

Rossendale Crime and Disorder Strategy 2002-2005

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Introduction

The introduction of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 provided a new opportunity to bring together not just those agencies addressing the problems of crime and disorder but also those dealing with its causes. As a result of the Crime and Disorder Act the Rossendale Community Safety Partnership was formed consisting of senior representatives from Rossendale Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, the Police, the Police Authority, the Health Authority, and the Probation Service together with other key partner agencies.

This strategy is a milestone in our drive to create a safer environment for everyone who lives in, visits or invests in Rossendale. As the second multi-agency crime and disorder reduction strategy it provides the foundations for the long term task of tackling the problems and priorities for Rossendale. It is based on clear factual analysis of the audit of crime and disorder published in November last year. More importantly, the people of Rossendale, through consultation on the audit, have confirmed that the priorities reflect their everyday experiences.

Audit and Consultation

Building on Success

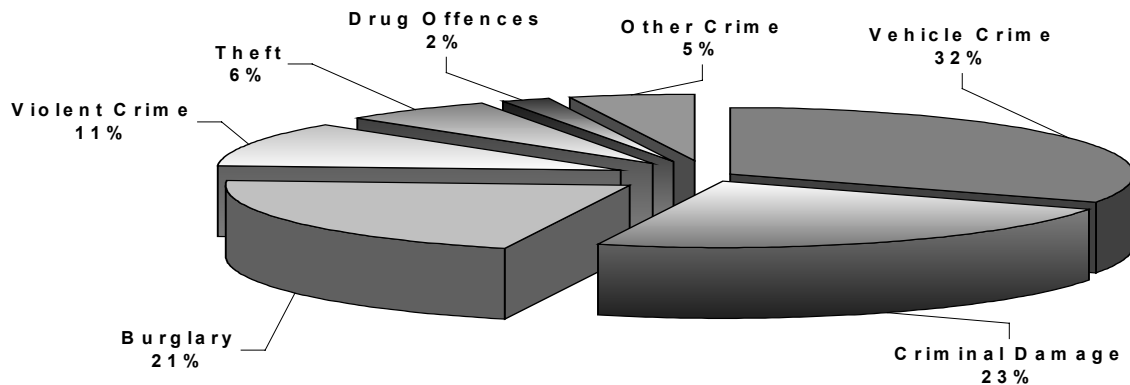
Rossendale's first Community Safety Strategy identified a number of specific priorities and planned actions to be achieved during its lifetime. Although we have not achieved all planned actions we believe that much overall progress has been made. The effectiveness of the Partnership and its successes over the last three years were evaluated during the audit process and conclusions drawn that a more structured process was vital to enhance the joint working approach. A new structure will be implemented to bring a more systematic and effective response to crime and disorder issues within the partnership setting.

It is acknowledged that there are a wide range of ongoing and planned works that address the priorities for action of the Crime and Disorder Audit. A new enabling model has been developed in order to provide a framework to support, co-ordinate and sustain this work. A more balanced structure will enable the continued input from all agencies and the community to ensure that their priorities are addressed.

The audit also revealed a general lack of understanding of the implications of the Crime and Disorder Act and the responsibilities of individual organisations. There needs to be a common understanding of the meaning of Community Safety in order that organisations can have an impact and access the opportunities that the legislation provides.

The Audit

The audit is a detailed analysis of Rossendale's crime and disorder problems and priorities. It identified the main types of crime and disorder, the so-called "volume crimes", between April 2000 and March 2001. The audit showed that the composition of criminal activity fell into 6 distinct categories across the Borough which accounted for 95% of all crime within Rossendale.



The audit also examined other crime and disorder issues, which can affect the quality of life and the fear of crime amongst people, and can have a severe impact on the community.

Other issues explored in the audit included:

- **Domestic Violence**
- **Drugs and Drug Misuse**
- **Racial Harassment and Crime**
- **Anti-Social Behaviour and Disorder**
- **Crimes by and against Young People**
- **Alcohol**
- **Deliberate Fires**
- **Road Safety and Public Transport**
- **Crime and Health**
- **Crime and Disorder as a Local Authority Concern**
- **Public Perception and Concern about Crime**

Consultation

The Crime and Disorder Audit was the subject of widespread consultation involving:

- Public Perception Questionnaire – distributed to a sample of the population of Rossendale including a sample survey of young people.
- Organisational Questionnaire – distributed to over 100 organisations and agencies including Businesses, Churches, Schools, Community and Voluntary Groups, Hard to Reach Groups, Borough and County Councillors and the six Neighbourhood Offices within Rossendale.

- Presentation to Community Safety Partnership Steering Group.
- Four geographical consultation groups – with a sample of the population of each geographical area (facilitated by NACRO)
- A young persons consultation group – with a sample of the young people of Rossendale (facilitated by NACRO).
- A multi-agency seminar bringing together all agencies within the Borough of Rossendale, including agencies working with “hard to reach” groups for example - children and young people, drug misusers, offenders, older people, domestic violence, people with learning disabilities and disabled people. (facilitated by NACRO).

Consultation Results

Results from the public perception and organisational questionnaires mirrored the composition of criminal activity in that the six most common incidents of reported crime were highlighted within the top nine identified priorities. The table below shows the rankings in order of importance, the lower the number the more important the issue.

Issue Raised	Rank
Youth Issues	1
Drugs	2
Criminal Damage	3
Domestic Burglary	4
Vehicle Crime	5
Theft	6
Violent Crime	7
Alcohol	8
Anti-Social Behaviour	9

It should be noted for the purpose of analysing the data, that Youth Issues includes problems associated with -

- Youth Alcohol,
- Youth Anti-Social Behaviour,
- Youth Damage, and
- Youth Nuisance.

The Young People in Rossendale identified – **Violent Crime** and **Drugs** as their top priorities.

