



**ROCHDALE SAFER COMMUNITIES
PARTNERSHIP**

SAFER ROCHDALE PLAN 2008 – 2011

FOREWORD

The protection of our family and friends, our property and possessions and most of all our own personal safety are top priorities for us all. Local people have told us repeatedly that they want to go about their daily business without fear of danger or harm. The Safer Communities Partnership is determined to do everything it can to achieve that.

Since we launched our last Safer Communities Strategy in 2005 we have made good progress on a number of fronts. Collectively, the group of crimes measured in the British Crime Survey have been reduced by almost 26%. Burglaries have fallen by almost 50%, woundings by over 30% and vehicle crimes by a similar amount. Numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time have reduced year-on-year. More people are actively engaged with treatment services for drug and alcohol misuse. The most prevalent forms of anti-social behaviour have fallen by over 10% in the past year whilst at the same time we have put in place measures to encourage greater reporting.

Most significantly, a Boroughwide survey conducted in 2007 found that, for the first time this decade, over 50% of respondents felt the Borough was a safe place to live.

Whilst these results are encouraging, we know we still have much to do to drive down crime further and help people to feel safer in a highly challenging and rapidly changing environment. We know that people still feel strongly that anti-social behaviour is an issue for us to address, and that they remain concerned about crimes such as burglary and drug dealing. We are aware that we need to work together as partners to increase public confidence in our ability to deal with these issues robustly and effectively.

The next three years will be a period of transformation for the Borough, with major developments such as Kingsway Business Park and regeneration of our town centres. The Partnership intends to play an active role in supporting these developments and, as we move into the next decade, achieving a vision of the Borough being a vibrant and attractive place for people to live and work in and to visit. We particularly want to see flourishing communities where local people are actively engaged in preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, and where they can see the difference the Partnership is making and feel safer as a result.

This Safer Communities Plan sets out our targets for the next three years and how we intend to achieve them. It has been informed by public feedback, through survey responses, comments made on reading our summary issued late last year, and face-to-face at PACT meetings and Area Forums. As the Government's new crime strategy 'Cutting Crime' requires, we will review our progress every year and refresh the Plan as required, ensuring that we are continually able to respond to emerging demands and pressures.

I hope that you find the Plan informative and that you will be able to share with the Partnership the experience of realising our vision over the forthcoming years.

ROGER ELLIS
CHAIR, ROCHDALE SAFER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Safer Rochdale Plan is the fourth of the Safer Communities Partnership's three-year strategic documents, the first having been published back in 1999. The Plan aims to build on the Partnership's progress and achievements to date and provide a framework for responding robustly and effectively to the new challenges we will face over the next three years.

The Plan has been produced in accordance with the Home Office's Guidance for Effective Partnership Working, published in October 2007. It has been informed by consultation during Autumn 2007 with local organisations and communities, and by a comprehensive Strategic Assessment of local crime, disorder, drug and alcohol patterns and trends conducted by our Partnership Analyst. Whilst the Plan will have a three-year lifespan, as the Home Office Guidance directs, it will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis.

The Plan sets out to describe:

- The Partnership's crime, disorder, drug and alcohol prevention and reduction priorities for the next three years.
- The role each partner organisation will play in supporting delivery of these priorities, and how this process will be resourced
- How we will measure and report our performance against the priorities
- How we will continue to engage and involve local people throughout the Borough in identifying new and emerging issues, and in shaping and implementing solutions.

2. THE PARTNERSHIP VISION AND PRIORITIES

We all want to be safe and feel as safe as possible from the impact of crime in our communities. Improving community safety continues to be a top priority for the Borough's residents. This is reflected in the updated Community Strategy "Pride of Place", which sees Rochdale in 2021 as:

"A thriving place where people want to live, work, visit and do business – a place in which we can all take pride"

The Safer Communities Partnership is committed to working in support of achieving this vision, and, when launching the previous Strategy in 2005, adopted a complementary vision to:

"Make the Borough a place where everyone is safe and feels safe"

The Partnership reaffirmed this vision and its commitment to achieving it at its Strategy Planning Day in May 2007, where it agreed to adopt the following six Strategic Priorities for the next three years:

- Build and promote safer communities
- Reduce crime
- Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol
- Build respect in communities
- Prevent offending by children and young people
- Reduce Adult Re-offending

3. NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

National context

Almost a decade ago, the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 put partnership working to tackle these problems on a statutory footing for the first time. Since then, Community Safety Partnerships have contributed to a sustained fall in crime over the past ten years. However, the landscape in which Partnerships work has changed considerably. The Home Office recognised this and undertook, with stakeholders, a review of the partnership provisions of the Act during 2004/05. The recommendations were incorporated into the Police and Justice Act 2006. For Partnerships, whilst some duties from the Crime and Disorder Act were repealed, some new statutory requirements were introduced, including a range of statutory Minimum Standards and Hallmarks of Effective Practice that all Safer Communities Partnerships must work to and against which they will be measured by the Government.

Since 1998, a number of other Acts have provided a legislative framework to guide the Partnership's work, including the Police Reform Act 2002, Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003, Children Act 2004, Housing Act 2004, Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.

The Partnership's work is given further direction by a range of national policies and strategies. During the period of this Plan, we will be guided in particular by the Government's three-year crime strategy 'Cutting Crime – A New Partnership', which was launched by the Home Secretary in October 2007. The strategy intends to build on the progress made by Partnerships during the past ten years and ensure that they are able to meet the new challenges of the ever-changing crime landscape. The Government has identified the following as key areas of focus for the next three years:

- A stronger focus on tackling serious violence
- Continued efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour
- A renewed focus on young people, as victims as well as offenders
- A new national approach to designing out crime from new products and services

- Continuing to reduce re-offending, particularly by the most prolific offenders
- A greater sense of partnership at the national level, for example between Government Departments, and with Industry and the Voluntary & Community Sector
- Freeing up local partners, strengthening their performance and building public confidence

The Government intends to ensure achievement of these priorities through a number of delivery plans:

The National Community Safety Plan – this document updates the first Plan issued in 2006 and details the priority programmes and policies partnerships will implement in order to achieve the community safety objectives set out in ‘Cutting Crime’ – a New Partnership’.

‘Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public’ – an Action Plan for Tackling Violence – this document sets out in detail a range of actions the Government, Police and partners will implement over the next three years to prevent and tackle serious violence, and in particular priority crime types such as gun and knife crime, sexual and domestic violence.

Criminal Justice System Strategic Plan - this document’s purpose is to deliver a fair and effective criminal justice service that puts victims of crime and law-abiding citizens first, and contains a range of key objectives to be met during the three years to 2011. The Partnership will continue over the next three years to work closely with the agencies that comprise the Criminal Justice System to support them in delivering their vision for criminal justice in 2011, which is that the criminal justice system will:

- Be more effective in bringing offences to justice and helping to reduce crime and re-offending
- Inform and consult the public about its work, so they can be confident that it is fair, effective and meets local needs
- Ensure that people of all races are treated fairly
- Ensure that victims are at the heart of its work and that they and witnesses receive high standards of service
- Have speedier, simpler processes, supported by modern technology, that are more efficient and free up Police to focus their time on tackling crime

Safe, Sensible and Social – the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy – this document, published in June 2007, builds on the original strategy launched in 2004 and aims to forge a clearer national understanding of acceptable drinking behaviour, in order to reduce the harm that alcohol can cause to individuals, families and communities.

Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities – the Government’s new 10-year drugs strategy aims to build on progress made since launch of the

first strategy in 1998 and respond to views expressed in an extensive public consultation exercise undertaken last year. Its long-term vision is to produce a sustainable reduction in the harms associated with drugs, and to promote drug-free futures and drug-free streets for children, families and communities.

These plans and strategies are mentioned in further detail in the relevant sections that follow about the Partnership's Strategic Priorities, along with other national strategies and plans such as the Children's Plan that deal with issues of relevance to our work in relation to those Priorities.

The Safer Communities Partnership already has a number of well-established local strategies that reflect the national agenda while maintaining a focus on issues of most importance to the Borough. These strategies will continue to be reviewed and refreshed to ensure that they keep pace with changing and emerging national and local priorities over the next three years.

Local context

The Safer Communities Plan covers the next three years, during which the demographic, physical and economical profile of the Borough is expected to undergo a period of significant change. The population of the Borough is growing, and is expected to reach around 208,600 by the end of the decade. Although the age profile is currently younger than the national average, it is expected to get older over forthcoming years, in common with national trends. We already know that the make-up of the Borough's population is one of diversity, with 14% being classed as other than White British.

Levels of deprivation are often seen as a contributory factor to the level of crime and disorder in a Borough. Latest 2007 figures from the Index of Multiple Deprivation show that the Borough ranks between 10th and 44th most deprived in England (out of 325) on a range of measures such as income, employment, health, education & skills and crime. Four of the Lower Super Output Areas (measurement areas of approximately 1500 people) in the Borough are in the 50 most deprived in England, with one being the worst in England for employment deprivation and 3rd worst for health and disability deprivation. 20% of working age people in the Borough claimed workless and income support benefits in 2006 (32% in Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy areas) whilst a quarter of the Borough's children live in households dependent on benefits (a third in NRS areas). For those in work, wage levels are significantly below the national average. Levels of health deprivation in the Borough are high, and the life expectancy of local people, although improving, is still shorter than the national average in both women and men.

Whilst the Borough undoubtedly has a number of concerns that can impact upon community safety, there are also a number of major developments planned or already in progress that have the potential to significantly improve the profile of the Borough and the prospects of its residents. The Kingsway Business Park is expected to bring a vast amount of new business and

employment to the Borough, whilst the proposed regeneration of Rochdale Town Centre will breathe new life into the town as it enters the next decade. The new Arena development will continue the major changes under way in Middleton whilst the Building Schools for the Future programme will provide our children and young people with dramatically improved facilities for their learning and development.

In order that these developments fully realise their potential and make the Borough a place where people want to live, work and visit, the Partnership is committed to working with colleagues in the Economic Development Partnership to ensure that they are supported by effective measures to prevent crime and maximise the safety and security of new employees and visitors to the Borough and our long-standing residents.

We know that improving community safety is a key issue for local people. It is one of the five strategic objectives of the Borough's recently updated Community Strategy 'Pride of Place', and regularly tops the list of concerns raised in surveys and other consultation with the Borough's residents. It is also an issue for other services and partnerships, not just the Safer Communities Partnership. Other partnerships with a focus on, for example, economic development, the environment, housing, health, and children schools & families can all make an important contribution to preventing crime and increasing community safety.

The Safer Communities Partnership facilitates this contribution by maintaining strong and effective links with these partnerships, promoting and encouraging effective information sharing, cross-membership of partnerships and joint working on projects and initiatives. It reports to the Local Strategic Partnership, which is the umbrella body for partnership working in the Borough and has responsibility for ensuring that the strategic objectives in 'Pride of Place' are achieved, and for delivery of the Borough's Local Area Agreement, which is described in more detail in section 8.

Outside the Borough, the Partnership is actively represented on a wide range of Greater Manchester and regional partnerships and groups with a crime, disorder, drugs and alcohol agenda. Membership of such groups enables the Partnership to contribute to jointly developed initiatives with neighbouring Partnerships and to take advantage of opportunities to learn from and adopt best practice of leaders in particular areas of work.

4. THE PARTNERSHIP STRUCTURE

Where we've come from

Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP) has been in existence since October 2000, when the Community Safety, Drug Action and Youth Offending Teams were merged to form one fully integrated body, one of the first of its kind in the country. The Partnership has continually improved and developed

its business practices over the years and has recently carried out a fitness check against the new National Standards and Hallmarks referred to in section 3. An improvement plan has been produced to address identified issues and its implementation will ensure that the Partnership will be able to respond effectively and efficiently to emerging and changing demands it may face over the next three years.

Current structure

The Partnership is currently chaired by Roger Ellis, Chief Executive of Rochdale Council and comprises representatives from the five 'responsible authorities', i.e. the Council, Police, Primary Care Trust, Police Authority and Fire and Rescue Authority, and from over 30 other public, private, voluntary and community bodies with a stake in improving community safety in the Borough. The full current membership list is included in Section 12.

The main Partnership Board, which meets quarterly, approves Partnership policy, oversees its activities and is accountable for its performance. It is supported by a number of groups with responsibilities for delivery of strategic priorities, monitoring its performance and commissioning of services and projects.

Delivering our Priorities

Delivery of the Partnership's Strategic Priorities is the responsibility of six multi-agency Priority Groups*, whose work is aided and complemented by a range of specific issue groups such as the Inter-Agency Domestic Violence Forum, Multi-Agency Race and Hate Forum and the CCTV Forum.

The structure diagram on the next page details how the various strategic, performance, delivery and commissioning groups fit together and explains their reporting relationships. It also highlights the Partnership's important relationship with the Local Criminal Justice Group, the local body charged with responsibility for ensuring the effective delivery, development and publicity of the Criminal Justice System in the Borough.

Delivery of each of our Strategic Priorities is described in greater detail in Section 9 of this document.

* The Partnership Business Group (PBG) acts as the Reduce Crime Priority Group and is shown in blue on the diagram along with the other five Priority Groups

Community Safety in Townships

The Partnership's approach to delivering its priorities at a Township level is well established. Community Safety, Police and other partner agencies are all structured on a Township basis and are ideally placed to work in partnership with local people and groups to deliver solutions to emerging local issues and priorities.

The four Township Safer Communities Partnerships (TSCPs) are an integral part of the Partnership structure, and their role has developed over the years. Meeting four times a year, the TSCP's have responsibility for ensuring delivery of actions assigned by the Partnership Business Group to address highlighted concerns in their area, utilising delegated funds from the Partnership where appropriate. They also make an important contribution to delivery of the wider Township Action Plan, and provide a forum for scrutiny and challenge of partner agency performance in their Township area. Direct links with the main Partnership are maintained through the TSCP Chair, who attends each full Partnership Business meeting to report each quarter on issues and activities at the Township level.

