



Central  
Bedfordshire  
**Together**

# Community Safety Partnership Plan

2013 - 2014

***“Working together to make Central  
Bedfordshire a safer place to live”***

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## Glossary of Terms

Acronym	
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
BDAT	Bedfordshire Drugs & Alcohol Action Team
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBT	Central Bedfordshire Together
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MERJ	Mentoring & Restorative Justice Project
NHS	National Health Service
NTE	Night Time Economy
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SARAC	Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference

## Introduction

### Partnership Plan

Each Community Safety Partnership (CSP) across the country is required to produce a Partnership Plan. This plan builds on the Partnership Strategic Assessment<sup>1</sup>, which sets out the analysis of crime and disorder and identifies the priorities which we will focus our efforts into addressing.

This plan covers the period April 2013 – March 2014 and sets out the expectations of Central Bedfordshire CSP, what it will deliver over the next 12 months, how performance will be measured and how we will communicate and consult with local people. The Partnership Plan is reviewed annually as priorities do not always remain relevant over long periods of time. The plan aligns to other local and countywide plans from individual and collective agencies (*see page 18 for further details*).

### Why do we need a Partnership Plan?

Priorities change as time progresses and the CSP needs to ensure priorities are in line with the needs of the community.

The Partnership Strategic Assessment helps partners to understand the community safety problems and assists in setting priorities for the CSP. The Partnership Plan helps develop and plan our activities and projects to meet community needs. It provide value for money, and as each assessment is reviewed provides a clear understanding of future issues and priorities. It is about providing an 'intelligence led' approach to community safety, ensuring that we get the right resources in the right place at the right time to sustain reductions in crime and disorder.

### New Legislation

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the abolition of the current Police Authorities in England and Wales, which will be replaced with a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Unlike the previous Police Authority the PCC will not be a 'responsible authority', and so will not be a member of the CSP. However there is a provision in the Act that places a mutual duty on the PCC and CSP to co-operate to reduce crime, disorder and re-offending. When putting the Police and Crime Plan together the PCC must have regard for the priorities of the CSP, and in turn, the CSP must have regard for the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan.

Due to these changes the CSP has brought forward the timings of this years Strategic Assessment and plan, in order that our priorities are identified in good time for the incoming PCC and their first Police and Crime Plan.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Clinical Commissioning Groups will become a 'responsible authority' on the CSP, replacing Primary Care Trusts.

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<sup>1</sup> A Partnership Strategic Intelligence Assessment is an annual statutory requirement for every CSP. Using partnership data, information and intelligence, risks and vulnerabilities are highlighted, priority areas are identified and recommendations are made. These priorities identify what the CSP should collectively work towards over the following 12 months.

## Community Safety – our vision and aims

### Community Safety Vision

*“Working together to make Central Bedfordshire a safer place to live”*

Community safety is an area of concern for all communities. It is consistently a high public priority, and one that can affect the quality of life for individuals and entire communities. Partnership approaches to tackling crime and disorder are largely built on the principle that no single agency can deal with, or be responsible for dealing with, complex community safety and crime problems.

There are a range of ways of describing what constitutes a partnership approach; however it can be described in simple terms as a co-operative relationship between organisations<sup>2</sup> to achieve a common goal.

### Community Safety Aims

Community safety aims to reduce crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and other behaviour affecting the local environment, as well as reducing the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances, reducing the fear of crime and increasing public confidence in our service.

As one of the five thematic partnerships of the Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT)<sup>3</sup>, community safety has an integral role in achieving the CBT Vision to ensure Central Bedfordshire is:

*‘Globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all’.*

Delivering to the three CSP priorities we have identified for 2013 - 2014 will have a positive effect on greater economic and community prosperity, sustainable growth and raising standards across Central Bedfordshire.

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<sup>2</sup> Partners in the CSP are: Bedfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Action Team, Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedfordshire Police, Bedfordshire Probation Trust, Central Bedfordshire Council, Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership, Housing Providers, Local Criminal Justice Board, Voluntary & Community Sector, Youth Offending Service

<sup>3</sup> The CBT (formally LSP) is a non-statutory, multi-agency partnership, which brings together the different parts of the public, private, voluntary and community sector; allowing different initiatives and services to support one another so they can work together more effectively. The CBT has five Thematic Groups. The primary function of each group is to develop and implement action plans for their thematic area. The CSP is one of these thematic groups.