Other Issues

Respondents were also asked for any other comments and the main issues raised were:

- There was a lack of Police on the Beat.
- There was not enough for Young People to do.
- Police response times were unacceptable.
- Young People were fed up with being blamed for everything.
- There was a problem with underage drinking.
- Drug availability amongst young people.

Consultation Group Feedback

The participants of the consultation groups were asked to validate the emerging priorities from the audit using a quantifiable likert-scale. The table below shows the results.

Priority	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree/disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Vehicle Crime	48.5%	26%	8.5%	8.5%	8.5%
Criminal Damage	43%	37.5%	8.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Burglary and Theft	40%	37.5%	11.5%	5.5%	5.5%
Violent Crime	40%	37.5%	14%	8.5%	0%
Drug related crime	45.5%	23%	26%	5.5%	0%
Alcohol related crime	40%	26%	17%	11.5%	5.5%

Participants were also asked to analyse the problem of **Anti-Social Behaviour**. The common themes running through the majority of the focus groups were:

What was occurring	Vandalism to cars, schools, public buildings, telephone boxes, litter bins, Gangs congregating and drinking in public places, Foul language, abuse and intimidation, Rubbish – litter, broken bottles and cans, Loud music from cruising vehicles, Stone throwing at windows, Drug misuse, Deliberate fires.
Who was responsible	Bored teenagers “with nothing to do”, Gangs of youths congregating (age 10-16), Drunken people, Drug addicts. “Young People” commented that those responsible were – Adults, Drunks and Young people (late teens and early twenties).
Where it was occurring	Town Centres, Local Parks, Housing Estates, Bus Stops, Schools and school yards, On the streets, Public houses.
When was it happening	After tea and Evenings, School holidays, Friday and Saturday after dark.
Why it was occurring	Lack of Police presence, Ineffective Police response, Underreporting due to the belief that nothing would be done, Lack of parental control/interest, Poor education, Lack of affordable facilities in the area for young people, No community spirit or sense of pride, Environmental issues, Drink, Drugs and Peer Pressure.
What could be done about it	More Police on the streets, Better Police response, Improved policing of “hot spots”, Free or affordable facilities for youth involvement, School facilities open after school hours, Stable and stronger communities, Proof of Age Schemes for the sale of alcohol, Education of parents, Improved lighting in parks and public places, More CCTV on streets.

- It should be noted that there was under representation at the consultation groups of Ethnic Minorities and participants between the ages of 21 and 35 years of age.

The Crime and Disorder Audit to Strategy Team took the results of the audit, and the findings of the consultation process into account before setting the priorities in this strategy.

Audit to Strategy

A Strategy for the reduction of Crime and Disorder requires a multi-agency approach and the Partnership recognises that tackling problems effectively requires the setting of realistic and achievable targets and has taken into consideration the views, existing strategies, local plans and initiatives, and national and local targets of all agencies. The Strategy provides a clear framework for partner agencies to work together in Rossendale and brings together common aims for the reduction of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The strategy and action plans will identify:-

- **Objectives, setting out what is to be achieved.**
- **Key Actions to be taken to meet the objectives.**
- **Performance Indicators, to measure how well we are performing.**
- **Targets, stating what we realistically hope to achieve throughout the lifetime of the Strategy.**

A strategy for Rossendale

The Vision A Localised Approach

“We want Rossendale to be a safe place for people to live, visit and invest in. We aim to help local people help themselves, by implementing crime and disorder reduction strategies at a local level, which will fully address the needs of local communities”.

It is intended to target resources at identified themes and geographic areas that have emerged through the audit process to find joint solutions to the problems identified. By tackling the more prevalent crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour issues through targeted enforcement, education, intervention and prevention at a local level our aim is to improve the quality of life for those living, visiting and working in the valley of Rossendale.

Long Term Aims – Community Safety Work

- To provide a permanent core structure as the foundation for future Community Safety Work.
- To promote good practice in the sharing and co-ordination of Community Safety Work.
- To integrate Community Safety Work with other identified relevant strategies and identify new opportunities.
- To ensure that the public are actively involved in the process of strategic development through consultation and localised involvement.
- To ensure that the views of all partners are taken into account in the development and implementation of the strategy.

Partnership Principles

The Rossendale Community Safety Partnership will oversee the implementation of the Strategy and the development of the Action Plans over the next three years. Targets will be reviewed quarterly and annually. Geographical “hot spot” areas and priorities for action may change as problems improve and there is a clear plan to sustain the progress made.

To ensure the development of a co-ordinated and effective strategy the Partnership will work to:-

- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.
- Endeavour to carry out the necessary actions to reduce crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Rossendale Valley.
- Achieve our aims, through the co-ordination of our actions and resources, working with voluntary agencies, communities and the private sector.
- Co-ordinate current work and best practice and link up with other strategies, local plans, initiatives and targets that add value.
- Identify training needs of all partner agencies.
- Identify possible sources of funding in both government and private sector arenas.
- Sign up to agreed protocols for data collection, data sharing and dissemination.
- Promote accountability and ownership of issues.
- Manage media and public resources.
- Set a timetable for action.

Strategic Objectives

The findings of the audit and consultation process allowed the Crime and Disorder Partnership to formulate 7 strategic objectives for action. Multi-agency consultation incorporating the problems and priorities identified, assisted in the identification of the strategic objectives and established the foundations for the themed action groups and associated plans of action.

to develop the Partnership

- Partnership structure.
- Protocols for data collection and data sharing.
- Marketing and publicity.
- Consultation.

to reduce vehicle crime

- Theft of a motor vehicle.
- Theft from a motor vehicle.
- Vehicle Interference.

to reduce criminal damage

- Damage to dwellings.
- Damage to buildings and structures.
- Vehicle damage.
- Graffiti.

to reduce burglary, theft and retail crime

- Domestic burglary.
- Burglary other than a dwelling.
- Theft.
- Shoplifting.

to reduce violent crime

- Violence against the person.
- Hate crime and harassment.
- Domestic violence.

to tackle drug and alcohol misuse

- Drug related crime.
- Drug misuse amongst young people.
- Alcohol related disorder.
- Alcohol and young people.

to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance

- Anti-social behaviour.
- Youth nuisance. *
- Vehicle Fires and secondary deliberate fires.

