



**Community Safety Strategy  
2002 – 2005**

**Third and Final Year Review  
June 2005**

## **Introduction**

In 1998 the Crime and Disorder Act placed a statutory duty on Partnerships to carry out a three yearly audit, which would form the basis of a three-year Community Safety Strategy.

This has been worked to by Chorley Community Safety Partnership since 1998. The second Community Safety Strategy has run from April 2002 until March 2005. Although the main document has been in existence since 2002, each year an annual report has been produced to show how work was progressing against targets. This has been supplemented through the Action Plan, which has been updated for each quarterly Partnership meeting.

Over this last year of the Strategy we have been undertaking the Crime and disorder Audit, which will inform the 2005-2008 Strategy. It has been important though, that we have not been distracted from maintaining the level of work needed to deliver on the existing strategy.

This is the third and final report of the 2002-2005 Strategy. It will look back over the last three years and assess what worked and what did not. It will look at how we performed against targets and what was and was not successful.

In addition to the final report, attached is the final copy of the Action Plan. This describes in more detail what actions have taken place to achieve the targets, who has driven actions and where funding has been obtained from. It is a large document, but just shows what activity has been carried out over the last three years and what commitment exists to improve Community Safety within Chorley.

The new Community Safety Strategy takes us forward and will enable us to develop further, but we should always ensure we are heading in the right direction, which is why annual reports are so important.

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## Background

The Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005 was split into seven Priority Areas: -

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

A number of targets were set-out under each of the Priority Areas and approaches were developed that would focus activity.

### Priority Area: Crime Reduction

**Objective: To reduce the number of domestic burglaries and vehicle related crimes.**

**Targets and performance: To reduce the number of domestic burglaries by 15% by March 2005.**

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	775		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	577	-198	- 25.5%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	479	-98	- 17%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	324	-155	- 47.8%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 775	Year 3 Total = 324	<b>Total reduction of domestic burglaries = 58.2%</b>  <b>Target exceeded</b>

Much work has been undertaken to improve the safety of homes. Organisations such as Neighbourhood Watch and Residents Associations have been encouraged to increase in numbers and effectiveness. Initiatives have been undertaken to design out problems, such as Alleygates. Wherever possible planning applications have been commented on, to encourage the use of Secured By Design principles on new builds. Offenders have been targeted by the Police. Through this co-ordinated approach by all agencies has resulted in a reduction that was beyond all expectations. The target for the next Strategy is to maintain the low levels that currently exists.

To reduce the number of vehicle related crimes by 12% by March 2005.

Year	Recorded statistics – Vehicle Taking	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	406		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	371	-35	-8.6%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	259	-112	-43%

Apr 04 – Mar 05	269	+10	+3.8%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 406	Year 3 Total = 269	<b>Total reduction in vehicle taking = 33.7% Target exceeded</b>

Year	Recorded statistics – Theft from vehicle	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	859		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	740	-119	-13.8%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	587	-153	-20.6%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	698	+111	+15.9%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 859	Year 3 Total = 698	<b>Total reduction of theft from vehicle = 18.7% Target exceeded</b>

The statistics regarding vehicle crime have been separated to provide a clearer picture. The two types of crime can potentially require two types of interventions and it is important we are targeting the relevant crime type.

Vehicle taking has shown a massive reduction and can be contributed to initiatives such as Secured Car Parks, education campaigns and targeting of offenders.

Theft from vehicles has also shown a reduction over the first two years of the Strategy. There were increases in the last year. This has been due to opportunistic thefts occurring in the side streets outside the town centre, particularly in Chorley South West. Other analysis shows that travelling criminals are targeting areas along the main arterial routes into and out of Chorley.

The new Strategy will increase work around educating motorists to remove valuables from vehicles and targeting offenders. Work is particularly important around targeting travelling criminals. It will also look at problems associated with onstreet parking, in some cases there may be design issues within a street that could be altered. Although the Police are the lead agency with regards to targeting of offenders, other agencies need to play a more active role in educating vehicle owners and ensuring they provide secure parking.

