



Central
Bedfordshire
Together

Partnership Strategic Assessment

2011 – 2012 – Executive Summary

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Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Description
ACPO	Association of Chief Police Officers
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
BDAAT	Bedfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team
BCS	British Crime Survey
BDAP	Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership
BME	Black & Minority Ethnic
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DIP	Drugs Intervention Programme
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HBV	Honour Based Violence
HMIC	Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
IDAP	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
ILNA	Inspector Led Neighbourhood Area
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
LAA	Local Area Agreement
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NMIS	National Management Information System
NSIR	National Standard for Incident Reporting
ODG	Operational Delivery Group
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PESTELO	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, Organisational
PPO	Persistent and Prolific Offender
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SDVC	Specialist Domestic Violence Court
SNT	Safer Neighbourhood Team
VAP	Violence Against the Person
VLI	Vulnerable Localities Index

Executive Summary

Central Bedfordshire is a safe place to live, work and socialise in. Over the past 12 months we have seen significant activity across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and towards the priority areas that were in place during 2010-2011.

By March 2011, we forecast to have achieved five of our six priorities with expected reductions in reoffending, an increase in the number of individuals in effective drugs treatment, a decrease in the number of recorded serious acquisitive crimes (SAC), a 5% reduction in reported Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents and Central Bedfordshire's Killed and Seriously Injured on the road (KSI) figures currently stand at 13% lower than the previous year.

A key consideration for the CSP over the forthcoming 12-24 months will be the financial challenges facing the public sector and partner organisations. Full details of the impact of the comprehensive spending review are still being understood, once determined the Partnership Plan will be updated.

The national indicators (NI's) and performance targets, which the CSP and statutory partners work towards, have now been revised. It is understood that there will be a suite of reduced indicators that authorities need to supply performance data for, but the overall onus is on the CSP to identify local priorities and measures which affect their communities, and impact upon safety and quality of life issues. Central Government have indicated they will no longer manage performance: it is now to be dealt with at a local level.

As performance measures have now been localised, it allows the CSP to utilise information, intelligence and results from consultations. Priorities identified in the Partnership strategic assessment looked at these factors, so we can be confident that we are addressing the needs of our communities.

The strategic assessment process looks ahead at the possible threats across Central Bedfordshire; three areas have been raised as a concern and are predicted to continue to cause a significant impact to our communities. These three areas are recommended as the CSP priorities for 2011-12, they are:

- **ASB – emphasis on increase reporting and support to repeat victims**
- **Reducing reoffending – support the IOM Programme**
- **Domestic abuse – emphasis on increasing referrals going to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

ASB is not only a national priority but research has shown it to be a local priority for our communities. Repeat victims of ASB are subject to continued abuse within our communities which affects the quality of their life along with those around them. Analysis has shown that data and intelligence surround ASB is poor and this needs to be addressed across the partnership.

Nationally the Home Office estimates that 0.5% of offenders commit 10% of offences and 10% of offenders commit 50% of offences. Findings from the Total Place project include that a small proportion of offenders within Central Bedfordshire commit a disproportionate amount of crime. The cost of imprisoning an offender for a year is estimated at £41,000 with each re-offender estimated to cost £200,000. To ensure a reduction in crime, prevent offenders

reoffending, and to see efficiency savings, the CSP need to work fully with the IOM programme.

Domestic abuse has been an area of focus for the CSP over the last 12 months but there is a significant gap in the number of repeat victims being assisted when compared with those who are referred to the MARAC. Enforcement and education for offenders is an area of concern, and it is recommended that work towards understanding offenders is carried out, so that we can look to reduce the number of victims and incidents.

Along with the above recommendations for our strategic priorities the assessment has highlighted a number of emerging issues. The main concern is the increase in Violence Against the Person over the past 12 months. The full picture of the problem is not clear in terms of which categories of violence have increased, why violence has increased, where offences take place and against whom. Further work needs to be carried out so clear and directive recommendations can be made to assist the CSP.

