



Central
Bedfordshire
Together

Community Safety Partnership Strategy

2016 - 2019

***“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
BBN	Best Bar None
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CES	Community Engagement Strategy
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation
ELFT	East London Foundation Trust
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HWB	Health & Wellbeing Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LSCB	Local Children's Safeguarding Board
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MDS	Modern Day Slavery
OCG	Organised Crime Group
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PCC	Police and Crime Commissioner
SAB	Safeguarding Adults Board
SARAC	Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference
THB	Trafficking of Human Beings

Introduction

We are pleased to introduce Central Bedfordshire's Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety Strategy for 2016 – 2019.

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together the five responsibly authorities; Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Bedfordshire Police, Central Bedfordshire Council and Offender Management Services¹. Within Central Bedfordshire CSP we also work with partners from the Youth Offending Service, Public Health, Criminal Justice Sector, Adult Safeguarding, Children's Services, Voluntary and Community Sector. Collectively these organisations work together with one aim – to make Central Bedfordshire a safer place to live.

The CSP published its first Community Safety Plan in 2011 and over the past five years we have achieved reductions in crime, disorder and supported those who are vulnerable within our communities. We are proud of those achievements and are committed to preventing crime, disorder, protecting people and bringing offenders to justice.

We understand that reducing crime, the fear of crime and dealing with nuisance behaviour is an important element in improving the lives of residents in Central Bedfordshire. We can only achieve this by working together as a partnership utilising proven methods of prevention, education and challenging and changing behaviour's.

We support a range of volunteer groups and having been working with local volunteers to make Central Bedfordshire safe, and this plan informs on how residents can get involved and support their local communities.

The next three years will bring further legislation and policy change influencing how we work. In Central Bedfordshire we will see further economic growth, increases in population, and new commercial and residential investment. It is within this rapidly changing environment that the CSP must operate, and its effective delivery will be crucial to ensuring that the area remains a place where people want to visit, live and work.

This strategy sets out the community safety priorities we will focus on over the next three years, which will be under pinned by a CSP Action Plan.

Chair of Central Bedfordshire CSP, Marcel Coiffait



¹ BeNCH Rehabilitation Company and the National Probation Service

The Partnership Strategy, our vision and our aims.

Partnership Strategy

Each CSP across the country is required to produce a three year Plan. It builds on the Partnership Strategic Assessment², which sets out the of crime and disorder in the area and identifies the priorities which the CSP will focus its efforts into addressing.



This Strategy covers the period April 2016 – March 2019 and sets out the expectations of Central Bedfordshire CSP, what it will deliver and how we will consult and engage with local people.

Why do we need a Partnership Strategy?

The Partnership Strategic Assessment helps partners to understand the community safety problems and assists in setting priorities for the CSP. The Partnership Strategy 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.

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. This is why we work as a CSP and tackle joint issues together for sustainable improvements and outcomes for our communities.

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.

² 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.

Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire is a unitary authority serving a growing population of approximately 260,000. The population is forecast to increase to 287,300 by 2021. It is a largely rural area with over half the population living in the countryside. The area is generally prosperous, with above average levels of employment. However, there are pockets of deprivation and greater need mainly in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Flitwick and Sandy.



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Drug and alcohol misuse is associated with a wide range of both physical and psychological conditions and consequences affecting the whole of society. Drinking to harmful levels in Central Bedfordshire is increasing with rising rates of admissions to hospital as a result of alcohol.

In Central Bedfordshire, up to a quarter of older adults seen by health professionals have an alcohol problem and about one in three older people with alcohol problems only start drinking excessively in later life. Results from a school survey in Central Bedfordshire showed 5% of year 6 pupils (ages 10-11) reported they have had an alcoholic drink in the last week. This figure increases with age; 20% of secondary school pupils (aged 12-15) had drunk alcohol in the past week³.

Central Bedfordshire has a significantly lower prevalence of drug misuse and drug-related deaths compared with England. However drug and alcohol misuse still has a substantial impact on crime, health and associated social care needs and services.

Mental health and emotional well-being is just as important as physical health. Good mental health and resilience are fundamental to physical health, relationships, education, training, work and to achieving potential. There are an estimated 1,692 children aged 5-10 and 2,165 children aged 11-15 with a mental health problem in Central Bedfordshire. Approximately 26,200 residents in Central Bedfordshire are predicted to have a common mental health disorder and 11,700 have two or more mental health disorders.⁴ Mental ill-health is a common factor and presents in high numbers of offenders and can be a consequence for some victims suffering abuse.

Organised crime involving theft and fraud against both businesses and residents is an increasingly common problem. Far from the stereotype of lone burglars or shoplifters, organised crime is behind an increasing proportion of property crime.

³ Details taken from the Central Bedfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment September 2014

⁴ Details taken from the Central Bedfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment September 2014

Across Bedfordshire we have mapped our Organised Crime Groups (OCG's) so we can target networks and individuals.

Statistics show that the overall crime rate has been falling for two decades across England; however public perception of crime is that it is rising. Many victims are targeted more than once in a short period of time and repeat victimisation is a common finding across all types of property crime. At a local level, Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) Tracker Survey⁵ takes place bi-annually. The results from September 2015 showed that levels of crime, ASB and dog fouling were seen as top priorities. Other findings were:

- 77% feel safe when outside in their local area after dark
- 98% feel safe when outside in their local area during the day
- 69% feel that in their local area people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well
- 51% agree that CBC are making the local area safer

Central Bedfordshire suffers with seasonal crime patterns, such as increases in burglaries during the winter months and increases in violent crimes when large sporting occasions occur. Due to its geographical make-up, rural crime in smaller villages, hamlets and around farms causes our residents concern. However, comparing Central Bedfordshire to other areas it is a safe place to live and work.

