



THE CABINET

A G E N D A

Date: Thursday 14th April 2005

Time: 6.00 p.m.

**Venue: Areley Kings Village Hall
Areley Common
Stourport-on-Severn**

**AGENDA ITEM 10.1.
DRAFT WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY
STRATEGY (2005 - 2008)**

WYRE FOREST COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Draft Community Safety Strategy

2005-08

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Foreword

Promoting the Wyre Forest as a safe district is going to be one of the key challenges of this third community safety strategy.

The district is already a safe place to live, work and visit. However, even the relatively low levels of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime that are experienced can have a significant impact on local people's lives and the cohesion of our rural and urban communities. These issues can also deter private sector investment in the area.

The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership is committed to working with communities to ensure that we act effectively to reduce incidents of crime and disorder and tackle the causes of crime. The Partnership is made up of public, private, voluntary and community sector bodies each with their part to play to reduce crime and disorder in the Wyre Forest District.

This strategy identifies how the Partnership will respond to the challenges in the district and how we will fulfil our commitment.

The Wyre Forest District has a history of working in partnership to achieve safer communities. This has resulted in a reduction in recorded crime over the last three years. However, we should not underestimate the considerable amount of work still to be done to ensure that people in the Wyre Forest District feel safe.

The Partnership and community have jointly developed this strategy, and we look forward to your continued support to improve the quality of life for all the people in the district.

Tom Currie

Area Manager for West Mercia Probation Service

Chairperson of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

Introduction

Tackling the district's crime and disorder problems is a joint job for everyone and not just the Police. More effective and sustainable solutions are often to be found through agencies working together.

The catalyst for partnership working was the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which placed a statutory responsibility on Wyre Forest District Council, Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police to form a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP). More recently the Police Reform Act 2002 extended this statutory membership to include Primary Care Trusts, the Fire Service and the Police Authority.

In Wyre Forest we call our CDRP the **Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership (WFCSP)**, which in addition to the above membership brings together representatives from a range of public, private, voluntary and community sector bodies. All partners share one vision – ***'Wyre Forest – an even safer place to live, work, visit or do business in'.***

In order to meet the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act, every three years the Partnership is obliged to:

- Conduct an audit of local crime, disorder and drug misuse problems, taking into account the views of those who live, work and travel in the area;
- Determine priorities for action;
- Devise and publish a three-year strategy which tackles these priority problems, and;
- Monitor progress, fine-tuning the strategy as required.

Our Audit Process:

This is the third and most comprehensive community safety audit carried out in the Wyre Forest District. The 2004 audit has attempted to collate data and information from a number of sources, including:

- A statistical review of crime, disorder, drugs and alcohol data from 2001 to 2003;
- A countywide crime, drug and alcohol misuse Citizens' Panel Survey;
- A residents' fear of crime survey;
- A business community survey;
- A young people's survey;
- A district Citizens' Panel priorities survey; and
- A review of information from focus groups undertaken during 2004.

The above information and key findings formed the **broad and shallow** element of our audit process, which allowed specific priorities and priority neighbourhoods to be identified.

We have now undertaken a **narrow and deep analysis**, so effort has been concentrated on obtaining more detailed information relating to the priorities and not on the non-priorities.

To support this process the WFCSP held a stakeholder event in October 2004 to:

- Analyse the detailed findings and collectively agree the priorities for the next three-year district Community Safety Strategy 2005-08;
- Map existing and proposed stakeholder activity against the identified priorities; and
- Review the Partnership's key achievements over the last three years.

Headline results from Audit process

The key headline results from our crime and disorder audit exercises are summarised below.

