One Vision

Our Mission Statement

It is the aim of the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership to make our Boroughs safer and cleaner places to live, work and socialise.

In 2011-12, we will aim to achieve this by:

- Developing initiatives to reduce violent crime and domestic abuse;
- Effectively tackling all types of anti-social behaviour and environmental crime;
- Improving the safety of young people and addressing youth offending;
- Implementing measures to reduce offences related to theft and the handling of stolen goods;
- Delivering Partnership projects aimed at both preventing substance misuse and tackling drug and alcohol-related crime and disorder;
- Identifying measures to reduce re-offending.

In addition to these headline priorities, we will seek to provide public reassurance and build public confidence to help people to feel safe and improve their perceptions about their local neighbourhoods. We will also strive to ensure that vulnerable people within our communities are given the support and assistance that they need to improve their personal safety.

We will keep local people informed of steps taken by the Partnership to address their concerns and encourage the residents to take an active role in working alongside us to improve community safety.

We will continue to ensure that community cohesion and diversity are fully embraced and that we will work to encourage an appreciation of, and pride in, our multi-cultural environments.
Foreword

One Partnership – One Goal

Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour is not the sole responsibility of any one agency - it is a responsibility shared by all of us. Together, the agencies within the Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership work with one overriding objective: to make North Kent a safer place to live, work and enjoy.

Our Partnership brings together:

- Dartford Borough Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire and Rescue Service
- Kent Probation Service
- West Kent NHS/Primary Care Trust
- Kent Police Authority

Dartford and Gravesham have been working together as a joint Partnership for almost five years. During that time we have achieved some very significant reductions in crime in each Borough through a range of multi-agency initiatives and by engaging and listening to local people. The Partnership has gone from strength to strength and this new Strategy and Action Plan for 2011-12 describes how we intend to build on that success by continuing to operate together as one united team.

Working in partnership has many advantages: shared experience, knowledge and expertise, the ability to make fully informed decisions about our priorities and at a time when finances are becoming scarcer, ensuring that our resources are maximised and effectively targeted. Operating as one team means all of the agencies involved can have a role in deciding what goes into our Strategy and how it will be implemented. It also means that each agency can bring to the table the concerns that have been brought to their attention by local residents as those issues they most feel need to be tackled in their area.

We are confident that this new Strategy and Action Plan reflects the priorities that have been identified not just through recorded crime and disorder statistics but also through the regular contact that all of our partners and operational staff at ground level have with local people. We intend to do our very best to improve community safety and drive down crime and anti-social behaviour even further over the next 12 months. We have a strong track record but recognise this is a tough challenge. However, by working together as agencies, businesses and local communities, it is a challenge we feel able to meet.

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Leader, Gravesham Borough Council
Chairman, Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership

Cllr Jeremy Kite
Leader, Dartford Borough Council
Vice-Chairman, Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership
Introduction

Improving quality of life

The success of Dartford and Gravesham Community Safety Partnership’s (CSP) Strategy for 2008-11 means that they are now fewer victims of crime than there were four years ago. This new Strategy sets out our plan for reducing crime even further over the next 12 months. Whilst we are proud of our achievements we know that we need to concentrate our efforts to sustain these reductions in the longer term. To help us do this, the Partnership completes a Strategic Assessment each year – a report that is used to inform strategic decision-making by gathering together data held by the partner agencies.

The Assessment considers crime trends, progress made over the previous 12 months and emerging issues that need to be made a priority and given extra focus. We also take account of issues coming to our attention through Community Forums, Residents’ Groups, Public Engagement Meetings and local public consultation surveys.

The priorities identified for 2011-12 are:

- Violent crime including domestic abuse;
- Anti-social behaviour;
- Young people (both improving the safety of young people and addressing youth offending);
- Theft and handling stolen goods;
- Substance misuse;
- Reducing re-offending;

Our experience has also taught us that we need to do more to improve public perceptions so that local people genuinely feel safer – this will be a running theme throughout our work and we will be doing our best to:

- Engage with local communities effectively to be clear about their concerns and use local knowledge;
- Have responsive local partnerships that work closely with residents to address problems quickly and effectively;
- Communicate effectively about the work we are doing and the outcomes we achieve.