(Youth Issues were ranked first in consultation, and as such, will be incorporated into all strategic objectives)

Partnership Development

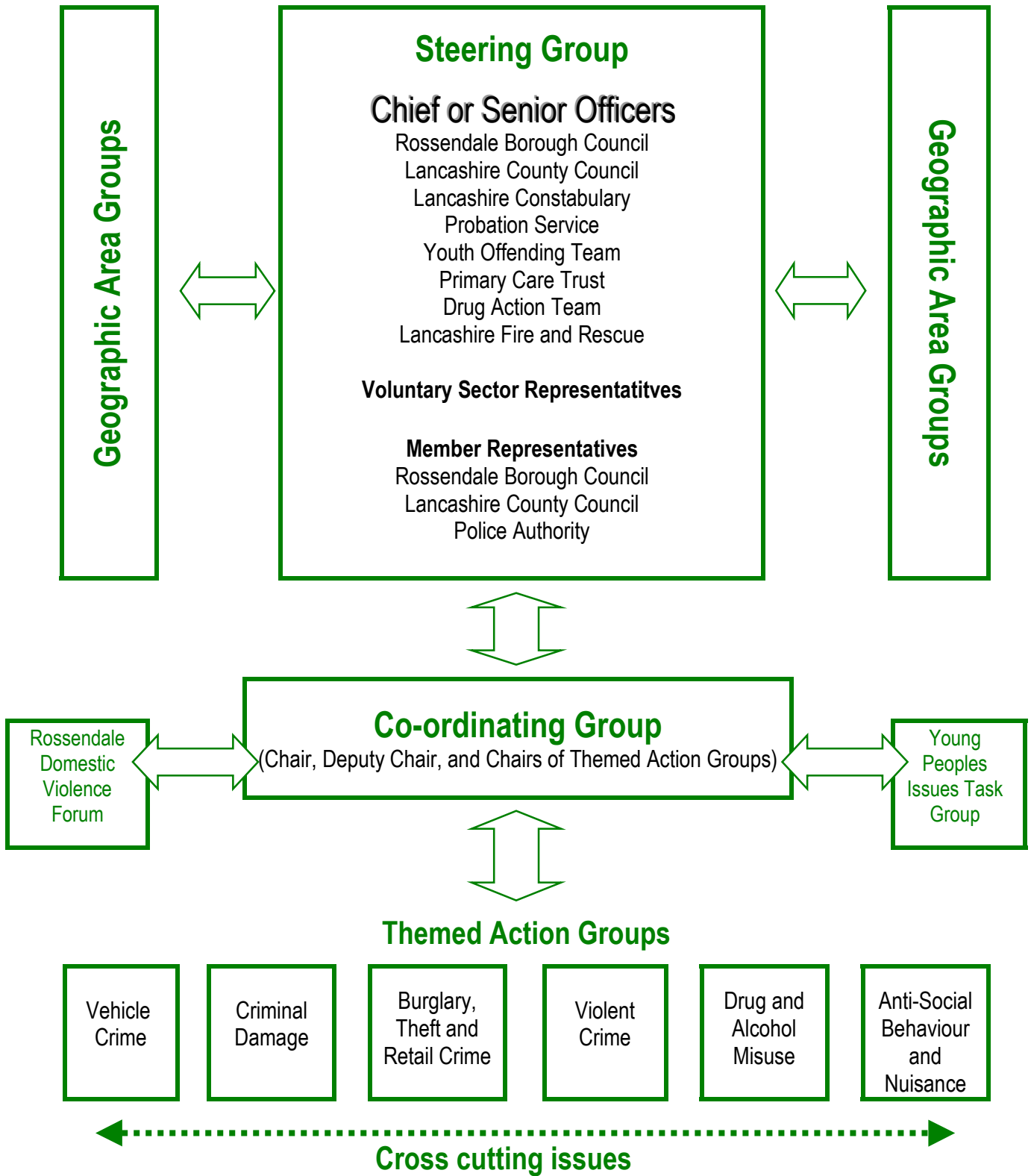
Objectives:

- To establish an effective co-ordination of Community Safety Work.
- To develop an effective and comprehensive consultation programme on Community Safety.

Partnership Development Actions	
To establish, resource and co-ordinate the structure (shown on page 10).	By April 2002
To negotiate terms of reference and establish themed action groups to tackle the priorities for action identified through the audit and consultation process.	By June 2002
To co-ordinate the active involvement of existing geographical community action groups and forge links with other community and voluntary groups.	By June 2002
The themed action groups to formulate action plans in line with the identified priorities and locations.	By June 2002
To develop a management strategy to improve recording practices and ensure that protocols for data collection, data sharing and dissemination are in place.	Ongoing
To raise the awareness of Community Safety Work and Partnership priorities through effective marketing and publicity.	Ongoing
To continue to consult with the community and all other relevant agencies throughout the lifetime of the strategy, and to develop an effective and comprehensive consultation programme on Community Safety.	Ongoing
ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS	
DRIVING FORCE Chair Co-ordinating Group and Partnership Steering Group.	

Partnership Structure

“to be read as lines of accountability”



CCTV (Closed Circuit Television), Designing Out Crime, Neighbourhood Wardens, Youth Inclusion and Diversionary Activities, Neighbourhood Watch, Marketing and Publicity.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This is not a planning document - it is a strategy for action. Each action group will develop local action plans utilising Home Office toolkits to address a particular issue. The groups will constantly monitor the plans against agreed milestones and work will be shared amongst the appropriate agencies. The groups will meet on a regular basis to implement the action plans and review progress, it is essential that the actions are evaluated to see if they are working. The action groups may deviate from current geographic areas or themes as priorities and locations change and vary.

