

Community Safety Partnership Plan

2014 - 2015

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

Contents of Partnership Plan

Page No

Glossary of Terms	3
Introduction	4
Community Safety Vision & Aims	5
Performance	7
Achievements against our Priorities 2013 – 2014	9
Update on Emerging Issues	14
Our Priorities 2014 – 2015	16
Key Emerging Issues and Considerations	20
Equality Impact	23
Linked Strategies	24
Communication	25
Conclusions	26
Appendix A – Risk Matrix	27
Appendix B - CSP Structure	28

Glossary of Terms

Acronym	
ASB	Anti-Social Behaviour
ASBRAC	Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBT	Central Bedfordshire Together
CRC	Community Rehabilitation Company
CSEW	Crime Survey of England & Wales
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DASH	Drug Alcohol and Sexual Health
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MERJ	Mentoring & Restorative Justice Project
OCG	Organised Crime Group
NTE	Night Time Economy
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SARAC	Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference
YOS	Youth Offending Service

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 Assessment¹, which sets out the analysis of crime and disorder in the area and identifies the priorities which the CSP will focus its efforts into addressing.

This plan covers the period April 2014 – March 2015 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 23 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 provides 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.

Links to the Police and Crime Plan

Olly Martin, Bedfordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), published the first Police and Crime Plan in early 2013. This plan sets out the police and crime priorities for 2013- 2017 which are based on the issues and concerns of members of the community across Bedfordshire. The three strands to the plan are:

- ❖ **Protecting the Public** - Cutting crime and anti-social behaviour to reduce harm and improve quality of life
- ❖ **Partnership Working** - Working together to provide quality services and develop confident communities who trust and value their local services
- ❖ **Preventing Crime** - Tackling the underlying causes of crime to reduce the number of victims and break the cycle of reoffending

The PCC and the CSP have due regard for each others plans and priorities, and work together to mitigate risks to our communities and achieve tangible outcomes towards our priorities.

¹ 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 organisations² to achieve a common goal.

Community Safety Aims

Community safety aims to reduce crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB) 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 Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT)³, 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 the three CSP priorities we have identified for 2014 - 2015 will have a positive effect on greater economic and community prosperity, sustainable growth and raising standards across Central Bedfordshire.

Understanding our communities

In 2013 the CSP developed a new Community Matrix. This is a tool which can identify geographical areas of need based on collating a range of available data sets. The matrix is a tool to support and encourage wider strategic thinking around key

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

³ 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. 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.

geographical areas of need and to provide intelligence data for locality based services.

The first version has been created using readily available ward data which is considered to be an indicator of an individual's needs e.g. age, employment status, poverty levels.

The data sets alone can not be used to indicate the overall needs of an area but by joining this data together and using a statistical scoring system, the matrix provides a method of highlighting areas where further work or engagement is required.

The Community Matrix will be used to assist the CSP to understand where there is a need for engagement events, support services and communication, and will be used in conjunction with local surveys and consultations.

Performance 2013 – 2014

The table below shows the volume of crimes by type within Central Bedfordshire for October 2012 – September 2013 and the same time period in 2011 – 2012:

Crime Type	Oct 11 – Sep 12	Oct 12 – Sep 13	Change
All crime	11813	11901	Up 88 (0.7%)
Serious Acquisitive Crime ⁴ (SAC)	2350	2792	Up 442 (19%)
Domestic Burglary	719	948	Up 229 (32%)
Robbery	128	128	No change
Theft from a vehicle	1234	1458	Up 224 (18%)
Theft of a vehicle	269	258	Down 11 (4%)
Violence against the person	1849	1700	Down 149 (8%)
Most Serious Violence ⁵	29	35	Up 5 (17%)
Sexual Offences	76	70	Down 6 (8%)
Domestic Violence Incidents	1631	1834	Up 203 (12%)
Domestic Violence Crimes	817	850	Up 33 (4%)
Criminal Damage	2030	1957	Down 112 (5%)

SAC offences have increased by 19% with significant increases seen in domestic burglary (32%) and theft from motor vehicle offences (18%). In the last 12 months Central Bedfordshire has suffered from the displacement of offenders from Luton. A murder and a number of gun related crimes meant that there was a significantly increased Police presence in Luton. This made Luton an unattractive area to offend and drove Luton based offenders into Central Bedfordshire to commit crime.