Introduction

Aim

The Partnership Strategic Assessment is part of an intelligence process that is used to help tackle crime and disorder and to improve community safety. It is produced annually and complemented by regular assessments that monitor Partnerships activities. It has detailed analysis that explores key and emerging problems and consultations with community groups.

The aim of the Partnership Strategic Assessment is to identify key crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour (ASB) issues that affect Central Bedfordshire. It considers what needs to be achieved to help improve community safety, including how the local community can feel reassured and confident that their concerns and fears are being addressed.

This document includes an analysis of the levels of crime, disorder and ASB in Central Bedfordshire. It is based upon analysis of victims and offenders of crime as well as the location where crime and disorder takes place.

Team

The Principal Authors of this document are Lisa Rose (Community Safety Partnership Analyst) and Leann Greenacre (Police Senior Analyst) with contributions from various members of the Community Safety Partnership including Bedfordshire Probation Trust, Bedfordshire & Luton Fire and Rescue Service and Bedfordshire Drugs & Alcohol Action Team.

Data Sources and Consultation

Data has been provided from a number of sources see Appendix 1.

Distribution and Handling

The Strategic Assessment is marked as "RESTRICTED" and should be handled in accordance with the protective marking scheme requirements. This document should not be distributed further without agreement from the document owner Joy Craven, Central Bedfordshire Council.

Summary of Last Years Recommendations

Following last years strategic assessment, Holden McAllister¹ made 16 recommendations. A full list of these recommendations has been included (appendix 2).

As recommended the Intelligence Group continues to meet monthly and in May 2010 Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils merged their respective intelligence groups. The group was formed to provide consistency, assist in resource sharing and to look at cross cutting issues. The combined group developed the strategic assessment risk matrix which has been used for this 2011-2012 Partnership strategic assessment. The Intelligence Group is used to discuss and analyse intelligence issues which need to be discussed further, these are then taken back to the Operational Delivery Group (ODG) and then fed up to the Community Safety Partnership Executive.

The Partnership Analyst was in post as of 9th August 2010. The remit includes scanning for PESTELO² issues, identify emerging issues for the CSP and improving data sharing

¹ Central Bedfordshire Strategic Assessment Review Report – Holden McAllister December 2009

² PESTELO = Political, Economical, Social, Technological, Environmental, Legal, Organisational. Factors that can impact on the CSP and pose a risk, threat or opportunity.

between partners. Their role has included leading on the current Partnership strategic assessment. The recommendations from this strategic assessment will form the basis of their workload over the next 12 months.

Methodology & Priorities

This year each CSP partner was asked to provide their areas of risk and priorities as an initial scanning exercise. Using this approach ensured that we were able to compare partnership risks against each other in an intelligent and structured way. All CSP Partners were approached to contribute towards the matrix and consulted in the scoring process (for the completed matrix see Appendix 3). All identified risks, that influence crime and disorder, were scored against set criteria. Once all partners' information had been scored, only the high risk issues identified in the matrix were developed and analysed in this Partnership strategic assessment. The end result ensures that we are working on the most important issues for the CSP.

The three strategic priorities recommended following this process are:

- Anti-Social Behaviour (emphasis on Repeat Victims of ASB)
- Reduce Reoffending (in particular supporting Integrated Offender Management (IOM))
- Domestic Abuse (emphasis on increasing the reporting of incidents & referrals to the MARAC)

Vulnerable Localities Index

Hotspot analysis is traditionally used as a means of identifying priority locations for focus, by highlighting concentrations of crime and disorder, however, hotspot analysis tends to focus attention towards larger towns/town centres, often meaning that neighbourhoods can be overlooked particularly in the rural areas. Hotspot analysis also does not take into account the socio-economic conditions of the area, which can lead to clearer opportunities for partnership working.