- The Chair of each action group will provide bi-monthly reports to the Co-ordinating Group, and the Chair of the Co-ordinating Group will in turn provide quarterly reports to the Partnership Steering Group.
- The Steering Group will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that the agreed actions are implemented and resourced, ensuring that all agencies are on board and have an active role to play.
- The Co-ordinating Group will establish an evaluation process and framework for all action groups, to be approved by the Steering Group.

The purpose of evaluation is not only to understand how well the actions work, but also why they work, or in some cases why they haven't worked. This will help us to apply different solutions in different circumstances. What has worked elsewhere may not work in Rossendale. What works in one part of Rossendale may or may not work in another area. The results of evaluation and building up a library of good practice of tried and tested methods will help the Partnership to apply evidence-based solutions.

Evaluating "what works" is necessary for two reasons:

1. The Government expect to see evidence of the effect of the Strategy in practice.
2. The Strategy should produce good quality information that can be used to influence changes in the day to day work of partner agencies.

- It will be the responsibility of the Steering Group to publicly report on any progress made by the action groups on a regular basis.

Vehicle Crime

Vehicle crime is made up of three crime types; theft of a motor vehicle, theft from a motor vehicle and vehicle interference. Comparing recorded crime figures for 2001 to 1998, theft of a motor vehicle has fallen by 13% with a reduction of 28% in thefts from a motor vehicle. However, it is the largest single category of reported crime and accounted for 32% of all crime within Rossendale between 2000 and 2001. Figures also showed that in 8 out of Rossendale's 13 wards, vehicle crime was above Lancashire averages.

Theft of a Vehicle

There were 402 incidents of theft of a vehicle in Rossendale during the year to March 2001. The theft of a vehicle rate is not spread evenly across the Borough. The areas with the highest rates were; **Worsley, Hareholme and Healey & Whitworth.**

Theft from a Vehicle

There were 613 incidents of theft from a vehicle from April 2000 to March 2001. As with vehicle theft the incidents are not evenly distributed across the valley with significantly higher than average levels experienced in; **Helmshore, Greensclough, Whitewell and Worsley.**

Vehicle Interference

There were 136 incidents of vehicle interference during the year 2000 to 2001. Evidence of intent to steal a car or something from a car or take it without the owner's consent is called vehicle interference. The areas with the greatest rates of vehicle interference were; **Longholme, Worsley, Irwell and Greenfield.**

The main geographical areas to be targeted during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Vehicle Crime Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Vehicle Crime Action Group will consider the proposed actions and performance measures in formulating the Vehicle Crime Action Plan.

TARGETS

- 30% reduction in vehicle crime per 1,000 population, against 1998/99 baseline figures, by the end of March 2005.
- 5.8% reduction in vehicle crime per 1,000 population, against 1998/99 baseline figures, by the end of March 2003.

Vehicle Crime Actions for Consideration

- Identification of active and prolific offenders – mount further operations to target and secure arrests.
- Continue to work towards attainment of Home Office Safer Car Park Standards.
- Development of additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent vehicle crime and promote responsible attitudes.
- Promote education awareness by effective communication through the media.
- Assessment and further development of strategies to manage and reduce the risk of re-offending through community sentences and post custodial licences subject to Probation Service supervision, and through orders and measures available to the Youth Offending Team and Police Youth Involvement Officers.
- Extend the use of CCTV. Explore the use of planning legislation to incorporate CCTV and security measures in all new developments. (Residential, Business and Retail).
- Use hot spot analysis and trend forecasting to identify vehicle crime problem areas and long standing, existing concentrations.
- Prepare and publish action plan for the reduction of vehicle crime.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of incidents of theft of a vehicle.
- Number of incidents of theft from a vehicle.
- Number of incidents of vehicle interference.
- % reduction in vehicle crime incidents.
- Number of detections.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Vehicle Crime Action Group.

Criminal Damage

Criminal damage covers crimes including graffiti and vandalism. The British Crime Survey estimated that only 31% of vandalism incidents were reported to the police. Compared to 1998 recorded incidents of criminal damage in Rossendale have increased by 23.5% in 2001. For the purposes of the strategic priorities, criminal damage has been categorised into 3 main crime types; damage to dwellings, damage to other buildings and structures, and damage to vehicles.

Damage to Dwelling

There were 278 incidents of damage to a dwelling in Rossendale during the year to March 2001. This category of damage is not spread evenly across the Borough. The areas with the highest rates were; **Greensclough, Hareholme** and **Irwell**.

Damage to Other Buildings and Structures

There were 286 incidents in this category of damage between April 2000 and March 2001. As with damage to dwellings the incidents are not evenly distributed across the valley with significantly higher than average levels experienced in; **Hareholme, Greensclough,** and **Longholme**.

Damage to a Vehicle

There were 456 incidents of vehicle damage during the year 2000 to 2001. The areas with the greatest rates of vehicle damage were; **Irwell, Greensclough,** and **Hareholme**.

All Damage

The most problematic areas for all reported incidents of damage were; **Greensclough, Hareholme,** and **Irwell**.

The main geographical areas to be targeted during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Criminal Damage Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Criminal Damage Action Group will consider the proposed actions and performance measures in formulating the Criminal Damage Action Plan.

TARGETS

- Reduce the number of incidents of criminal damage. In year one establish baselines for the number of incidents of criminal damage. In year two and three set targets to reduce this number.