Examples of recent projects and initiatives implemented by member agencies of the Partnership in Townships have included:

- A joint initiative with GMP to tackle off-road biking, including gating schemes, enforcement signage and purchase of the Borough's dedicated bike for use in enforcement campaigns. This initiative has contributed to a significant reduction in recorded incidents of nuisance and inappropriate vehicle use during 2007/08 to date. The issue will continue to be a focus for work during 2008/09.
- Joint work with GMP and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to address the increasing problem of lead theft from buildings in and around Rochdale Town Centre, involving overt and covert surveillance, robust enforcement, and liaison with CPS regarding the approach to sentencing.
- Planning, development and implementation of a new CCTV system for Middleton Town Centre, and purchase of ten CCTV cameras and recording systems for use in hot-spot areas in the Pennines Township
- Working with the Heywood Children's Forum to set up a link to the local PACT meetings, to give young people an opportunity to meet with crime reduction agencies and air their views about issues that affect them in their local area.

5. DIRECTING AND RESOURCING OUR ACTIVITIES

The Executive Group has responsibility for directing the work of the Tactical Partnership Business Group (PBG), which is a multi-agency action group designed to deliver timely and effective partnership responses to new and emerging crime and disorder issues in the Borough. The PBG uses a mix of professional crime mapping, analysis and intelligence management to inform implementation of rapid responses to problems in 'hot-spot' areas, and to plan and deliver longer-term programmes to improve areas with more deep-seated crime and anti-social behaviour problems. The Tactical PBG also acts as the Reducing Crime Priority Group.

The Tactical PBG has direct links with two **Commissioning Groups**, one for crime and disorder activity and one for drug and alcohol related projects, both of which exist to ensure that Partnership funds are allocated to schemes and initiatives that will achieve stated outcomes and deliver value for money for local taxpayers.

The two Joint Commissioning Groups meet quarterly and have two specific roles

- 1) To oversee and direct mainstream resources in partnership with the executive group
- 2) To allocate and monitor the use of external funds specifically for safer communities activity.

The membership of both Joint Commissioning Groups reflects the broad-ranging membership of the Partnership, ensuring that there is input into the decision making process by a wide range of agencies with a stake in delivering crime, disorder, drug and alcohol related schemes and initiatives.

Mainstream resources

Much activity to reduce the incidence of crime, disorder, drugs and alcohol related activity is already the responsibility of key public sector agencies such as:

- Greater Manchester Police
- Greater Manchester Probation Service
- Key services of Rochdale Council (Regeneration, Children, Schools and Families, Adult Services, Environment)
- Primary Care Trust / Pennine Care Mental Health and Acute Trusts
- Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- Rochdale Boroughwide Housing

The two Joint Commissioning Groups, monitored by the Partnership Board, ensure that these and other agencies utilise the mainstream funds at their disposal to deliver schemes and projects that address issues of greatest local

priority within the community safety agenda. The two Groups may also influence the redirection of these resources as emerging national and local changes dictate.

External Funds

The Safer Communities Partnership also receives external funds from various sources, usually to assist in achieving particular targets or implementing a specific scheme or project. The two Joint Commissioning Groups oversee the allocation of these resources in accordance with national guidance and oversee rigorous monitoring of providers that receive the funding to ensure targets are achieved and value for money delivered. Although the exact resources available vary from year to year, the following gives an indication of the picture during 2007/08.

The Crime and Disorder Joint Commissioning Group received funding of £1.7 million from the Local Strategic Partnership and the Home Office during 2007/08. These funds were utilised to develop additional initiatives and services beyond those possible from mainstream funds, to contribute to achievement of strategic priorities in the current 2005-2008 Safer Communities Strategy and the Local Area Agreement.

The Drugs and Alcohol Joint Commissioning Group received funding totalling £3 million from the Department of Health and the Home Office during 2007/08 and performed a similar function in allocating these funds to a range of additional schemes and projects to address key local strategic priorities, and in accordance with Government's drive to make large-scale improvements in drugs services across the country.

6. DELIVERING VALUE FOR MONEY

The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the funds it is allocated each year are used to deliver services that, as well as contributing to reduced crime, disorder and substance misuse in the Borough, are economical, efficient and effective.

The Community Safety Service undertook a value for money assessment during 2006 and received a 'good' rating for the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of its work. The Safer Communities Partnership completed a similar review in late 2007, the result of which was it being described as 'an exemplar partnership' and receiving a 'green' rating for all of the elements assessed in the review.

Business processes within the Partnership will be continually reviewed and updated as necessary through the lifespan of this Strategy, as will the Partnership's arrangements for commissioning services from specialist agencies and services.

7. ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Engaging and involving local people is crucial to the success of any strategy to prevent and tackle crime and disorder, drug and alcohol misuse. Local people know what the issues are in their neighbourhood and, with appropriate support from agencies and services, can make a major contribution to setting priorities, putting solutions in place and ensuring that their impact is sustained.

New arrangements for consultation with local people at Ward level have been incorporated into the Partnership structure during 2007, with each Ward having regular Partners and Communities Together (PACT) panels throughout the year. These meetings provide local people with opportunities to meet face-to-face with Partnership colleagues, raise issues of concern in their neighbourhood, and be involved in setting priorities for action on a month-by-month basis.

PACT meetings form part of a wider range of public consultation and engagement undertaken by the Council and its partners throughout the year. These include:

- Open forums at Township meetings
- Area Forums in each of the 22 Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Areas
- Crime and anti-social behaviour surgeries in communities around the Borough
- Estate walkabouts where tenants and residents on Council estates can raise and discuss concerns directly with partner agencies.

From April 2008 these opportunities will be supplemented by regular quarterly Ward-level surveys to gauge local concerns and the ongoing effectiveness of the Partnership's responses to them. Throughout the year, staff of partner agencies also attend a wide range of public events throughout the year, to raise awareness of community safety issues and give practical crime prevention advice.

On a Boroughwide basis, the Partnership will continue to measure public perceptions of safety, concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour, and satisfaction with its performance as part of the regular Local Strategic Partnership survey, which will cover the broad-ranging issues and priorities that feature in both 'Pride of Place' and in the Local Area Agreement. The Partnership will also ensure that it takes on board the findings of future national Place Surveys that will capture public perceptions and concerns about wide-ranging aspects of local authority and partner performance.

8. MEASURING OUR PERFORMANCE

The Partnership's performance against its priorities is rigorously monitored by an **Executive Group**, comprising the Chair, Safer Communities Manager, Chief Superintendent and Portfolio Holder. This group has the remit to

scrutinise performance and direct the Partnership Business Group or specific Priority Groups to implement corrective action where data indicates there is increased risk of performance targets not being achieved.

Since publication of the last Safer Communities Strategy, the Partnership has developed a comprehensive and effective Performance Management Framework. This enables the Partnership to maintain a close watch on its progress against the range of national and local performance indicators it must report on, to compare its progress with that of Partnerships in similar Boroughs across the country, and to ensure that prompt action is taken to address areas where performance is falling short of that required to meet Partnership and Government objectives.