### Priority Area: Road Safety

**Objective: To reduce the number of road casualties on our roads.**

**Targets and Performance: To reduce the number of child road casualties by 50% by March 2005.**

Year	Recorded statistics – child fatal/serious casualties	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	15		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	13	2	-13%

Apr 03 – Mar 04	10	3	-23%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	8	2	-20%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 15	Year 3 Total = 8	<b>Total reduction = 46.6% Target exceeded</b>

At first appearance this target seems to be a major achievement. On closer inspection it is obvious that within Chorley we are dealing with such small numbers that a major shift can be caused in either direction.

The target is a Lancashire target, but work within the Partnership is important to help to achieve the reduction in child casualties across Lancashire. The Partnership will continue support the Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety to achieve targets, this will include the submission of sites of community concern, supporting education campaigns as they arise and looking at supporting initiatives such as speed enforcement,

**Target and Performance: To reduce the total number of casualties by 40% by March 2005.**

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	91		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	84	-7	-7.6%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	71	-13	-15%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	69	-2	-2.8%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 91	Year 3 Total = 69	<b>Total reduction in casualties = 24% Target not reached.</b>

As was mentioned above, the figures in Chorley are very small and the target is actually a Lancashire wide target. The steady reduction in numbers is a positive trend and work will continue to support this.

**Priority Area: Youth Issues**

**Objective: To address offending, victimisation, safety and participation of young people.**

**Target and Performance: To achieve a 10% reduction in the number of reported youth incidents by March 2005.**

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	2438		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	2512	+74	+3%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	2811	+299	+11.9%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	3772	+961	+34%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 2438	Year 3 Total = 3772	<b>Total increase = 54.7% Target not met.</b>

Youth incidents or Juvenile Nuisance have increased dramatically over the last three years. There can be a number of contributing factors, including lowering tolerance levels, reduction in facilities and increases in reporting. Work has been undertaken by a number of agencies to provide diversionary activities for young people, particularly in the summer holidays. Targeting of persistent offenders has also been undertaken through Anti-Social Behaviour Orders. The introduction of the Neighbourhood Warden scheme has meant that problem areas can be targeted and work is undertaken with some residents are less tolerant of young people. A review has been undertaken around Youth Issues by Chorley Borough Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel, which will help advise over the coming years. The new strategy will target anti-social behaviour and youth offending.

Target and Performance:

To achieve a 10% reduction in the number of reported incidents of criminal damage by March 2005.

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	1,473		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	1,361	-112	-7.6%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	1,699	+338	+24.8%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	2,001	+302	+17.7%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 1,473	Year 3 Total = 2,001	<b>Total increase = 35.8% Target not reached.</b>

Criminal Damage is recognised as a significant problem that affects communities. There has been a significant increase in incidents, which have until recently been a low priority for agencies. The new Strategy has recognised that this type of low level crime has a major impact in how people feel about their local community. With this in mind the Partnership has set the target for a 30% reduction of criminal damage over the next three years. This is an ambitious target, but with agency co-operation and targeting can be achieved.

**Target and Performance: To reduce the number of young people who are victims of crime by 10% by March 2005.**

This target has been affected by the changes in recording of violent crime. This has meant that we have seen an increase in reporting, but actual numbers cannot be considered reliable information. Young people as victims is tackled through the Partnership under such initiatives such as mobile phone marking, anti-bullying campaigns and choices programme.

**Priority Area: Town Centre Crime and Safety**

**Objective: To make the Town Centre a safe place to live, work and visit.**

**Target and Performance: To reduce the number of violent crimes committed in the Town Centre by 10% by March 2005.**

There are no figures available that identify the Town Centre specifically. There have been issues around the reporting of violent crime and the increases this has shown. The information around incidents occurring near licensed premises have been looked at for the needs of this report. It has to be recognised that not all licenced premises are within the Town Centre.

