

# **Lancaster District**

## **Community Safety Partnership**



### **Strategy 2002 – 2005**

## CONTENTS

1. **Foreword/Introduction**
  2. **Overview of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership**
  3. **Joint Working within the Partnership**
  4. **The Strategy**
    - 4.1 **Audit and Consultation Process**
    - 4.2 **The Way Forward**
    - 4.3 **The Vision**
    - 4.4 **The Definition of Community Safety**
    - 4.5 **Objectives**
    - 4.6 **Principles**
  5. **Action Plans – Next Steps**
  6. **Monitoring**
- Appendix 1 - Structure**

## **1. Foreword/Introduction**

As chair of the Lancaster, Morecambe and district community safety partnership, it gives me great pleasure to present our strategy for the next three years, to 2005. The partnership was established as a result of the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act, and it brings together the district and county councils, the police and fire services, probation health and other local bodies to jointly tackle crime and its causes. Our first Community Safety Strategy covered the years 1999 - 2002, and we listed our successes and our failures in the consultation document which we hope you were able to read last autumn.

This new strategy sets out the ways in which the partnership intends to reduce crime and disorder across the district over the next three years, and it is based on the extensive consultations which we have held with local people and community groups over the past six months. Our objectives are based on the results of an audit into the levels and types of crime and disorder being experienced in the district, and on the feedback we received from you as a result of the public consultation. You made it very clear that crime, disorder, anti social behaviour, road safety and the fear of crime are major concerns for people in this district, as indeed they are across Lancashire as a whole, and we have tried to reflect these concerns in this Community Safety Strategy.

For our strategy to be successful, we must all work together as effectively as we can to prevent and tackle crime and disorder, and to improve the quality of life for local people. We will take steps to ensure that as a partnership we regularly monitor our own performance, follow best practice wherever it is identified, and work to strengthen our links with local communities. You can play your part by joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, promoting 'safer routes to schools' initiatives or by simply securing your house, your car and other valuable property as far as possible.

Our overall aim must be to reduce the levels of crime and disorder in our district, thus revitalising local communities and freeing them from fear of crime. Through this Community Safety Strategy, we hope to ensure that North Lancashire remains a safe and pleasant place in which to live, work and visit.

Dr Ruth Henig  
Chair of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership

## **2. Overview of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership**

The Partnership includes a number of agencies and bodies that work regularly together to reduce crime and disorder throughout the district. Appendix 1 shows the structure of the Community Safety Partnership.

The role of the Strategy group is to have a strategic overview of the Partnership and ensure that the Local Action Groups are on target by monitoring their performance to ensure that the objective of the Strategy are met.

The agencies represented on the Strategy Group are; Lancaster City Council, Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Police Authority, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancaster Youth

Offending Team, The National Probation Service, Lancashire, Morecambe Bay Health Authority and Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust, Inward House Projects, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Lancaster Guardian, The Citizen, Lancashire Drug Action Team, Lancaster and District Womens' Aid, Lancaster Council for Voluntary Services, Lancaster University. The Partnership includes many other organisations, agencies and the public. This ranges from close working to reduce crime and disorder to public consultation.

The Partnership would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved over the past three years and looks forward to continuing this joint working over the coming three years of this Strategy.

### **3. Joint Working within the Partnership**

Since its inception three years ago the Partnership has developed. Joint projects have been implemented and closer working between agencies is taking place. Funding has been drawn in and is being used to benefit the community, whilst further funding avenues are being sought on an ongoing basis.

As it is working towards achieving the objectives and targets to reduce crime the Partnership is continuously improving its methods of working by seeking out the best ways of achieving its aim of making Lancaster, Morecambe and the surrounding rural area a safe and pleasant place in which to live work and visit.

Over the past three years the Community Safety Partnership has been involved in a number of schemes and initiatives. Some of these have been undertaken solely by agencies, others have been jointly run by agencies working together in close partnership. As this Strategy is a continuation from the previous three years the Partnership believes it is appropriate, at this stage, to review some of the good work that has gone before.