Between October 2012 – September 2013 there were 7486 ASB incidents reported in Central Bedfordshire, this is an average of 624 incidents each month. In response to a recent ASB review⁶, Bedfordshire Police have taken considerable steps to improve the service provided to victims of ASB incidents. A new risk assessment process has been introduced, which easily highlights repeat and high risk vulnerable victims to ensure that they receive the necessary support. A new command and control system has been introduced which ensures every incident reported to Bedfordshire Police is recorded.

⁴ Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) consists of domestic burglary, robbery, theft from a vehicle and theft from a vehicle.

⁵ Most Serious Violence (MSV) consists of murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, causing death by dangerous driving, wounding with intent to cause GBH, attempt to choke in order to commit indictable offence, impeding the saving of life from shipwreck, causing danger to road users, possession of firearm with intent to injure, use of a firearm to resist arrest, wound or inflict GBH with or without weapon and causing death by aggravated vehicle taking. (Data to the end of August 2012 & 2013.)

⁶ Her Majesties Inspectorate of Constabularies undertook this review

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, and we engage and consult at community events and community meetings to understand how our communities feel. This 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 Crime Survey of England & Wales (CSEW), which is published annually. For the crime types and population it covers, the CSEW has shown that crime in England and Wales has fallen considerably since 1995, a finding supported by police recorded crime which has shown that crime fell nationally to a record low in 2013. Despite this however, the CSEW has consistently shown that overall public perception is that crime is increasing.

At a local level, Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Tracker Survey⁷ takes place bi-annually. The results from September 2013 showed that:

- 74% of residents feel safe when outside in their local area after dark, which was a 4% increase on the results from April 2013
- 95% of residents felt safe during the day
- 9% questioned said they had been a victim of crime or ASB in the last 12 months.

In terms of problems in their local area the top three issues were;

- Burglary, 19%
- Groups hanging around the streets, 18%
- Rubbish or litter lying around, 16%

⁷ CBC Tracker Survey – 500 residents, telephone based survey

Achievements against our priorities in 2013 - 2014

Priority One	Objectives
Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	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

What has happened in 2013 – 2014?

- From May to June 2013 an evaluation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC) was undertaken. The evaluation put forward twelve recommendations to further the development of ASBRAC as a vital mechanism for supporting vulnerable ASB victims. These recommendations are being reviewed and implemented.
- Between April 2012 and July 2013 CBC's ASB Team has investigated 157 cases of ASB.
- Since January 2013 the CBC ASB team has supported the Police Priority ASB team with 79 ASB cases.
- Between April 2012 – July 2013 multi agency Problem Solving Groups have been established for 125 cases of ASB, supporting victims, families and the local community.
- The CSP has produced ASB leaflets to raise awareness of ASB and how to prevent it. Information on the leaflets includes how to report ASB, victim services and information for practitioners. The ASB leaflet will be circulated throughout Central Bedfordshire in public buildings and at events.
- Online reporting of ASB incidents on the CBC website has increased from a count of 39 in 2012 to 41 in 2013 (projected).
- Taking place bi annually, CBC's Tracker Survey in September 2013 revealed that 74% of residents felt safe in their local area outside after dark, and 95% of residents felt safe during the day.
- A Communication Strategy for the Community Safety Partnership has been commissioned to improve communication between partners, the public and within internal council service areas.
- MeRJ is a pilot project that utilises a restorative justice approach to tackle ASB issues. Trained outreach staff from Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service with both complainants and perpetrators to find resolutions. 8 cases have been resolved in 2013. The pilot will be reviewed by the ASB Manager in 2014.

Priority Two	Objectives
Reduce Offending specifically substance misuse and youth offending	<p>Identify repeat offenders who can be referred to the IOM⁸ programme</p> <p>Identify young people on the cusp of offending behaviour and work with them to prevent an offending pattern</p> <p>Support the Substance Misuse Recovery Hubs by promoting their work and service</p> <p>Review the outcomes of the Substance Misuse Recovery Hubs</p>

What has happened in 2013 – 2014?