Talking to the community and our service providers we understand that there are still crimes and incidents which are vastly under-reported such as domestic abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime. There are various reasons for under reporting, such as confidence of the victim that they will receive support, victims may feel they will not be believed, culture/family stops reporting, confidentiality and the victims personal life. We aim to help those who are vulnerable to come forward and seek help and support from us, and to tell us about what has happened to them.

Below are details of six month average crime figures per 100 residents⁶. With the exception of vehicle crime, Central Bedfordshire compares more favorably than the national average:

Crime Type	Central Beds	Bedford	Luton	UK average
All Crime	3.66	4.59	5.54	6.57
ASB	2.91	3.56	3.91	5.02
Burglary	0.76	0.65	0.97	1
Violence & Sex Offences	0.71	1.11	1.46	1.06
Robbery	0.05	0.06	0.22	0.07
Vehicle Crime	0.71	0.53	0.96	0.58

Over the coming years the CSP is committed to continue to support low crime and disorder rates in Central Bedfordshire and encourage more reporting of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime.

⁵ CBC Tracker Survey – 500 residents, telephone based survey

⁶ <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/crime-statistics-for-central-bedfordshire-3217034> 2012 – 2013
6 month analysis of Police crime stats

Legislation, Requirements and Acts

There are key pieces of legislation and statutory requirements for the CSP such as the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Police Reform Act 2002, the Police and Justice Act 2006, and the Policing and Crime Act 2009.

In addition to these the national policy landscape has been changing rapidly. The key legislative changes that impact, or that the CSP needs to be aware of, over the last few years relate to:



The **Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011** included the abolition of Police Authorities who were replaced by directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners together with the creation of Police and Crime Panels. The Act also contained amendments to the 2003 Licensing Act which introduced new licensing powers in respect of the late night levy and early morning restriction orders.

The **Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012** introduced significant changes that affected the youth justice system, particularly around youth sentences, remands of children, out of court disposals and crime and rehabilitation of offenders. The Act also set out changes to the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964 which regulated the scrap metal industry.

The **Drug Strategy 2010**: 'Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life'. There are two overarching aims within this strategy which are to:

- Reduce illicit supply and other harmful drug use
- Increase the numbers recovering from their dependence

The **Offender Rehabilitation Act 2013**. The Act extended statutory supervision after release to offenders serving short custodial sentences, allowing probation providers to deal with the causes of re-offending. This has meant that all offenders released from prison will receive at least 12 months' statutory supervision. The Act opened up probation services to a wide range of providers (including private and voluntary sector) through competition and through a system of payment by results for providers. Probation Services are now split between the National Probation Service (dealing with high risk offenders) and Community Rehabilitation Companies (dealing with medium and low risk offenders).

The **Health and Social Care Act 2012**. This resulted in the transfer of Public Health into the Local Authority in April 2013. The responsible authority status on the CSP (previously held by the Primary Care Trust) transferred to the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group on 1st April 2013.

The **Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014** focused on streamlining ASB tools and powers. The legislation replaced and condensed the 19 existing powers to deal with ASB into six faster, more effective ones. It included two important new measures to help focus the response to ASB on the needs of victims to ensure that action is taken to deal with persistent ASB through the new Community Trigger, and a greater say in what form of sanction an offender receives out of court through the new Community Remedy. The Act also contained measures around forced marriage, dangerous dogs and illegal firearms used by gangs and in organised crime.

The **Care Act 2014**. The implementation of the Care Act put Adult Safeguarding on a statutory footing from April 2015. The Act is divided into three main parts:

- One: deals with the reform of adult social care and support legislation and is structured around an individual's journey through the reformed system (be they someone in need of care, or their carer)
- Two: seeks to improve care standards by putting people and their carers in control of their care and support. It provides a legislative response to the Francis Inquiry by increasing transparency and openness. The intention is to enhance the quality of care.
- Three: establishes Health Education England and Health Research Authority.

The **Modern Slavery Act 2015** significantly enhances support and protection for victims. It introduces a statutory defense for slavery or trafficking victims to help ensure they are treated by the authorities as victims not criminals. It puts victims at the heart of the response to modern slavery. It also creates specific new offences around slavery, servitude and forced/compulsory labour and human trafficking.

The **Serious Crime Act 2015** gives effect to a number of legislative proposals in the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. It builds on the current criminal and civil law to ensure that the National Crime Agency, the police and other law enforcement agencies can continue to effectively and relentlessly pursue, disrupt and bring to justice serious and organised criminals. The Act also introduces measures to enhance the protection of vulnerable children and others, including by strengthening the law to tackle female genital mutilation and domestic abuse by criminalising patterns of repeated or continuous coercive or controlling behaviour where perpetrated against an intimate partner or family member.

The **Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015** includes a new statutory duty on specified bodies, including the police, prisons, probation, local authorities, health, schools, colleges and universities, to have due regard to preventing people being drawn into terrorism.

What can we expect next?

- At the end of 2015 the Home Office will be refreshing the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, including its action plan. This will see the police and local authority working more closely together.
- Following the Queens speech earlier in 2015, a Counter Extremism Strategy is being created. This will define extremism and look at values, counter narrative to radicalisation, funding and support for vulnerable communities. Louise Casey is currently undertaking an Integration Review and it is understood that some of the findings from the review will inform the Counter Extremism Strategy.
- A Policing and Justice Bill proposes licensing changes around taxi licenses and immigration. This Bill is being progressed through parliament.
- A Psychoactive Substances Bill proposes new powers for the police to prosecute people involved in trade in legal highs. This Bill is being progressed through parliament

When they are agree, these four changes will need to be mapped within the work of the CSP so we understand the impact and any new implications for us.