## Achievements against our three priorities in 2012 - 2013

Priority One	Description
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	To help combat repeat victimisation of anti-social behaviour we will pull our resources together to support victims and their families, support vulnerable members of the community, and tackle those who commit anti-social behaviour

### What has happened in 2012 – 2013?

- ◆ Between July 2011- June 2012 there were 11,359 ASB incidents, this is a decrease of 8% from the same time period in the previous year
- ◆ An Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) has been established and launched in September 2012 to hear the cases of high risk and vulnerable victims. This provides a partnership service to victims and repeat victims who would not have received joined up bespoke care, or support, if their case had not been heard at the ASBRAC.
- ◆ A new risk assessment and case prioritisation matrix has been introduced across the partnership to provide early identification of high risk victims
- ◆ Bedfordshire Police now use a call handling script to assist in the identification of vulnerable and high risk victims of ASB when they contact the police
- ◆ An on-line ASB reporting form has been created. It provides an internet based approach for those who do not want to, or can not, speak directly to a partner to report an incident of ASB
- ◆ Victim Support has agreed to accept case referrals for victims of ASB incidents that do not involve the commission of a crime
- ◆ Specialist Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) have been trained in ASB case work and legislation. These PCSO's, based in each of the Local Policing Teams in Central Bedfordshire, support the work of the ASB Team with joint activity on cases supporting victims of ASB
- ◆ The Mentoring & Restorative Justice (MERJ) project started in September 2012. Referrals are made for hotspot areas that are suffering with ASB and that involve young people. Restorative justice sessional work practitioners then use a restorative mentoring approach to engage with young people, and allow young people to see the consequences of their actions via restorative justice meetings with victims.
- ◆ Detailed guidance to those suffering noise nuisance, explaining how they can be assisted and the service they are entitled to, has been made available on Central Bedfordshire Council's website

Priority Two	Description
Reoffending	We aim to reduce the high number of offences that are committed by the small percentage of offenders who regularly commit them. We aim to support and engage with IOM <sup>4</sup>

### What has happened in 2012 – 2013?

- ◆ From July 2011 – June 2012 crime fell by over 17% with big reductions seen in crime types usually associated with prolific and priority offenders. Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) has reduced by 21%, domestic burglary has reduced by 30% and non domestic burglary has reduced by 50%
- ◆ The total number of reoffences committed by Central Bedfordshire offenders has decreased by 30% since the rollout of IOM in June 2011
- ◆ The percentage of Central Bedfordshire offenders at liberty who then go on to reoffend has also decreased by 40%, in comparison to 13% Countywide.
- ◆ The CSP has acknowledged the additional support that the IOM Accommodation pathway requires, and the accommodation support offenders need. Additional resources have been identified which will provide extra suitable accommodation for offenders in the area. This work will commence at the beginning of 2013.
- ◆ September 2012 saw the opening of the Substance Misuse Recover Hubs in Dunstable and Bedford. This three year service was commissioned by NHS Bedfordshire, working in partnership with the Bedfordshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team (BDAT) to ensure substance misusers in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough received the correct care, support and service they need for their addictions. This service is available to all offenders who are supported to move away from a drug / alcohol lifestyle which leads to their offending behaviour
- ◆ Having identified a consistently low referral rate of offenders to IOM, research was undertaken to identify the reasons why. It was identified that Luton and Bedford IOM offenders significantly impact on Central Bedfordshire, with over 50% of the total offences in Central attributed to IOM offenders were committed by those living in Luton or Bedford. This research is being looked at further to increase our learning.
- ◆ Between July 2010 – June 2012 arrest data shows that the top 20 offenders arrested include three offenders who are part of IOM, but the remaining 17 are not part of the programme. This research has prompted a new identification system to be established where offenders will be flagged to the IOM team as potential new referrals based on their offending behaviour and risk to the area.

<sup>4</sup> As a co-ordinated multi-agency partnership Integrated Offender Management (IOM) will work with offenders most at risk of re-offending and causing harm. The 7 offender pathways of IOM are Accommodation, Attitudes & Behaviours, Children & Families, Drugs & Alcohol, Education & Training & Employment, Finance & Debt, Physical & Mental Health

Priority Three	Description
Domestic Abuse	We aim to increase the reporting of domestic abuse so that we can fully understand the scale of the issue and offer victims more support
	We aim to increase the number of repeat incidents being referred to the MARAC <sup>5</sup>

### What has happened in 2012 – 2013?

- ◆ From July 2011 – June 2012 there were 2,458 reported domestic abuse incidents a decrease of 10% from the previous year
- ◆ There has been a 42% increase in referrals to the MARAC from April – August 2012 (91 referrals) compared with 64 referrals from the previous year
- ◆ An independent MARAC evaluation is being conducted. Outcomes of the review are expected by the start of quarter four 2012 - 2013
- ◆ The Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programme has been launched. The programme targets male offenders who commit domestic abuse to support a change of thinking and behaviour so they can break the cycle of abuse
- ◆ A SARAC<sup>6</sup> has been established for high risk and vulnerable victims. It provides a partnership service to those who would not have received joined up bespoke care, or support, if their case can not been heard at the SARAC
- ◆ A Sexual Violence Training Programme has been launched. The training seeks to raise awareness and knowledge of professionals working with victims, or potential victims, of sexual abuse
- ◆ A Sexual Violence outreach program has been launched. Local support is provided for those who are not able to report sexual abuse, do not wish to come forward to the police, or who live in isolated communities