Reducing crime and ASB is just one strand of a wider vision for improving quality of life in North Kent. All the partner agencies own corporate plans aim to drive improvements in the environment, health, providing opportunities for young people, safeguarding vulnerable adults, improving our local economy and in creating neighbourhoods where people feel secure and enjoy living. The work of the Community Safety Partnership is central to this work because there are clear links between reducing crime and disorder and achieving these objectives and improving the overall quality of life of our local residents.
## Priority 1  Reducing Violent Crime and Repeat Offences of Domestic Abuse

### The Facts – Why this is a Priority
Protecting people’s personal safety is always a priority for both agencies and local residents alike and despite good reductions in violent crime, there is still more to be done in addressing repeat victims, offenders and venues. Domestic abuse often involves physical violence and makes up a very significant proportion of offences recorded as violent crime. This issue affects hundreds of victims, their children and families each year and we feel that there is more work to be done in providing them with the support and assistance they need and in dealing with perpetrators effectively to prevent further offending. By tackling violent crime we hope to increase public confidence, provide reassurance and help bridge the gap between public perceptions about personal safety, particularly in the night-time economy, and what is actually happening in both Dartford and Gravesham.

### Aims - What do we want to do?
- To reduce incidents of serious violent crime
- To reduce assaults with less serious injury
- To reduce repeat incidents of domestic abuse
- To reduce incidents of violence occurring in the night-time economy
- Address alcohol-related violent crime as part of a wider multi-agency strategy that deals with health and other impacts of alcohol
- To ensure there are services in place to support and protect victims of domestic abuse
- To prevent repeat offending through rehabilitation programmes
- To prevent young people becoming involved in youth-on-youth violence

### Implementation - How are we going to do it?

**Responding to domestic abuse:**
- Supporting work towards ensuring that there is sufficient emergency accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and delivering sanctuary provision;
- Continuing to support current programmes that deal with perpetrators of domestic abuse and/or that provide direct support to victims and their families e.g. Community Domestic Abuse Programme, Freedom Programme;
- Ensuring that victims of domestic abuse are able to report to and receive advice and assistance at as many outlets as possible.

**Responding to all violent crime:**
- Delivering intelligence led operations around violent crime targeting geographic hot spots and known offenders – establishing links between locations, specific venues, times and nature of injuries and addressing them through practical interventions;
- Tackling late-night violence and disorder and implement long-term preventative measures through Community Safety Units (CSUs);
- Through licensing policy and partnership working between Kent Police and Local Authority Licensing Teams, ensure that licensed premises have adequate plans for preventing violent disorder.

**Main Delivery Groups:** Violent Crime Sub-Group, North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum.
Dartford and Graveshams Community Safety Strategy 2011-12

Priority 2 Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Associated Environmental Crime

The Facts – Why this is a Priority
Tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and environmental crime such as criminal damage and graffiti, are a priority to both the Partnership and to local people. Residents concerns about ASB have been brought to our attention through local surveys, Neighbourhood Panel Meetings (formerly PACT) and through contact with local Council Members. Despite reductions in criminal damage offences of 15.9% in Dartford and 16.8% in Graveshams in January-December 2010 compared to the previous year, environmental crime, rubbish and litter lying around and rowdy, noisy behaviour still cause many local people concern. We want to continue to work hard to improve on reductions already achieved by working with local communities and partner agencies to make local neighbourhoods places that people feel safe and can enjoy.

Aims – What do we want to do?
- Reduce overall anti-social behaviour;
- Reduce criminal damage offences;
- Reduce both accidental and deliberate fires;
- Improve perceptions of key types of ASB;
- Improve public confidence in the way in which the Police and the Council deal with ASB.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Responding to ASB and environmental crime:
- To continue to address ASB involving young people and adults through the ASB Group by providing tailored interventions to reduce or stop offending behaviour;
- To share intelligence to provide support to victims and use available powers to take prompt and appropriate against offenders;
- To continue to engage with businesses, retailers and licensed premises to develop initiatives to target the differing nature of ASB affecting day-time and night-time economies;
- To use enforcement measures e.g. Dispersal Orders, Alcohol Control Zones, mobile CCTV cameras and consider how opportunities for ASB can be ‘designed-out’ in locations where it is more prevalent;
- To carry out more joint enforcement operations involving Police, Council and other partner agency staff to tackle fly-tipping, littering and environmental crime;
- To deliver multi-agency initiatives that encourage the active involvement of local people in improving the appearance of their neighbourhoods and that promotes pride in their local communities (using external funding whenever possible);
- To actively engage young people at risk of involvement in ASB through preventative measures including leisure, sport and recreational activities and targeted youth services in key ASB locations;
- To use a range of media to provide regular opportunities for consultation to both inform and listen to local residents.
- To increase awareness and educate the public in the negative effects of graffiti, littering, fly-tipping, including environmental damage, costs and personal consequences.