Building on Success - You Said, We Did

Over the past year residents and partners have fed back their comments, problems and/or issues to us. We have worked hard together to resolve and support better outcomes for our communities. A few of these issues and outcomes are highlighted below:

"I walk my dog responsibly, every day I always see people who leave dog mess and don't clear it up"

We are able to issue a fixed penalty notice ticket to dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs. We just need to know where they live & details of the dog



"I have to walk through an area that is intimidating and I don't feel safe on my way to the train station"

We worked with the Town Council, Amey & Youth Offending Service to clear up & make the area safer



"I abuse my partner"

Working with Relate we commissioned a Perpetrator Programme for men who commit domestic abuse. It looks to change their behaviour and attitude and stop them abusing.



"Someone has broken the barrier & people are using motorbikes on the children's play area"

We worked with Countryside Access to get the barrier replaced, and spoke to local residents to reassure them.



"They said at the start they would repair my roof for £900"

Working with Trading Standards we stopped a rogue trader from defrauding an elderly couple, who would have been forced to pay over £25,000.



What you told us in Central Bedfordshire

Since April 2015 the CSP undertook a number of consultations and engagement survey's to discuss residents concerns, priorities and hear what they felt about their area.



Public Consultation Events

The CSP runs Community Engagement Events⁷ throughout the area. A wide range of partners speak to members of the public at each event and gain an understanding of what is impacting on them and the priorities within their local community.

Residents Tracker Survey

The Central Bedfordshire Residents Tracker Survey takes place bi-annually. It is a telephone based survey of 500 residents. See page 7 for full details of the results.

Community Safety Survey

During 2015 the CSP published a questionnaire to gather views about crime, disorder and priorities for residents. For members of the community who did not have access to the internet paper copies of the survey were available in leisure centers, children's centers and libraries. The survey does not have a closing time, so we are able to learn throughout the year and understand any change in views or priorities.

Operation Vision

Operation Vision is a countywide initiative that involves Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCS's) interacting with the public to build a picture of issues within the community. Officers identify solutions, as well as offering advice and crime prevention information.

There have been three Operation Visions since April 2015:

- *Wrestlingworth & Cockayne Hatley* - concerns raised by residents were low police presence in the village and speeding
- *Fairfield Park* - concerns raised by residents were parking and low police presence
- *Langford* - concerns raised by residents were ASB (youth related)

Community Complaints

Each year in late spring early summer the use of off road motorcycles increases in Central Bedfordshire. From 2014 there was a significant increase in the number of calls and complaints received in regards to nuisance motorcycles, off road bikes and dangerous riding along pathways and housing estates.

In April 2014 a Task and Finish Group was set up to look at this issue across Central Bedfordshire. A 14 point action plan was created and over the year all actions

⁷ Previously called Pride In

completed. Actions included creation of communication material which was circulated in public places in high risk areas; this material highlighted the legislation around use of motorcycles, off road bikes and mini-moto's. Posters were erected at rights of way locations which provide details to the use of the highway, what is acceptable and what is legal. Community engagement days were held at hot spot locations to raise awareness and educate bike users. Warning notices were issued to those who drove in a nuisance way in view of seizing their motorcycles.

Operation Meteor is a police response to nuisance motorcycle use. Police officers and PCSO's attend high risk locations and educate those using off road motorcycles aswell as preventing nuisance riding and carrying out enforcement action such as issuing fixed penalty and seizure notices, seizing of motorcycles and arrest of offenders. There have been numerous Op Meteors in Central Bedfordshire over the year which have resulted in great success. We need to ensure that we can continue these moving forward.

In August 2015 Houghton Regis Town Council started a group specially looking at tackling nuisance motorcycle behaviour. The group will be supported by the CSP. We will share the previous work that has taken place, and our engagement with local community groups and partner agencies.

What does all of this tell us?

In some communities there is a strong commitment to supporting each other, and seeking help and support for community safety matters. In other areas there is a culture of working through a problem within a family / community unit.

Through all of the surveys and engagement events we have run, residents are most concerned with street drinkers, dog fouling and nuisance motorcycles in their communities.

The CSP has listened to this feedback and over the next three years will focus on a priority:

Protecting our Communities – dealing with Street Drinking and Nuisance Motorcycles.

Over the past year CBC has brought into force Dog Control Orders⁸ across the area, and where possible enforces owners who do not clean up after their dogs.

⁸ More details can be found at <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/community-safety/dog-control-orders.aspx>

Achievements against our CSP priorities in 2015 – 2016

Priority One	Objectives
Reducing harm to vulnerable victims and increasing their confidence to report domestic abuse, sexual abuse and hate crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP will agree an approach and work with others to raise awareness and engage with the male community • The CSP will agree an approach to awareness raising and engagement work with the BME communities to increase support to victims and encourage the reporting of domestic abuse • The CSP will agree an approach to identify care pathways for medium risk victims of domestic abuse • The SARAC Steering Group will implement the SARAC Action Plan and aim to increase the number of referrals received and improve agency attendance • The CSP will work with the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to gain support for the three risk assessment conferences and their subsequent victims from mental health service providers • In order to reduce harm to vulnerable victims of sexual abuse the CSP will review its response to sexual abuse and look for opportunities to work with Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council in order to deliver a more effective response to sexual abuse across Bedfordshire • The CSP will explore opportunities to reduce the barriers to victims reporting, particularly those who are vulnerable, for sexual abuse, domestic abuse and hate crime

What has happened in 2015 – 2016?

