Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment

October 2009

Produced by Holden McAllister Ltd

Glossary

ASB	Anti-social behaviour
BCS	British Crime Survey
BDAP	Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership
B:DAT	Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
CMSII	Crime Management System 2 nd version
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DIP	Drugs Intervention Programme
GOE	Government Office East
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisors
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
KSI	Killed or Seriously Injured
LAA	Local Area Agreement
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MSG	Most Similar Group
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
NI	National Indicator
NIS	National Indicator Set
NSPIS	National Strategy for Police Information Systems
OIS	Operation Information System
PPO	Prolific and Other Priority Offenders
PSA	Public Service Agreement
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Courts
SNT	Safer Neighbourhood Team
TFMV	Theft from Motor Vehicle
TOMV	Theft of Motor Vehicle
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YTD	Year to Date

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment for Central Bedfordshire provides a summary of the detailed analysis carried out as part of the Strategic Assessment document. The data period for analysis is 1st January 2009 – 30th June 2009 (with a comparison to the same time period last year and also to the previous six months) where data is available. The Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority officially came into being on the 1st April 2009. As a result some data is only available from the 1st April 2009 in line with the new authority boundaries.

Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership's Priorities

The previous Central Bedfordshire Strategic assessment showed that the following issues were priorities for the partnership:

- Most Serious Violence including Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse
- Serious Acquisitive Crime including Burglary and Vehicle crime
- Non Domestic burglary
- Criminal Damage
- Anti-social behaviour
- Substance misuse including Drugs/alcohol
- Fear of Crime, to cover the single confidence target, and
- Reducing re-offending through the Integrated Offender Management model.

Based on the strategic assessment it is suggested that the partnership adopt the following priorities:

- Serious Acquisitive Crime with particular emphasis on:
 - Domestic burglary
 - o Theft from motor vehicles
- Non-domestic burglary
- Most serious violence including domestic violence
- Anti-social behaviour
- Criminal Damage
- Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol)
- Reducing reoffending

(Priorities denoted in Blue are priorities under the current LAA)

Scanning Exercise

An initial scanning exercise alongside a risk/threat matrix was used to assess each potential theme in regards to national and local strategies, community concern, volume and performane as well as an assessment of the risk/threat posed by each theme area. Only those identified as highest risk were subject to further analysis (see tables below).

Priority Scanning

		High Volume	ormance	g trend	ity	Individual agency priority	ip priority	Community/ SNT Priority		ndicator	
			MSG performance	Increasing trend	LAA Priority		Partnership priority		PSA	National indicator	Total
	Serious acquisitive crime	~			~	~	~	~	~	~	7
	Bicycle theft		✓	\checkmark							2
	Domestic burglary	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	7
Acquisitive crime	Non-domestic burglary	~	~	✓		~		~			5
e	Robbery		✓		\checkmark		✓		✓	✓	5
itiv	Theft from person										0
uis	Theft of Vehicles		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	6
Acq	Theft from Vehicles	~	~		~	~	~	~	~	~	8
	Violent crime	\checkmark				✓	✓		✓	✓	5
0	Wounding	\checkmark				✓	✓		✓	✓	5
, ŭ	Common assault			✓					✓	✓	3
Violent Crime	Domestic violence	~	*	*	~		~		~	~	5 (*)
Viole	Sexual offences		*	~			~		~	~	4 (*)
	Criminal damage	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	5
der issues	Anti-social behaviour	~	*	~		~	~	~	~	~	7 (*)
	Substance misuse	*		~	~	~		~	~	~	6 (*)
diso	Hate crime	*									0 (*)
Other crime and diso	Casualty reduction	*		*		~		~		~	() 3 (*)
r crim	Reducing reoffending		*		~	~		~	~	~	5 (*)
Othe	Public confidence		*			√	~	~	~	~	5 (*)

Threat/Risk Matrix

		Current MSG performance	Trend	Harm	Current activity	Community concern	Total
	Serious acquisitive	3	3	3	1	3	13
	crime		0		0		0
	Bicycle theft	2	2	1 3	2	1	8
e	Domestic burglary Non-domestic	2	3			2	10 13
crim	burglary	3	3	2	3	2	13
Acquisitive crime	Robbery from the person	2	2	3	2	1	10
lisi	Theft from person	1	1	2	2	1	7
cđi	Theft of Vehicles	2	1	2	2	2	9
A	Theft from Vehicles	3	1	2	2	3	11
	Violent crime	3	3	3	1	1	11
	Wounding	3	1	3	1	1	9
ime	Common assault	*	3	3	1	1	8 (*)
Violent Crime	Domestic violence	*	3	3	1	1	8 (*)
Viole	Sexual offences	*	3	3	2	1	9 (*)
6	Criminal damage	2	1	2	2	3	10
ssue	Anti-social behaviour	*	3	3	1	3	10 (*)
rder i	Substance misuse	*	*	_3	_1	3	7 (*)
l diso	Hate crime	*	*	3	3	1	7 (*)
le anc	Road safety	*	*	2	1	3	6 (*)
Other crime and disorder issues	Reducing reoffending	*	3	3	1	3	10 (*)
Othe	Public confidence	*	3	3	2	3	11 (*)

Outlined below is a summary of the key findings for each of the areas analysed and the recommendations for that priority. For further detail please see the relevent section within the main document.