- Between October 2012 - September 2013 crime increased by 0.7%. Significant increases were seen in SAC which during the same time period, has increased by 18.8%. Burglary Dwelling has increased by 229 offences (32%) and vehicle crime by 213 offences (14%).
- Central Government has established the programme 'Transforming Rehabilitation – a revolution in the way we manage offenders'. The programme seeks to privatise the majority of probation services in order to reduce re-offending rates and deliver value for money services to the tax payer. Thus the current Probation Service as it stands will no longer exist as of April 2014.
- Bedfordshire Police's Children and Young People Development Officer is currently in the process of establishing school forums. These forums will target Upper Schools and Academies in Central Bedfordshire and aim to encourage information sharing in order to identify key problems and themes facing particular schools. The forums will provide an opportunity for these issues to be addressed accordingly. They will also allow for intelligence to be shared in order to identify young people that may be involved with ASB
- There was an overall 31% reduction in the number of reoffenders who reside within Central CSP (Sept 12).
- The number of offences committed by those on IOM also decreased from 207 offences pre adoption onto the programme, to 163 offences Sept 12 – Sept 13. This is an overall reduction of 21.3%.
- The CAN Partnership were awarded the Integrated Substance Misuse contract starting in September 2012. The Dunstable Recovery Hub has been refurbished, and now provides a wide variety of interventions to help people in treatment recover from their drug or alcohol addiction. This has led to 100 more people accessing support in Dunstable within the last six months.
- There have been significant increases in the number of:
 - peer mentors providing support and mentoring

⁸ 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

- meaningful activities and psycho-social interventions
- venues within Central Bedfordshire where clients can access support
- the number of clients who are being supported to reduce their prescription for opiate substitution medication

This will ultimately lead to an increased proportion of successful treatment . The proportion of successful completions in 2013-14 Q2 was 8.2% (from 6.5% in Q1)

- In reducing youth offending with specific reference to substance misuse, Bedfordshire Youth Offending Service has a dedicated Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health (DASH) Worker, who focuses on all young offenders subject to Court Orders where there is an assessed substances misuse issue. During the period April 2012 – March 2013 the DASH worker assessed and supported 24 young people from Central Bedfordshire.
- The Drug Deferral Scheme, which aims to prevent young people entering the criminal justice system, but also address offending as consequence of substance use is utilised by the Police across the Authority. Where the level of substance misuse meets the criteria for Tier 3 or 4 interventions, the BYOS DASH worker refers the young person directly to Plan B for additional support. BYOS are aware of 29 young people whom the police deemed appropriate to refer to Plan B (CAN partnership) for specific substance misuse support, during April 2012 – March 2013.
- Monthly analysis is conducted via the Youth Offending Team (YOS) Manager and the seconded YOS Police Officer(s), to identify those existing young offenders aged 17yrs and six month onwards that may meet the threshold for IOM. Over the aforementioned time period no young offenders from the Central Bedfordshire have been deemed eligible to meet the relevant threshold. YOS will continue to monitor and analyse relevant young offenders from CBC for potential referrals over the forthcoming year.

Priority Three	Objectives
Reduce Violence Against the person from the Night Time Economy (NTE) & Domestic Abuse (DA)	<p>Identify and intervene appropriately with victims of domestic abuse</p> <p>Support repeat and vulnerable victims through the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) & Sexual Abuse Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC)</p> <p>Work with partners and Licensees to reduce disorder and violence in NTE locations</p> <p>Increase the number of active business in Pubwatch and Radio Link</p>

What has happened in 2013 – 2014?

- Between October 2012-September 2013 violence against the person has decreased by 8% compared to the same time period in the previous year.
- The number of referrals to MARAC has increased from 233 during April 2012 - March 2013 to 285 during April 2013 - March 2014 (projected).
- SARAC referrals have increased from 9 in 2012 to 18 in 2013 (projected).
- Referrals in the number of domestic abuse incidents to MARAC and SARAC may be attributed to improved partnership working and raised awareness through the distribution of leaflets, events and awareness training courses.
- The Sexual Violence Awareness Course has received positive feedback. Comments include; "Interesting, interactive & educating" and "Excellent trainers, excellent course".
- The Domestic Abuse Awareness course has also received positive feedback. Comments include, "It was a very enjoyable training session, very professional and packed with information," "Really useful and informative course," and "A very insightful course that I would recommend to my colleagues
- Following amendments to legislation the definition of domestic abuse has been extended to incorporate those aged 16-17 and to include controlling and coercive behaviour as a form of domestic abuse. Subsequently current services to include MARAC, Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, refuges and the Freedom Project will automatically work within the remit of the new definition and provide their services were appropriate.
- Pub watch has been implemented as a night time economy initiative aimed at reducing alcohol related violence and anti social behaviour. This is achieved by banning perpetrators within all pubs signed up to the agreement. Thus far, it has implemented 40 bans across Central Bedfordshire with most notable success in the Biggleswade and Sandy area with a total of 27 bans.