- Lancaster City Council has put in a successful bid for funding for Street Wardens to work in Morecambe West End and Poulton Ward.
- Lancashire Constabulary has launched a pilot scheme for Community Wardens in an area to the east of Lancaster town centre incorporating the Ridge and Newton estates along with the larger part of Bulk Ward. The Pilot will run for 6 months initially.
- Lancaster City Council has introduced a 24 hour reporting system for victims of racial harassment. This enables victims of racism to report incidents to the Council, where previously they could only report to the Police. Funding has been gained from Government Office North West to publicise the new system and to pay for 10 new telephone systems which can be loaned to victims to connect them directly to the service.
- The Partnership has been a forerunner in Lancashire for successfully implementing Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). Four ASBOs have been implemented in the Lancaster district.
- The Youth Offending Team (YOT) is working to ensure swift administration of justice for young offenders.
- The Partnership has a budget which it uses to fund projects for up to £1000 per project. Some examples of funded projects are: Street Cred – Project for personal safety education to young people; West End Project – Sports project to promote citizenship amongst young people, Self Defence Course for young women in Carnforth, Summer Splash –

Summer Holiday Courses for young people: Heysham Youth Project – Building of a kit car, and Operation Streetwise – personal safety education to young people.

In 2000/01 the agencies put forward a total of £13,500 for projects, broken down as follows:

- Lancaster City Council £5000.00
  - Lancashire County Council £5000.00
  - Lancashire Constabulary £2000.00
  - Lancashire Police Authority £1000.00
  - Lancashire Fire and Rescue £ 500.00
- 
- The Partnership receives £106,500 from the Government's Communities Against Drugs fund for this coming year. This is being used to fund two community workers to work with young people at risk of drug abuse, along with a positive messages campaign and an event attended by agencies, where current gaps in service provision will be ascertained.
  - Lancaster Pubwatch is a scheme whereby people who commit acts of violence in particular pubs in Lancaster City Centre can be barred from all pubs/nightclubs. This is a joint scheme run by Police and City Council licensing officers.
  - A Licensing Protocol has been put in place whereby the Partnership has set out its stance in relation to Licensing applications. This is in use by Lancaster City Council Licensing Officers.
  - Lancaster City Council has been influential in forming new taxi ranks to enable quick exit from the city centre at pub/club closing times.
  - Lancaster City Council has put 40 CCTV cameras in place.
  - CCTV cameras have been placed in rural car parks in the fight against vehicle crime.
  - Truancy Sweeps have been implemented by Lancashire County Council Education Department and the Police to target children committing truant.
  - A project whereby young people have built a kit car has been undertaken in Heysham run by Lancashire County Council Youth and Community Services.
  - Seminars have been held at St Martins' College and Lancaster University which have given crime and fire prevention advice to students. A whole range of agencies have been involved including; Lancaster City Council, Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue.
  - Morecambe and Lancaster are benefiting from the employment of new Police Community Beat Managers.
  - Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire County Council have implemented a Bike Safe scheme targeted at motorcyclists, to educate and enforce against unsafe motorcycling.
  - The FACE (Fire Awareness Child Education) Scheme has been implemented. This is a fire safety educational programme delivered by Lancashire Fire and Rescue to children aged between 4 and 12 years who demonstrate behavioural problems involving fire setting.

- Lancashire Fire and Rescue has entered a partnership with BT and other telephone providers to reduce hoax calls.
- A Door Staff Registration Scheme has been put in place where joint training of city centre pub and club door staff is held by Police and City Council and Lancashire Fire and Rescue.
- Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue have become partners in an unique project called the Arson Reduction Team. The team's aim is to reduce arson in Lancashire by ensuring that scenes of crime are preserved, and information is shared between agencies.

#### **4. The Strategy**

##### **4.1 Audit and Consultation Process**

This three year strategy has come about through an audit and consultation process. The process began with the First Phase Report which set out; the levels and patterns of crime in the Lancaster district and an analysis of that information. as well as a description and analysis of the work of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership in relation to the Community Safety Strategy 1999 to 2002.

An extensive consultation process was then undertaken. The aims of this consultation were to gain a view on crime, fear of crime and other quality of life issues from the people of Lancaster and assess the extent of the success of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership over the past three year strategy period.