Public Service Agreements (PSAs)

A number of the targets in the 2005-2008 Safer Communities Strategy were set in accordance with national Public Service Agreements to reduce crime, increase public reassurance and reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol. These PSAs end in March 2008 and are to be replaced by a new set to run from 2008-2011. Three of the new PSAs have particular relevance to the Partnership and contain a range of key performance indicators for the Partnership to meet and report on. They are:

- PSA 23 Make communities safer
- PSA 24 Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public
- PSA 25 Reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol

There are other PSAs that cover issues the Partnership addresses through the work of its Strategic Priority Groups or individual member agencies, or through its membership of groups such as the Local Criminal Justice Group. These include:

- PSA 13 Improve children and young people's safety
- PSA 14 Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success
- PSA 18 Promote better health and wellbeing for all
- PSA 21 Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities
- PSA 26 Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism

National Indicator set

Targets contained in the PSAs have been incorporated into a revised and streamlined national set of Local Authority indicators recently published by the Government for adoption from April 2008. This exercise has resulted in the volume of indicators for which local authorities are responsible from over 1000 to less than 200, organised across four broad themes. Of this number,

there will be around 40 indicators of particular relevance to the Partnership in the Stronger, Safer Communities theme, and around 20 indicators that are contained within other themes or relate to cross-cutting issues where the Partnership may have a role in delivery and may be required to contribute to reporting of performance.

Local Area Agreement (LAA)

A Local Area Agreement (LAA) sets out the priorities for a local area as agreed between the Government (through the relevant regional Government Office) and the area (through the lead Council and Local Strategic Partnership). The primary objective of an LAA is to deliver genuinely sustainable communities through better outcomes for local people. The Local Strategic Partnership has co-ordinated the establishment of an LAA for Rochdale, to run for three years from 2008. The agreement is organised according to a series of themes and will contain a range of 35 key performance targets, some of which this Partnership will lead on and others it will contribute towards with other thematic Partnerships. In common with the streamlining and consistency principles described in the previous paragraphs, the 35 key targets will be derived from the PSAs and the National Indicator set, along with a small number of stretch targets carried over from the previous LAA.

The Partnership is also required to measure and report performance against certain targets contained within the performance frameworks of national governing bodies such as the National Drug Treatment Agency and the Youth Justice Board. Whilst for the most part this may continue, for the next three years the relevant performance targets contained in the PSAs, the new National Indicator set and the LAA will underpin how the Partnership measures its progress. They may be supplemented by a small number of additional indicators that address key strategic priorities of national governing bodies or issues of particular local importance. The current agreed range of Partnership performance indicators for the next three years is detailed under each strategic priority heading within Section 9 of this document. Annual targets relating to each indicator are detailed in the enclosed loose-leaf attachment.

9. DELIVERING THE PARTNERSHIP'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Building and Promoting Safer Communities

This Priority was known in the previous Safer Communities Strategy as 'Public Reassurance'.

Helping people to feel safer as they go about their daily lives is what the Partnership is all about, as its vision indicates. We want people to feel that the community they live in is a place where they feel safe in and around their own home, and when out on the street or on public transport, where they feel that their property is safe and their children can play out in safety. We want

people to feel confident in the Partnership's abilities to tackle and prevent crime and anti-social behaviour, and satisfied with our efforts to do so. Most of all, we want local people to be minded and confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, to take appropriate steps to protect themselves, and to participate in activities and initiatives that help to make their neighbourhood more resilient to the harm caused by crime and anti-social behaviour.

Encouraging and promoting perceptions of safety is not an easy task, however. Media reporting of anti-social behaviour and crime, particularly violent crime, nationally and locally, can contribute to fear of crime remaining at a high level despite crime having fallen in reality. Negative stories and articles about a neighbourhood or a Borough itself can damage the confidence of a community and affect its interest and commitment to getting involved in addressing its issues. Often, people's perceptions of their area as an unsafe place to be can be influenced by environmental factors such as boarded-up properties, litter, dog fouling and abandoned vehicles.

The Safer Communities Partnership is committed to ensuring that local people are regularly, fully and accurately informed about its work and the impact it is having on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough, in Townships, and in their neighbourhoods. We are committed to engaging local people in identifying the priorities that need addressing in their area and involving them in developing and implementing solutions.

In this section we will tell you what we have been doing to build and promote public confidence and reduce fear of crime since 2005, what we have achieved, and what we intend to do to take this work further over the next three years.

What we've been doing

- Implementing a Partnership Communications Strategy, including publishing a wide range of leaflets posters and booklets, regular features on local radio stations, and launching the Partnership's website, www.safer-rochdale.org.uk
- Publishing regular articles in the Observer group of newspapers to inform the public about crime reduction activity, give prevention advice and update the public on our current priorities
- Attending Township, Area Forum and other public meetings throughout the year
- Launching the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting process in wards across the Borough
- Supporting implementation of the Government's Neighbourhood Policing strategy, where resources are re-organised so that policing functions are managed and delivered as far as possible at the neighbourhood level.
- Carrying out 'Weeks of Action' in target neighbourhoods across the Borough, where colleagues from a range of partner agencies work

together with local people to tackle crime, anti-social behaviour and environmental issues, and increase public confidence

- Incorporating home and community fire safety issues into the work of the Partnership, carrying out fire risk assessments, fitting smoke alarms for vulnerable residents and providing educational and awareness-raising presentations to schools, colleges and community groups
- Supporting the work of thematic forums dealing with domestic violence and hate crime, providing over 50 hate crime recording centres across the Borough, launching a Domestic Violence Forum website and implementing the nationally-recognised Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) approach to supporting and protecting victims of domestic violence.
- Developing and implementing the 'Community Kids' citizenship programme for primary school children across the Borough

Progress since 2005

- Each year since 2005, we have used Boroughwide surveys to ask local people if they feel the Borough is a safe place to live. In 2007, we asked the question as part of the LAA Baseline Survey, and the percentage of 'yes' respondents to the question had risen from the 39% baseline figure in 2001 to 51.6%.
- This is the first time the figure had exceeded 50%, and is above the national average for responses to this question.
- Based on responses to the 2007 LAA Baseline Survey, the gap between level of worry about being a victim of crime and actual experience has started to close, having widened during 2005 and 2006.
- The number of accidental dwelling fires per year has reduced by 39 % in 2007/08
- Numbers of reports of domestic violence have increased during 2007/08, whilst the proportion identified as repeat victimisation has fallen.
- Over 200 people experiencing domestic violence have benefited from home security arrangements under the Safer Homes Scheme

Our Priorities for 2008-2011

- Ensuring that local people get a regular, accurate and understandable flow of information about what is being done to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, and the impact it is having on crime figures in their area.
- Creating a climate where communication and information-sharing is a two-way process, encouraging local people to report crime and anti-social behaviour, and get involved in determining local priorities and implementing solutions

