



Appendix B

Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2013-2014

Executive Summary

August 2012

Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Description
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
LAA	Local Area Authority
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NTE	Night Time Economy
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime

Executive Summary

Central Bedfordshire continues to be a safe place to live, work and socialise in. Over the past 12 months considerable activity has taken place across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and towards the three priorities that were agreed for 2012-2013.

Priority – Anti Social Behaviour

Over the past 12 months there have been significant reductions in both recorded crime and reported incidents of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB). Between April 2011 - March 2012 recorded crime reduced by 17% compared to the same time period in the previous year and reported incidents of ASB decreased by 14%.

In 2012 the CSP agreed a common definition for ASB which is used by partners, a new risk assessment process has been implemented where victims of ASB are assessed for vulnerability and from September 2012 high risk victims will be referred to an Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment conference (ASBRAC) which will provide a multi-agency approach to deal with the individual case.

Priority – Reducing Reoffending

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme continues to be supported by the CSP and with 39¹ Central Bedfordshire offenders on the scheme. In Quarter One 2012-2013 there was an average of 1 re-offence per offender at liberty compared to 2.32 re-offences in Quarter One 2011-2012 which indicates that the IOM programme is working.

Priority – Domestic Abuse

In the last three years the levels of reported domestic abuse decreased by 2% and there has been a steady increase in the number of referrals into the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in Central Bedfordshire.

The strategic assessment process looks ahead at the possible threats across Central Bedfordshire. Four issues have been raised as a concern, and are predicted to continue to cause significant impact to the community of Central Bedfordshire. The top three of these issues are recommended as the CSP priorities for 2013-2014, and the fourth as an emerging issue for the CSP to do further work on and understand its impact. The three recommended priorities for 2013-2014 are:

- Personal & Nuisance ASB (inc environmental where it is directed/affects an individual)
- Re-offending – substance misuse and youth offending

¹ With effect from 28/08/2012

- Violence against the person – Night Time Economy (NTE) and domestic abuse.

The emerging issue is:

- Metal theft

ASB continues to be a national priority and local consultations have shown it continues to be a priority for communities in Central Bedfordshire. Vulnerable people are more likely to be a victim of ASB, and the effects are likely to be worsened by their vulnerability. Vulnerability is much more than several ASB incidents at a location and can be due to disability, age, illness or other personal circumstances. It is essential that the CSP identifies and works with vulnerable individuals and works closely with them on a multi-agency basis to ensure their issues are dealt with in the most effective way.

The CSP also needs to know where vulnerable members of the community live so that preventative work can be targeted in the correct locations to reduce the likelihood of them becoming victims in the future. Work in these areas needs to be targeted to communities needs and involve partner agencies.

IOM performance to date has shown encouraging results with the cohorts reoffending rates dropping and with significant decrease in recorded crime. Working with prolific offenders should therefore continue. Referrals to IOM have been considerably lower in Central Bedfordshire when compared to the other two local authority areas (LAAs) and work needs to take place to find out the reasons for these lower referrals. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the lower levels may be due to offenders living outside of Central Bedfordshire offenders offending in Central Bedfordshire.

Youth offending is an area which the CSP need to prioritise in the forthcoming year. Links between the Youth Offending Service and CSP are limited and need to be enhanced in order that the CSP can gain a full understanding of the levels of youth offending in the area and the issues that are present.

Violent crime is the second highest recorded crime in Central Bedfordshire. It has remained this way for the last three years, and is expected to remain at the same level in 2013-2014. Between July 2009 – June 2012 overall recorded crime has decreased by 22%, however, violent crime has not followed the same pattern. A 12% decrease has been seen over the three year period but the decrease is at a lower level than in other types of crime such as serious acquisitive crime (SAC). Violent crime can be split in to two clear categories, firstly there is violent crime linked to domestic abuse and, secondly violent crime within the NTE.

The emerging issue for 2013-2014 is the high levels of metal thefts within Central Bedfordshire. Nationally scrap metal theft has seen an increase of around 150% in the past few years. Increases are due to the continuing rise in the price of metal which has meant this crime is seen as much more lucrative and lower risk than other crimes. Metal thefts have steadily risen in Bedfordshire since October 2010, and Central Bedfordshire has suffered a disproportionately higher amount compared to the other two authority areas. In 2013-2014 the CSP needs to work with partners, other CSPs and the local community to deliver prevention work and gather and share intelligence on offenders in order to reduce the number of metal thefts.