- A Gypsy & Traveller Task and Finish Group was convened in early 2015. The group is working alongside the University of Bedfordshire looking at ways in which to increase engagement with the Gypsy & Traveller community. To date extensive research by both the University and the CSP has shown that there are two key pieces of work required. One being the training of frontline staff, providing them with training on the Gypsy & Traveller community and their “way of life” alongside best engagement techniques. The second is the option of a Well-being Champion at each site, these being members of the Gypsy & Traveller community who become the link between the community and services.
- The CSP commissioned a domestic abuse perpetrator programme, which due to its success has been extended to 31st March 2016.
- This year we have targeted a range of domestic abuse communications include messages for male victims and male perpetrators.
- We have recently re-launched the domestic and sexual abuse website www.bedsdv.org.uk includes specific sections for male victims and perpetrators.

- Our domestic abuse training programme offers a course 'Working with Male Victims' to support frontline workers to engage with this client group.
- The pan-Bedfordshire Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) sub-group has finalised referral pathways and is implementing a training package for professionals. Development of an FGM Community Peers programme is being explored.
- CBC are developing an internal Corporate Domestic Abuse Strategy and Action Plan which reflects the key highlighted work strands. It is expected that meaningful progress against this action will commence 2016-2017.
- An increase in Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC) referrals was achieved however, a lack of partner engagement in the referral process and resource implications has resulted in the suspension of the SARAC from September 2015.
- Good level of representation at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has ensured effective information sharing and safety planning discussions with East London Foundation Trust (ELFT) in regards to those who suffer with a mental health illness.
- A range of activities are underway for 16 Days of Action; to raise awareness with both members of the public and professionals in relation to domestic and sexual abuse.

Priority Two	Objectives
To understand the complex needs of those with substance misuse and mental health issues and to work with partners across these two issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSP will ensure they are involved in the retendering of the substance misuse contract and that the needs of vulnerable clients are met. • The CSP will work with partners to improve sharing data which is collated on alcohol • The CSP will establish links with the new mental health service provider and ensure they are involved in current processes which are in place to help high risk victims • The CSP needs to pull together work streams to ensure that the needs of the community are being considered and that all partners are working together

What has happened in 2015 – 2016?

- Public Health are providing a variety of alcohol data to the CSP. Advancing this further the CSP should start to receive some alcohol data down to GP level.
- Bedfordshire Police are looking into the current issues with regards to the recording of alcohol related crime and ASB data. Once the new police computer system 'Athena' is in place we should have better data which we can learn from.
- East Anglian Ambulance Trust are now providing us with data in regards to alcohol and night time economy issues.
- Officers from the CSP participated in the retendering process of the substance misuse contract and mental health contract in Central Bedfordshire.
- The CSP are supporting the mental health street triage initiative being proposed by Bedfordshire police. This initiative proposes a police officer, mental health worker and paramedic operate together to support members of the community who need immediate assistance.
- The CSP is working with partners to establish a process whereby those assessed with medium risk mental health issues, who are subject to/or cause ASB are heard at the ASB Risk Assessment Conference (ASBRAC). Colleagues from mental health organisations would be present to support those individuals.

Update on identified High Risk / Emerging Issues 2015 – 2016

The following topics were highlighted as being an issue and/or needing further research, within Central Bedfordshire during 2015 – 2016:



- **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Last year our knowledge of CSE in Central Bedfordshire was limited. It was recommended that the CSP should work with other parts of the council to commission a piece of work to identify the extent of CSE in Central Bedfordshire and to use this piece of work to create a local action plan.

In January 2015 a strategic Bedfordshire CSE Review was commissioned and in July 2015 that review was completed. The review took into account CSE across the three local authority areas⁹. There were six strategic recommendations for Bedfordshire:

1. Strategic Development
2. Training and Awareness
3. Information Sharing
4. Governance Structures and their Effectiveness
5. Commissioning
6. Multi-Agency Working

These six strategic recommendations are part of a Bedfordshire CSE Action Plan which is governed by the Bedfordshire CSE Strategic Group. The CSP are part of that group and will look to ensure that we support all actions, such as increased information sharing, communication campaigns and training of front line officers across the Partnership.

At a local level a Central Bedfordshire CSE Task Group has been established to work through local actions and look to implement the highlighted recommendations.

Moving forward we are working with Bedfordshire Police to create a CSE Problem Profile. Operational level information is being extracted from key partners' systems, and analysis will be carried out on that data. The profile will be able to give a localised picture of the problem and support practitioners and decision makers in any areas for improvement and target.

- **Terrorism**

The threat of terrorism, extremism and radicalisation in Central Bedfordshire is low. However there are locations in Bedfordshire that are high risk and receive greater interaction with specialist terrorism resources as a result. It was recommended that the CSP worked with Bedfordshire Police to ensure that the levels of risk are understood and that the CSP can provide appropriate support.

Together with Bedfordshire Police the CSP established a Bedford and Central Bedfordshire Counter Terrorism Tasking and Action Group (CTTAG) which meets on

⁹ Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton

a bi-monthly basis. This group discusses current threats, information and initiatives. CTTAG looks at consistent messages which can be shared across partner agencies and the public.

There is a Bedfordshire Channel Panel in place, which meets to hear cases from Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton.

- **Organised Crime Groups (OCG's)**

It was recommended that the CSP worked with Bedfordshire Police to produce a local profile to progress the work of the Partnership in tackling organised crime.

A local OCG profile was produced in 2015 which provided information on the organisation and business of OCG's and what the current picture looks like.

In late 2015 a new structure of OCG management was put in place. Partners come together at a monthly OCG Management Meeting where discussion on specific OCG's takes place together with identification of prevention, disruption and enforcement options. The CSP are an integral part of this process and are able to support the prevention, enforcement and intelligence gathering of OCG individuals and network activity.

During 2014 the CSP supported a project to understand why women move into a life of crime via OCG's. This project was funded by the Home Office. The project report was finalised in August 2015 and there are three main recommendations:

- **Recommendation 1** – Further understanding the evidence base and local provision
- **Recommendation 2** – Increase awareness and understanding of Serious and Organised Crime; the impact and consequences for women and girls.
- **Recommendation 3** – Targeted intervention

The outcomes and recommendations from this project will be shared with senior officers and the project lead at the Home Office. We await the outcomes of this so we can gain a better understanding of this problem and assist partners to move forward.