- Further developing the capacity of PCSOs and other ‘authority figures’ to provide a uniformed presence in communities and be a source of information and intelligence to support crime reduction activity.
- Implementing a combination of measures to help people to feel safer after dark, in their own neighbourhoods and in our town and village centres
- Increasing public confidence in using public transport and the places where they access it, i.e. bus and rail stations, on-street bus stops
- Whilst continuing to reduce crime, narrowing further the gap between levels of fear of being a victim of crime and levels of actual experience of crime
- Working with the Local Criminal Justice Board to increasing confidence of local people in the criminal justice system, helping to promote the work of criminal justice agencies, and encouraging greater understanding of issues of punishment and sentencing
- Continuing to work with other partnerships and organisations in the Borough to promote community cohesion and minimise the risk of escalating tensions
- Continuing to promote awareness of domestic violence support and improve the range and quality of services available to victims in the Borough
- Extending the ‘Community Kids’ citizenship programme into secondary schools

Our targets

- To increase public confidence in local agencies dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter to people in their local area (NI 21)
- To increase further the percentage of people who feel the Borough is a safe place to live (LAA Target)
- To reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires (LAA Stretch target)
- To reduce the number of primary fires, related fatalities and non-fatal casualties (excluding precautionary checks) (NI 49)
- To increase the number of reports of domestic violence to the Police per annum (LAA Stretch target)
- To locally implement measures to build resilience to violent extremism and ensure the Borough’s protection against terrorist attack (NI 35/36)
- To increase the proportion of victims of a sexual violence offence that receive support from a specialist sexual violence and abuse service (NI 26)

In addition to having a direct responsibility for delivering and reporting on these targets, the Partnership will also support the Local Criminal Justice Group in its efforts to ensure delivery of the following:

- To increase public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System (PSA 24)
- To increase the proportion of victims and witnesses that are satisfied with the way they are treated by the Criminal Justice System (PSA 24)

9.2 Reducing Crime

Overall crime has fallen by around a third since 1997 and, in contrast to the impression given by media reporting, the chances of becoming a victim of crime remain at historically low levels. Locally, since we published our last Safer Communities Strategy, the Partnership has made significant progress in reducing the types of crime that affect communities the most. There is still much to do, however, as emerging, different crime types bring about new challenges and criminals innovate as quickly as those of us engaged in legitimate business.

What we've been doing

- Working in partnership to prioritise the most prolific offenders in the Borough, who are responsible for a disproportionate number of crimes
- Establishing 'no cold calling zones' and participating in a Greater Manchester scheme to tackle doorstep crime.
- Running a number of pro-active police operations, using intelligence, analysis and 'problem profiles' of hot-spot areas to identify key targets and curtail their activities.
- Running a number of Partnership promotional initiatives to raise awareness of different types of crime and provide advice on how to guard against them
- Opening the Community Safety Shop, where people can call in for advice and preventative products such as personal alarms, property marking equipment and shed alarms
- Carrying out crime prevention surveys in the home and for local services and businesses.
- Implementing a Boroughwide Alleygating Programme, with 184 schemes being completed, benefiting over 2500 homes
- Investing in an audit and upgrade of CCTV provisions across the Borough

Progress since 2005

- Back in 2005, we set a challenging target to reduce overall BCS Comparator Crime by 26% by 2008. This was in excess of the 20% required by Government and reflected the determination of the Partnership to make real inroads into the problem of crime in the Borough.
- At the time of publication (February 2008), we are on course to achieve the 26% reduction, which will mean that we will have reduced total BCS crimes per year by over 5000 in three years.
- Numbers of domestic burglaries per year are now 45% lower than in 2003/04
- Numbers of robberies are currently 30% lower than in 2003/04, the best performance in Greater Manchester

- Numbers of serious and other woundings have reduced year-on-year, with serious woundings down 44% from 2003/4 levels.
- Despite a sharp rise in theft from vehicles during 2005/06, the Partnership's efforts to tackle the problem resulted in a small reduction in 2006/07, a trend continuing during 2007/08 to date.
- After a two-year downward trend, criminal damage incidents increased slightly in 2006/07. Figures for 2007/08 to date indicate, however, that the situation has stabilised and figures are starting to fall again.

Our Priorities for 2008-2011

- Working with Council partners, local people and businesses to help them to design out crime in the local environment, in their neighbourhood and at business, retail and leisure premises across the Borough. This will be particularly important in the next few years to support the anticipated large-scale development arising from regeneration of Rochdale and Middleton town centres, Kingsway Business Park, the HMR projects in areas such as Kirkholt and East Central Rochdale, and the Building Schools for the Future programme.
- Continuing to develop the effectiveness of the Tactical PBG in identifying and responding to emerging crime trends and threats throughout the Borough
- Continuing to improve the range and quality of intelligence and analytical products available to support the Partnership in prioritising activity and directing resources
- Extending the Alleygating Programme to as many appropriate locations as possible through the Borough
- Continuing to develop an effective multi-agency risk assessment and support model to respond to the needs of domestic violence victims, particularly those experiencing high levels of repeat victimisation
- Further work in communities to raise awareness of the dangers and harm caused by deliberate fire setting and by anti-social behaviour towards fire officers carrying out their duties
- Working to ensure that the progress made in reducing serious violent crimes continues and, in light of nationally reported increases in crimes involving weapons (knives, guns, etc), implementing relevant directives contained in the Government's Violent Crime Action Plan when published in 2008.

Our targets

- Reduce the level of serious violent crimes (NI 15) – these include murder, attempted murder, serious wounding, death by dangerous driving and causing death by aggravated vehicle taking
- Reduce the level of serious acquisitive crime (NI 16) – these include domestic burglary / aggravated burglary, personal or business robbery, theft or taking of a vehicle, aggravated vehicle taking and theft from a vehicle

- Reduce the proportion of domestic violence incidents that are identified as repeat victimisation (NI 32)
- To reduce the number of firearms offences recorded in the Borough (NI 29)
- To reduce the number of serious violent offences involving the use of knives or other sharp instruments (NI 28)
- To reduce the number of deliberate fires occurring per year (NI 33)

9.3 Reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol

Drugs

Illegal drugs cause harm and ruin to individuals, families and communities, with the most vulnerable and deprived amongst us often being the hardest hit.

For individuals, drug misuse leads to wasted potential, broken relationships and, for some, a life of crime to feed their habit. For the wider community, efforts to lift children out of poverty, promote equality of opportunity and reduce crime are held back when families and communities are in the grip of drug use.

The Partnership has been following the lead set by Government in its first Drugs Strategy, published in 1998, by working to tackle drug dealers and disrupt their activities, educating young people so they can resist involvement with drugs, and providing effective drug treatment for those with misuse issues.

There has been significant progress in recent years, both nationally and in the Borough. However, ten years on from launch of the original strategy, the Government is committed to refresh and renew its approach to the problem, and has launched its new 10-year strategy, following an extensive consultation exercise during 2007. In it, the Government has set out four key areas of focus, which are:

- Protecting communities through robust enforcement to tackle drug supply, drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour
- Preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug misuse
- Delivering new approaches to drug treatment and social re-integration
- Public information campaigns, communications and community engagement

Delivery of the Strategy will be directed by a series of three-year action plans, the first commencing in April 2008. The Partnership is committed to ensuring that the Strategy is fully and effectively implemented at a local level, and the Drugs and Alcohol Priority Group will ensure that the key messages from the Strategy are accurately reflected in the targets it sets for the next three years and in the annual action plans it puts in place to achieve them.