The consultation process consisted of a basket of different methods aimed at targeting as wide a cross section of the community and as many of the community as possible. Approximately 4000 people were consulted and approximately 1600 responses were received, a 40% feedback rate. The methods used were:-

- A postal survey of many agencies, organisations and groups of bodies throughout the district.
- Lancaster City Councilors collated responses from their constituents and returned to the Community Safety Team.
- The documents were made available in public buildings and on web sites.
- Face to face interviews with the public were undertaken.
- The local media reported on the findings and informed the public where to respond.
- A consultation event with local agencies, organisations and various groups and bodies.

This process resulted in the Crime and Disorder Audit 2001. A further consultation followed and the results of the audit and the consultation have been used to form the objectives of the Community Safety Strategy 2002-2005.

##### **4.2 The Way Forward**

This section sets out the way forward for the next three years of Partnership activity. Firm objectives, performance indicators and targets have been set, along with their rationale. A number of approaches are listed for each objective. It should be noted at this point that these approaches will not be the only way forward for the Partnership. Over the next three years the Partnership will research and implement best practice to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.

##### **4.3 The Vision**

The vision of the Lancaster Community Safety Partnership is:-

To ensure the district is a safe and pleasant place in which to live,  
work and visit.

#### **4.4 The Definition of Community Safety**

The definition of community safety used by the Lancaster Partnership is.

Community Safety is - A combination of a wide range of activities to reduce crime and the fear of crime. It includes physical measures designed to reduce the opportunity to commit crime and also measures to combat social problems that contribute to the overall levels of crime and disorder. These include revitalising the local economy, where necessary, and addressing local housing, employment and education issues. This will involve a wide range of activities including preventative work, helping victims of crime, and empowering communities to become more involved in determining their future'.

#### **4.5 Objectives**

##### **Objective 1 To Reduce Crime**

This objective is an overall objective which allows flexibility to deal with emerging issues and ensures that the Partnership maintains the overview of crime in the district.

##### **1.1 To reduce house burglaries**

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Domestic Burglaries per 1000 households	-4%	-12.5%
b) Percentage of repeat victims of burglary	Awaiting baseline - target to be set	Awaiting baseline - target to be set

##### **Rationale**

The target for last strategy was to reduce house burglaries by 10%. An 8.6% reduction was achieved.

The Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 showed the number of house burglaries in seven of the 29 wards was either the same or over the average figure for Lancashire. Consultation showed that 59.9% of respondents said burglary was in their top three priorities for action, while 95% of people agreed or strongly agreed that household burglary should be a target for action.

Baseline figures on repeat victimisation will become available throughout the Strategy period

##### **Approaches**

- Crime prevention seminars and advice, particularly targeted at repeat victims and groups who are vulnerable to burglary such as residents of houses of multiple occupations, students and older people.

- Neighbourhood Watches will benefit from closer working with the Partnership with the arrival of a new co-ordinator to promote and assist current Watches, whilst helping new Watches to get off the ground.
- Multi-Agency Case Conferencing system for working with offenders. The agencies involved in dealing directly with offenders will take steps to work more closely with particular offenders.
- A Secured by Design Award system is in place nationally whereby property developers can be awarded for designing out crime in new buildings. This will be promoted in the Lancaster District.
- The partnership agencies will engage with the public in tackling stolen property markets and in promoting Crime Stoppers as a way of bringing crime down. By calling 0800 555 111 people can pass on any information they have about crime. They can do so anonymously.

### 1.2 To reduce vehicle crime

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Vehicle crimes per 1000 population	-2%	-6%

#### Rationale

The target for last strategy was to reduce vehicle crime by 4%. This target was exceeded exceptionally over the past three years with a 26% reduction. The target in this Strategy is aimed at sustaining this position.

The Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 showed that vehicle crime was still over the county average in six wards in Lancaster and Morecambe. The consultation showed that 85% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it was an important issue for the Partnership to tackle, while 27.5% of respondents put it in the top three priorities for action.

#### Approaches

- Crime prevention advice will be targeted at vehicle owners in areas where vehicle crime is prevalent.
- The Partnership will work with car parks to help them gain 'Secured Status' by ensuring their premises are a hard target for would-be car thieves.
- A multi-agency focus on persistent offenders will be undertaken.
- Automatic Number plate Recognition Technology This is new technology which means that stolen vehicles, cars carrying known criminals can be recognised. Greater use of this technology will be made in the Lancaster district.
- CCTV systems and other technology will be used in hot spot areas.