Serious Acquistive Crime (LAA Indicator)

Burglary

Trend		Stable
	Jan – Jun 2009	Decreasing volume
Performance	12 months YTD	Increasing volume
Public percep		Not a community concern
Seasonality		Autumn/winter peaks
Hotspots		Oldhills
		Linslade
		Planets Estate
Victims		Domestic burglary
		White European and either Eamele aged between 20 to 40 years
		 Female aged between 20 to 49 years Males aged between 30 and 59 years
		Distraction burglary
		Females aged over 70
Offenders		Domestic burglary
		White European males aged 10 to 29
		One/two offenders
		 Local or neighbouring areas.
		Distraction burglary
		White European males aged 20 to 39
Partnership A	ctivity	Bobby Scheme
		 Burglary Information Pack
		Smartwater
		 Safer Homes Campaign
		Crimestoppers
		 Burglary Day of Action
		Operation Vigilance
		 Nominated Neighbour Scheme
		 Second Generation Campaign
		 National Rogue Trader Scheme
		Keysafe

Vehicle Crime

Trend		Stable
Denfermen	Jan – Jun 2009	Decreasing volume
Performance	12 months YTD	Decreasing volume
Public percep	tion	2 SNT areas priority
Seasonality		TOMV • No seasonality TFMV • Autumn
		Spring
Hotspots		 TOMV residential streets close to town centres
Victims		TFMV Icknield Watling Manshead Parkside Houghton Hall East Dunstable Central Chiltern & Northfields Caddington
Victims		TFMV White European males aged 30 - 49
Offenders		TOMV White European males aged 10 - 19 years TFMV White European malees aged 10 - 29 years
Partnership A	ctivity	Police "trap car" Vulnerable Property in Vehicles Crime Prevention Advice Packs SmartWater Auto Cocoon letters Spontaneous Street Surgeries

Personal Robbery

Trand		Stable
Trend		
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Decreasing volume
	12 months YTD	Slight increase
Public percept	tion	Not a community concern
Seasonality		Spring/summer peaks
Hotspots		Dunstable Central
		Chiltern &Northfields
		 Parkside and Houghton Hall East
Victims	Mille European Malee agea to te	
• White European males aged 10 to 19		 White European males aged 10 to 19
Partnership Activity		Level zero plan
		 Talking signs
		Mobile CCTV
		Environmental improvements

Recommendations for Serious Acquisitive Crime

It is suggested that serious acquisitive crime remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire with a particular emphasis on domestic burglary and theft from motor vehicles as these are the highest volume categories within the group and more likely to have the greatest impact on overall levels of serious acquisitive crime if not tackled effectively.

Recommendations	Owners
Increased agency presence (including police patrols) should be focused on the peak times for offending in hotspot locations	CSP
Crime prevention campaigns focus on targeting the most likely victims e.g. vulnerable properties/vehicles or particular individuals	CSP
Enforcement should focus on targeting the suspects identified in each section	Beds Police
Work in schools giving both crime prevention advice and enforcement messages	Central Beds Council
Support for the effective roll-out of the SmartWater scheme across the area prioritising those who are most vulnerable and marking property most susceptible to being stolen.	Beds Police
Raising awareness of the Immobilise website for people to proactively register their property	Beds Police
Developing the Safer Homes scheme by continuing to identify those most vulnerable within the community and also expanding the range of partners who are signed up to the scheme	CSP
Prioritising environmental improvements such as overgrown hedges, poor lighting in those areas identified as serious acquisitive crime hotspots.	Central Beds Council
Continue to use the Vulnerable Property in Vehicles Scheme and consider whether there is the potential for other agencies employees to make vehicle checks and highlight vulnerable vehicles to their owners	Beds Police

Non-domestic burglary

Trend		Possibly deteriorating
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume
1 errormanoe	12 months YTD	Increasing volume
Public percept	tion	3 SNT areas priority
Seasonality		No
Hotspots		Parkside Drive Est
		Dunstable Central
		Downside Est
		Town centres
Victims		Companies
Offenders		White European males aged 20 to 29
Partnership Activity		No information available

Recommendations for non-domestic burglary

It is suggested that non-domestic burglary remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to the recent increase in the number of offences and the position of Central Bedfordshire compared to the MSG average.