The Partnership is, like the Government, committed to seeing communities that are free from the problems and fear caused by drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour, to seeing fewer people starting to use drugs, and helping more of those that do to enter treatment, complete it and re-establish their lives.

What we've been doing

- Working with young people who have substance misuse issues in a more holistic manner, ensuring that all their influencing factors are addressed
- Extending the number of hours that drug treatment workers are available in custody suites so that more offenders can get access to treatment and rehabilitation services
- Increasing the number and range of drug treatment services available, including setting up three new satellite services in Heywood, Middleton and Kirkholt
- Focusing enforcement activity on identified areas of concern in the Borough, to provide relief for local communities from the impact of drug misuse and dealing
- Establishing a multi-agency Prostitution Forum to develop and implement strategies to prevent and reduce both on-street and off-street prostitution in the Borough

Progress since 2005

- The national target to increase numbers of people engaged in drug treatment by 25% by 2008 was met by March 2007 and continues to be exceeded.
- Our local target for increasing numbers of young people engaging with treatment programmes by 50% by March 2008 has also been met earlier than required, numbers having increased from 122 in 2004 to 207 by quarter 2 of 2007/08
- We have a challenging target of 84 % of people in treatment being retained for more than 12 weeks by March 2008, and are progressing towards it, with 68% retained more than 12 weeks in September 2007
- We continue to regularly exceed our target figure for numbers of people attending specialist needle exchanges
- We have increased our activity in the targeting of those engaged in drug supply
- 45% of schools have achieved the Healthy Schools Standard, with 66% expected to do so by March 2008
- The Drug and Alcohol Action Team's performance was rated as 'good' in a recent inspection by the National Treatment Agency / Health care Commission, making it one of the top 20% in the country.

Our priorities for 2008 – 2011

- Tackling the problem of poly-drug use (use of more than one drug) by many users in the Borough, particularly those in the 16 – 25 and 30 – 34 age groups
- Focusing prevention activity on the most prevalent trigger offences – vehicle crime accounted for 19% of such offences committed during 2006/07
- Providing continued education and advice for young people to ensure they are fully aware of the dangers of drug use – 17% of school children in England have used an illegal drug in the last year.
- Continuing the development of abstinence-based services throughout the Borough
- Further work to disrupt drug supply markets across the Borough in relation to Class A drugs and cannabis farms, as the current purity and price of Class A drugs in the Borough indicates no shortage of supply
- Focusing activity on those areas of the Borough that suffer from the most significant problems of drug use and dealing
- Further developing the approach to dealing with prostitution, which balances enforcement activities to deter kerb-crawlers and a programme of intensive support to those involved in sex work to promote their personal and social rehabilitation

Our targets

- Increasing the number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment (NI 40)
- Reducing the rate of drug-related offending (NI 38)
- Reducing the percentage of the public who perceive drug use or dealing to be a problem in their area (NI 42)
- Reducing levels of substance misuse by young people (NI 115)
- Increasing further the number of schools achieving Healthy Schools Standard to 92% by 2010 (LAA Stretch target)
- Increasing the number of warrants executed in relation to the supply of Class A drugs and prevalence of cannabis farms (GMP Force target)

Alcohol

Our relationship with drink in this country is a complicated one. Encouraging everyone who drinks to do so in a safe, sensible and social way is a challenge. Most of us do drink sensibly (though a bit more than we think we do at times), but there is a proportion that don't, and their behaviour can lead to drunken violence, criminal damage and a packed-out A&E unit every Friday and Saturday night. The significant minority who don't know when to stop drinking are a huge financial drain on resources – around £20 billion per year is spent on tackling the ill health and crime and disorder that result.

The Government has just launched 'Safe, Sensible, Social', its updated Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which aims to build on the progress made by partner agencies since the first version was published in 2004.

Locally, the Partnership has had its own local Alcohol Strategy in place since 2005 and has made good progress on a number of fronts, particularly the numbers of people with alcohol problems accessing treatment services. There is much to do, however. The Borough's level of alcohol-related crime is the second highest in Greater Manchester, only City Centre Manchester seeing higher figures. Levels of 'binge drinking' and hospitalisation as a consequence of alcohol misuse are issues of concern. As with any other strategic priority, the Partnership is committed to working in a joined-up way with local agencies, services and the community to bring about tangible improvements in the quality of life of people with alcohol problems and reducing the impact alcohol misuse can have on local people and the local economy.

What we've been doing

- Implementing 'Town Centre Safe', an initiative to tackle alcohol-related disorder in Rochdale Town Centre using high-visibility Police patrols
- Increasing the number of alcohol misusers accessing and gaining support for their problems
- Working with Trading Standards colleagues to carry out enforcement activity relating to under-age sales of alcohol
- Running a number of publicity and awareness-raising campaigns on safe and sensible drinking at key times of the year
- Increasing the number of venues where people can get advice, help and treatment for alcohol misuse
- Developing and launching 'Health Bytes', an IT-based information resource for students on issues relating to alcohol, drugs, sexual health and personal safety

Progress since 2005

- The percentage of young people reporting alcohol use has dropped from 35% in 2001 to 28% in 2006
- Numbers of people engaged in alcohol treatment are on track to meet our 2008 target, with 682 in treatment as at September 2007

Our priorities for 2008 – 2011

- Reducing the level of alcohol-related crime and disorder in the Borough
- Focusing in particular on tackling anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol
- Implementing measures contained in the Youth Alcohol Action Plan, when published in April 2008, including improving alcohol education in schools and tackling parental alcohol misuse that can influence young people's own consumption

- Reducing the level of 'binge drinking' in the Borough
- Reducing the number of males in the Borough who are hospitalised as a consequence of alcohol misuse
- Increasing further the number of alcohol misusers accessing treatment through greater numbers of direct referrals from custody suites and A&E units
- Focusing activity on those neighbourhoods in the Borough that experience the most significant problems relating to alcohol misuse
- Extending the 'Health Bytes' resource to schools across the Borough

Our targets

- Increase the number of active clients engage with alcohol treatment services (LAA stretch target)
- Reducing the percentage of people who perceive drunk or rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area (NI 41)
- Reducing levels of substance misuse by young people (NI 115)

Performance on tackling alcohol-related problems will also contribute to achievement of the target within NI 15 to reduce the level of serious violent crime, and to health improvement targets within PSAs 17 and 18

9.4 Building Respect in Communities

This priority was formerly known as 'Reducing Anti-social Behaviour' and was re-titled to reflect the greater focus of the Government on helping communities to build a culture of respect and consideration in their area.

Tackling anti-social behaviour continues to be a major priority for local people, who regularly put it at the top of their list of things they want the Partnership to address. Whilst anti-social behaviour can have different definitions and take on different forms, it is fundamentally an issue of respect in communities, for people, property and the local environment.