### 1.3 To reduce violent crime

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of reported violent crimes per 1000 population.	-2%	-6%

### Rationale

The target for the last Strategy was a reduction of 10% related to town centre violence only. The Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 showed that Lancaster city centre saw an increase of 72% while Morecambe town centre experienced a reduction of 26.5%.

In this Strategy separate targets have been set for the reduction of violence in both Lancaster and Morecambe centres. The overall district target, however, takes it beyond the town centres.

The Crime and Disorder Audit showed the figures for violent crime as being above the county average in nine of the 29 wards. In the consultation 92% believed that violent crime should be a target, while 41% put it in their top three concerns.

Throughout other surveys violent crime was also recognised to be a problem. The Lancaster SRB survey stated personal attacks were reported by a significant minority, while a survey on the West End of Morecambe showed that residents felt unsafe at night.

The Wise (Women Influencing Safer Environments) showed that many women spoke about the fear of being attacked, while figures from the RSASS (Rape and Sexual Assault Service) showed that assaults were not always being reported to the Police.

### Approaches

- Surveillance in public places and information as to offending will be enhanced through a variety of methods, notably increased visibility by police and street wardens and the co-ordination of door staff and other employees who deal with safety issues.
- Crime prevention advice will continue with education on avoidance of violence to young people.
- A multi-agency focus on persistent offenders will be put into place.
- Work will be undertaken to strengthen the multi agency response to rape and sexual assault.

#### 1.4 To reduce domestic violence

The Women Influencing Safer Environments (WISE) report (county wide) found that 11% of women surveyed had experienced domestic violence and only 43% of these had reported the crime. For this reason it remains a priority to make it easier for women to report domestic violence and to seek help. To ultimately reduce domestic violence we therefore need to encourage reporting of incidents and we need to prevent those we already know are victims suffering further abuse. To ensure that we don't lose sight of the overall impact it is essential that we maintain close and regular contact with groups such as WISE and Women's Aid.

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of reports of domestic violence	+6%	+20%

b) Percentage of domestic violence incidents that involve victims of a previously reported domestic violence incident.	Awaiting baseline – targets to be set	Awaiting baseline – targets to be set
--	---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

### Rationale

The target for last Strategy was to increase the number of arrests for domestic violence offences by 10%. This target was met, over the three year period arrests had increased by 18%.

### Approaches

- Maintain effective links with the Domestic Violence Forum. This Forum is attended by a wide range of agencies committed to improving services for victims of domestic violence.
- Support initiatives to improve facilities for Lancaster and District Womens’ Aid.
- Collaboration between agencies to support victims of domestic violence, and to introduce policies to support their own staff around domestic violence issues.
- Social Services will continue to address Domestic Violence and Child Abuse through the objectives of the ‘Quality Protects Management Action Plan’
- Set up training within relevant partnerships.

## **Objective 2 To Reassure the public, particularly those who are vulnerable**

### 2.1 To reduce incidents of disorder

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of disorder incidents per 1000 population	-4%	-10%

### Rationale

The term ‘disorder’ comprises a wide range of quality of life issues and includes the following Police classifications of incident; street disturbances, disturbance in licensed premises, drunken persons, breach of the peace, other disturbances such as racial and homophobic incidents. Disorder, although usually having a low level impact, can have an impact on more serious crime such as, for example, street violence. Tackling the problem as it arises, and while it is still small scale, can mean that the problem does not escalate. Disorder also links to other issues such as substance misuse so tackling disorder can lead to reductions in other areas.

### Approaches

- Establish a methodology for addressing and co-ordinating our approach to anti-social behaviour and disorder.
- The development of community safety patrols and the extended police family will be a key approach. Accreditation of schemes and coordination of public, private and voluntary sector people who have a stake in community safety will be part of this approach.