Our CSP Priorities for 2016 – 2019

The Partnership Strategic Assessment has identified three priorities for the CSP over the next three years.

These priorities have been given an over riding heading, and they are underpinned with the specific areas of risk which require focus.

The causal drivers highlight the common themes and issues which impact across each of the three priorities. This highlights the issues that need to be tackled, or considered, when the CSP start to build the three year action plan and identify how these priorities will be addressed.

Priorities		1. Protecting the Vulnerable	2. Dealing with Domestic Abuse	3. Protecting our Communities
		Modern Day Slavery	Black and Minority Ethnic Groups	Anti-Social Behaviour - environmental
		Trafficking of Human Beings	Under 18 yr. olds	Nuisance Motorcycles
		Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation	Medium Risk Victims	
Causal Drivers	Alcohol	✓	✓	✓
	Drugs	✓	✓	✓
	Mental Health & Learning Disabilities	✓	✓	✓
	Young People	✓	✓	✓
	Open Spaces	✓		✓
Community Priority ¹⁰				✓

¹⁰ Community priorities as ascertained through community engagement surveys during 2014-2015

Priority One: Protecting the Vulnerable

Protecting the Vulnerable involves dealing with:

- Modern Day Slavery (MDS)
- Trafficking of Human Beings (THB)
- Prevent
- Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

The Issue

- MDS and THB is a complex crime which takes a number of different forms, including sexual, labour, criminal and other exploitation (including domestic servitude).
- Between 1 December 2009 – 30 November 2014 there were 35 crimes of MDS recorded in Bedfordshire, with the majority of these being reports of labour exploitation. The majority of these cases were in Central Bedfordshire.
- Prevent is part of the Government's strategy aimed at preventing people from being radicalised, becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. International terrorism remains a serious and on-going threat. The current UK Threat Level for international terrorism at "Severe", implying that an attack is highly likely.
- Intelligence gaps are a key issue across Bedfordshire, with very little intelligence submitted on prevent from partner agencies
- CSE is not new; however, through national media coverage and local incidents a wider public awareness has been created. NSPCC indicate that 5% of children in the UK suffer contact sexual abuse at some point during their childhood.
- Reliable numbers of CSE are difficult to obtain. An enquiry by the Children's Commissioner estimated as many as 16,500 children across England and Wales were at risk of CSE.
- Owing to the hidden nature of these offences, partnership working plays an important role in identifying and reducing the risk of harm to children and young people. Any child or young person from any background can be a victim of exploitation

What we will do

- The CSP to continue to work closely with the Adult Safeguarding team and other teams to identify key locations and to develop awareness training for frontline staff
- We will work with partners and teams to ensure that frontline staff are trained on early identification of potential victims and that relevant MDS data is recorded.
- The CSP will ensure that resources are linked and that front line staff have received the relevant training and understand their duty under Prevent
- The CSP will actively identify any actions applicable to them and will engage at all times with the LSCB and the CSE Working Group

Outcomes

- Stronger and better joint working between Partnerships, partners and teams on key issues
- Increased referrals of those who are vulnerable and require support
- Better understanding of problems that communities face
- Targeted resources and support services to areas and communities who need additional support

Priority Two: Dealing with Domestic Abuse

Dealing with Domestic Abuse involves working with:

- Black and ethnic minority groups
- Under 18 year olds
- Medium risk victims

The Issue

- Domestic abuse causes considerable harm to not only the victims but also their wider family, it also accounts for just over 10% of all crime recorded in Central Bedfordshire and approximately 30% of all violent crime.
- It is thought nationally that 60% of domestic abuse incidents are not reported to the police, this could mean that reported incidents for the last 12 months should be just over 13,500 in Central Bedfordshire
- Within Central Bedfordshire the largest Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) community is the Gypsy & Traveller community. In January 2015 a survey completed with members from the Gypsy & Traveller community advised that 83% of those surveyed from the community advised that domestic abuse was an issue in their community. As a result of these findings the CSP has lead a Gypsy & Traveller Task & Finish Group whose aim is improve engagement with the Gypsy & Traveller community in Central Bedfordshire.
- In Central Bedfordshire only 5% of victims who reported a domestic abuse incident between October 2014 – September 2015 were aged under 18 years old. The vast majority of victims in Central Bedfordshire were aged between 18-24 years. These numbers are much lower than what is expected based on our population and it is recognised nationally that domestic abuse is under reported in this age group with many people under the age of 18 not identifying domestic abuse amongst their age group.
- A risk assessment is carried out by Bedfordshire Police on all domestic abuse incidents. Around 18% of domestic abuse incidents and crimes recorded between October 2013 and September 2014 were risk assessed as “high”. Around 65% were risk assessed as “medium” with the remaining being standard risks. High risk cases make up around 16% of the total of all incidents in Central Bedfordshire, with 67% medium risk.

What we will do

- The CSP needs to understand the reasons for lower reporting levels from the BME community and look at ways in which the reporting can be increased.
- The CSP needs to understand the reasons behind low reporting levels from the teenage age group and look to raise awareness and increase reporting levels.
- The CSP will continue to work on addressing the support required for medium risk victims, which has started following recommendations from the CBC Corporate Strategy and Plan for Domestic Abuse.