Criminal Damage Actions for Consideration

- Develop systems to record and monitor incidents of damage to Local Authority houses, buildings and structures. Make provisions for the measurement of the cost of the damage.
- Develop partnership with local businesses and transport operators to report incidents and monitor the cost of the damage.
- Development of additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent criminal damage and promote responsible attitudes.
- Assessment and further development of strategies to manage and reduce the risk of re-offending through community sentences and post custodial licences subject to Probation Service supervision, and through orders and measures available to the Youth Offending Team and Police Youth Involvement.
- Extend the use of CCTV/Shop Radio Link.
- Encourage reporting of criminal damage through Neighbourhood Watch.
- Explore the use of voluntary reparation to clean up graffiti, and/or charging parents, guardians or carers for the cost of clean up materials/cost of damage.
- Use hot spot analysis and trend forecasting to identify problem areas and long standing, existing concentrations.
- Prepare and publish action plan for the reduction of criminal damage.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of incidents of damage.
- % reduction in incidents.
- Number of Reparation Orders specific to criminal damage and community reparation.
- Number of voluntary reparation schemes undertaken.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Criminal Damage Action Group.

Burglary, Theft and Retail Crime

Burglary

Burglary is made up of two crime types; burglary in a dwelling (or domestic burglary), and burglary other than in a dwelling. Comparisons in crime figures for 1998 and 2001 showed a 28% reduction in domestic burglaries over this period. Burglaries other than in a dwelling showed a smaller reduction of 3.5% in the same time period. However, it is the third most recorded crime within the Borough and accounted for 21% of all crime within Rossendale between 2000 and 2001. Figures also showed that in 4 out of Rossendale's 13 wards, burglary in general was above Lancashire averages.

There were 459 incidents of domestic burglary in Rossendale during the year to March 2001 and 483 incidents of burglary other than in a dwelling, totalling 942 incidents of burglary. The levels of a burglary are not spread evenly across the Borough. The highest rates for all burglaries were; **Irwell, Greensclough, Worsley, and Helmshore.**

Theft and Retail Crime

Theft relates to theft from a person, shoplifting, theft from a dwelling and cycle theft. It accounted for 6% of all recorded crime within Rossendale between 2000 and 2001. Recorded crime figures showed that shoplifting and theft from a dwelling were the two most prominent offences within the category of theft. There were 196 incidents of shoplifting during the year to March 2001 and 4 out of the 13 Rossendale wards showed levels above Lancashire averages. There were 53 incidents of theft from a dwelling, with 5 out of the 13 wards experiencing higher than average levels. The most problematic wards for Shoplifting offences were; **Longholme, Worsley, Hareholme, and Irwell.** Theft from a dwelling was more prolific in **Greenfield, Hareholme, Irwell, Worsley and Longholme.**

The main geographical areas to be targeted during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Burglary, Theft and Retail Crime Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Action Group will consider the proposed actions and performance measures in formulating their Action Plan.

TARGETS

- 34% reduction in domestic burglary per 1,000 household, against 1998/99 baseline, by the end of March 2005.
- 6.3% reduction in domestic burglary per 1,000 household, against 1998/99 baseline, by the end of March 2003.
- In year one establish baselines for the number of incidents of Theft and Shoplifting. In year two and three set targets to reduce these numbers.

Burglary, Theft and Retail Crime Actions for consideration

- Identification of active and prolific offenders – mount further operations to target and secure arrests.
- Extend use of CCTV. Identify funding and locations for installation of CCTV based on analysis of hot spots, crime trends.
- Identify repeat victims and raise awareness.
- Develop partnerships with community nursing staff, Age Concern, Help the Aged, Sheltered Housing Officers and others to identify elderly persons who would benefit from additional crime prevention measures.
- Develop strategy and identify resources to target harden council homes repeatedly burgled.
- Explore property and area improvements such as fencing, alleygating, street lighting and other environmental issues.
- Establish partnership with local businesses and shops to encourage an increase of in-store security, and design out “easy to steal” shop layouts. Encourage property marking at point of sale.
- Increase number of businesses/shops subscribing to Shop Radio Link.
- Extend exclusion schemes for convicted shoplifters and town centre troublemakers across the Borough.
- Development of additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent burglary, theft and retail crime and promote responsible attitudes.
- Assessment and further development of strategies to manage and reduce the risk of re-offending through community sentences and post custodial licences subject to Probation Service supervision, and through orders and measures available to the Youth Offending Team and Police Youth Involvement Officers.
- Use hot spot analysis and trend forecasting to identify problem areas and long standing, existing concentrations.
- Prepare and publish action plan for the reduction of burglary, theft and retail crimes.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of incidents of domestic burglary.
- Number of incidents of theft.
- Number of incidents of shoplifting.
- Number of repeat incidents of domestic burglary.
- % reduction in domestic burglary.
- Number of detections.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Burglary, Theft and Retail Crime Action Group.

Violent Crime

Violent Crime

Violent crime includes all categories of robbery and assault, including domestic violence and those of a sexual nature. Comparisons in crime figures showed a significant increase of 83% in reported violent crime from 1998 to 2001 and it is the fourth most prevalent recorded crime in the Borough. Figures also showed that in 6 out of Rossendale's 13 wards, violent crime was above Lancashire averages.

There were 522 incidents of violent crime during the year to March 2001. The levels of violence are not spread evenly across the Borough. The highest levels were concentrated in; **Longholme, Irwell, Hareholme and Greenfield.**

Hate Crime and Harassment

Hate crime and harassment can include racial and homophobic incidents and can range from low levels of constant aggravation by name-calling and abuse to physical attack, arson and murder. Most victims do not report incidents, either formally or informally to the Police. Despite improvements in recording practices and encouragement to victims to report incidents, there were only 39 reported racial incidents and 51 reported racial crimes within the Rossendale area between 2000 and 2001. The most significant problems were seen to be in; **Greensclough, Worsley, and Greenfield.**

The main geographical areas to be targeted for violence and hate crime during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Violent Crime Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Action Group will consider the proposed key actions and performance measures in formulating their Action Plan.