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<sup>5</sup> MARAC = Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference which addresses the needs of high risk victims of domestic abuse. These conferences bring together professionals from a range of agencies to share information and work together to put in place measures which reduce the risk to the victim and any children

<sup>6</sup> SARAC = Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference



## Work on Emerging Issues from 2012 – 2013

Within the Partnership Strategic Assessment 2011 – 2012, the following topics were highlighted as being an issue and/or needing further research, within Central Bedfordshire:

- ◆ **Night time economy (NTE)** – The CSP has implemented a NTE action plan across Central Bedfordshire, which is responsive to emerging and high risk issues within the community.  
The Dunstable High Street North area was identified as having a specific need due to high levels of crime, violence, disorder, ASB and licensed premises. A partnership task group was formed to work through actions to address these issues. Enhancements have been made to PubWatch in Central Bedfordshire, ensuring that landlords contact each other when a patron has been banned, CCTV are advised of the situation, and promotion of the scheme with consequences of bad behaviour is visible for all to see. The NTE is still a high risk issue for the CSP and forms one of our priorities in 2013 – 2014.
- ◆ **Downside, Dunstable** – This area was identified as having specific needs due to low education, high unemployment, high crime, high domestic violence and a large number of young single parents. In August & September 2012, three service events were held to gain the involvement of young females and mothers to promote local services, encourage residents to re-enter education and provide them with information on healthy relationships, career options, health, fitness, sexual health and financial advice. Over 100 members of the community attended the three events seeking advice and receiving support. By providing members of the community with information we provide them with the tools to better their way of living and discover healthy relationships. This will also enable their children to grow up in happy healthy environments and hopefully encourage them to remain in education.
- ◆ **Hate Crime** – An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and has highlighted that we do not fully understand the issues surrounding hate crime within Central Bedfordshire, with a possibility of under reporting of incidents. A workshop was held with experts to establish evidence in organisations, ascertain what data is available and the understanding partners have of this issue. A report is being brought together identifying the next steps and options for the CSP, which will be discussed, and recommendations made, at the CSP Steering Group and CSP Executive in December 2012.
- ◆ **Robbery** – During 2012 Central Bedfordshire saw a rise in robberies. Long term robbery crime figures put Central Bedfordshire in one of the worst performing groups for our most similar family<sup>7</sup>. The increase in robbery was around the long term hotspot Dog Kennel Walk in Dunstable. This area had been agreed improvement planning, CCTV enhancement and environmental change, as a long term solution. In the short term, and to prevent further offences during the summer, a small task and finish group was established. The group arranged for communication material to be targeted at potential victims and offenders, signage to be erected in the local area, a redeployable CCTV camera to be located in Dog Kennel Walk and additional police patrols in the area. Subsequently there has been a decrease of robberies at that location.

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<sup>7</sup> IQUANTA grouping for Central Bedfordshire, with like community safety partnerships / police forces.

## Our Priorities and Emerging Issue for 2013 – 2014

### Priority One – Reducing ASB (personal and nuisance)

#### Findings

- Between July 2009 – June 2012 the number of ASB incidents reported to the police decreased by 26%.
- Between July 2011–June 2012 there were on average 868 incidents a month
- 28% of all incidents reported are for loutish, rowdy or noisy behaviour, 15% are for rowdy or inconsiderate behaviour, 5% nuisance vehicles & 5% nuisance motorcycles.
- The Local Residents Survey & Pride In consultations carried out indicate that ASB is a priority with our residents
- The population profile of Central Bedfordshire will change by 2021 with older people representing 20% of all people. With a growing aging population in Central Bedfordshire there is an expected increase in ASB incidents

#### Objectives

- Identify and intervene appropriately with offenders and in hot spot locations
- Reduce repeat victims and repeat calls of ASB
- Support repeat and vulnerable victims through the ASBRAC
- Support and work with young people referred to the MERJ Project

#### Outcomes

- Fewer victims
- Lowering the risk of victims who receive our support
- Reduction of ASB in hot spot locations
- Increase in community confidence

#### Measures

- Reduced reports to the Police and Local Authority
- Number of referrals to the ASBRAC
- Number of repeat referrals to the ASBRAC
- Increase in people who are confident

#### We will

- Design a performance framework for the ASBRAC
- In six months we will evaluate the outcomes of the ASBRAC
- Work with partner agencies to develop a product which maps the elderly & vulnerable population so targeted work can be conducted
- Work with the community in deprived areas, and use communication to raise awareness of ASB and how to prevent it
- Utilise consultations & surveys to understand the feelings of the local community
- Extend the ASB on-line reporting tool to other agencies
- Produce information leaflets to cover 'How to report ASB', 'ASB Services for Victims', 'ASB Information for Practitioners'
- Learn from young people on the MERJ project & the local communities where restorative justice and mediation is taking place