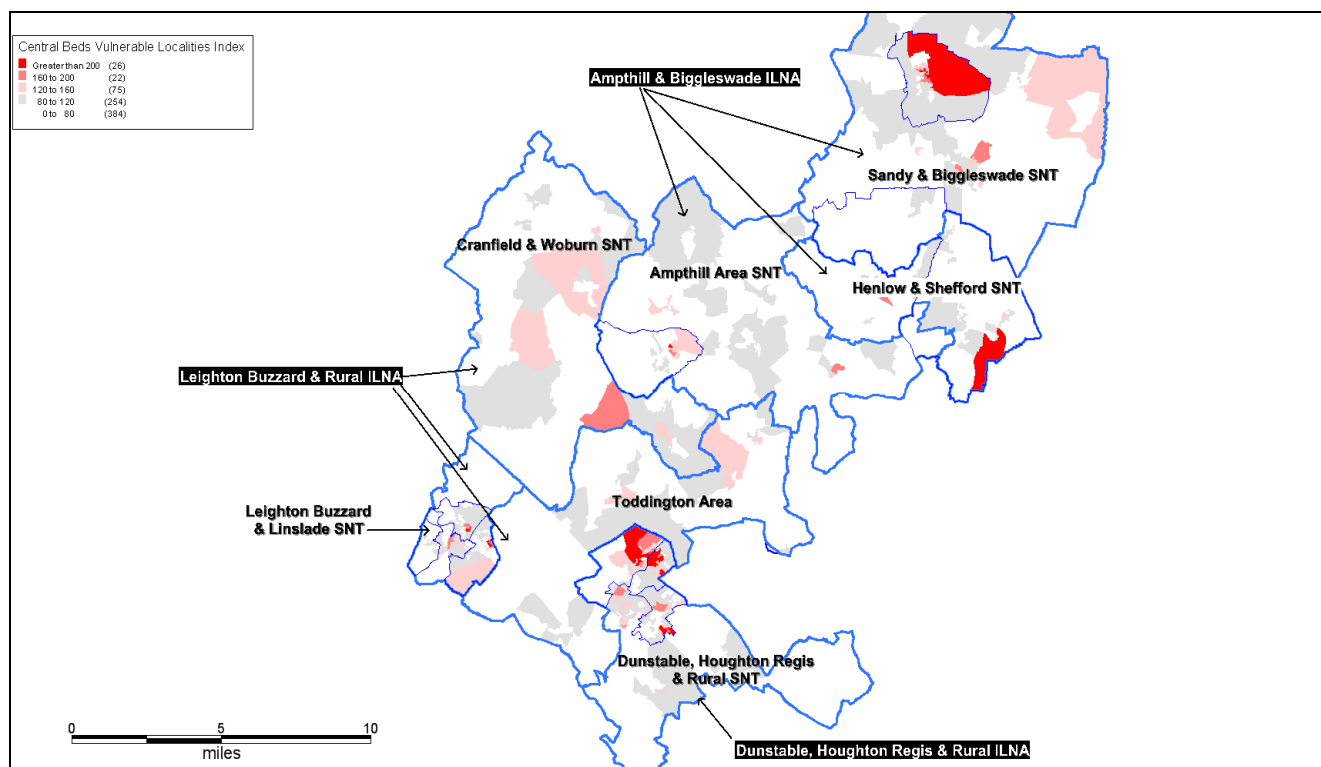
The Vulnerable Localities Index (VLI)³ is calculated using six variables; burglary dwelling, criminal damage, income and employment deprivation plus educational attainment and the proportion of young people who make up the local population, identified to Output Area (OA); which aids the identification of priority neighbourhoods using methodology that can be applied in any part of England and Wales at any level of geographic scale. It is also felt that by using these factors that it naturally leads to a clearer opportunity for partnerships.

From this, the key Central Bedfordshire ward areas identified as a priority under VLI include:

- Sandy Pinnacle Ward
- Stotfold Ward
- Flitwick East Ward
- Plantation Ward
- Planets Ward
- Tithe Farm Ward
- Parkside Ward
- Houghton Hall Ward
- Manshead Ward

³ Identifying Priority Neighbourhoods using the Vulnerable Localities Index, Spencer Chainey published June 2008

Map of priority neighbourhoods in Central Bedfordshire using VLI:



Budget

A key consideration for the CSP over the forthcoming 12-24 months will be the financial challenges facing the public sector and partner organisations. Full details of the comprehensive spending review are still being understood, but once determined the Partnership Plan will be updated.