- A Youth Pub has been established in 'The Bridge' in Shefford. The Youth Pub welcomes 14 to 16 years old and aims to bridge the gap from mid teens to the age of legal drinking. The Youth Pub provides non-alcoholic beverages to the teenagers, while allowing them to engage with people their own age ultimately giving them somewhere to go. This is a mutually beneficial initiative.

Update on our Emerging Issues 2013 – 2014

The following topics were highlighted as being an issue and/or needing further research, within Central Bedfordshire:

- **Metal Theft** – Partnership metal theft operations have been carried out in May, July, August, and October. A number of penalty tickets have been issued for individuals not having waste carriers licences, but over recent months this has greatly reduced. All yards and individuals homes (for those who work from home) have been visited, making sure proprietors are aware of the new laws that came into effect on the 1st December. They have also been supplied laminated posters and fliers detailing the changes.

Over the past year, theft of metal has reduced by 16% in Central Bedfordshire.

- **Hate Crime.** In early 2013 a Hate Crime review took place to help us gain an understanding of the level, distribution and types of hate crime residents suffer with in Central Bedfordshire.

The review concluded that large numbers of people who experience hate crimes do not report incidents to the police, and it is almost impossible to establish the actual numbers of hate crimes in Central Bedfordshire. A number of organisations which support minority groups, and residents themselves, gave examples of or disclosed incidents that were either not reported at all or reported to advocacy organisations.

Four overarching themes and 17 recommendations were made following the review, which have formed the basis of a Hate Crime Action Plan.

Central Bedfordshire CSP has taken the lead on this work and formed a Hate Crime Task and Finish Group to cover the whole county linking core elements which are common to all and progressing actions from the Action Plan.

A Hate Crime Strategy for Bedfordshire will be produced which will be underpinned by three local action plans, governed and supported by the respective CSPs.

- **Working with young people.** Analysis and research identified a gap in participation work with young people in regards to hate crime, ASB, cyber bullying and other community safety issues.

In October a Community Safety Day was piloted in two Academies for all students in year nine. The day covered many issues which are essential to a young person's development and safety inside and outside of school

The pilot focused on high priority equality issues strongly linked to safeguarding responsibilities. Many of the issues addressed have been highlighted as concerns by the Office of the Children's Commissioner. The Community Safety day also relates to the Safeguarding and Looked After Children Post Inspection Action Plan and connects with other Children's Services programmes, such as the Troubled Families initiative.

Topics covered within the day were:

- Hate crime & bullying
- Anti-social behaviour & crime
- Legal highs
- Emotional wellbeing
- Health relationships

Following this pilot an evaluation is being carried out, with a view to offering the programme to all upper schools and Academies across Central Bedfordshire.

Our Priorities and Emerging Issue for 2014 – 2015

Priority One – Reducing the number of victims of ASB and supporting those who are most vulnerable

Findings

- Between October 2012 – September 2013 there were 7486 ASB incidents reported in Central Bedfordshire, this is an average of 624 incidents each month.
- Between April 2012 - July 2013 the Central Bedfordshire ASB Team investigated 157⁹ ASB cases, and supported the police Priority ASB team on 79 cases since January 2013. Between these dates they have also organised and coordinated 125 multi agency Problem Solving Groups¹⁰ for cases of ASB
- Between September 2012 – October 2013, there were a total of 51 cases heard at the ASBRAC where victims were supported by partner agencies
- Results from the CBC Tracker Survey from September 2013 showed that: 74% of residents feel safe when outside in their local area after dark, which was a 4% increase on April 2013 results