Main Delivery Groups: ASB Group; Community Safety Units.
### Priority 3

**Improving Safety for Young People and Reducing Youth Offending**

### The Facts – Why this is a Priority

The safety of children and young people is paramount and first and foremost the emphasis is on reducing the risk of children and young people becoming victims of crime. Both the number of victims of crime in both Dartford and Gravesham (January-December 2010) aged 0-19 years and the number of offenders aged 10-19 years were higher than the County average. However, the repeat offending rate for these is amongst the lowest – this shows that interventions with young people who are offending are effective in changing their behaviour. It is also important to address public perceptions about young people: ‘teenagers hanging around’ is one form of perceived ASB that residents feel is a big problem, even when young people may not be engaging in any ASB, when gathering in groups they can seem intimidating to others.

### Aims – What do we want to do?

- To reduce the number of young people who are repeat victims of crime
- To ensure that young people have safe and accessible places for learning and socialising
- To encourage the active participation of young people in positive activities that promote mutual respect, social responsibility and taking pride in the local environment
- To improve public perceptions about young people and reduce the percentage of residents who believe ‘teenagers hanging around’ is a problem
- To reduce the number of young people entering the criminal justice system
- To reduce the number of incidents of youth-on-youth crime

### Implementation – How are we going to do it?

**Improving safety for young people**

- By developing and delivering programmes to address safety issues affecting young people encourage reporting by young victims and provide appropriate support to reduce the risk of repeat victimisation (working alongside Local Children’s Partnerships and Children’s Trusts);
- By continuing to improve and provide safe facilities and opportunities to young people to constructively use their free time and encourage healthy lifestyles;
- By extending the involvement of young people in the design and implementation of local community projects to give them a sense of pride and promote good citizenship;
- By providing targeted initiatives to young people identified most at risk from drug and/or alcohol misuse.
- To support and complement activities to issue road safety advice to young people.

**Reducing offending behaviour and the risk of offending**

- By ensuring that outreach/youth provision is delivered in key geographical locations and targeted to those most at risk of offending;
- By delivering targeted interventions for young people from new, settling communities;
- By continuing to intervene early, ensuring that final warnings are supported by appropriate interventions;
- By extending the use of restorative justice and reparation by young offenders to victims of crime or to their local communities and assess victim satisfaction;
- By identifying those young people most at risk of becoming prolific offenders (Prevent and Deter) to implement effective and tailored interventions.

**Main Delivery Groups:** Young People’s Sub-Group, ASB Group, Community Safety Units.
Priority 4 Reducing Offences of Theft and Handling Stolen Goods

The Facts – Why this is a Priority
Increases in theft and handling stolen goods offences have been seen not only in North Kent but nationwide and are linked to an upturn and steady increase in the demand for commodity metal, the main driver for criminal activity having been the international price of scrap metal. Lead has been the most commonplace metal to be stolen, primarily due to its high asset price and ease of both accessibility and removal. Considerable efforts by the Police and other partner agencies have had some impact but figures for January-December 2010 indicate that theft and handling stolen goods offences still made up almost 30% of total crime recorded in Dartford and almost a quarter of all crime recorded in Gravesham. The sheer volume of this category of offending requires it to be a priority for 2011-12.

Aims – What do we want to do?
- To reduce the total number of theft and handling stolen goods offences
- To reduce the number of metal and cable theft offences
- To reduce the number of shoplifting offences
- To reduce the number of robbery offences and theft of personal property e.g. through purse dipping, bag theft etc.

Implementation – How are we going to do it?