- Implement multi agency problem solving plans in response to specific problems of disorder
- Work further with licensed premises and make full use of technology such as CCTV

## 2.2 To reassure those who are vulnerable

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Percentage increase in number of racial incidents reported.	+8%	+25%
b) Percentage of racial incidents where further investigative action is taken	88%	88%
c) Percentage increase in the number of homophobic incidents reported.	+10%	+30%
d) Percentage of homophobic incidents where further investigative action is taken	100%	100%
e) Percentage of repeat victims of burglary	Awaiting baselines – targets to be set March 2002	Awaiting baselines – targets to be set March 2002

### Rationale

Since 1995-1996 there has been a significant increase in recording of racial incidents. Over the time period the audit showed a rise from 18 to 137 incidents. In consultation 75% of people agreed racial incidents should be a Community Safety Partnership objective.

A Racial Harassment Multi-Agency Panel is in place in the Lancaster district. The Ryelands Racial Harassment Working Group has been instrumental in developing an action plan to tackle racial harassment on the Ryelands estate. This work should be continued.

In consultation 68% of respondents believed that homophobic incidents should be a target for action. From 99/00 to 00/01 the number of homophobic incidents reported has risen from 10 to 16. Plans were formed in the last Community Safety Partnership Strategy period to extend the avenues for reporting racial incidents to include homophobic incidents.

The partnership has established links with other groups such as the traveling community, Age Concern and groups of young people and will seek to expand these links during the period of this strategy.

### Approaches

- Work towards in the Ryelands Racial Harassment Working Group Action Plan.
- Work with the Racial Harassment Multi-Agency Panel to ensure that the objectives/actions set out on the action plan are realised.
- Strengthen links with the gay community.

- The development of an anonymous reporting form system for homophobic incidents.
- Strengthen links with the travelling community and carry out a study into issues surrounding large population of travelers within the district.
- Establish new and strengthen existing links with other groups which represent the diversity of our community, such as the disabled, elderly and young people.
- To work with the City Council on The Supporting People Programme, which offers vulnerable people the opportunity to live more independent lives in the community
- Identify areas of common working with Social Services as outlined in the District Commissioning Plan and ‘No Secrets in Lancashire’

**Objective 3 To work in partnership to address young peoples’ issues**

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of reported youth incidents which the public feel merit police intervention.	Target to be set 2003	Target to be set 2003
b) Number of initiatives proposed & promoted by young people	5	15

Rationale

The reduction of juvenile nuisance by 10% over the three year period was a target in the last strategy. This target was not met, with figures showing an increase of 5.3%. However, the issue has been complicated by the fact that some of the were due to intolerance rather than actual nuisance. A new system has been introduced by the Police. This will mean that more detailed information is available, and complaints about youth incidents which the public feel merits police intervention will be categorised. For this reason it is not appropriate to set a target until the full statistical effect of the new recording system is known after the first year.

The audit showed that 13 of the 29 wards had levels above the county average in juvenile nuisance. The consultation showed that 90% of respondents believed juvenile nuisance to be one of the top three problems, alongside burglary and violence.

Young people surveyed during the consultation process had issues of their own to put forward. Their top three priorities were burglary, violent crime and drug dealing/possession, while one quarter thought racial crime should be a priority.

Approaches

- Introduce relevant initiatives focussing on young peoples’ issues.
- The Fire & Rescue Service will combine with Partnership Members on youth development programmes and run fire education programmes and Young Firefighters schemes
- Involve young people in the work of the Community Safety Partnership and link to the District Youth Council. The District Youth Council is an organisation where young people can air their view and debate issues.

- Implement the Youth Referral Scheme. This is a three-stage process for dealing with cases of individuals causing nuisance, where parents are contacted at an early stage when their youngster is highlighted by a member of the public as causing a nuisance. The last stage involves multi-agency work with the young person involved.
- Joint initiatives involving different age groups. This approach is aimed at bridging the gap between age groups to lead to mutual understanding and respect.
- Explore links with the Lancashire County Children’s Services Planning Group, pursuing beneficial outcomes for children and families and taking steps to reduce offending by young people.

**Objective 4 To make the district’s road safer**

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
Number of road casualties (those killed or seriously injured)	-8%	-25%

The above target has been developed from The Lancashire Partnership For Road Safety’s targets for the county as a whole. The targets differ because the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership uses an average of the 1994 to 1998 figures as the baseline rather than 2000/2001.

Rationale

The target in last year’s Strategy was a 4% reduction. This target was not met though a 2% reduction was achieved.