Objectives and what we will do

- ASB has seasonal peaks and troughs. Numbers of incidents reported increase in the summer months and are linked to the school summer holidays and warmer weather. Numbers remain high through to October and early November where spikes in incidents are seen around Halloween and on Guy Fawkes Night. Communication campaigns will be undertaken prior to these seasonal trends, offering ASB prevention advice and details of how ASB can be reported.
- New¹¹ ASB legislation is being introduced into the UK. The legislation is likely to come into effect in the summer or autumn of 2014¹². The provisions of the Bill replace 19 existing ASB powers with six which are designed to be faster and more effective. A task and finish group will be set up to prepare the Partnership for the arrival of the new Bill and to ensure any necessary training and changes in working practices are in place.
- Two locations have suffered consistently for several years with nuisance motorcycles. Road are used to access local farmer fields for off road riding. Reports of nuisance motorcycles in these areas usually start in April and continue to increase in numbers throughout the summer months. The CSP Tasking Group will produce an action plan to deal with the reoccurring issue of nuisance motorcycles at these two locations.

⁹ ASB OSC Report October 2013 – Jeanette Keyte, Head of Community Services, Central Bedfordshire Council

¹⁰ PSGs look at geographic areas or a particular type of ASB rather than high risk victims

¹¹ Central Bedfordshire ASB Strategic Group: New Legislation 2014 – Hannah Dew, Bedfordshire Police, October 2013

¹² The bill is expected to receive Royal Assent by the end of the session in spring 2014, but this is subject to parliamentary progress.

Outcomes

- Fewer victims
- Lowering the risk of victims who receive our support
- Reduction of ASB in hot spot locations
- Increase in partner knowledge and training

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

Priority Two – Reducing the number of victims of Domestic Abuse and supporting those who are most vulnerable

Findings

- In September 2012, the Home Office announced the definition of domestic abuse would be widened to include those aged 16-17 years, and worded to reflect coercive control.
- Since the definition change, there has been on average 229 incidents reported per month.
- Between October 2010 – September 2013, 79% of all victims of domestic abuse were female.
- In Central Bedfordshire there are more victims aged 18-24 years than any other age group. When data has been analysed there is a clear link between the number of incidents in a location where there are also a high level of residents at home rather than in employment.

Objectives and what we will do

- It is predicted that there will be a significant increase of domestic abuse in July – August 2014. This reoccurring seasonal increase is linked to the school holidays, where families spend an increased amount of time together which can cause increased stress on a family. Increases in the summer months can also be linked to major sporting events, where levels of alcohol being consumed increases resulting in an increased number of domestic abuse incidents. In the summer of 2014 there are two major sporting events. The CSP will conduct a communication and media campaign re:drinking and domestic abuse ahead of both events.
- Downside is the most deprived area in Central Bedfordshire. The demographic make up of this area means that there are an increased number of victims and potential victims, and it can be expected that high numbers of incidents will be reported. The CSP will map the current services available in the area to understand what those services offer and their current client levels. Following this a small series of service events will be arranged to promote local services to the community.
- In 40% of incidents the perpetrator is the victims current partner, 39% an ex partner and the remaining 21% are other family members. 82% of all domestic abuse perpetrators are male. In 2012 the CSP introduced a community based Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme aimed at offenders. The programme has been run by Bedfordshire Probation Service, but from 1st April 2014 no further referrals will be accepted. The CSP will assess options that are available.

Outcomes

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

Measures

- Reduction of violent crime
- Increase in referrals to the MARAC & SARAC

Priority Three – Reduce domestic burglary

Findings

- Between October 2011 – September 2012 there were 719 recorded offences compared to 948 between October 2012 – September 2013, which is an increase of 32%.
- Levels peak from October onwards, with high levels expected through to January. December and January are the most vulnerable months.
- Analysis shows that the majority of burglaries are found by the victim between 16:00 – 19:00 which indicates the burglaries are likely to be found on the victims return from work, meaning that the burglary took place during the day whilst the property was unattended.
- Displacement of offenders following police operations in other areas has had a significant impact on the levels of recorded burglaries in Central Bedfordshire during the last 12 months.