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence remains a hidden crime. Many people suffering from domestic violence are too ashamed, too frightened, or unaware of the support available to seek help. Rossendale Police statistics show that there was a total of 885 reported domestic incidents between 2000 and 2001. Research has shown that two thirds of women experiencing domestic violence never seek help and those that do have said that it is difficult to find the right agency.

The Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum operates an extremely successful Outreach Project and Support Centre and offers a telephone helpline, skilled support, information, advice and advocacy service. The need for the project has continued to rise steadily with calls for service within Rossendale rising by an astounding 80% from 1998 to 2001. Service use by Ethnic Minority women increased by 20% between 2000 and 2001.

Because of the nature of domestic violence, this objective would be targeted on a Borough Wide basis.

TARGETS

- In year one establish baselines for the number of incidents of violent crime. In year two and three set targets to reduce this number.
- Increase in reporting of incidents of domestic violence by 10% between April 2002 and March 2005.
- Increase service use of RDVF by women from Ethnic Minorities by 10% by end March 2005.
- Increase service use of RDVF by women from Ethnic Minorities by 5% by end March 2003.

**It is our intention to address the underreporting of domestic violence, whilst endeavouring to reduce the problem*.*

Violent Crime Actions for Consideration

- Extend the use of CCTV. Ensure that full use is made of CCTV to identify and prosecute offenders for violent crime.
- Explore area improvements such as street lighting, removal/and or pruning of shrubbery to reduce night time violence and fear of crime.
- Extend Pub and Club watch schemes across the Borough.
- Explore partnership with local transport operators to explore the enhancement and security of public transport waiting areas and routes to and from waiting areas.
- Raise awareness of Women's community safety.
- Encourage people from Ethnic Minorities, gay and lesbian groups to report racist and homophobic incidents – especially violence.
- Promote improved recording procedures such as an Interagency Monitoring Form for Racial Incidents.
- Explore the provision of safe, accessible and legitimate meeting places for young people.
- Assessment and further development of strategies to manage and reduce the risk of re-offending through community sentences and post custodial licences subject to Probation Service supervision, and through orders and measures available to the Youth Offending Team and Police Youth Involvement Officers.
- Development of additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent violent crime and promote responsible attitudes.
- Encourage an audit of anti-bullying policies. Explore the provision of good practice models for schools/institutions with no policy.
- Encourage early reporting of domestic violence.
- Continue to support and promote the Rossendale Domestic Violence Forum.
- Continue to support the provision of domestic violence awareness training.
- Support the development of inter-agency co-operation and agreed policies for dealing with victims of domestic violence through the Rossendale Aftercare Project.
- Use hot spot analysis and trend forecasting to identify problem areas and long standing, existing concentrations.
- Prepare and publish an action plan for the reduction of violent crime.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of reported incidents of violent crime.
- % of incidents with racial and homophobic motive.
- Number of reported incidents of domestic violence.
- Number of requests for service and/referrals to RDVF.
- % of requests for service by Ethnicity.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Violent Crime Action Group.

Drug and alcohol misuse

Drug Misuse

The links between drug misuse and crime are well established. As well as committing the obvious crimes like possession or drug dealing, drug misusers commit other crimes, like burglary or shoplifting to raise the money to buy drugs.

There were 83 drug related arrests during the year to March 2001. The areas with the highest rate of arrests were; **Worsley, Greensclough** and **Longholme**. Paramedic attendances to drug related incidents over the same time period totalled 149. The attendances were not evenly distributed across the Borough, the areas with the highest attendance rates were; **Hareholme, Irwell, and Longholme**.

Drug misuse amongst young people is a concern. The number of known users within Rossendale has increased by 23% since 1998. Over 36% of all known drug users are within the age group 15-24, with 19% aged 19 or below.

Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol has associations with various crime and disorder incidents. A high percentage of assaults and criminal damage are committed whilst under the influence of alcohol. The Rossendale Crime and Disorder Survey 2001 showed that alcohol, particularly amongst young people was a major concern within the Borough.

National findings show that a quarter of all adults claim to have been the victim of alcohol related violence. Street drinking was identified as a significant problem by seven out of 10 people, with 57% identifying teenagers as the worst offenders with underage drinking reported as becoming more prevalent.

“Young people most at risk from drug and alcohol misuse include, children in care, pupils excluded from school, young offenders, young homeless, and children of drug and alcohol using parents”.

The main geographical areas to be targeted during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Alcohol and Drug Misuse Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Action Group will consider the proposed actions and performance measures in formulating their Action Plan.

TARGETS

- Establish Arrest Referral Scheme in Rossendale by end of March 2003.
- Meet the targets set by the Lancashire Drug Action Team (DAT).
- In year one establish baseline for the number of young people going through the Youth Offending Team (YOT) who receive targeted information on drug and alcohol use relevant to their needs. In year two and three set targets to increase this number.