Outcomes

- Better support will be provided to those who are from a BME group
- Increase in referrals to support services within Central Bedfordshire
- Better understanding of identified vulnerable groups within Central Bedfordshire

Priority Three: Protecting our Communities

Protecting our Communities involves dealing with:

- Anti-Social Behaviour – environmental
- Nuisance motorcycles

The issue

- Street drinking is a complex issue which has a negative impact upon the quality of lives of local residents and businesses in Central Bedfordshire. It is classed as ASB predominately due to outcomes from street drinking, such as littering, noise nuisance, abusive and disorderly behaviour. It also has an extremely detrimental impact on the health and well-being of those partaking in street drinking, with at least 12 serious medical conditions being linked to chronic heavy drinking.
- Street drinking is a concern to the residents of Central Bedfordshire. Just under 15% of residents surveyed advised the main concern in their area was “people being drunk or rowdy in public places”.
- Between October 2014 – September 2015 there were 367 ASB incidents reported to Bedfordshire Police that related to street drinking in Central Bedfordshire. Alcohol related ASB is not currently accurately recorded and it is felt that this number is not a true reflection of the issue in Central Bedfordshire and that accurate recording would raise this number higher
- Nuisance motorcycles have been a significant issue in Central Bedfordshire for some years and reports of nuisance motorcycles has steadily increased over the last three years. In September 2015, 17% of residents surveyed stated that nuisance motorcycle was a problem in their area.
- Although there are a high number of reports of nuisance motorcycles on open land which is usually associated with off road biking, there are also a large number of reports from residential areas, such as Parkside Drive and Chelsea Gardens in Houghton Regis. Reports in the residential areas are mainly of youths aged 13-17 riding bikes, without helmets and sometimes with more than one person on each bike.
- Between April 2015 – October 2015 there were 30 reports of moped/motorbike fires made to Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue. The majority of these fires took place in the south of Central Bedfordshire, mainly in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area.
- Between October 2014 - September 2015 there were 446 theft of motor vehicle offences reported in Central Bedfordshire, of those 169 offences (38%) were stolen motorcycles or mopeds and 86% of these thefts occurred in the south of the area, in Dunstable, Houghton Regis or Leighton Buzzard.

What we will do

- The CSP will pilot a Community Alcohol Partnership approach to tackle street drinking in one of the three hot spot areas
- We will utilise the new ASB legislation to support the local community and tackle ASB which surrounds street drinking.

- The CSP will form a multi agency Task & Finish Group for nuisance motorcycles which will look to reduce the number of reported incidents. This group should target any work in the Dunstable and Houghton Regis area

Outcomes

- Street drinkers receive support in regards to their substance misuse
- Reports of ASB nuisance will be reduced
- We will work together with the community to support prevention and education of those who otherwise would cause a nuisance

High Risk Issue for the CSP in 2016 – 2019

Sexual Abuse

The term sexual abuse covers a wide range of abuse acts directed towards an individual's sexuality, including sexual assault, rape, sexual coercion, sexual bullying and female genital mutilation. Sexual abuse can be defined as any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding. Sexual abuse affects people of all genders, culture and age groups and is a criminal offence.

Locally

- Between October 2014 – September 2015 there were 271 sexual offences in Central Bedfordshire reported to Bedfordshire Police. This is an increase of 54% when compared with the previous 12 months.
- 34% of offences reported in the 12 months period were cases of historical abuse.
- Between October 2014 – September 2015 there were 100 offences of rape recorded in Central Bedfordshire, an increase of 32% when compared to the previous 12 months.
- In Central Bedfordshire 89% of all sexual offences recorded involved a female victim and of the 271 reported 19% of them had a victim who was aged under 18 years.

It is known nationally that sexual abuse offences are significantly under-reported with 90% of rapes going unreported and it is therefore, believed locally that the vast majority of offences are not reported to the police.

In view of the continuing increase in reporting of sexual offences and the known under reporting, the CSP need to consider what their response is to sexual abuse in Central Bedfordshire.

Recommendation: The CSP Executive to consider the recommended response to the increase in recorded sexual abuse and the known levels of underreporting.

Getting things done 2016 - 2019

Local delivery of our priorities is key to the success of the CSP. Where possible we will look to join up resources and efforts at a local level, ensuring that we are focused on the most important issues in that area. A snap shot of key local delivery over the coming years is identified below.



Substance misuse

In the summer 2015 Central Bedfordshire Public Health re-commissioned early intervention and treatment services for alcohol and drug misusers. We will ensure that there are pathways in place to access these from the criminal justice system. These services will be delivered within the wider framework of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

In addition to early intervention we will continue to provide services for people who want to stop their established substance misuse. We will support and divert those who commit crime to support their substance misuse habits into treatment programmes.

The CSP will continue to roll out the Best Bar None (BBN) project which looks to positively support the night time economy, help licensees with safer drinking policies and ensure patrons have a positive experience when going out in our area. In 2015 – 2016 Dunstable and Houghton Regis will both be part of the BBN project. Moving forward we would like to see Leighton Buzzard and Biggleswade also part of the scheme.

Mental Health

In the summer 2015 Central Bedfordshire Public Health re-commissioned the mental health provision. We will ensure that there are pathways in place to access support for vulnerable victims, offenders and those in the community who are asking for support. These services will be delivered within the wider framework of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Bedfordshire police are leading on a Mental Health Street Triage initiative with colleagues across Bedfordshire. This would see a police officer, mental health nurse and a paramedic deal with 999 calls for assistance for those who are suffering with a mental health issue and need immediate attention. The three officers would be able to access their organisations' details for the patient, and attend the incident in the same vehicle. Currently we are learning from other counties that have undertaken this work, so we can build a business case and seek funding for the project.

Domestic Abuse

Male offenders who commit domestic abuse and who ask for help to positively change their offending behaviour will be supported by way of a Perpetrator Programme. The programme looks to assist in changing their behaviours and attitudes, ending the cycle of abuse. Toward the end of the current program's funding we will evaluate the outcomes and talk to those who have engaged with it. If the

evaluation proves the programme is successful, we will seek additional funding so we can continue.