Preventative Steps and Reducing Victimisation
- Working with Kent Police in continuing to develop and deliver initiatives working with scrap metal dealers to stamp out illegal activity;
- Targeted awareness-raising activities focussing on properties more likely to be susceptible to metal theft and the provision of advice to reduce risks;
- Working with Planning Departments to ensure that alternative to lead are recommended as part of the planning process;
- Continuing to develop good practice preventative steps with Town Centre retailers and businesses to reduce shoplifting, focussing on deterrence rather than monitoring and detaining offenders once an offence is committed;
- Delivering targeted initiatives focussing on groups most at risk/more vulnerable to personal theft to raise awareness and provide practical solutions to safeguarding personal property.

Reducing Offending
- By carrying out detailed analysis to establish patterns of offending behaviour and hot spot locations/venues for metal theft that can be shared with partner agencies to inform a multi-agency strategy to address this offence category;
- By investigating the nature and extent of established local markets that are used to sell on items stolen (including the disposal of goods via Internet facilities);
- By proactive Police operations and partnership multi-agency approaches to identify and prosecute prolific theft offenders.

Main Delivery Groups: Community Safety Units; Theft and Handling Stolen Goods Sub-Group.
# Priority 5: Tackling Substance Misuse

## The Facts – Why this is a Priority
Substance misuse is inextricably tied to crime and disorder with established links with violent and acquisitive crime. The CSP is also keen to minimise the associated risks to health, particularly in relation to young people. Concerted efforts to address drug-related crime have brought more offenders to justice and preventative work has improved access to treatment, advice and assistance. However, public consultation tells us that local residents are concerned about ‘people using or dealing drugs in their neighbourhood’ and with ‘people being drunk and rowdy in public’. Tackling substance misuse will not only help reduce crime and disorder, it will also help people to live healthier lifestyles and improve quality of life generally by reducing the fear and intimidation that can be caused by drug and alcohol related behaviour.

## Aims – What do we want to do?
- Reduce the number of drug and alcohol-related offences, especially in the NTE
- Reduce the number of alcohol-related hospital admissions
- Increase the number of drug users accessing treatment
- Improve public perceptions of drunk and rowdy behaviour as a problem
- Improve public perceptions of people using or dealing drugs as a problem

## Implementation – How are we going to do it?

### Multi-agency preventative work
- Delivering initiatives that aim to educate and raise awareness about substance misuse targeted at young people and those most at risk;
- Providing support for young people whose parents have substance misuse difficulties;
- Raising awareness of the consequences of irresponsible drinking, including driving whilst under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;
- Using Licensing controls and other enforcement measures to ensure that licensed premises do not encourage binge-drinking, sell to those underage or allow drug dealing.

### Providing access to treatment and harm minimisation services
- To increase referrals of those misusing drugs and coming into the criminal justice system into the Drug Intervention Programme (DIP) and appropriate treatment services;
- Promotion of the DIP and treatment services across partner agencies.
- To improve treatment/care and ensure that alcohol treatment services are responsive to and meet the needs of harmful and dependent drinkers, their families and carers;

### Addressing prolific drug and alcohol-related offending behaviour and supporting local neighbourhoods
- To carry out targeted intelligence-led Police operations focusing on known offenders to disrupt drug markets;
- Multi-agency projects targeted at locations where drug and alcohol-misuse is more prevalent to encourage reporting, improve intelligence to enable action to be taken against offenders and provide reassurance to local residents;
- Use of enforcement measures such as Exclusion Orders, Alcohol Control Zone Orders, in key locations.

**Main Delivery Groups:** Drug and Alcohol Action Group, Young People’s Sub-Group, Community Safety Units.
# Priority 6
**Reducing Re-offending**

## The Facts – Why this is a Priority
Reducing re-offending is cutting crime by stopping and/or changing the behaviour of known offenders. Whilst repeat offenders are small in number, they cause disproportionate damage to local communities. The challenge is ensuring that services deliver a balance between enforcement and protecting the public and supporting offenders in order that they can steer clear of returning to criminality.