About the Wyre Forest District

- Situated in North West Worcestershire and with a population of 96,945 (2001 Census).
- Covering an area of seventy five square miles, the district is made up of a mix of urban, rural and market town communities. The three towns of Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn form a triangle within the district and are surrounded by a number of outlying villages and hamlets.
- Whilst generally perceived as being economically prosperous, the district is also home to the Oldington and Foley Park ward, which contains two of the most deprived areas in the county of Worcestershire. The Rifle Range area covers Jubilee Drive, Avon Road and Shrawley Avenue while the adjacent Birchen Coppice area includes Walter Nash Road and Foley Business Park. These two areas also rank inside the top 0.5% most deprived areas nationally in terms of education. The Rifle Range area has a particularly serious problem in this regard, ranked 16th most deprived out of a total 32,482 areas nationally. Other areas such as the Horsefair in Broadwaters also experience high levels of poverty, poor health, social exclusion and low educational attainment.
- The perceived affluence of the district often presents challenges when seeking to secure external sources of funding for the regeneration of our deprived areas.

Crime and Disorder in the District

- **Wyre Forest District is a relatively low crime area.** The total crime rate for 2003/04 was 97.8 per 1,000 population, which is lower than national and regional figures of 113, but slightly higher than county and West Mercia Force averages of 91.1 and 92 per 1,000 population respectively.

- The most prevalent crime type within the district over the three-year period (January 2001 to December 2003) was criminal damage followed by vehicle crime and assault.
- Crime types to increase throughout the three-year period were assault (+36.8%) and violent disorder and affray (+15%).
- Crime types showing a decrease throughout the three-year period were racially aggravated crimes (-57.7%), dwelling burglary (-18.7%) and vehicle crime (-7.8%).
- The introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002 by the Home Office has meant that trend analysis over the three-year period (2001-2, 2002-3 and 2003-4) is extremely difficult. Increases experienced after 2002 are not necessarily due to a true increase in any given crime type but may instead reflect changes in the way crimes are recorded.
- Our residents top four priorities for making Wyre Forest a Safer Place were:
 - Reduce anti-social behaviour;
 - More facilities to get kids off the streets;
 - More visible policing; and
 - Deal with drugs.

The two wards of Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters both displayed significantly worse ratings for all of the anti-social behaviour issues raised by residents.

Review of existing Community Safety Strategy 2002-05

Over the last three years, the WFCSP has successfully delivered a number of key initiatives to sustain crime and disorder reduction. Some of the most effective and high profile initiatives have included:

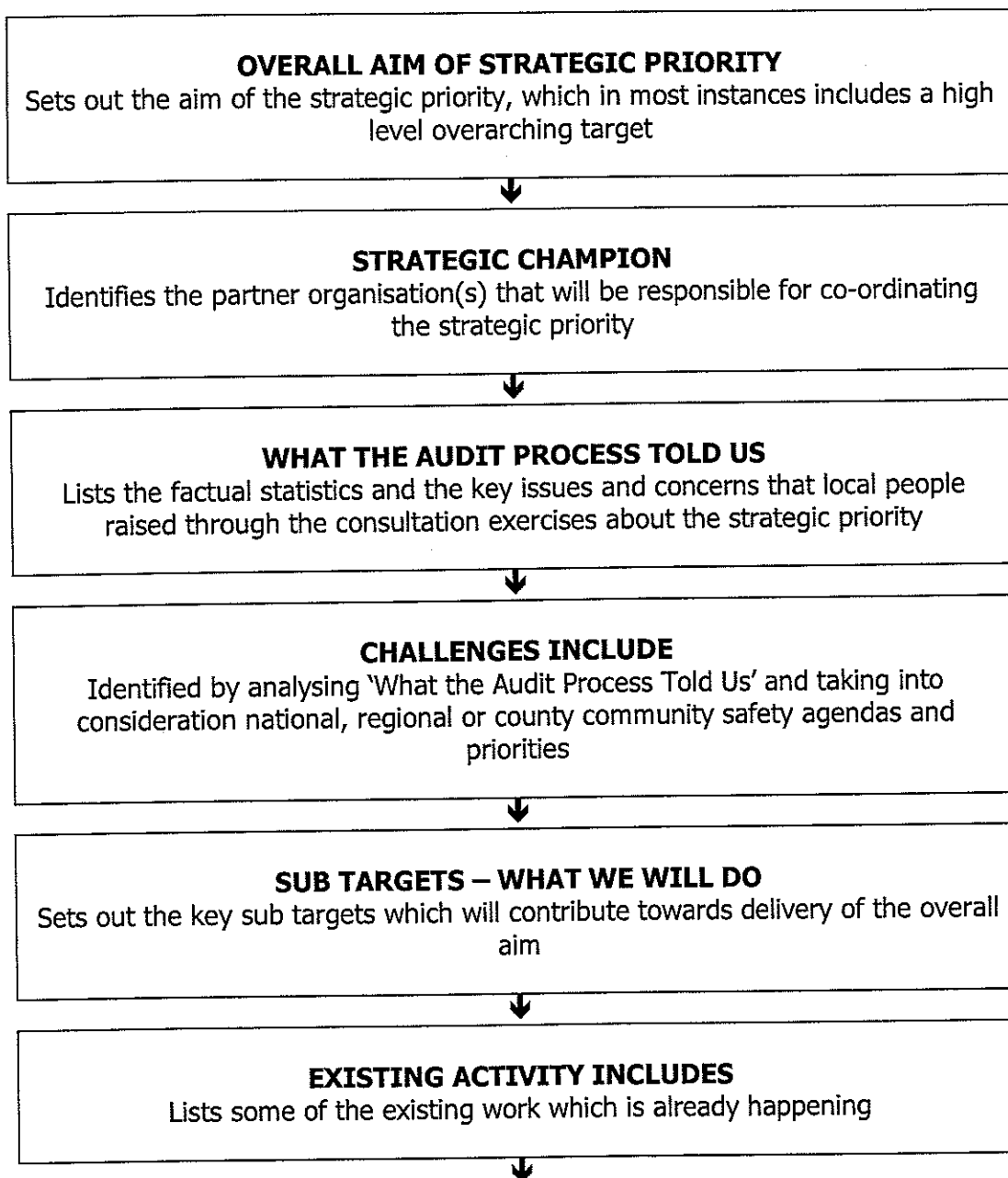
- Established and managed by Wyre Forest Community Housing a nationally recognised and accredited team of Neighbourhood and Street Wardens who patrol local estates and work with local communities;
- CCTV cameras have been installed in over 30 Wyre Forest District licensed taxis. To date, there have been no incidents of assaults or violence that were previously being experienced by local drivers;
- 93% (63) of GPs in Wyre Forest are involved in Shared Care, which is the joint participation of drug workers and GPs in the delivery of care for patients with a drug misuse problem;
- In July 2003, Bewdley Town Centre was designated an Alcohol Restriction Zone, which in the first 12 months resulted in a 30% reduction in crime, disorder and anti social behaviour incidents; and
- Established by the Police, a multi agency District Tasking Group proactively monitors crime and disorder incidents and performance levels on a monthly basis to ensure operational activity is being deployed to best effect.

Priorities for the Community Safety Strategy 2005-08

Following the comprehensive audit of crime and disorder, the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership has identified four strategic priorities, as listed below for its third Community Safety Strategy 2005-08.

- **Anti Social Behaviour**
- **Drugs and Alcohol**
- **Public Perception of Crime**
- **Violent Crime**

The following sections of this document outline the **FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES** and for each one sets out:



SUPPORTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Identifies those plans and strategies whose work will contribute towards the delivery of the strategic priority



ACHIEVING OUR AIM AND SUB TARGETS WILL MEAN

Identifies what the district will be characterised by (what people can expect to see or experience) when the aim and sub targets have been achieved

Each **STRATEGIC PRIORITY** will have an annual **DELIVERY PLAN**. This will set out a programme of work to be delivered for all sub targets and will identify:

- specific operational targets and associated timescales;
- resource implications;
- the responsible partners for delivery; and
- monitoring and reporting arrangements.

The success of this strategy will largely depend on effective connections being made between each of the four strategic priorities in addition to ensuring that the root causes of the issues are addressed in a holistic manner.