Recommendations	Owners
Installing security devices on properties such as alarms or CCTV that provide information on the times of offences and also suspects would help to fill gaps in intelligence	Beds Police
Targeting vulnerable properties on the Parkside Drive Estate	Beds Police
Encourage households to mark valuable property stored in sheds/garages as part of the SmartWater scheme.	Beds Police
Encourage households to add additional security for high value property stored within garages/sheds	CSP
Consider the extension of the 'Vulnerable Property Scheme' to incorporate burglaries	Beds Police
Establish/Develop the Business Crime Partnership in order to target burglaries on business premises	Central Beds Council
'Stop that Thief' type initiative to support farms to reduce the number of burglaries	CSP

Violence Against the Person

Trend		Deteriorating		
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume		
i enormance	12 months YTD	Increasing volume		
Public percep	tion	No community concern		
Seasonality		Summer peaks		
Hotspots		Dunstable town centre		
		Downside Est		
		 Leighton Buzzard town centre 		
		 Biggleswade town centre 		
		Tithe Farm Est		
Victims		 White European males, aged 10 - 29 		
		years		
		 White European females aged 20 - 49 		
		years		
Offenders		White European males aged 20 - 29 years		
Partnership A	ctivity	No information available		

Domestic Abuse (LAA Indicator)

Trend		Increased reporting
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume
i onormanoo	12 months YTD	Increasing volume
Public percep	tion	No community concern
Seasonality		No seasonality
Hotspots		Dunstable
		Houghton Regis
		Leighton Buzzard
		Biggleswade
		Flitwick
Victims		 White Eurpoean females aged 20 – 39
		years
Offenders		White European males aged 20 - 39 years
Partnership A	ctivity	BDAP
		Refuge provision
		IDVAs
		MARACs
		Awareness raising
		Training
		 Sanctuary scheme
		 Safe and Sound Relationship pack
		Freedom Programme
		IDAP
		SDVCs

Recommendations for Violence Against the Person and Domestic Abuse

It is suggested that the Most Serious Violence (including domestic abuse) remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to the high volume of offences.

Recommendations	Owners
Develop a partnership calendar of key events that may impact on the level of alcohol related violence such as key football match dates and bank holidays and plan proactive campaigns accordingly	CSP
Enforcement activity should focus on the peak times and hotspots for offending in town centres	Beds Police
The partnership should maintain a watching brief offences on offences involving weapons	CSP
Consider the possibility of extending the Freedom Programme as a preventative scheme within sixth form colleges in the area.	BDAP
Consider the possibility of raising awareness of domestic abuse with older people and the most vulnerable members of the community such as those with learning disabilities.	BDAP
Promoting awareness of males as victims of domestic abuse	BDAP
Investigate the possibility of developing a support service for male perpetrators (currently the IDAP perpetrator programme run through Probation is for convicted offenders)	BDAP
As the majority of domestic abuse related incidents relate to towns a campaign aimed at raising awareness in rural areas may encourage reporting in these areas	BDAP
Encourage all agencies to identify employees to undertake domestic abuse training	BDAP
Ensure those working as part of the Safer Homes scheme have received domestic abuse training	BDAP

Hate Crime

Trend		Increased reporting	
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume	
	12 months YTD	Increasing volume	
Public perception		No community concern	
Seasonality		No seasonality	
Hotspots		Dunstable Central	
		 Parkside & Houghton Hall East 	
Victims		 Black or Asian males aged 20 – 49 years 	
Offenders		White European males aged 20 - 29 years	
Partnership Activity		No information available	

Recommendations for Hate Crime

Following this assessment it is not recommended that hate crime be a priority for the partnership however when monitoring priority crime types any potential links to hate crime should be investigated.

Recommendations	Owners
Maintain a watching brief of hate crime including undertaking a full analysis of all hate crime incidents especially those reported to agencies other than the police.	Hate Crime Partnership

Substance Misuse

Drug Misuse (LAA Indicator)

Trend		Increased targeting	
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume	
	12 months YTD	Increasing volume	
Public perception		27% Place Survey / 1 SNT	
Seasonality		No seasonality	
Hotspots		Dunstable town centre	
Offenders		White European males aged 20 - 29 years	
Partnership Activity		Drug testing on arrest & DIP	
		 Stimulant specific service 	
		Child minding pilot	
		 Targeted police patrols 	
		 Drink and drug driving offences 	

Alcohol Misuse

Trend		Uncertain
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Uncertain
1 errormanoe	12 months YTD	Uncertain
Public perception		28% Place Survey / 4 SNT areas
Seasonality		No seasonality
Hotspots		Dunstable town centre
Offenders		White European males aged 20 - 29 years
Partnership Activity		General awareness campaigns
		Training
		Summer campaigns
		PubSafe

Recommendations for substance misuse

It is suggested that Substance Misuse remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to its interconnectedness with crime and disorder themes.