National Indicators

The national indicators (NI's) and performance targets, which the CSP and statutory partners work towards, have now been revised. There are now a suite of reduced indicators that authorities need to supply performance data for, but the overall onus is on the CSP to identify local priorities and measures which affect their communities, and impact upon safety and quality of life issues. Central Government have indicated they will no longer manage performance: it is now to be dealt with at a local level.

As performance measures have now been localised, it allows the CSP to utilise information, intelligence and results from consultations. Priorities identified in the Partnership strategic assessment looked at these factors, so we can be confident that we are addressing the high risk needs of our communities.

Strategic Recommendations

Number	Recommendations
1	A clear ASB definition is agreed across Bedfordshire and all partners.
2	Standard inputting of ASB incidents to assist with data comparison and analysis.
3	Further analysis to be undertaken around predictive seasonality and the specific impact of such events.
4	Partnership calendar of tactical activity around peak seasons, times and locations should be drawn up for 2011-12.
5	Analysis should be conducted to review the VLI locations with an aim to addressing long term solutions to ASB in those areas.
6	Unfortunately due to time restrictions there was not an opportunity to fully gain an understanding as to why there are temporal differences in Houghton Regis compared to the rest of the district, therefore, additional information and analysis would be advantageous.
7	The CSP must ensure that there are systems in place to identify repeat and vulnerable victims of ASB and that data is shared across the Partnership.
8	Partnership communication should be used to address perception inconsistencies in vulnerable areas.
9	CSP partners must ensure that there is consistency in recording of ASB data.
10	Full data audit needs to be carried out to fully understand what ASB related data is available across the CSP.
11	The CSP analyst to investigate the reasons for the recent increase in Violence Against the Person.
12	The CSP analyst investigates the potential for gathering further intelligence on domestic abuse from colleagues in other areas of the Partnership – in particular A&E, health visitors and midwives.
13	Investigate the reason why MARAC referrals in Central Bedfordshire are lower compared to Bedford and Luton.
14	Investigate if the correct level of repeat victims is being referred and supported.
15	Further analysis is required to fully understand how alcohol affects domestic violence incidents and if there are any links to the night time economy, and the increase in alcohol related incidents.

16	Investigation takes place as to why the hot spot areas see a higher proportion of Domestic Abuse incidents.
17	The CSP prepare and distribute communication and awareness material to hotspot areas.
18	Improvement of data inputting and quality of data by each relevant CSP Partner.
19	The Domestic Abuse Partnership to work closely with colleagues in Children's Services, to investigate the impact and support that needs to be given to under 18 year olds.
20	It is recommended that the Local Criminal Justice Board investigate providing the partnership with court data specific to their geographical offenders.
21	The Partnership Analyst to study the end to end process following an offender being charged through to the court case, to see why cases fall down.
22	Analysis is required to identify our current top serial offenders, and what partnership work can be done to address serial behaviour.
23	Investigation into what Central Bedfordshire offers to young people aged 14-17 years by way of education, training and activities.
24	Identification exercise to determine what drugs awareness is given to education establishments and consideration as to whether this needs to be enhanced.
25	Interventions to address drug, alcohol and risky behaviour issues to be delivered to young people.
26	Ensure multi agency approach is adopted by the CSP to plan the delivery of support around drug and alcohol treatment, access to appropriate housing, training and employment opportunities and support that will ensure wrap around services are provided to offenders to break the cycle of offending.
27	The Partnership Analyst to contact partners and collate details of current data which is recorded regarding alcohol.
28	Refer to the Community Safety Plan with regards to aligning B:DAT with the CSP. B:DAT to report to the CSP and to the IOM board to ensure integration of drug and alcohol issues are aligned to the IOM.
29	To work with the CSP executive regarding the agreed level of IOM Programme following the submission of the IOM Business Case in November 2010.