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) team are currently conducting research and identifying a cohort of individuals who are prolific domestic abuse offenders. Once identified suitable pathways will be put in place to address this offending behaviour via this intensive programme.

Crime

The police focus on crime prevention and detection will continue at a community level. Threat, harm and risk of those who are vulnerable will be a focus for the police together with the safety and protection of those suffering from CSE, Serious Sexual Offences and Domestic Abuse.

The CSP Community Engagement days will have a crime prevention focus so we are able to support vulnerable people and prevent them being victims of crime in their communities.

We will work with Trading Standards officers to protect those who are vulnerable to rogue traders and offer Good Neighbour schemes, crime prevention advice and share information and intelligence about offenders who prey on vulnerable people.

The CCTV Team will continue to support the police in identifying suspects and monitoring incidents at CCTV locations in Central Bedfordshire. In six months of 2015 the team contributed to over 26 arrests and supported 122 incidents; we will build on these successes to reduce crime and incidents in our area.

Children

The Access and Referral Hub in Central Bedfordshire Council's Children's Services supports children and young people who are at risk, or could be at risk within our local community. The CSP will work with the hub to identify trends, series, persons' of interest and community concerns. These issues will be taken through the Partnership Tasking process for action planning and problem solving.

Over the coming year a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) will be established in Central Bedfordshire, which will see partner agencies coming together in one place to provide support for an individual.

The Family

We will work with colleagues on the Central Bedfordshire Supporting Families programme¹¹. The aim of the programme is to help families achieve significant and sustained progress in overcoming their difficulties. Our aim is to support 1,090 Central Bedfordshire families over five years (2015-2020) to make long lasting changes in their lives. Results-based funding is provided by central government. The income received will be used to provide a range of Early Help services for these families across Central Bedfordshire.

¹¹ Supporting Families is part of the National Troubled Families initiative

Vulnerable people

We will continue to work with partners to understand modern day slavery and trafficking of human beings. We will raise awareness of these two key issues within our workforce, our communities and positively react to information that we receive.

We will work with the police when intelligence indicates there are vulnerable people being targeted in our communities, and assist in planned operations to tackle offenders and free victims.

Against our families on the Supported Families programme we have mapped offenders who are involved in organised crime, and we will also map those on the IOM programme. This ensures a complete picture is available to case workers and the correct level of support can be given.

Victims

In late 2015 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) conducted a Victims Need Analysis with partners from across Bedfordshire. This was with a view to ensuring that relevant services are provided to residents who are victims of crime, in line with the activities outlined in the Victims Code. The CSP is part of a core group who have just started working with the PCC to ensure that we commission services which are value for money and meet the needs of victims. This will be achieved through co-development of elements of the service.

The CSP continues to refer vulnerable victims to the 'Bobby Van' for quick support to crime prevention hardware (such as door locks, safety chains), and to the Fire and Rescue Service for those who may be vulnerable to a fire related attack.

The CSP will continue to support the two Domestic Abuse Refuge's in Central Bedfordshire which support high risk victims of domestic abuse to move away from their abusive relationships. We also support the Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors (IDVA's) who work with high risk victims and offer critical care and support.

Offenders

IOM is responsible for delivering the strategic objectives of the CSP in relation to reducing reoffending. IOM targets a cohort of offenders who are identified as being the most prolific and at high risk of reoffending, taking a multi-agency partnership approach.

The IOM cohort criteria was previously based upon high-volume serious acquisitive crime offences. This criteria has recently been reviewed and in early 2016 a new assessment will ensure that we are working with the most prolific and of risk offenders to Bedfordshire.

Central Bedfordshire has an Accommodation and Support Worker pilot programme in place for IOM offenders. Work has started with colleagues in Bedford and Luton to review how we commission dedicated accommodation for offenders and if we are able to jointly commission services moving forward over the next three years.

Since 1st April 2015 Community Payback has supported regular unpaid work within the local community. A few examples of how the partnership has been able to utilise this support these include:

- Weekly visits in Leighton Buzzard, Houghton Regis, Heath & Reach, Priory Park, to assist in maintenance of parks, cemeteries and footpaths
- Weekly visits to assist clearing around the canal footpaths for Canal and River Trust
- Monthly visits to assist in clearing and maintaining Turvey Cemetery
- Community Safety leaflet delivery across the whole of Central Bedfordshire

We will continue to work with the Community Payback team and highlight opportunities for community engagement with them in Central Bedfordshire.

Volunteering in Central Bedfordshire

Volunteering makes a difference to individuals' lives through the giving of time and skills as well as the benefits it brings to local communities. It is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and gain useful experience.



A range of organisations are already working together to help keep communities safe and would like more people to come forward to volunteer. Whatever skills and experience you have, there is something you can do.

Bedfordshire Street Watch

Street Watch is a group of local residents who promote good citizenship and support a better neighbourhood by patrolling their streets. They provide visible reassurance and appropriately engage in local issues that matter most to the community.

The presence and activities of Street Watch members have a significant and positive impact on quality of life issues within the community. Members liaise with local Police to encourage positive information sharing and partnership working.

<http://www.street-watch.org/page20.html>

Community Speed Watch

Motorists speeding through our towns and villages often appear unaware of the danger they pose to other road users and pedestrians, especially children. Neither do they appear aware of the impact their actions have on the quality of life of residents.

Bedfordshire Speed Watch helps residents reduce the dangers and impact of traffic speeding through the neighbourhood. Bedfordshire has an increasing number of town and village Speed Watch Groups. Each group is formed of local community volunteers who are police trained and insured, with the aim of making the community a safer, better place to live.

http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/tackling_crime/watch_schemes/speed_watch.aspx

Good Neighbours Scheme

Good Neighbour schemes (sometimes known as Village Care Schemes) provide easy access to help and support, and act as a safety net for everyone in a town or village, regardless of age.