Objectives and what we will do

- In the three main hotspot areas for burglaries it is evident the majority take place during the daytime whilst properties are unattended, with most burglaries being found on the victims return from work. Although there are small numbers of insecure properties reported, the majority of houses targeted are secure. The CSP will work with Neighbourhood and Street Watch to increase the number of schemes in Central Bedfordshire primarily focussing in the three hotspot areas.
- In the majority of burglary offences, the main property stolen was jewellery and small handheld electrical items. Both of these are attractive to burglars as they are easily portable and also easily sold on. The CSP will promote property marking at all community events, and consider supplying those in vulnerable areas with property marking kits. The CSP will work with Trading Standards to consider options available to work with local second hand dealers regarding potential stolen property.
- Partners will be asked to ensure that the CSP Tasking Group are made aware of operations being carrying out in other areas of Bedfordshire where there is a suspected impact on crime levels in Central Bedfordshire, due to displacement of offenders

Outcomes

- Fewer victims
- Community confidence is increased
- Second hand goods market is reduced

Measures

- Reduction in crime
- Increase in intelligence sharing at CSP Tasking Group
- Increase in good neighbour schemes across Central Bedfordshire

Key Emerging Issues and Considerations 2014 - 2015

The CSP relies on data, intelligence and information from a range of partners to understand key issues and risks for our communities. Not all issues can be fully understood until additional research has been completed to gain a better understanding of the problem. Once research has been completed the CSP can work together to mitigate identified risks and support the community in the most appropriate way.

There are a number of emerging issues that could impact and influence the work of the CSP during 2014-2015, which we need to gain a better understanding of and will be considered by the CSP.

Transforming Rehabilitation: A strategy for reform

Under the Ministry of Justice's Transforming Rehabilitation agenda, Probation Trusts will be reorganised into one new National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (CRCs) from 1 April 2014. The CRC for Bedfordshire will also cover Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Northamptonshire.

The National Probation Service will have responsibility for carrying out risk assessments of all offenders, and will manage service users who pose a high risk of serious harm to the public. The CRC will have responsibility for providing supervision and rehabilitative services to all other offenders.

The successful bidder will take over the running of the CRC in autumn 2014. Between 1 April 2014 and the autumn of 2014, a shadow CRC will be run by a team appointed by the Ministry of Justice.

The CSP needs to work to understand the impact of these changes for communities and offenders in Central Bedfordshire.

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. The Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People Group has prioritised action in four key areas:

- Improve multi-agency child protection so agencies are actively identifying those at risk
- Further strengthen the safeguards against online child abuse
- Fully equip police to deal with complex and sensitive cases
- Ensure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system

Across Bedfordshire there is evidence of a surge in the numbers of child exploitation in Bedfordshire following high-profile national cases such as Operation Yewtree¹³. Reports are a mixture of historic and current cases.

¹³ The national operation in light of the Jimmy Saville allegations

A pilot Sexual Exploitation Risk Assessment Conference is now running, which hears cases of high risk children and young people who have or are suffering with sexual exploitation.

The CSP will conduct further work to understand the prevalence of cases in Central Beds and the support victims need.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the recruitment and movement of people by means such as violent force, fraud, coercion or deception with the aim of exploiting them. It is modern slavery. 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 they are identified. A Modern Slavery Bill will be published which will support police to pursue and prosecute these criminals.

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.

Following the publication of the Modern Slavery Bill the CSP will set out the implication for local areas together with what support is needed moving forward.

The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

The Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan will set out how Central Bedfordshire will meet the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community and the 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 estimates 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.

We understand that Gypsies and Travellers are adversely affected by hate crime in the community and in schools, and we understand that domestic abuse does not get reported within the community.

The CSP will work with Central Bedfordshire Council's Corporate Policy Advisor to understand community tensions, impact and feedback from the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan.

The Partnership Hate Crime Task and Finish Group will discuss the implications resulting from the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and incorporate them where appropriate in the Hate Crime Action Plan.

Welfare Reform

The Government's welfare reforms represent the most fundamental changes to the benefits system in a generation. On average, the combined impact of welfare reforms will have the effect of reducing incomes for claimant households by £1,615 per year (around £1 for every £7 of income).