## **Priority Two – Reducing offending, specifically substance misuse and youth offending**

### **Findings**

- From April 2011 - March 2012 recorded crime reduced by 17% compared to the same time period in the previous year
- From July 2010 - June 2012 13% of all offenders arrested were under 18yrs.
- The number of average re-offences has reduced from 2.32 re-offences per offenders at Quarter 1 2011-2012 to 1 re-offence in Quarter 1 2012-2013
- In Central Bedfordshire, of the 32 IOM offenders, 15 have an alcohol dependency & 28 have a drug dependency (some offenders are dependent on both alcohol & drugs)
- British Crime Survey results show that a high percentage of victims feel the offender was taking drugs or was drunk when the offence occurred
- Surveys carried out indicate that activities for teenagers are a priority with our residents
- There have been lower numbers of IOM referrals than expected, but it has been identified that offenders who live in Bedford & Luton offend in Central Bedfordshire. These offenders significantly impact on local communities

### **Objectives**

- Identify repeat offenders who can be referred to the IOM programme
- Identify young people on the cusp of offending behaviour and work with them to prevent an offending pattern
- Support the Substance Misuse Recovery Hubs by promoting their work and service
- Review the outcomes of the Substance Misuse Recovery Hubs

### **Outcomes**

- Fewer victims
- Lowering offending rates of offenders
- Supporting young people and increasing their chances for a crime free life
- Decreasing the intake of harmful substances by frequent users
- Increase in community confidence

### **Measures**

- Reduction in crime
- Reduction in reoffending
- Increase in offenders going through successful substance misuse treatment
- Increase number of young people being supported

### **We will**

- Review the IOM Business Case and funding for 2013 – 2015
- Work on the recommendations from the review of why there are low levels of IOM referrals in Central Bedfordshire, and increase referrals accordingly
- We will research crime, drug testing and arrest data monthly and recommend potential IOM referrals
- We will commission a problem profile on youth offending, to provide a clear picture of the issue in Central Bedfordshire
- We will work with the Substance Misuse provider to review progress and performance

## **Priority Three – Reducing violence against the person, specifically from domestic abuse and night time economy (NTE)**

### **Findings**

- Violent crime is the second highest recorded crime type in Central Bedfordshire. Violent crime can be split in to two clear categories; domestic abuse & violent crime within the NTE
- From July 2009 – June 2012 there were 9,843 incidents of domestic abuse
- From July 2011 - June 2012 there were 2,562 incidents domestic abuse
- From July 2009 – June 2012 crimes within the hours of the NTE account for 27% of all recorded crime

### **Objectives**

- Identify and intervene appropriately with victims of domestic abuse
- Support repeat and vulnerable victims through the MARAC & SARAC
- Work with partners and Licensees to reduce disorder and violence in NTE locations
- Increase the number of active business in Pubwatch and Radio Link

### **Outcomes**

- Fewer victims
- Lowering the risk to victims who receive our support
- Reduction of hot spot locations and violent offences
- Increase in support for business in hotspot areas
- Increase in community confidence

### **Measures**

- Reduction of violent crime
- Increase in referrals to the MARAC & SARAC
- Increase in Pubwatch and Radiolink participants

### **We will**

- Improve the MARAC and SARAC following their evaluations
- Recognise our hot spot locations, conduct communication and awareness campaigns, and review long term prevention measures that can be applied
- Work with Children's Services to map out current services available for victims and offenders aged under 18
- Seek an efficient method for domestic abuse offending of the IOM cohort data to be shared with Probation
- Work with the NTE problem solving group to ensure prevention and education is available for those that are using the NTE, and also available to those young people who are looking at using the NTE

## Key Emerging Issue

Metal Thefts has been identified<sup>8</sup> as the key emerging issue in 2013 – 2014.

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. It is expected that metal prices will continue to rise until 2015.

Metal thefts have steadily increased in Bedfordshire since October 2010 and due to its rural nature, Central Bedfordshire has suffered a disproportionately high amount. From July 2010 – June 2012 Central Bedfordshire suffered 646 metal thefts and from January – April 2012 there was a 280% increase in the theft of catalytic converters when compared to the same time period in the previous year.