Drug and Alcohol Misuse Actions for Consideration

- Continue target enforcement of known dealers and users.
- Target enforcement of licensed premises where there is ongoing evidence of drugs supply and misuse.
- Improve liaison with licensees to reduce opportunity for supply of drugs through licensed premises - explore "Safe Pub" scheme as part of Pub and Club Watch Schemes.
- Measure local needs to consider environmental re-designs to tackle drug and alcohol misuse.
- Encourage people to report drug activities, which affect their local community.
- Continue to support the provision of advice on services and provisions available, and educational programmes for young people using or at risk of drug misuse, their parents, families and carers.
- Continue to provide and further develop additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent alcohol and drug misuse and promote responsible attitudes.
- Further develop Pub and Club Watch Schemes across the Borough.
- Encourage the development of Proof of Age Schemes for "on" and "off" licensed premises.
- Extend Shop Radio Link to Pubs and Clubs.
- Encourage enforcement of legislation under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
- Develop partnership with Trading Standards to undertake test purchases to tackle underage drinking.
- Encourage action under breach of tenancy by Social Landlords for nuisance caused by drug and alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Encourage greater use of group intervention panel, acceptable behaviour contracts, and anti-social behaviour orders to tackle problems caused by drug and alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Prepare and publish action plan to tackle drug and alcohol misuse.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of drug related incidents.
- Number of licensed premises targeted – evidence of drugs supply and misuse.
- Number of premises visited by Police/Trading Standards ("on" and "off" license).
- Number of members of "Pub Safe" Scheme.
- Number of members of Pub and Club Watch Schemes.
- Number of licensed premises utilising Proof of Age Schemes (inc off licences).
- Number of actions taken under the breach of tenancy against tenants of Social Landlords caused by drug and alcohol related crime and disorder.
- Number of other actions taken (GRIP, ABC's, ASBO's) caused by drug and alcohol related crime and disorder.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Action Group.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance

Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance

Public surveys on crime and policing have shown that the public place a high priority on tackling incidents variously described as anti-social behaviour, minor disorder or "quality of life" issues. The following types of behaviour incidents and complaints are some examples of these. Some may well be covered by other strategic objectives, but they highlight the cross cutting issues and that such types of behaviour are not the sole responsibility of one agency.

Noise	Unkempt gardens (those that attract dumping)	Verbal Abuse	Harassment (including racist and homophobic incidents)
Gatherings of young people in public places	Intimidation	Nuisance from vehicles (including parking and abandonment)	Nuisance from business use
Rubbish dumping and misuse of communal areas	Aggressive begging	Deliberate fires (outdoor fires involving grassland and refuse)	Uncontrollable pets and animals
Damage to property (including graffiti and vandalism)	Using and selling drugs	Alcohol and solvent abuse	Riding/cycling on footpaths

Defining and measuring anti-social behaviour is difficult, expectations and standards of behaviour vary both between and within communities. Nevertheless, anti-social behaviour in whatever form can have an adverse affect of the quality of life in communities. Anti-social behaviour, in particular youths causing annoyance and secondary deliberate fires, were major areas of concern raised in the audit and consultation process.

Youth Nuisance

The Police attended a total of 3897 incidents of disorder between April 2000 and March 2001. In many of the wards within Rossendale, youth nuisance accounted for 40-50% of reported disorder. The highest levels of youth nuisance were experienced in; **Greensclough, Greenfield, Irwell and Cribden.**

Deliberate Fires and Hoax Calls

In the majority of cases, stolen vehicles are generally abandoned and set fire to. More recent figures provided by Lancashire Fire and Rescue showed that there were 112 vehicle fires in Rossendale between 1st April 2001 and 20th January 2002. Secondary fires are mainly outdoor fires involving grassland, refuse and derelict buildings, between 1st April 2001 and 20th January 2002, there was a total of 261 secondary fires, 228 of which were deliberate, which accounts for 87% of all secondary fires. 60% of all fire call outs within Rossendale between April 2000 and March 2001 were to deliberately lit fires. There were also 42 hoax calls, an increase of 27% compared to the same period the previous year.

The greatest number of call-outs to deliberate fires were in; **Worsley, Facit and Shawforth, and Longholme.** The areas of greatest activity for vehicle fires from April 2000 to March 2001 were; **Worsley and Irwell.**

The main geographical areas and types of behaviour to be targeted during the first year of the strategy will be identified by the Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance Action Group using data from the audit, together with Police hot spot analysis and trend forecasting. The Action Group will consider the proposed actions and performance measures in formulating their Action Plan.

TARGETS

- Implement Group Intervention Panel (GRIP) by 1st October 2002.
- Reduce the number of people who become victims of ASB. In year one, establish baseline and set a target for years two and three to reduce the number of victims.
- In year one establish baseline for the number of incidents of Youth Nuisance. In year two and three set targets to reduce this number.
- In year one establish baseline for the number of vehicle and secondary deliberate fires. In year two and three set targets to reduce this number.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance Actions for Consideration

- Provide a definition of "Anti-Social Behaviour" and ways of measuring and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- Identify and target prolific offenders and those at risk of becoming prolific offenders by co-ordinating a range of activities, including prevention, enforcement, education and support.
- Continue to provide and develop additional youth diversion/inclusion initiatives to prevent anti-social behaviour and nuisance and promote responsible attitudes.
- Improve multi-agency working and information sharing protocols and procedures.
- Establish a network of relevant officers with specific responsibility for reducing anti-social behaviour.
- Further develop local problem solving groups to identify and resolve problems of anti-social behaviour and apply neighbourhood approaches.
- Target vulnerable people, providing advice and support, and develop effective resettlement strategies.
- Explore area improvements to reduce opportunities for anti-social behaviour.
- Extend the use of CCTV. Ensure that full use is made of CCTV to identify and prosecute perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.
- Establish partnership between Borough Council Environmental Health Department and Lancashire Fire and Rescue to identify abandoned vehicles and ensure early removal.
- Establish partnership between Borough Council Cleansing and Lancashire Fire and Rescue to identify accumulations of rubbish and refuse to ensure early removal.
- Raise awareness of Mediation Services available and identify mechanisms to use mediation in situations other than neighbour disputes.
- Encourage action under breach of tenancy by Social Landlords for anti-social behaviour and nuisance – ensure effective clauses in agreement to deal with harassment and nuisance.
- Encourage greater use of group intervention panel, acceptable behaviour contracts, and anti-social behaviour orders to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance.
- Develop systems to record and monitor incidents of anti-social behaviour and nuisance by Registered Social Landlords and actions taken. Make provisions for the measurement of the cost of the actions.
- Prepare and publish action plan to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance.
- Adopt a problem solving approach utilising Home Office toolkits.