Local evidence has shown Central Bedfordshire is a predominantly affluent area and none of our neighbourhoods are in the top 10% deprived nationally. However, small pockets of deprivation do exist in Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Sandy and Flitwick. The housing market in these areas is characterised by an availability of affordable rented accommodation, therefore it is likely that the cumulative impact of the reforms will generate population movement into areas of lower rent, both from within Central Bedfordshire and migration from London and surrounding counties.

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. This will include both baseline quantitative analysis (published December 2013) and qualitative field study into the 'life, health and well-being' of residents in Central Bedfordshire (published April 2014).

The CSP will continue to keep the impact of welfare reform under review to determine the impact on individuals and communities, providing support and interventions as needed.

Organised Crime Groups

The Government have stated that organised crime¹⁴ 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.

Bedfordshire Police have identified 58 organised crime groups (OCG) which impact on the county, with approximately 414 nominal's some of whom support more than one OCG. The diverse make up of OCGs reveals they do not always focus on one crime type, but are often involved in multi commodity and multi-faceted offending.

Operation Netwing, was a high profile OCG related case which occurred in Central Bedfordshire, where a family from a Gypsy and Traveller site were involved in forced labour, and numerous victims were extracted from servitude and appalling living conditions.

There is a need for the CSP to support coordinated working to collect, assess and evaluate intelligence, in order to stem the opportunity for organised crime to take root and to conduct campaigns to deter and disrupt existing groups.

Recommendation: The CSP will work closely with Bedfordshire Police to understand the impact of OCGs in Central Bedfordshire, and will continue to develop methods to share data and intelligence to disrupt existing OCGs and prevent new ones forming.

¹⁴ 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.

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

None of the CSP priorities have been shown to have a detrimental impact on any residents with protected characteristics¹⁵; however the EIA has concluded that national evidence shows there is under reporting of ASB, domestic abuse and serious acquisitive crime by vulnerable members of the community.

The key issues picked up by the EIA were:

- Under-reporting of hate crime, sexual abuse and ASB, particularly in rural areas
- Possible increase in hate crime targeted at disabled people
- Mental health needs of offenders

To address these, the CSP carried out research and analysis of under reporting of ASB, hate crime, domestic abuse/sexual assault and re-offending, and to ensure that the work carried out on the priorities reflected these issues. Much of this has been identified through the hate crime review and is part of the on-going role of the CSP in tackling ASB, domestic and sexual abuse.

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

¹⁵ Protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership (elimination of discrimination only), race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation

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 how community engagement activity takes place across Central Bedfordshire. Part of the engagement activity is the Town or Parish Council led '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.

The Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2017 sets 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 have due regard for each others priorities and plans.

The Central Bedfordshire Alcohol Prevention Strategy 2013-2016 was produced as a response to the Government's Alcohol Strategy and its aim is to reduce alcohol related harm at a local level which will then have a positive impact on alcohol related hospital admissions and alcohol fuelled crime. The evidence based recommendations identified in the strategy will be used to inform a detailed, local action plan, which will be developed by and subsequently delivered via the Central Bedfordshire Alcohol Steering Group. Work has already commenced within the group to progress the actions and these will be taken forward into 2014-2015.

Communication

The CSP is committed to communicate its successes, outcomes and results to residents and communities of Central Bedfordshire. A new Communication Strategy for the CSP is currently under development.

The Communication Strategy will outline what communication mediums the CSP can utilise to promote its work and the success to specific audiences. The strategy will be further supported by a supplementary document providing an in depth evaluation of current communication mediums and techniques between members of the CSP. Both documents should not be read in isolation but viewed as complementary to help the CSP to achieve its objectives through improved communication.

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, Facebook, and an Email Alert system. This facility provides targeted email advice and information to members of the community who have subscribed to it.

Where the CSP holds a local service event or Pride In, we distribute leaflets and posters 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 in local Town / Parish Council magazines and newsletters.

The CBT 'E-Zine together' is an internet based communication tool. On a quarterly basis the CSP provides information, articles and updates on current and future working. The e-zine is used to engage with stakeholders to keep them informed, and enable an increased understanding of partnership activities. It provides an evidence of positive partnership working at a ground level.