The survey revealed that 88% of respondents thought road safety should be a target and 29% put it in their top three priorities for action. In the rural area this figure rose, with 39% putting it in their top three priorities for action.

Road safety also arose as an issue in letters to local newspapers where people expressed concern at unsafe riding by motorcyclists in the rural areas.

Approaches

- Links to be formed between the Community Safety Partnership, the Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety and other groups so that joint working can be initiated. It is likely that the Community Safety Partnership will act as a conduit for public concerns about speeding to pass to the Lancashire Partnership For Road Safety for enforcement activity.
- All agencies to work together support road safety through engineering, education and enforcement.
- Further development of the Bikesafe initiative. This initiative is aimed at motorcycle riders and involves education on safer riding through advertising and training, along with enforcement. It is aimed usually at the rural areas to reduce speeding.
- Safer routes to schools project. Aimed at school children to find them safer routes for walking to and from school.

**Objective 5 To reduce the prevalence of drug and alcohol related crime and disorder in the district**

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
<u>Drugs</u>		
a) Number of persistent offenders referred to the Communities Against Drugs initiative, custody intervention and other schemes.	Baseline to be set	Dependant on baselines
b) Re-offending rate of those referred to schemes.	Baseline to be set	Dependant on baselines
c) Number of offenders charged, reported or cautioned for supply of offences of Class A drugs.	+10%	+30%
<u>Alcohol</u>		
d) Violent offences committed under influence of an intoxicating substance per 1000 population (Probable BVPI)	Baseline to be set	Dependant on baselines
e) Violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises per 1000 population. (Probable BVPI)	Baseline to be set	Dependant on baselines

Rationale

The Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 showed that seven of the 29 wards showed above the county average for possession of drugs. At the same time this is an issue of importance for the people of Lancaster as 90% of people taking part in the consultation agreed or strongly agreed that work around substance misuse should be a Partnership objective, while 38.6% put drug dealing in the top three priorities for action.

Drug dealing was raised as an issue by respondents to both the Lancaster and Morecambe Community Audits.

Approaches

- Two community workers to be employed to target people at risk of falling into substance misuse.
- Offenders who are drug abusers will be targeted while in custody through the drug and alcohol custody intervention service.
- Awareness raising day aimed at ascertaining gaps in services for people with substance misuse problems which will allow the Partnership to target future work.
- Positive messages campaign on drugs awareness to educate people on the dangers of drugs.
- Partnership support for the YMCA alcohol free bar.

- Through continued multi agency monitoring of licensing conditions, and strengthening the partnership with local licensees
- Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Officers will work with other partnership members to reduce under-age alcohol sales. Test purchasing will be introduced as a way of tackling the problem.
- Partnership support for after care support and structured day care services to reduce the risk of relapse into substance misuse and/or offending.

### **Area Specific Targets**

The Lancaster district covers an area including the historic City of Lancaster, the seaside town of Morecambe and is surrounded by a large rural area. The diversity of the district means that the Partnership needs to target its approaches according to the particular area and its corresponding issues. There is also a need to adopt flexibility within the strategy to be able to address different problems in a more localised way.

Although the local action groups will focus on the overall objectives outlined above. Each group also has additional and specific issues to consider.

### **Objective 6. Additional Issues Specific To Lancaster**

The City of Lancaster is a thriving and busy town centre with a lively and young nightlife. The downside being that it experiences problems of alcohol related violence. Surrounding the city centre are some estates which experience their own problems of vandalism and damage. At the same time burglaries in student accommodation, despite efforts to reduce, are rising.

#### **6.1 To reduce alcohol related violence in the town centre**

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
Violent crimes within the town centre boundaries	-2%	-6%

#### **Rationale**

The last three years' targets show that violence in Lancaster City Centre had risen by 72%. The consultation showed violent crime as one of the three top priorities for action, while also showing the possibility of being attacked in the street as one of the crimes, which worried people most.

Police analysis has shown that there is a direct correlation between city centre violence and alcohol consumption with incidents occurring around pub/club closing times and around late night takeaway premises. Because Lancaster is a city with a focus on entertainment aimed at young people in drinking establishments it is often young people who become victims of violence. The worry of young people on this issue was shown in the survey where young people noted violent crime as one of their three top priorities for action, while older respondents were less likely to think violence should be a top priority.