For example, reducing offending is not simply a matter of police enforcement, i.e. arresting and charging people for the offences they have committed. Rather interventions must also identify and address the causes of offending, also known as crime generators, which include long term unemployment, poor quality housing, drug use, persistent truancy, low educational attainment, poor health and low income. This is to say that preventing crime, or at least implementing schemes that will create sustainable reductions in offending behaviour, must tackle these factors and, for this strategy, will be just as important as traditional methods of law enforcement. To achieve this, the Partnership will continue to work closely with other groups and partnerships, particularly in the district's most deprived wards, namely, Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters where crime and disorder levels are disproportionately high.

This holistic approach requires the participation and commitment of a range of organisations. To give an example, tackling the Fear of Crime could include having a well designed built environment (District Council), taking action against truancy (Schools and Local Education Authority), providing safe and reliable public transport (Worcestershire County Council), using the arts and sports to equip young people with life skills (District Council, Youth Service) and supporting people to access employment and training opportunities (Connexions Service, Job Centre Plus, Chamber of Commerce, Business Community).

For local people this joined up approach between different organisations will mean that services are more efficiently and effectively managed and more mainstream resources should be available to target the real crime and disorder issues, in the right way, in the right place and at the right time.

Some of the strategic priorities identified in this strategy are also reflected in the community safety partnership strategies for Bromsgrove, Redditch and South Worcestershire. Where appropriate, the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership will seek to develop robust links between those North Worcestershire or Worcestershire wide issues, which are also strategic priorities for this district. In particular, this approach will enable limited resources to be pooled to best effect and will also help to prevent and limit displacement of crime between each of the four partnership areas.

National Community Safety Agenda and Priorities

The Government is committed to the delivery of safer and more secure communities through a broad and ambitious programme of change that will shape the future of crime reduction and community safety.

The performance of local CDRPs is at the heart of the Government's crime reduction and drugs agenda and Partnership activities will therefore be required to influence and support delivery of the following Home Office Public Service Agreements (PSA) 2005/08:

- **PSA 1** (to reduce crime by 18% in the Wyre Forest District by 2007/08)
- **PSA 2** (to reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and building confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) without compromising fairness)
- **PSA 4** (reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the CJS)
- **PSA 6** (increase voluntary and community engagement, especially amongst those at risk of social exclusion)

Therefore, alongside this district strategy of local community safety priorities, the Partnership will be responsible for the delivery of targets for the above four PSAs for the period 2005/08. Government Office for the West Midlands will monitor performance regularly against the agreed targets, which we shall integrate, as best as possible, within this strategy.

It should be noted that a Glossary of Terms is located at the back of this document to provide either a local or the current Home Office definition for various terms used.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The overall **AIM** – *'To reduce recorded incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour'*

Due to the Home Office's recent change in definition for Anti – Social Behaviour (ASB) 2004, there is insufficient data to currently set a meaningful three-year target. A target will therefore be set from 06/07.

STRATEGIC CHAMPION

Wyre Forest Community Housing

WHAT THE AUDIT PROCESS TOLD US

- Residents said their top two priorities for making Wyre Forest feel safer were 'reducing anti-social behaviour' (ASB) at 27.3% and more facilities to get kids off the streets, 26.8%
- The two wards of Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters both displayed significantly worse ratings for all ASB issues (including drunkenness, verbal abuse, harassment) – 66% and 65% respectively.
- 45% of residents said that public drunkenness was a problem in their local area compared to only 31% three years ago. Whilst in the town centres, the perception of this problem had increased from 39% in 2001 to 55%
- The perceived link between young people hanging around and ASB was made explicit by the 20% of residents who had experienced ASB in the past year. 83% of these residents thought that young people were a problem in their area. Interestingly 95% of young people aged 18-25 also considered young people to be a problem
- 78% of residents supported the use of Neighbourhood Wardens to deal with less serious community safety issues
- 61% of residents said that vandalism and graffiti was a particular problem in the town centres compared to only 55% three years ago. Whilst in local areas, the perception of these problems had increased from 43% in 2001 to 57%
- The top fear for all businesses (40%) was having their property vandalised

