



Appendix **1**

Community Safety  
Partnership Strategic  
Assessment  
**2014-15**

**October 2013**

## Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Description
ASB	Anti Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CPI	Crime Prevention Injunctions
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
IDAP	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
MOJ	Ministry of Justice
MSV	Most Serious Violence
NPS	National Probation Service
NTE	Night Time Economy
OCG	Organised Crime Group
PCC	Police Crime Commissioner
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SERAC	Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference
TEN	Temporary Event Notices
UC	Universal Credit
VAP	Violence Against the Person

## 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 2013-2014.

### **Priority – Reduce Personal & Nuisance Anti-social Behaviour (ASB)**

Due to changes in the way in which Bedfordshire Police record ASB incidents it is not possible to say whether levels have either decreased or increased in Central Bedfordshire, but between October 2012 – September 2013 7486 incidents were recorded.

In 2013 the CSP has continued to develop the Anti Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) with 51 high risk cases being heard since it began in September 2012. An independent evaluation of the ASBRAC was completed, which confirmed that partners saw the importance of the meeting and it was continuing to develop. The review highlighted a number of recommendations to enhance the process.

### **Priority – Reducing Reoffending**

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme continues to be supported by the CSP with 49<sup>1</sup> Central Bedfordshire offenders on the scheme. Due to internal staff changes in Bedfordshire Probation there is currently no performance data available for the Central Bedfordshire cohort for 2013-2014.

As at the end of Q4 2012-2013 there was an average of 0.82 reoffences per offender at liberty, with 26% of offenders at liberty on the IOM cohort reoffending.

There was an overall 31%<sup>2</sup> reduction in the number of reoffenders who reside within the Central CSP when comparing September 2013 to September 2012. The number of offences committed also decreased from 207 offences pre adoption to 163 offences September 2012 – September 2013. This is an overall reduction of 21.3%.

There has been a 21% decrease in the average number of reoffences per offender on the Central Bedfordshire cohort comparing reoffences pre and post adoption on to the IOM programme.

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<sup>1</sup> With effect from 01/10/2013

<sup>2</sup> Reoffending Performance 12 months to September 2013 – Abbie Bowers, Bedfordshire IOM

## **Priority – Reducing Violence against the Person.**

Between October 2012 – September 2013 there has been an 8% decrease in the number of violence against the person (VAP) offences in Central Bedfordshire when compared to the same time period in the previous 12 months. There has been a decrease in the number of offences associated to the night time economy (NTE) with anecdotal evidence from partners advising the number of people using the NTE and the previously associated problems have decreased.

Over the three year period analysed there has been a 10% decrease in the number of domestic abuse incidents. In the last 12 months domestic abuse incidents and crimes have increased comparing this year to last year, with a 12% increase in the number of incidents and a 4% increase in the number of crimes. However, these increases are due to the recent change in the Home Office definition of domestic abuse which took place in April 2013, which now sees the definition including victims and perpetrators who are aged 16-17 years.

### **2014 - 2015**

The strategic assessment process looks ahead at the possible threats across Central Bedfordshire. Three issues have been raised as a concern and are predicted to continue to cause a significant impact on the community of Central Bedfordshire. These issues are recommended as the CSP priorities for 2014-2015. These are:

- Protecting our Community
  - Reducing the number of victims of ASB and supporting those who are most vulnerable
  - Reducing the number of victims of Domestic Abuse and supporting those who are most vulnerable
- Reducing domestic burglary

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 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 needs to use the Community Matrix to identify areas in Central Bedfordshire with a high number of vulnerable community members and target ASB prevention work in those areas.

Domestic abuse continues to be a national and local priority. Numbers have increased in the last 12 months however, this is mainly due to the change in the definition by the Home Office to include younger victims and perpetrators.

The Manshead area of Dunstable continues to have significantly higher levels of domestic abuse. This is due to the demographic make up of the area with an increased number of people aged between 18-24 along with high numbers of lone parents and high levels of unemployment. The CSP need to work in this area to ascertain what services are available, if they are suitable for the needs of the community, if they are being used and to promote those services available.

Available support for perpetrators of domestic abuse still remains an issue with the Integrated Domestic Abuse Perpetrator (IDAP) programme receiving low referral levels and the forthcoming changes in the Probation Service in April 2014 meaning that this programme will cease to exist.

### **Issues for Consideration**

The assessment has also highlighted a number of emerging issues that could impact and influence the work of the CSP during 2014-2015. The CSP need to gain a better understanding of the following:

**Transforming Rehabilitation: A strategy for reform** – under this Ministry of Justice (MOJ) agenda Bedfordshire Probation Trust will cease to exist from 1 April 2014 and will be replaced with one National Probation Service (NPS) and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs). The CRC for Bedfordshire will also cover Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire.

**Tackling sexual violence against children** – The Home Office is leading a cross-government programme, established in the wake of recent high profile exploitation cases, to tackle sexual violence against children. There is evidence of a surge in the numbers of child exploitation cases in Bedfordshire following high-profile cases such as Operation Yewtree<sup>3</sup>.

**Human Trafficking** – the Government is strengthening its capacity to pursue criminals who seek to exploit others, to prevent vulnerable individuals from becoming victims of human trafficking and to protect and support victims when identified. The local case of a slavery ring at the Gypsy and Traveller camp at Little Billington has shown that this is an issue relevant to Central Bedfordshire, but further research and intelligence will be needed to determine the scale of the problem locally.

**The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan** – this plan will set out how Central Bedfordshire will meet the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller

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<sup>3</sup> Operation Yewtree is a police investigation into alleged sexual abuse by the British media personality Jimmy Saville and others.

community and Travelling Show people community up to 2031. The Council has a legal duty to consider the needs of Gypsies and Travellers in the same way as all other sectors of the community. It is estimated that the Gypsy and Traveller population is increasing by 2.5% each year and that 157 pitches will be needed by 2031 in order to meet that need.

**Welfare Reform** – the Government’s welfare reform represents the most fundamental changes to the benefits system in a generation. It has been calculated that on average the combined impact of welfare reforms will have the effect of reducing incomes for claimant households by £1,615 per year.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) has established a Welfare Reform Programme Board, which has commissioned a Resident Impact Analysis to provide insight into changes at both resident and community levels to enable the development of an effective response.

**Organised Crime** – the Government have stated that organised crime<sup>4</sup> is one of the top five policing priorities due to threat, harm and risk posed and is reflected in their new Organised Crime Strategy which was launched in conjunction with the National Crime Agency.

Organised crime is a serious problem that affects real people, with its impact seen on the streets and felt by individuals, communities and businesses every day. Drug dealing on street corners, gangs terrorising communities, burglary by addicts, trafficking of vulnerable people and the selling of illegal tobacco or alcohol are all fundamentally driven, either directly or indirectly, by organised crime.

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<sup>4</sup> Organised crime – individuals working with others, with the capacity and capability to commit serious crime on a continuing basis, which includes elements of planning, control and co-ordination and benefits those involved.