

This group meets the first Tuesday of every month. It involves a range of agencies including CBC Housing, Housing Associations, Lancashire Constabulary, Y.O.T., Lancashire Fire and Rescue and the M.A.P.S. Team. Any agency can bring a problem to the meeting and all agencies have an input on how best to deal with the problem. So far, this has been very successful, with over fifty cases dealt with to date. Cases can include young people, adults or businesses who are causing anti-social behaviour for the community of Chorley.

POSITIVE INTERVENTION GROUP

This group is recently formed, but early indications are positive. The aim of the group is similar to the anti-social behaviour group, but more focused towards diversionary activities. It looks at focusing agencies in achieving solutions, whereas before agencies tended to be trying to solve a problem alone. It targets the young people within the Borough.

TARGET AREA GROUPS

Positive Action in Chorley East (PAiCE) is going from strength to strength and is well established now. The newsletters are well received, the community classroom is constantly booked up, the achievements of the group are many and are assisting the Partnership to achieve targets within this area.

The other two target groups are Clayton Brook Community Safety Group and SWITCH for Chorley South West. They are 'younger' than PAiCE, but are using the experience of PAiCE to aid their establishment. The newness of the groups should not detract from the work already underway. In Clayton Brook residents are seeing real differences in the work of the group and the work of SWITCH is gaining momentum.

Some examples of work from all of the areas have included free Fire Home Safety checks, development of Citizens Advice Service within the area, Cultural Awareness training, bid for Children's Centre in East Chorley, consultation on play area sites, identifying gaps in services, environmental audits being carried out, assertiveness training for elderly people, after school club opened, the list could go on and on.

CONCLUSION

The first year of the Strategy was one of development; the second year has been one of action. Initiatives have been implemented, improvements made and relationships developed.

An acknowledgement has to be made that Community Safety is never static. The Partnership and all areas within it have to be flexible enough to develop, to achieve what was set-out in 2002. This can be shown with the development of new groups, but the support of existing groups has also been maintained. It is important that the work of the Partnership is not diluted or spread too thinly.

The third year of the Strategy will be one of continuing work, but also of development and assessment. It is vital the Partnership does not become a victim of its own success, more demand requires increased capacity. This will be explored as work develops, but may require increased commitment of Partners. The third year is also a year of assessment; it is the audit year, in preparation for the new Strategy to run 2005-2008.

It is encouraging that Community Safety is still expanding within Chorley.