#### **Approaches**

- The continuation of surgeries and seminars with Licensees. These are aimed at working with licensees to make their pub/clubs safer.

- The Lancaster Pubwatch scheme to be promoted. This scheme, jointly run by Police and City Council licensing officers ensures that the pubs and clubs communicate with each other to reduce violence and disorder
- Continued development of CCTV systems

## 6.2 To reduce Vandalism and Damage

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
Number of reports of criminal damage (including arson).	-3%	-10%

### Rationale

Criminal damage levels are above average in Alexandra, Castle, John O’Gaunt, Skerton West and Bulk wards. Under the consultation process 95% agreed or strongly agreed that criminal damage should be a priority for action.

The Lancaster SRB survey revealed loss or damage to property as one of the two main crimes of which respondents were victims.

### Approaches

- Neighbourhood Wardens are employed in Bulk Ward part of their remit being to reduce criminal damage.
- The Partnership will continue to work closely with Lancaster Fire and Rescue to reduce arson related vandalism and malicious false alarms.

## 6.3 To reduce the number of burglaries in premises occupied by students.

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Implement best practice in reducing burglaries in student accommodation.	-10%	-25%

### Rationale

Progress updates on the work of the Partnership over the three year period showed that although much work had been undertaken around burglaries to student premises these had still risen.

### Approach

- A study on best practice in reducing burglaries in student accommodation and relevant action.

## **Objective 7. To Address Additional Issues Specific to Morecambe**

The town of Morecambe was popular with holiday makers in the decades prior to the 1970s but package holidays took their toll and Morecambe went into decline. After that much of the traditional family holiday accommodation became poor quality houses of multiple occupation, This has resulted in a high number of transient and disaffected families in the

area. The consultation process highlighted that the fear of crime in Morecambe is high in relation to Lancaster and the rural areas. Since 1995 Morecambe, following several regeneration initiatives, has seen a steady rise in the number of visitors. Although many are now day visitors, coach parties and business groups often book up some hotels, predominantly in the east of Morecambe, well in advance.

#### 7.1 To reduce alcohol related violence in the town centre

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
Violent crimes within the town centre boundaries	-2%	-6%

#### Rationale

Although violence in Morecambe town centre has fallen, it is still prudent to target the area to ensure that the work around violence in Lancaster does not reposition the problem to Morecambe.

#### Approach

- Morecambe Pubwatch to be set up. Learning from the pilot scheme in Lancaster will enable Morecambe to benefit from this joint working of City Council Licensing, Police and pub/club owners.
- Surgeries and seminars will be set up with Licensees to enable education on safe drinking practices.
- The Licensing Protocol will be expanded to cover Morecambe town centre.

#### 7.2 To reduce vandalism and damage

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of reports of criminal damage	-3%	-10%

#### Rationale

The consultation revealed that 52% of residents in Morecambe worried greatly about vandalism.

The Morecambe SRB Audit revealed that more than one quarter residents of Morecambe said they had experienced crime in the last 12 months, citing burglary, theft, vandalism and vehicle crime. All these issues are covered under the other objectives of this Strategy except for vandalism, thus vandalism and damage are now objectives for this area. Morecambe had also been noted in the readers' letters to the local press as suffering vandalism.

#### Approach

- Detailed analysis on hot spotting and offender profiling. To be followed by a multi agency response to identified problems.
- Continuation of the young people's kit car project.

- Neighbourhood Warden Schemes in Poulton Ward and the West End, where one of the objectives of the Wardens is to reduce vandalism.
- The Partnership will continue to work closely with Lancaster Fire and Rescue to reduce arson related vandalism and malicious false alarms

### 7.3 To address the fear of crime in the area

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Survey with results at next and subsequent points of consultation	Survey to be completed by end of 2002	To be set

#### Rationale

The consultation showed that Morecambe residents showed much higher levels of concern about a wider range of crimes than other areas across the district. The Morecambe SRB survey revealed that people were afraid to go out after dark and that there was a perceived increase in crime. More than one quarter of respondents said they had experienced crime in the last 12 months. A survey of the West End revealed that respondents believed it was safe during the day but unsafe at night.