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	No figures available.		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	128		
Apr 03 – Mar 04	247	+119	+92%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	265	+18	+7%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 128	Year 3 Total = 265	<b>Total increase = 107% Target not reached.</b>

If the year 2003/04 and 2004/05 are compared, a 7% increase is shown. This could be the changes in recording are showing a less dramatic increase in violent crime. Many initiatives have been undertaken to improve safety within the Town Centre and target individuals. These have included extending CCTV within the Town Centre and working with Pub Watch on schemes such as the use of the Town Centre Radio scheme for the pubs and clubs in the area. High profile policing has also been undertaken and more recently the issuing of Fixed Penalty tickets to individuals causing problems has also been introduced. Reducing violent crime is a target within the new strategy.

**Target and Performance: To reduce the number of reported disorder incidents in the Town Centre by 10% by March 2005.**

As with the violent crime statistics, we do not have access to the statistics specifically for the Town Centre. Apart from looking at the Juvenile Nuisance figures, already reported on in this document, there are no other specific disorder figures available.

**Target and Performance: To ensure that 100% of streets in the Town Centre are swept to a high/acceptable standard of cleanliness to promote a feeling of well-being by March 2005.**

Streets within the Town Centre are swept twice a day as directed by Environmental targets. **Target achieved.**

**Target and Performance: To increase the number of people who feel safe visiting the town centre at night by 20% by March 2005.**

During the Audit of Crime and Disorder 2001/02 the following information was found:

- 68% of residents feel safe in the Borough
- 88% of people said they felt safe in their local neighbourhood during the day
- 59% of people said they felt safe in their local neighbourhood during the night
- 59% of people said they felt safe in the Town Centre during the day
- 19% of people said they felt safe in the Town Centre during the night

During the Audit of Crime and Disorder 2003/04 the following information was found:

- 96.8% of people said they felt safe in their own homes during the day
- 90.4% of people said they felt safe in their own home during the night
- 79.2% of people said they felt safe in the Town Centre by day
- 29.3% of people said they felt safe in the town Centre by night.

The figures that are most relevant are relating to the feelings of safety in the Town Centre during the day and at night. Over the term of the strategy feelings of safety have increased during the day by 20%. During the night feelings of safety have only increased by 10%. Chorley Town Centre suffers from an unrealistic image at night, which affects how safe people feel. The Town Centre is a target over the next three years. We will be working to increase levels of safety and reduce levels of violent crime.

**Priority Area: Vulnerable Groups**

**Objective: To reassure our communities especially those who are vulnerable and most at risk.**

**Target and Performance: Increase levels of reporting incidents of hate crime by 10% by March 2005.**

All racially aggravated crime reported to the Police

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	44		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	30	-14	-31%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	36	+6	+20%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	38	+2	+5%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 44	Year 3 Total = 38	<b>Total reduction in reporting = 13% Target not met.</b>

All racial/hate crime reported to the Racist Incidents Panel

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Baseline Apr 01 – Mar 02	69		
Apr 02 – Mar 03	17	-52	-75%
Apr 03 – Mar 04	70	+53	+76%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	115	+45	+64%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 69	Year 3 Total = 115	<b>Total increase = 66.7% Target met</b>

Reporting of racist incidents and hate crime is always a difficult area to deal with. It is an area that suffers from gross under reporting for a number of reasons. These can include lack of faith in the services being sought, lack of support services available and constraints of the community the victim belongs to. In order to try and overcome this, work has been undertaken to offer services other than just relying on reporting to the Police at the Police Station. An example of this is through the introduction of third party reporting facilities within localities.

So far, the numbers we are dealing with are very small, so although the target has been met, we need to treat the figures with caution. These figures are those collected by a number of agencies and depend on the agencies reporting, therefore can fluctuate. Although taking the figures with caution, the commitment is to increase reporting and offer support to the vulnerable groups within our community. We need to recognise that further increases in reporting needs to take place and these vulnerable groups need continued support.

Target and Performance:

Increase the level of reporting domestic abuse by 10% by March 2005.