Recommendations	Owners
Based on current intelligence enforcement activity for drug misuse and alcohol misuse should focus on Dunstable town centre and males aged 20-29.	CSP
Develop a partnership calendar of key events that may impact on the level of alcohol related violence such as key football match dates and plan proactive campaigns accordingly	CSP
Support the development of Central Beds Safe	CSP
Promotion of alcohol treatment in the form of responsible drinking education for those persistently misusing alcohol at the weekend.	PCT

Anti-Social Behaviour

Trend		Deteriorating
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Increasing volume
1 chronnanoc	12 months YTD	Increasing volume
Public perception		17% Place Survey / 20 SNT areas
Seasonality		Summer peaks
Hotspots		Dunstable
		Houghton Regis
		Ampthill
Partnership Activity		Pride in Downside
		 Central Beds ASB team
		 Targeting specific hotspots as and when
		they occur

Recommendations for anti-social behaviour

It is suggested that anti-social behaviour remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to the increasing volume of incidents.

Recommendations	Owners
Develop a partnership calendar of key events that may impact on the level of anti-social behaviour that can be linked into prevention and enforcement	CSP
messages	
Evaluate the Pride in Downside event and consider	CSP
running similar events in other areas	
Explore the possibility of carrying out reparation work	YOS/Probation
as part of clean-up days in local areas	

Criminal Damage

Trend		Stable
Performance	Jan – Jun 2009	Decreasing volume
	12 months YTD	Decreasing volume
Public perception		2 SNT areas
Seasonality		No
Hotspots		Dunstable town centre
		 Coincide with hotspots for ASB
Partnership Activity		 Environmental Action Days
		Theatre in Education
		 Removing the opportunity for deliberate
		fires

Recommendations for criminal damage

It is suggested that criminal damage remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to the high volume of incidents and its association with other crime and disorder categories such as anti-social behaviour and alcohol.

Recommendations	Owners
Develop a partnership calendar of key events that may	CSP

impact on the level of anti-social behaviour that can be linked into prevention and enforcement messages	
Carry out partnership environmental clean up days in hotspot locations	CSP
Provide a quick response to cleaning up graffiti, abandoned cars etc	Central Beds Council
Look at opportunities to relocate young people hanging out away from problem areas	Central Beds Council

Reducing re-offending (LAA Indicator)

Trend	Unknown	
Performance	PPO reoffending figures unavailable	
Public perception	No explicit community priorities but an inherent	
	part of all the other themes and issues	
Seasonality	No	
Partnership Activity	 Drug testing on arrest/DIP Youth Offending Service reparation My Shout project Exceller8 summer programme Crimestoppers Committee representative 	
	of young people	

Recommendations for reducing re-offending

It is suggested that reducing reoffending remains a priority for Central Bedfordshire due to the links it has across all crime and disorder categories.

Recommendations	Owners
Ensure that throughout all crime types PPOs are identified and prioritised	CSP
Ensure that referrals are made to YISPs and YIPs for vulnerable young	YOS
people	Central Beds
	Council
Ensure that all agencies use the Common Assessment Framework to	Central Beds
assess vulnerable children and young people	Council

Actions under all other crime and disorder types are also relevant to this priority.

Casualty Reduction

Summary of casualty reduction

Performance	Road safety Decreasing volume Accidental dwelling fires Decreasing volume
Seasonality	Not known
Partnership Activity	 Bedfordshire and Luton Casualty Reduction Partnership Ride Safe Summer Drink and Drug Driving Campaign Speed cameras Home Fire Safety Checks Education visits in schools

Recommendations for casualty reduction

It is not recommended that casualty reduction is a priority for the partnership due to the amount of information currently available that specifically relates to Central Bedfordshire and the fact that currently performance appears to be on a downward trend. However it is recommended that a 'watching brief' is maintained in this area while further analysis is carried out. The partnership should consider the following actions in respect of casualty reduction:

Recommendations	Owners
Explore the potential for joined up working with	CSP
the Casualty Reduction Partnership	
Ensure that agency employee visiting homes	Fire Service
have general fire safety awareness training to	
enable them to make referrals for Home Fire	
Safety Checks or give general fire safety advice	

Strategic Recommendations

- It is recommended that the time span for the Strategic Assessment is changed and brought on line with national guidelines of April March, with a mid year review of September/October
- The current Intelligence Group is reviewed and when members meet, should work towards the Strategic Assessment and gathering of information throughout the year
- The Community Safety Partnership Analyst should be recruited as soon as possible. This role is integral to the Strategic Assessment process and adding context and analysis to the data gathered from the partnership
- The Partnership should pool together a calendar of events that impact within the next 12 months. This can be reviewed for the risks, threats and opportunities they pose to the agreed priorities of the partnership