### What we will do

- Work with partners and agencies to support local communities with crime prevention advice with the aim of reducing rural crime
- Work with drivers and businesses of targeted vehicles to provide crime prevention with the aim of reducing crime
- Review work of neighbouring CSPs to identify opportunities for joint working and resource sharing
- Work with partners on Operation Chinook<sup>9</sup> to engage with scrap metal dealers in order to restrict the sale and movement of stolen metal

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<sup>8</sup> Identified from the Partnership Strategic Assessment

<sup>9</sup> The aim of Operation Chinook is to engage with scrap metal dealers in order to restrict the sale and movement of stolen metal. Bedfordshire Police are leading on this operation in Central Bedfordshire

## Victim Services

In May 2012 a report by the Victim Services Advocate was produced for Bedfordshire<sup>10</sup>. This report aimed to summarise current countywide support for victims, identify what victims need from services and to propose a course of action by the PCC to meet these needs.

In June 2012 the CSP Executive recommended that due to the links and interrelated activity with several partnerships, Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT) lead and co-ordinate a partnership response to the five recommendations from this report. CBT recommended that scoping work was carried out by three partnerships to identify service gaps and improvements within Central Bedfordshire.

In September a working group was established and have started to map services, draw together previous strands of work and identify gaps. The results of this work will be discussed at CBT, and put forward to the PCC. It is hoped that it will provide the PCC with the local picture of services, where there are service gaps and where additional support is required.

The CSP has mapped activity around the recommendations for Central Bedfordshire:

Recommendation	CSP Response	Gaps
<p><b>1.</b> Co-ordination &amp; collection of county-wide data &amp; information on victims' needs, and the services available to meet them. Make gaps visible so steps can be taken to address unmet need</p>	<p>The Partnership Analyst, Safer Communities Co-ordinator and Partnership Officer review and research data, intelligence and confidence information to ascertain what our communities feel, where are vulnerable groups and areas are and where support services need to be located. Targeted work and communication is used in high risk areas, at Pride In Events and at service awareness events</p>	<p>Gap analysis needs to be made available to partnerships so areas of risk can be identified and plans to mitigate the risks can be put in place. Gaps that partnerships are uncovering need to be fed back to the office of the PCC for a full picture to be established.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Ensure that appropriate, relevant services are available to victims. Prioritise services which are able to meet victims' needs as they change &amp; those which prevent escalation of risk</p>	<p>Joint partnership working with the Domestic Abuse &amp; Sexual Abuse services has seen improvements in victim care and support, including the opening of the Emerald Centre in 2011. The launch of the ASBRAC in September will assist the high risk cases of ASB being dealt with in a multi agency approach, so the right level support can be to the victim</p>	<p>Service for victims who are low risk is sporadic and identification of support services / sign posting for these victims needs to take place</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Ensure Bedfordshire Police engage effectively with the</p>	<p>The CSP conducts engagement events and raises awareness in the community, at these, promotion of the</p>	<p>Co-ordination is required for work with young people via existing</p>

<sup>10</sup> The Victim Support Advocate project was commissioned by the former Victims Commissioner in anticipation of the arrival of the PCC. The full report for Bedfordshire can be found at [www.victimsupport.org.uk/vsa](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/vsa)

<p>whole community, including young people. Provide opportunities for victims to make contact with local officers and build trust and rapport</p>	<p>Safer Neighbourhood Teams; Victims Services &amp; Public Protection Team can be given. Victim Support services are invited to attend partnership events to build up knowledge and trust within the community</p>	<p>mechanisms in place. Building trust and relationships with our communities is essential</p>
<p><b>4.</b> A victim-centered approach is taken by all services. This means that all aspects of the support offered, including communication, aims to meet victims' needs, rather than simply addressing the crime committed</p>	<p>Community Safety ASB Team takes a risk assessment based approach and put the victim at the heart of the case. Contact with the victim throughout the case is essential and maintains a supportive relationship. Domestic &amp; Sexual Abuse services are victim centered. The Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) services provide a constant level of communication to victims under their care. The establishment of the SARAC in 2011 and the ASBRAC in September 2012 also shows the commitment to a victim centered approach, bringing partners together to provide the right level of service and agency input</p>	<p>As noted in Recommendation 2, work to support those victims who are considered low risk needs to take place</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Champion the development of a joined-up, county-wide approach to needs assessment and support for victims. This should include setting clear referral pathways, promoting joined-up working between services, and ensuring effective handovers between services as victims' individual needs change</p>	<p>Good communication lines when dealing with cases is essential, referral pathways must be clear and defined. Good working links are in place with Children's Services, Safeguarding, Housing, Refuges and Health providers</p>	<p>The use of Stop Hate UK in Bedfordshire needs to be promoted more widely for victims of Hate Crime. Work needs to take place to address knowledge gaps of partners and referral pathways for services in place (such as the ASBRAC, SARAC, MARAC &amp; Safeguarding).</p>



## Confidence

Central Bedfordshire is a safe place to live and work, and although crime levels are low the fear of crime is high. Increasing public confidence and reducing the fear of crime is a priority for the CSP. The CSP utilises consultations carried out by partners to ask pertinent questions, engage and consult at community events, and community meetings, to understand how our communities feel, which in turn helps us to ensure we are focused in the right areas and able to offer reassurance where and when it is needed.