#### Approach

- Development of the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme in Poulton and the West End.
- Close links to be developed with the Poulton Neighbourhood Management Project.

### **Objective 8 To Address Additional Issues Specific To The Rural Areas**

A large rural area surrounds Lancaster including the Lune Valley, along with the Forest of Bowland and Silverdale area of outstanding natural beauty. Major road and rail networks run through the area, with the M6 motorway and West Coast main line running the length of the district. Lancaster University is situated within the rural area, as such burglaries in student accommodation are an issue.

#### 8.1 To reduce the number of burglaries in buildings other than dwellings

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Number of burglaries other than dwellings	-3%	-10%

#### Rationale

The Crime and Disorder Audit 2001 showed that in some rural wards burglaries in buildings other than houses were becoming a problem.

#### Approach

- A study of best practice will be undertaken to ascertain the best methodology to deal with this problem.

#### 8.2 Reduce the number of burglaries in premises occupied by students

Performance Indicator	Target Year 1	Target Year 3
a) Reported burglaries where the aggrieved is a student	-10%	-25%

### Rationale

Progress updates on the work of the Partnership over the three year period showed that although much work had been undertaken around burglaries to student premises these had still risen.

### Approach

- A study on best practice in reducing burglaries in student accommodation and relevant action.
- Continuation of the distribution of crime prevention packs to students.

## **4.6. Principles**

As well as concentrating on objectives to tackle crime and disorder the Partnership has been pro-active in judging itself on the progress it is making and working towards continuous improvement. The Partnership is now working to a number of principles whereby it intends to improve its own workings. These principles and actions to address them are as follows:-

Principle	Action
To adopt a multi-agency problem solving approach to identifying and tackling specific problems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training will take place throughout the Partnership on multi-agency problem solving. Endeavours will be made to ensure this training is pitched at the right level for recipients.</li> <li>• Monitoring and accountability mechanisms will be reviewed and improved as necessary.</li> </ul>
Improve information sharing between agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information sharing protocols will be developed for use within the Partnership.</li> <li>• Practical and effective methods of putting information sharing in place will be used.</li> </ul>
To ensure the Partnership prioritises resources according to need.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership activity will be reviewed regularly to ensure that it meets the current needs of the district.</li> </ul>
To reassure the public through increased visibility of partnership working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Community Involvement Strategy is to be developed to ensure that communications with the public does not end at consultation but that efforts are made to involve the community in the Partnership.</li> <li>• Opportunities for press releases of good news stories will be maximised.</li> </ul>
To identify and address other quality of life issues in the community where relevant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Partnership will maximise the use of the Neighbourhood Wardens to assess where the Partnership can contribute to work in reducing problems such as litter</li> </ul>

	<p>dropping and dog fouling.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Partnership will support and work closely with other relevant initiatives such as the Poulton Neighbourhood Management Project.</li> </ul>
<p>To share best practice within our own partnership and with other partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Partnership will link into the Lancashire Community Safety web site.</li> <li>• A toolkit of best practice will be produced and published locally.</li> </ul>

Strengthen the links strategically between the Strategy Group and other groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be one or more Community Safety representative on the Local Strategic Partnership.</li> <li>• The Partnership will ensure that it includes a representative of the Local Strategic Partnership.</li> <li>• The Partnership will continually ensure that its Strategies and plans correlate to those of the Local Strategic Partnership and other relevant strategies and plans.</li> </ul>
Strengthen links between the Partnership and disadvantaged groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Strategy will be formed to take this issue forward.</li> </ul>
To ensure all agencies increase their adherence to Section 17 to help develop the Community Safety Strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies will work towards mainstreaming community safety into their own organisations via a themed approach which will be led by the objectives of this Strategy.</li> </ul>

## **5. Action Plans – Next Steps**

The Area Action Groups will use this Strategy to form their own specific action plans. These action plans will work towards the objectives and targets set in this Strategy, whilst employing the principles recommended for improving the Partnership.

## **6. Monitoring**

The Partnership will be monitored on its objectives to reduce crime and disorder and on its work around the principles. This monitoring will be undertaken internally by the Community Safety Team and externally by organisations such as Government Office North West for particular projects where funding has been granted.

The results of the monitoring and evaluation will then be fed into the Strategy Group at the end of each year.