What we've been doing

- Encouraged reporting of anti-social behaviour by producing and distributing information leaflets, holding community surgeries and establishing dedicated content on the Council website
- Continued to provide funding for the cross-tenure Legal Services and Enforcement Team, who carry out enforcement work to deal with anti-social behaviour and provide support to those who are victims of it
- Establishing a multi-agency Case Intervention Group to set up programmes of preventative action for over 400 individuals at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour
- Providing a range of schemes across the Borough to divert young people at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour

- Establishing the Rochdale Borough Families Project to provide intensive support to families whose behaviour is placing them at risk of being evicted from their properties
- Appointing a specialist Parenting Officer to engage the most hard-to-reach families and provide them with support on parenting issues
- Carrying out a range of local environmental projects in local neighbourhoods, including community clean-ups, litter-picks and environmental clearances
- Using enforcement tools such as ASBOs (Anti-social Behaviour Orders), ABCs (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts), Parental Control Agreements, Injunctions and Dispersal Orders to address the behaviour of individuals and groups for whom preventative measures have not been successful.

Progress since 2005

- We are on track to have reduced incidents of criminal damage across the Borough by 18% from 2003/04 figures
- Incidence of the most problematic types of anti-social behaviour have reduced in total by almost 10% during 2006/07
- Numbers of arson incidents have steadily decreased and are now 28% lower than in 2004
- Over 400 individuals have had preventative action plans implemented by the Case Intervention Group
- 91% of families supported by the Rochdale Borough Families Project have ceased involvement in anti-social behaviour, with 86% maintaining their tenancy for over two years
- There are currently 49 ASBOs in force, of which 23 relate to people under 18 and 26 to people over 18

Our Priorities for 2008 - 2011

- Continuing to utilise the full range of enforcement powers available to the Partnership to tackle individuals and groups whose anti-social behaviour has a negative impact on local communities
- Continuing to balance enforcement with effective multi-agency prevention packages, targeted at those most at risk of engagement in anti-social behaviour
- Implementing locally the aspects of the Government's forthcoming Youth Crime Action Plan that relate to anti-social behaviour
- Implementing the Respect Standard for housing management through Rochdale Boroughwide Housing
- Continuing to provide through the Borough Families Project intensive support to families with entrenched anti-social behaviour issues
- Using analysis techniques to provide early identification of 'hotspot' areas for anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and implement timely and co-ordinated responses

- Continuing focus on promoting greater ownership and care for the local environment amongst the Borough's residents, tackling criminal damage and those other crimes that have a detrimental effect on the environment

Our targets

- Reducing the percentage of people who perceive there to be high levels of anti-social behaviour in their area (NI 17)
- Increase the level of public confidence in agencies dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime problems in their area (NI 21)
- Improving people in the area's perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children (NI 22)
- Improving perceptions that people in the area treat one another with respect and dignity (NI 23)
- Improving satisfaction of different groups with the way Police and the Council dealt with anti-social behaviour (NI 24)

9.5 Preventing Offending by Children and Young People

This has been one of the Partnership's core strategic priorities for many years and remains so today. Well-developed links with the Rochdale Borough Children's Trust have enabled a number of collaborative projects to be developed and implemented over recent years, with the aims of improving the life chances of young people and providing them with the activities, support and guidance that will divert them from involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Children's Plan, published in December 2007 by the Department for Children Schools and Families, contains a number of proposed measures designed to keep young people on the road to success in their lives. It acknowledges that "the majority of young people do not offend but we need to reduce the harm caused by youth crime both to the victims of it and to the young offenders themselves".

The Partnership, through its relevant Strategic Priority Groups, will work in collaboration with the Children's Trust on local implementation of the measures contained in the 'On the right track' chapter of the Children's Plan and in the Youth Crime Action Plan which, when it is published in April 2008, will focus on:

- Targeting resources to provide interventions for those young people at greatest risk of offending and re-offending
- Focusing on a restorative approach to the management of young offenders

The Partnership has, along with the Trust, already made good progress on a number of issues relating to prevention of offending by young people.

Numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time have fallen significantly over the past two years, whilst hundreds of young people around the Borough have benefited from provision of wide-ranging programmes to promote their greater inclusion in society and divert them away from the temptation to engage in crime and anti-social behaviour.

What we've been doing

- Extending the Youth Inclusion Project from Middleton to Heywood and Kirkholt, to provide the most high-risk young people in these areas with alternative education, mentoring, diversionary activities and family support
- Engaging over 400 young people per year in PAYP (Positive Activities for Young People) programmes across the Borough
- Further developing the INCLUDE service, which provides support and guidance for young people at risk of offending and for their families
- Extending the range and availability of youth services provided throughout the Borough, including outreach work in 'hot-spot' areas in joint initiatives with Community Safety and Police colleagues.

Progress since 2005

- Numbers of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time have reduced year-on-year, from 534 in 2003/04 to 336 in 2006/07
- Crimes committed by offenders under 16 decreased by 8.2% during 2006/07
- The gap between rates of youth offending in NRS areas and the Borough overall has narrowed, though there are some emerging hot-spots in non-NRS areas.

Our priorities for 2008-2011

- Dealing with emerging trends in crime committed by young people, particularly involving the use of weapons
- Reducing the risk of re-offending by persistent young offenders by adopting the Youth Justice Board's 'scaled approach', to target resources at those young people most at risk of offending
- Providing Targeted Youth Support to help identify at an early stage young people at risk and work to improve opportunities and outcomes for them
- Introducing a Boroughwide Prevention Strategy, to develop and maintain progress in reducing the number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- Working with colleagues across other Partnerships to support schemes to promote positive images of young people and to encourage greater understanding and cohesion between generations and backgrounds

- Taking timely and appropriate enforcement action to ensure that problem behaviour is dealt with at an early stage to prevent escalation

Our targets

- Reducing the rate of proven re-offending by young people (NI 19)
- Reducing the number of young people who are first time entrants to the Youth Justice System (NI 111)
- Reducing the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NI 117)
- Increasing numbers of young people participating in positive activities (NI 110)
- Ensuring that numbers of custodial sentences are proportionate to the overall number of young people's convictions (NI 43)
- Maintaining proportionate representation within the Criminal Justice System of people from BME groups (NI 44)
- Improving the percentage of young offenders engaged in suitable education, employment or training (NI 45)
- Increasing the number of young offenders with access to suitable accommodation (NI 46)

9.6 Reducing Adult Re-offending

As described in section 3, reducing re-offending is one of the Government's key areas of focus for the next three years. Whilst more crimes are being detected across the country and re-offending rates are starting to reduce, more can be done to reduce re-offending, particularly by the most prolific offenders. The Government sees the following as key to continuing progress:

- Continuing to strengthen the capability of the Police, Crown Prosecution Service and other prosecutors, and the courts, and to simplify criminal justice system (CJS) processes through schemes such as CJSSS.
- Focusing on the most prolific offenders throughout the CJS, particularly implementing the Drug Intervention Programme and the Prolific and Priority Offenders Strategy
- Ensuring that the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office work together to ensure that their response to offenders covers the need to punish and deter, to rehabilitate and to increase public confidence in the CJS

At a local level, the Partnership also has reducing re-offending as a strategic priority and has an established action plan to meet the challenge of transforming offenders in the local area into law-abiding citizens. This action plan focuses on seven main themes, or 'pathways, to reducing re-offending:

- Helping offenders to deal with problems of drug and / or alcohol misuse that are a factor in their offending behaviour

- Dealing with the mental health needs of offenders, particularly those in custody or subject to Community Orders
- Improving offenders' basic skills and their ability to get and retain a job
- Ensuring that offenders can access and retain appropriate accommodation, and helping them to tackle debt
- Improving offenders' ability to see the consequences of their actions and to tackle problems without recourse to violence
- Ensuring education, training and employment opportunities for young offenders and raising achievement levels
- Tackling the intergenerational offending cycle through working with offenders' families and children

What we've been doing

- Establishing processes to target the most prolific offenders for attention, to reduce the impact of their offending on the community
- Putting procedures in place to ensure that there is full and effective enforcement of non-compliance with Probation Orders
- Working to ensure that as many offenders as possible engage with and benefit from programmes such as Skills for Life
- Implementing schemes such as Community Payback, where offenders undertake work that provides benefit to the community and individual victims of crime
- Identifying offenders as a priority in the revised Supporting People Strategy, in order to direct resources towards addressing the accommodation needs of offenders.

Progress since 2005

- Re-offending by those offenders on the PPO targeted list reduced by 39% in 2006/07 compared with the previous year
- 100% of offenders receive contact from Probation and/or the Police within 5 days of release from prison
- Targets relating to compliance and enforcement of Orders were, as at September 2007, all being met or exceeded
- As at September 2007, 33% of the time of offenders supervised by the Probation Service was being spent on work of benefit to the community, exceeding the target of 30%

Our priorities for 2008 – 2011

- Further progressing the local Reducing Re-offending Action Plan, focusing activities on delivery of the seven 'pathways' to resettlement
- Developing and implementing a co-ordinated case management approach to assessing the needs of offenders released into the area and prioritising service delivery for them and their families

- Implementing revised and updated criteria for targeting PPOs, to ensure that the focus of attention is on those responsible for committing the greatest number of trigger offences
- Further developing links between the Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Group (LCJG) and working jointly to improve policy and practice on issues of common interest such as domestic violence and reducing re-offending.
- Building effective and productive relationships with HMP Buckley Hall, to support schemes and initiatives aimed at improving the resettlement prospects of offenders discharged into the local area.

Our targets

- Reduce the level of proven re-offending by adult offenders under probation supervision, including serious re-offending (NI 18)
- Reduce the re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders (NI 30)
- Reduce the re-offending rate of registered sex offenders (NI 31)
- Increase the number of offenders under Probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or license (NI 143)
- Increase the number of offenders under Probation supervision in employment at the end of their order or license (NI 144)

10. FURTHER READING AND USEFUL LINKS

Policy, Strategy and Guidance

Home Office (2007) *Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-2011*

Home Office (2007) *Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working*

Home Office (2007) *National Community Safety Plan 2008-2011*

Home Office (2008) *Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public: An action plan for tackling violence 2008-2011*

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (2008) *Working Together to Cut Crime and Deliver Justice: A strategic plan for criminal justice 2008-2011*

Home Office (2007) *Safe, Sensible, Social: The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy*

Home Office (2007) *Drugs: Our Community, Your Say – a consultation paper*

Home Office (2008) *Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities – the 2008 drug strategy*

Home Office (2007) *Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working*

Communities and Local Government Department (2007) *The New Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Single Set of National Indicators*

NOMS (North West Region) (2007) *North West Regional Re-offending Delivery Plan*

Home Office Respect Task Force (2006) *Respect Action Plan*

Department for Children, Schools and Families (2007) *The Children's Plan, Building Brighter Futures*

Rochdale MBC Research and Intelligence Team (2007) *Rochdale Borough Profile 2007*

Rochdale Local Strategic Partnership (2008) *Pride of Place – the Community Strategy (update)*

Rochdale MBC (2007) *Aiming High – the strategic plan of Rochdale Council 2007-2010*

Useful links

Home Office www.homeoffice.gov.uk
Crime Reduction website www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk
National Community Safety Network www.community-safety.net
Drug Action Teams www.drugs.gov.uk/dat
Drug Intervention Programme www.drugs.gov.uk/drug-interventions-programme
Prolific & Priority Offenders (PPO)
www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/ppo/ppominisite09.htm
Ministry of Justice (NOMS), Regional Reduce Re-offending Delivery Plan
www.noms.justice.gov.uk/noms-regions
Respect Task Force www.respect.gov.uk
Dept for Children, Schools & Families www.dfes.gov.uk
Dept for Communities & Local Government www.communities.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Police www.gmp.police.uk
Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service www.manchesterfire.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Police Authority www.gmpa.gov.uk
Greater Manchester Probation Service www.gm-probation.org.uk
Heywood, Middleton & Rochdale PCT www.hmrpct.nhs.uk
Victim Support & Witness Service www.victimsupport-rochdale.co.uk
Rochdale Council www.rochdale.gov.uk

11. MEMBERS OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The current membership of the Partnership is, as at 1st April 2008, comprised of the following:

Responsible Authorities

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Greater Manchester Police
Greater Manchester Police Authority
Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
Heywood Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust

Co-operating Bodies

Pennine Care Mental Health Trust
School Governing Bodies
Rochdale Housing Initiative

Invitees to Participate

Chairs of Township Safer Communities Partnerships
Connexions
Council Member with Community Safety Portfolio
Council for Voluntary Services
Crown Prosecution Service
Environment Agency
Fairbridge North Manchester
Government Office for the North West
Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive
Greater Manchester Probation Service
HM Courts Service
HMP Buckley Hall
National Treatment Agency
Pride Partnership
Rochdale Borough Chamber
Rochdale Borough Children's Trust
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing
Rochdale Centre of Diversity
Rochdale Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (RoFTRA)
Rochdale Inter-agency Domestic Violence Forum
Rochdale Town Centre Management Company
Rochdale Victim Support and Witness Service
Transport Operators Representative
Voluntary Sector Partnership

12. GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS / TERMS

| | |
|------|---|
| A&E | Accident and Emergency |
| ASB | Anti-social behaviour |
| ASBO | Anti-social behaviour order |
| BCS | British Crime Survey |
| CJS | Criminal Justice System |
| CLG | Communities and Local Government (department) |
| CCTV | Closed Circuit Television |
| GMP | Greater Manchester Police |
| HMP | Her Majesty's Prison |
| HMR | Housing Market Renewal |
| LAA | Local Area Agreement |
| MoJ | Ministry of Justice |
| NI | National Indicator |
| NRS | Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy |
| PACT | Partners and Communities Together |
| PCSO | Police Community Support Officer |
| PPO | Prolific and Priority Offender |
| PSA | Public Service Agreement |
| RSCP | Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership |

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this Strategy, please contact Ian Halliday or Tom Byrne on 01706 924694 or 01706 924978.

For further copies of the Strategy, in hard copy or electronic form, please contact Niomi Huxley on 01706 924693.

You can contact the Community Safety Team by e-mail at community.safety@rochdale.gov.uk, or visit the Safer Communities Partnership website at www.safer-rochdale.org.uk