They can help to lessen the impact on a community caused by the decline in services and facilities such as public transport, shops, Post Offices, doctor's surgeries and pubs. They can also help to reduce feelings of isolation and exclusion experienced by some individuals if families and friends move away.

<http://bedsrcc.org.uk/good-neighbour-scheme/>

Neighbourhood Watch

Each Neighbourhood Watch group is defined as a "scheme" and can be formed by a small number of houses, a whole street or a housing estate. Each scheme is organised by a co-ordinator and an area co-ordinator provides support and assistance to all Neighbourhood Watch schemes in their designated district.

All Neighbourhood Watch schemes are voluntary community initiatives, which are supported by the Police, but not run by them. All schemes require their members to remain alert to any criminal or suspicious activity in their neighbourhood and report it, without delay, to the Police. Additionally, Neighbourhood Watch schemes encourage households to take crime prevention measures to secure their property.

<http://www.bedfordshire-neighbourhoodwatch.co.uk/>

Nominated Neighbour Scheme

The Nominated Neighbour Scheme is designed to protect elderly and vulnerable residents against rogue traders. To get involved with this scheme residents sign up by filling out a postcard. Their details will then be supplied to their elderly and vulnerable neighbours. In the event of cold callers arriving on their doorstep, they are directed to talk with the Nominated Neighbour, rather than the person at whose house they have called.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/local-business/trading-standards/trading-standards-consumer-advice.aspx>

Street Pastors

Street Pastor's are trained volunteers and members of the church community with concern for society – in particular around young people who feel excluded or marginalised. By getting to know people on the streets, in the pubs and clubs or at parties, the Street Pastors gain an understanding of both personal and community needs.

The Street Pastors role is not one of preaching religion, but one of listening, caring, helping and working in an unconditional way. Street Pastors can be found in Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable assisting members of the community on a Friday and Saturday night.

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/community-safety/volunteering.aspx>

Get involved

To find out more or to get involved in other volunteering opportunities in Central Bedfordshire, visit the [Do-it website](#).

Equality

The CSP is committed to providing services and support which address the needs of all members of our community.

Over the past few years the CSP has embedded equality in all it does and uses the Partnership Strategic Assessment as an evidence base for its work and to prioritise the highest risks within the community.



The CSP takes into account key issues such as the under reporting of certain crime types. Over the past few years we have researched and learnt that hate crime, domestic abuse and sexual abuse are vastly under reported, and especially so within certain communities and cultures. We work, and will continue to work, to encouraging reporting within vulnerable communities and cultures who are more fearful to come forward to ask for help.

The three identified priorities will support those who are more vulnerable within our communities and who may be targeted as a result of their vulnerability. There is more work that we need to do to engage with hard to reach groups, to listen to their experiences and to offer support to them.

In 2015 the CSP worked with the University of Bedfordshire to understand the crime and disorder issues affecting the Gypsy and Traveller community in Central Bedfordshire. This work has led to a conference with front line practitioners and the start of a training and awareness programme.

The CSP works closely with the Corporate Policy, Equality and Diversity Advisor from CBC to ensure learning and good practice is shared across the Council and our partner agencies.

The groups of the CSP are cognisant of equality and diversity work, and enforce requirements that any action plans created for the CSP priorities reflects vulnerable groups and the individual needs of our communities.

CSP links with wider agencies, partners and strategies

The **Community Engagement Strategy (CES)** for Central Bedfordshire 2013-2016 ensures that we have a strategic and co-ordinated partnership approach to community engagement. The strategy based on five key principles:



1. Supporting local people to engage inform and influence decisions to help shape their communities
2. Enabling Ward Councilors' to be leaders in and for their communities
3. Enhancing the role of Town and Parish Councils
4. Enabling more services to be delivered locally
5. Enabling employers to thrive and play an active role in their local community.

The five key principles reflect local priorities and the emphasis is on working together with communities to tackle local issues, share information, and develop a better understanding through community insight. Our CES ensures that engagement with our communities is at the heart of everything we do, helping to make sure we can provide great services for our residents.

The **Central Bedfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)** is assessment is the overarching primary evidence base for Health and Well-Being Boards to decide on key local health priorities. The CSP is 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, the objectives for policing and reducing crime and disorder in the area. It details 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 Steering Group. Work has already commenced and these will be taken forward into 2016 - 2019.

Partnership Boards

In early 2015 the four Central Bedfordshire Partnership Boards¹² agreed a joint protocol and way of working together. This was agreed by each board's executive group and subsequently signed by each Board Chair.

The work and the priorities of the CSP, Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB), Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) have common threads and impact factors. Considering where links can be made and

¹² Community Safety Partnership, Health & Wellbeing Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Board.

where actions can be progressed together provides clarity of resource, and supports better outcomes for our communities.

The identified common themes and links are:

- Domestic Abuse
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Mental Health
- Substance Misuse
- Modern Day Slavery
- Prevent
- Transitions (moving from Children's services to Adult's services)

The respective Partnership Board / Business Managers have undertaken to meet on a bi-monthly basis to highlight key priorities and risks with their board's work, where linked work could take place and where action plans require aligning. It also provides clarity of ownership and challenge as to specific areas of work.

To move forward we not only need to understand the work of each Partnership Board, its remit, its statutory duties and its priorities, but to also understand the impact of key topics and how they can be tackled together. Therefore a yearly joint Partnership Board development day for Chairs, Vice Chairs, statutory partners and Executive Members has been recommended. The first development day will take place in 2016. We will evaluate the success and impact of the event.

Appendix A - CSP Structure
October 2015