Year	Recorded statistics	+/- in real terms	Percentage +/- year by year
Apr 02 – Mar 03	1,060		
Apr 03 – Mar 04	1,227	+167	+15.7%
Apr 04 – Mar 05	1,172	+55	+4%
<b>Performance against target</b>	Baseline = 1,060	Year 3 Total = 1,172	<b>Total increase = 10.5% Target achieved.</b>

Work around domestic abuse has increased over the last three years, but much more needs to be done. Gaps in services need to be filled and support networks in place for those seeking help.

### **Priority Area: Misuse of Alcohol, Drugs and Other Substances**

**Objectives: To tackle the causes and effects of the misuse of drugs and alcohol and other substances in the following four key areas (as identified in the Government's ten year plan).**

Young people – to help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society.

Communities – to protect our communities from drug related anti-social behaviour.

Treatment – to enable young people with drug problems to overcome them and live healthy and crime free lives.

Availability – to stifle the availability of illegal drugs on our streets.

**Target and Performance: To increase levels of arrest and convictions in relation to class 'A' drugs by 20% by March 2005.**

The only information available is related to detected drug possession. Figures available are as follows:

- April '01-Mar '02 = 121 detections out of 125 offences
- April '02-Mar '03 = 172 detections out of 179 offences
- April '03-Mar '04 = 160 detections out of 169 offences
- April '04-Mar '05 = 19 detections out of 23 offences

As can be seen the rate of detection is extremely high with regards to drugs possession because of the nature of the offence. What does need to be acknowledged is the amount of work undertaken to target drug users and dealers.

**Target and Performance: To increase seizure levels of class 'A' drugs by 20% by March 2005.**

There is no information available to report on this target.

**Target and Performance: To reduce the proportion of people under the age of 25 reporting use of illegal drugs in the last month and previous year substantially and to reduce the proportion of young people using drugs which can cause them great harm – heroin and cocaine – by 25% by 2005.**

There is no specific information available to report on this target.

**Target and Performance: To reduce levels of repeat offending among drug misusing offenders by 25% by 2005.**

There is no specific information available to report on this target although it has to be recognised the amount of investment into the Tower project, which targets prolific drug users, to reduce repeat offending. Treatment and support is offered to offenders to stop them committing crime. If they do not comply they become a Police target.

**Target and Performance: To increase participation of problem drug misusers, including prisoners in drug treatment programmes which have a positive impact on health and crime by 66% by 2005.**

There are issues with people staying in drug treatment programmes, as in there are a high number of individuals that drop out of programmes. This can only have a detrimental affect on whether or not they return to using drugs after they have stopped receiving treatment.

#### **Priority Area: Target Areas**

**Objective: To identify the cause of higher than normal crime and disorder rates in particular areas of the Borough and to identify actions to address these.**

**Target and Performance: To reduce crime and disorder in Chorley East, Chorley South West and Clayton Brook to below the county average figure by March 2005.**

All three areas are now below the Lancashire average regarding domestic burglaries.

Chorley East and Clayton Brook are below the Lancashire average for violent crime.

Chorley East and Clayton Brook are below the Lancashire average for Juvenile Nuisance.

The results of work within the target areas are having positive results on the community as a whole. There has been a bigger impact in Chorley East and Clayton Brook, as these groups have been in existence longer than the group in Chorley South West. More work will be carried out in these areas to continue reducing crime and disorder.

## **Conclusions.**

There have been many successes over the last three years. There have been major inroads into reducing crime and disorder, sometimes, as with Domestic Burglary, it has gone beyond the target set.

In other areas the Partnership has had to deal with changes in recording practices, which has shown apparent increases that could have a detrimental effect on targets such as fear of crime. This has had to be handled carefully, giving people a realistic picture, while not being dismissive of the community's fears and concerns.

Progress has been made. Chorley is safer than it was three years ago, but we are determined not to settle at this. As a Partnership we will strive to improve ourselves over the next Strategy, we will look and issues that are showing rates are increasing and we will continue to improve community safety for the community within Chorley.

It will no doubt be a journey of ups and downs, but with increasing commitment from agencies we will achieve our aims.