## Aims – What do we want to do?
- To reduce re-offending and ultimately, reduce harm to victims, communities and vulnerable groups;
- Contribute to an overall reduction in the level of crime recorded
- Deliver a co-ordinated and integrated response to the resettlement of offenders
- Reduce the number of prolific offenders who re-offend due to drug or alcohol dependency issues
- Reduce the number of young people (aged 10-19) who are repeat offenders
- Reducing the number of repeat offences of domestic abuse

## Implementation – How are we going to do it?
- Working with the Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOMU), identifying ways of improving multi-agency working arrangements to bolster the management of Prolific and Priority Offenders (PPOs);
- Dealing swiftly and applying rigorous enforcement to offenders who have been sentenced to community orders and those released on licence following a custodial sentence who re-offends or breaches the terms of their supervision;
- Continuing with Prevent and Deter initiatives to stop (particularly young offenders) from entering the pool of prolific offenders;
- Through Police activity to tackle those who are already prolific offenders (catch and Convict);
- By providing pathways out of offending (including tackling issues relating to housing needs, managing finances, education, training and employment, drug and alcohol problems) to reduce or prevent re-offending for those who have been prolific offenders (Rehabilitation and Resettlement);
- By prioritising the protection of the public through Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) to manage risks presented by offenders who pose a high risk of harm;
- Tackling reducing youth re-offending through joint initiatives with the Youth Offending Service (YOS);
- Addressing the high level of repeat offending in domestic abuse (through work developed via the Violence Crime Group and North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum).

**Main Delivery Groups:** Integrated Offender Management Unit, all CSP Sub-Groups and North Kent Domestic Abuse Forum, Repeat Offenders Focus Group.
Communicating With and Listening to Local People

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) recognises that effectively dealing with crime and disorder is not always, in itself, enough to actually make local people genuinely feel safer. The CSP regularly receives information based on the findings of the Kent Crime and Victimisation Survey (KCVS) about how safe people feel and the crime and disorder issues that most concern local residents. In North Kent, there is a disproportionate level of concern about certain types of crime and disorder compared with how much crime and disorder is actually taking place. One of our aims is to improve the way we let people know about the work we are doing and its impact but also to listen to and understand your concerns so that we can work with you to try to alleviate them. We want our two Boroughs to be perceived as areas where people want to live, work, raise their families and spend their leisure time.

KCVS data, information gained from local Neighbourhood Panel Meetings, reports to Council members by their constituents and to Community Safety Units in each Borough, have been used to ensure that the priorities identified in this Strategy are not just shared by partner agencies but also by local people. In addition, throughout the course of 2011-12, regular consultation will take place through surveys and focus group work and through contact with local residents at ground level when we are delivering projects in specific geographical areas, to ensure that we remain aware of the issues that are the priority within local communities.

ENGAGEMENT

**Neighbourhood Forums and Residents Associations**

**Neighbourhood Panel Meetings (formerly PACT)**

**Community Groups and Neighbourhood Watches**

**Consultation on Community Safety Priorities**

**ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AND RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT**

**Neighbourhood Forums and Residents Associations**

**Neighbourhood Panel Meetings (formerly PACT)**

**Community Groups and Neighbourhood Watches**

**Continuous Community Feedback**

FEEDBACK

The Partnership is also aware that the level of success that our Community Safety Strategy can achieve is dependent upon the active involvement and support of local residents. We will aim to tackle the community safety issues that local people tell us cause the greatest concern but we will also need your help in order to make sure that the improvements we put in place are sustained in the longer term. We recognise that local people and the part they can play is our greatest resource and we are committed to working alongside and support residents in becoming part of our Partnership team.
The Structure of the Community Safety Partnership

The Partnership has a sound structure to ensure that the work set out in this Strategy can be effectively delivered and performance and progress regularly monitored. As well as a joint Dartford and Gravesham overarching strategic group that brings together statutory agency representatives at the most senior level, the Partnership has a number of operational sub-groups that will deliver work on the ground. These groups will each develop detailed action plans that will clearly identify the projects and initiatives that will be carried out in 2011-12 to underpin the aims and objectives outlined in this Strategy.

Partnership Organisational Structure

![Diagram of Partnership Organisational Structure]

Both the Main Strategic Group and the Support Group meet on a quarterly basis. The Chairs of each of the Sub-Groups attend the Support Group meetings and provide progress reports on the projects their Group is implementing. On a day-to-day basis the Community Safety Units in each Borough, jointly staffed by both Kent Police and Council Officers, monitor both the progress being made overall in tackling our key priorities and respond quickly and efficiently to any new issues that may come to light or any change in circumstances that have to be addressed.

This structure means that there are a number of checks and balances in place to keep all involved on track with working towards achieving our goals by the end of the year.
Contacts

Further details of the Partnership and the work of the Community Safety Units can be found on the websites:  www.safedartford.gov.uk  and  www.safegravesham.gov.uk

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