Conclusions

- Over the past year the CSP has worked to gain a deeper understanding of the local community collating different data sets, intelligence and community needs.
- There have been increases in crime and in particular burglary dwellings. The CSP has recommended this is a priority for 2014 – 2015 so work can be done to protect our residents and their homes.
- Since the last CBC Tracker Survey there has been an increase in the number of residents who feel safe when outside in their local area after dark.
- There have been improvements in the way victims of ASB are risk assessed, ensuring they receive the correct level of care and support.
- There is significant change within Probation Trusts and the current way offenders are managed in Bedfordshire will change.
- The CSP has conducted research and a review into Hate Crime. A Bedfordshire wide piece of work has now started which will ensure better support for victims of hate crime.
- The new three CSP priorities for 2014 – 2015 have been identified using a robust mechanism and review what our local communities feel are their high risk areas.
- Six key emerging issues and considerations have been identified for 2014 – 2015 which the CSP will work to understand over the next 12 months.

Appendix A. Risk Matrix from the Partnership Strategic Assessment

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.

Partnership Strategic Assessment Risk Matrix										
0 - N/A 1 - Low 3 - Medium 5 - High	Performance issue - deteriorating	POC Priority/National Priority	Community Priority	Harm to Property	Physical Harm to Victim	Psychological Harm to Victim	Generator of Fear/Worry	Cost Impact	Likelihood	Total
Domestic Abuse	3	5	1	3	5	5	1	5	5	33
ASB (Personal)	3	5	5	3	1	5	1	4	5	32
Terrorism	0	5	1	5	5	5	5	5	1	32
ASB (Nuisance)	3	5	5	3	1	3	3	3	5	31
Burglary Dwelling	5	5	3	5	2	3	3	2	3	31
Distraction Burglary	3	5	3	5	3	5	3	2	1	30
ASB (Environmental)	3	5	5	3	1	1	3	3	5	29
Most Serious Violence	3	5	1	1	5	5	3	5	1	29
Hate Crime	3	5	2	3	3	5	2	3	3	29
Substance Misuse Offending	1	5	2	4	3	3	2	5	3	28
Child Exploitation	3	5	1	1	5	5	1	5	2	28
Adult Offending	1	5	2	3	3	3	2	5	3	27
Rape/Attempted Rape	4	5	1	0	5	5	2	4	1	27
Arson/Deliberate Fires	1	0	3	5	3	3	3	5	3	26
Personal Robbery	1	5	2	4	3	4	2	3	2	26
TFMV	5	5	2	5	0	1	1	3	4	26
Sexual Offences	4	5	1	0	4	4	2	3	2	25
Youth Offending (0-17)	1	5	3	3	1	2	2	5	2	24
Road Traffic Deaths/KSI	1	0	3	1	5	5	2	5	2	24
Business Robbery	1	5	1	4	3	3	2	3	1	23
Domestic Extremism	0	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	23
Theft of Metal	4	0	2	5	0	1	1	5	3	21
Less Serious Violence	3	0	1	0	3	3	3	3	4	20
TOMV/TWOC	3	5	1	5	0	1	1	2	1	19
NTE	1	0	2	3	3	1	3	3	3	19
Criminal Damage	3	0	2	3	0	2	3	1	4	18
Burglary Other	3	0	1	5	1	1	1	2	3	17
Prostitution	1	0	0	0	5	5	1	2	1	15
Shoplifting	3	0	1	3	1	1	1	1	3	14
Other Theft	3	0	1	3	0	1	1	1	3	13
Theft from the Person	1	0	1	3	0	2	1	2	3	13
Street Drinking	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	12

Appendix B CSP Structure October 2013

Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT) (Formerly 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, approves strategic assessment & partnership plans, reviews Steering Group update & signs off any recommendations, ensures compliance with national standards, gives direction for the CSP

CSP Steering Group

- * Monthly meeting
- * Monitors performance, scrutinises the sub groups, reviews action plans from sub groups, manages and recommends communications & messages, reviews risks for the CSP & recommends actions to the Sub Groups and CSP Exec

Sub 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
- * 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. This may see a change in structure, remit and role as Public Health has taken over the role of commissioning Substance Misuse and BDAT

Central Beds Safe

- * Tactical group working on issues arising from the night time economy
- * Action Plan in place
- * Group linked to Radiolink, Pubwatch, Licensees forum and Best Bar None