Nationally, people's contact and engagement with the police and their views of how local authorities are dealing with crime and ASB is measured through the British Crime Survey (BCS), published annually. For the crime types and population it covers, the BCS has shown that crime in England and Wales has fallen considerably since 1995. However the BCS has consistently shown that overall public perception is that crime is increasing.

At a local level, the proportion of Central Bedfordshire residents who feel safe outside in their local area during the day is 89% but after dark that drops to 54%<sup>11</sup>. 81% of Central Bedfordshire residents are satisfied with their local area, an increase of 6% from 2009<sup>12</sup>. 72% of people in Central Bedfordshire thought that the police and local council were dealing with the local issues that matter most<sup>13</sup>.

The Residents Survey 2011 asked what was important in making somewhere good to live, and what was needed to improve the local area. The following issues (listed in alphabetical order) were highlighted as priorities:

- **Activities for teenagers**
- Job opportunities
- **Levels of crime & ASB**
- Road & pavement repairs
- Traffic congestion

The CSP holds Pride In events within identified, vulnerable locations or vulnerable communities. These events are a joint partnership and community approach to deal with specific community and environmental issues. The CSP engages with local residents and business to provide support, and works together to build confidence in the area.

At each Pride In event questionnaires are completed by local residents. These questionnaires ask residents for information on what their priorities and concerns are, but they also identify those who are willing to be involved with Street Watch, Speed Watch and/or Neighbourhood Watch. Following a Pride In, communication is circulated based on the 'You Said We Did' approach, feeding back to the community the achievements from the day. Post events, longer term issues and tasks are given as actions and partners follow up on strategic activity. The CSP are committed to these engagement events and will continue to hold Pride In events during 2013 – 2014.

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<sup>11</sup> Source: Central Bedfordshire Place Survey 2008

<sup>12</sup> Source: Central Bedfordshire Residents' Survey 2011

<sup>13</sup> Police Authority survey in 2010



## Equality Impact

The CSP is committed to providing services and support which address the needs of all members of the community. As such the council conducts Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) as strategies, policies and services are developed to:

- Consider issues relating to age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation
- Obtain a clearer understanding of how different groups may be affected
- Comply with legislative requirements & identify good practice

The Community Safety EIA has been reviewed, which has highlighted:

Groups	Highlighted areas
Disabled People	1 in 4 have experience hate crime Disabled women are found to be twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled people
Women	30% of domestic violence starts in pregnancy 45% of women in England & Wales experience domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking during their lifetime It is estimated that 75% - 95% of rape cases are not reported to the police
Transgender	Transgender persons experience high levels of hate crime and hate incidents
Race, Religion, Belief	The Police estimate that most racial/religious hate crime is not reported because victims are too frightened or embarrassed
Sexual Orientation	The Police estimate that 90% of homophobic crime goes unreported because victims are too frightened or embarrassed 1 in 6 experiencing homophobic hate incidents in the last 3 years experienced a physical assault

The information throughout this plan has identified what has been, and is being done, within Central Bedfordshire to address our priorities and support our communities. However in the EIA we have highlighted members of the community with protected characteristics who suffer with domestic abuse, ASB and hate crime, and do not feel able to, or want to, report the incident.

The CSP Steering Group and sub groups are cognisant of this work and the requirements that any action plans created for the three CSP priorities reflect vulnerable groups and individual needs of our communities.

Over the next few months the CSP are exploring options for carrying out a piece of work that will enable us to have a better understanding of the true level and types of hate crime in Central Bedfordshire; identify the barriers that stop victims from reporting incidents of hate crime and identify groups and individuals particularly at risk. The options for this work will be considered at the CSP Steering Group and then recommended to the CSP Executive, together with identified next steps.

## Links with wider agencies, partners and strategies

The Sustainable Communities Strategy for Central Bedfordshire is a prospectus for the area and sets out what sort of place residents want it to be. The strategy looks at a number of key issues which Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Police, Fire, Health, education, business and the voluntary and community sector want to address in the years to come. The community safety section of the strategy outlines the priorities which have been agreed, and the steps that we aim to take to address them.

The Central Bedfordshire Community Engagement Strategy outlines what community engagement activity will take place across Central Bedfordshire. Part of the engagement activity is the 'Let's Talk Together Meetings'. These meetings ensure that communities can ask advice, obtain information, receive details of services and challenge any areas of concern they have. Community safety partners are in attendance at each of these meetings to assist community members with their issues, offer support and signpost people to services that can assist them.

The Central Bedfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) has recently been refreshed. This assessment is the overarching primary evidence base for Health and Well-Being boards to decide on key local health priorities. The CSP are linked to this process and have provided robust information to inform the JSNA and support the development of future health, care and well-being needs of the local population.