Performance Measures for consideration

- Number of victims of anti-social behaviour.
- Number of incidents of youth nuisance.
- Number of vehicle fires and secondary deliberate fires.
- % reductions.
- Number of actions taken under the breach of tenancy against tenants of Social Landlords to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance.
- Number of other actions taken (GRIP, ABC's, ASBO's) to tackle anti-social behaviour and nuisance.

ACCOUNTABILITY – WHO WILL MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS

DRIVING FORCE

Chair of Anti-Social Behaviour and Nuisance Action Group.
Head of Community Services (Rossendale Borough Council).

Road Safety – a county wide initiative

In 2000/2001 there was a total of 298 reported incidents involving pedestrians and pedal cycles on Rossendale's roads. 234 of this number suffered slight injuries with 64 either seriously injured or killed. In addition there were 196 road traffic collisions reported to the Police, which resulted in 43 serious injuries and fatalities, and 153 slight injuries.

Initial concerns raised through the audit process highlighted that, **Helmshore, Longholme, and Worsley**, showed the greatest number of incidents and road traffic collisions. In these three wards, the number of incidents and collisions were above Lancashire averages for all categories of road traffic collisions and casualties.

The Government has set ten year targets to focus on achieving substantial improvement in road safety by the year 2010.

- 40% reduction in the number killed or seriously injured.
- 50% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured.
- 10% reduction in the slight casualty rate.

Road Safety is a county wide initiative and the Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety is responsible for the delivery of the Lancashire Road Safety Project over a three year period. The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership is a multi-agency partnership committed to reducing the number of deaths and injuries on Lancashire's roads. The partners are Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Blackpool Borough Council. Other stakeholders include Health Authorities, the Highways Agency, Lancashire Magistrates Courts and the Government Office North West.

The success of the Lancashire Road Safety Project will be measured in terms of road casualty reduction and will reflect the Government's Road Safety Strategy and Casualty Reduction Targets outlined above. Concentration will focus on three themes, reduce speed, reduce drink driving, and increase seat belt usage. Speed enforcement will use a combination of fixed and mobile camera sites, which will be located in the main, where speed and collisions are a known problem.

However, 20% of mobile enforcement activity will be targeted directly in areas of community concern. This is where the Rossendale Community Safety Partnership can make an active contribution by acting as a focus for local consultation and proposing sites and areas for assessment and consideration.

Resources

The partners have already identified resources to support the central co-ordination of the Strategy with the Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the Police committing staff to the process. Some of the resources needed to deliver the objectives will become clearer when Action Plans under each priority have been developed by the Action Groups. The main intentions of the multi-agency approach are:

- **To encourage partners to pool existing resources to best effect.**
- **To mainstream community safety as a key element in the way that services are delivered.**
- **To maximise the impact of complimentary strategies.**

The prevention and reduction of crime and the building of safe communities underpin much of the Government's regeneration and social inclusion agendas. The co-ordination of current work and the integration of Community Safety Work with other relevant plans and strategies is essential in identifying new opportunities for the sharing of good practice and in identifying possible sources of funding.

Links with Partner Agency Plans and Initiatives

<p>Lancashire Constabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Policing Plan. • Best Value PI's. • Community Policing. • Problem Orientated Policing. <p>Lancashire Police Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Authority Best Value Performance Plan. 	<p>Youth Offending Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Justice Plan. • Group Intervention Panel (GRIP). • Restorative Justice Scheme. • Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP).
<p>Lancashire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational Development Plans. • Behavioural Support Plans. • Drug Action Team (DAT) Plan. • Youth and Community Services. • Trading Standards. • Social Services (Partnership Officers). 	<p>Lancashire Fire and Rescue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancashire Fire and Rescue Plan. • Young Fire Fighter Schemes. • Fire Awareness Child Education (FACE). • Homesafe. • Childsafe.
<p>Lancashire Probation Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probation Business Plan • Directing Community Service work to contribute to community safety. • Programmes to reduce the risk of re-offending through community sentences and post custodial licences. • Supporting People Programme. 	<p>East Lancashire Health Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Improvement Plan. • Crime and Health.

Funding Opportunities

- Mainstream Agency Funding.
- Partnership Development Fund.
- Home Office Crime Reduction Programme.
- Communities Against Drugs.
- Single Regeneration Budget.
- Childrens' Fund.
- Sure Start.
- Recovered Assets Fund.
- Neighbourhood Renewal.
- European Structural Fund.
- Private Sector.

Strategies and the Wider Picture

This strategy should not be seen in isolation and should be recognised for its strategic contribution to other local and national initiatives, such as:

- Community Strategies.
- Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP).
- Best Value.
- National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal.
- Local Neighbourhood Renewal Strategies.
- Neighbourhood Management.
- Crime Reduction Strategy.
- National Drugs Strategy.
- Local Government Public Service Agreement.

Areas for Concern

Rossendale Borough Council has responsibilities for service provision and environmental issues and has a primary responsibility for much of the environment in which crime occurs. The delivery of services and the level of demand are directly affected by crime and disorder issues. The Council is directly involved in the economic and social regeneration of Rossendale and must recognise that crime and fear of crime undermine the local economy and communities, and can affect the willingness of businesses to invest in the area. In addition Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a clear duty on local authorities to consider the implications of crime and disorder in all of their functions and to do all they reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder. The audit to strategy process emphasised that there is an urgent need to:

- Ensure that adequate communications, recording practices and systems are implemented within the Local Authority.
- Use Section 17 and partnership training to raise awareness on crime and disorder issues.
- Change the existing customs and culture within the Local Authority.

Community Safety is a corporate objective of Rossendale Borough Council, however, it is essential that reducing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour is an integral part of the corporate approach and that adequate resources are provided towards this objective. This will assist the Authority in achieving Best Value and comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.