A Central Bedfordshire Prospectus has been developed, and is available on the Central Bedfordshire Council website, which assists all candidates standing for PCC. The prospectus is intended to raise understanding and awareness of the make up and key issues in Central Bedfordshire.

The Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017 will be a plan created by the PCC. It will set out the priorities for Bedfordshire Police, objectives for policing and reducing crime and disorder in the area, how resources will be allocated and agreements for funding and reporting on work. The CSP and the PCC will have due regard for each others priorities and plans.

The Alcohol Strategy for Central Bedfordshire is being developed. A partnership event took place in the summer which identified what needs to happen at a local level and at a county level. The next steps in this process will be for partners to come together to write the strategy and action plan, identify a lead officer for Central Bedfordshire and potentially bring together an Alcohol Strategy Group to monitor progress towards the action plan. These developments will take place from September – January 2013.

Work is underway with the Criminal Justice Domestic Abuse Group, a sub group of the Local Criminal Justice Board. The work of the group is focussed on criminal justice in relation to domestic abuse specifically on the Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, with outcomes of improved criminal justice processes resulting in improved victim safety, justice for alleged perpetrators and effective operation of the Court.

## Communication

The CSP is committed to communicate its successes, outcomes and results to residents and communities of Central Bedfordshire. The CSP Communications Plan was refreshed in 2012 and highlights the work that will be undertaken by the partnership, a schedule of publications, national days / weeks of action and key links with communication leads within partner organisations.

There are several mechanisms that we utilise dependant on the topic, target audience or type of message we would like to communicate. With the growing use of social media the CSP regularly uses Twitter and Facebook, and in 2012 started to utilise the Central Bedfordshire Email Alert system. This facility provides targeted email advice and information to members of the community who have subscribed to it.

News Central is Central Bedfordshire Councils newsletter, and is delivered to all households in Central Bedfordshire. Our residents tell us that they prefer to hear from us via this medium. Two articles about the priorities of the CSP, results and our outcomes were communicated in 2012 – 2013 to raise awareness and inform our communities. This is a facility we will continue to utilise during 2013 – 2014.

Members of the local community are working together with the CSP to produce a specific Community Safety Magazine to be delivered to each household across the area. The booklet will bring together all themes of community safety, where to go if support is needed, advice, guidance and information. This initiative is free of charge to the CSP and should be distributed in the winter of 2012.

Where the CSP holds a local service event or Pride In, we distribute leaflets and put up posters in prominent positions in the area, to promote what we are doing and why. Post an event taking place we ensure that the 'You Said We Did' approach is taken, with feedback being given on the results of the event, long term objectives and where communities can get support and assistance. Partners assist in this feedback with articles going into local Town / Parish Council magazines and newsletters.

The CBT E-Zine is an internet based communication tool. On a quarterly basis the five thematic partnerships of CBT provide information, articles and updates to their work and future working. E-zine is used to engage with stakeholders to keep them informed and to enable increased understanding of partnership activities.

## Conclusions

- Considerable legislative change has taken place over the past 12 months, and there has been funding and structure changes with various organisations. However the CSP has achieved a great deal and worked robustly towards improving services for our communities over the past year
- Over the past year there has been significant reductions in crime and ASB within Central Bedfordshire – meaning there have been less victims within our communities
- Over the past year there has been a decrease in the number of offenders on the IOM programme reoffending – so fewer crimes have been committed and there have been less victims
- There have been improvements in the way victims of ASB are risk assessed, ensuring they receive the correct level of care and support
- There have been improvements in the co-ordinated support that high risk victims of ASB and Sexual Abuse receive with the implementation of the ASBRAC and the SARAC
- From November 2012 the CSP will be working with the new PCC in Bedfordshire to help reduce crime, disorder and support those who are vulnerable within our communities
- Over the coming year we will be working to identify current gaps in service for victims which will provide the PCC with a local level knowledge
- Over the coming year we will research the issues surrounding hate crime in Central Bedfordshire and look to improve awareness, reporting and support for those who require it
- The new three CSP priorities for 2013 – 2014 have been identified using a robust mechanism and review what our local communities feel are their high risk areas

## Appendix A. Risk Matrix from the Partnership Strategic Assessment

CSP Strategic Assessment Risk Matrix										
0 - N/A 1 - Low 3 - Medium 5 - High	Performance issue - deteriorating	National Priority	Local Priority	Community Priority	Harm to Property	Harm to People	Generator of Fear/Worry	Cost Impact	Likelihood	Total
ASB (Criminal)	3	5	5	5	3	4	5	4	5	39
ASB (Environmental)	3	5	5	5	2	3	5	3	5	36
Substance Misuse Offending	1	5	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	34
Adult Offending	1	5	5	2	4	5	2	5	3	32
Youth Offending (0-17)	3	5	1	3	4	5	3	5	2	31
Domestic Abuse	3	5	5	1	1	5	1	5	5	31
Most Serious Violence	3	5	5	3	1	5	3	5	1	31
NTE	2	5	4	3	3	3	3	4	4	31
Terrorism	1	5	5	1	4	5	2	5	3	31
Theft of metal	4	5	5	2	5	2	1	5	2	31
Personal robbery	4	5	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	28
Distraction burglary	1	5	3	3	5	4	3	2	1	27
Burglary Dwelling	1	5	3	2	5	2	3	2	3	26
Criminal Damage	1	1	2	5	5	2	4	1	4	25
Sexual Offences	3	5	0	1	1	4	1	4	4	23
TFMV & Interference	2	5	3	1	3	1	1	3	4	23
Hate Crime	2	5	4	1	2	4	2	2	1	23
Rape / attempted rape	3	5	0	1	1	4	1	4	3	22
Other Violence	2	1	4	1	1	3	3	3	4	22
TOMV/TWOC	2	5	3	1	5	2	1	2	1	22
Domestic extremism	1	5	1	1	3	4	2	3	1	21
Business robbery	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	1	20
Burglary Other	2	1	2	1	5	2	1	2	3	19
Theft from the Person	3	1	2	1	3	2	1	2	3	18
Prostitution	2	5	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	17
Fraud & Forgery	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	15
Theft of petrol	1	1	2	1	5	1	1	2	1	15
Other Theft	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	15
Shoplifting	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	15
Street drinking	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	13

To ensure that partnership data is managed in a consistent way, and that the right priorities are identified, a risk matrix is carried out before the strategic assessment is written. Using this assessment process ensures that partnership issues can be compared against each other in an intelligent and structured way. This process provides the CSP justification for why an issue is, or is not, included as a strategic priority.

Following the scoring process, only the highest risks will be assessed and form the basis of the strategic assessment. These will be proposed to the CSP Executive for agreement. This methodology provides transparent, justifiable and auditable evidence and indicates which issues are the highest risk to the CSP and should be considered as strategic priorities

**Appendix B  
CSP Structure  
July 2012**

**Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT) (Formally Local Strategic Partnership)**  
 \* Quarterly meeting  
 \* Provide vision and strategic leadership, to improve the quality of life for existing and future residents of Central Bedfordshire. Bringing together & encouraging greater partnership working at a local level & with the different parts of the public, private, community & voluntary sectors; allowing different initiatives & services to support one another so that they can work together more effectively. To ensure that Sustainable Community Strategy is delivered & that each partner makes an effective contribution to that delivery

**Community Safety Executive Group**  
 \* Quarterly meeting  
 \* Made up of senior officers from the statutory authorities identified in the Crime & Disorder Act 1998  
 \* Manages Performance, Agrees Funding, Authorises Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plans, Reviews Steering Group Update & Signs off any Recommendations, Ensures Compliance with National Standards, Manages the Business Plan for the CSP, Gives Direction for the CSP

**CSP Steering Group**  
 \* Monthly meeting  
 \* Monitors Performance, Scrutinises the Priority/Theme Groups, Reviews Action Plans from Priority Groups, Manages and Recommend Communications & Messages, Reviews Risks for the CSP & Recommends Actions to the Priority/Theme Groups/CSP Exec, Supports the CSP Exec by Monitoring the Business Plan

*Priority Groups*

*Theme Groups*

**Integrated Offender Management Delivery Group**  
 \* Oversees the IOM initiative in Bedfordshire  
 This group deals with tactical issues, resource decisions and feeds up to the Commissioning Group.

**Domestic Abuse & Sexual Abuse Strategy Implementation Group (SIG)**  
 \* To set out a co-ordinated approach to domestic and sexual abuse in Bedfordshire (ex Luton), that will be agreed & implemented by all partners & agencies  
 \* To identify key actions required to tackle domestic abuse and sexual abuse in Bedfordshire (ex Luton)

**ASB Partnership Group**  
 \* Reviews partnership working around ASB  
 \* Information gathering and retention  
 \* Works to the strategic action plan following the recommendations from the ASB review

**Partnership Tasking Group**  
 \* The practical arm of the CSP, dealing with live time issues that need to be addressed.  
 \* Reviews where resources need to be placed, & which areas are in need of additional support

**Bedfordshire Drugs & Alcohol Action Board**  
 \* Monthly meeting  
 \* This group is being reviewed in light of the changes in Substance Misuse Commissioning. April 2013 may see a change in structure, remit and role when Public Health take over the role of commissioning Substance Misuse and BDAT

**Sexual Abuse Operational Group**  
 \* Bedford & Central Bedfordshire group working on Sexual Abuse  
 \* Action Plan agreed by both CSP's  
 \* Strategy in place  
 \* Group linked to the Domestic Abuse SIG & the SARAC