CHALLENGES INCLUDE

- Tackling the root causes of ASB issues and using a multi agency approach to address them
- The recent change in the Home Office's definition for ASB resulting in no sufficient period of data to set meaningful reduction targets for specific categories of ASB
- Reducing people's fear of ASB
- Sustainability of the current Neighbourhood and Street Warden scheme
- Continued effective use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Section 30's and other legislative powers
- Ensuring that the core community safety partners mainstream ASB issues into business planning and widen operational officer appreciation of this as a routine service delivery consideration

- Working with young people to raise awareness of the intimidation and fear that their 'hanging around' behaviour causes to all age groups
- Developing robust performance monitoring systems by relevant community safety partners to capture the environmental elements of ASB (e.g. graffiti, fly posting)
- Linking in with the Oldington and Foley Park Pathfinder Programme and the Worcestershire Local Public Service Agreement 2, which focuses on community safety issues for the Broadwaters Ward
- Being prepared for the potential ASB impact arising from changes in licensing laws through the Licensing Act 2003

SUB TARGETS - WHAT WE WILL DO

1. Reduction by 17% in the number of recorded incidents of **criminal damage** from 2266 in 2003/04 to 1881 by 2008
2. Reduction in the number of **residents who feel that ASB is a problem** in their local Town Centre from 61% (2004) to 43% by 2008
3. Reduction in the number of residents who feel that **vandalism and graffiti is a particular problem** in:
 - Their **local town centres** from 61% (2004) to 43% by 2008
 - Their **local area** from 57% (2004) to 39% by 2008
4. Reduction in the number of residents who feel that **young people hanging around is a problem and perceive this behaviour to be linked with ASB** in the following areas:
 - **Oldington and Foley Park** from 77% (2004) to 59% by 2008
 - **Broadwaters** from 73% (2004) to 55% by 2008
5. To set a target for reducing recorded incidents of ASB from April 2006

EXISTING ACTIVITY INCLUDES

- Managed by Wyre Forest Community Housing, a nationally recognised and accredited team of Neighbourhood and Street Wardens patrol local estates and work with local communities
- A successful partnership approach to the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and Section 30s of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
- Since April 2004, the District Council has run a high profile campaign called Pride in Your Area, which is currently focusing on enforcement and educational matters regarding dog fouling and litter. To date the campaign has been well received and has involved over 20 local schools and a number of local businesses
- A Wyre Forest Youth Crime Forum has recently been established in partnership with local schools to support the reduction of ASB and disorder across the district
- Implementation of a successful Bewdley Alcohol Restriction Zone. Best practice from the 12 month evaluation is being shared with other areas

- Wyre Forest Community Housing has a well established ASB Unit which provides a tenants working panel and training on ASB issues, as well as a 24 hour reporting mechanism for incidents
- There is a rapid removal scheme for abandoned and other vulnerable vehicles in order to reduce the opportunity for arson
- A range of diversionary activities are provided for young people by the District Council and include sports, arts, play and ranger initiatives

SUPPORTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- Bewdley Town Centre Management Forum Strategy and Action Plan
- Hereford and Worcester Combined Fire Authority Plan
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Justice Plan
- Kidderminster Town Centre Partnership Strategy and Action Plan
- Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Delivery Plan
- Opportunity Bewdley Action Plan
- Stourport Town Centre Forum Strategy and Action Plan
- West Mercia Constabulary's Strategic and Basic Command Unit Policing Plan
- Worcestershire Local Public Service Agreement 2
- Wyre Forest Community Housing Strategic Plan
- Wyre Forest District Council Cleansing Services Improvement Plan
- Wyre Forest District Council Community Development Plan
- Wyre Forest District Council Ranger Service Development Plan

ACHIEVING OUR AIM AND SUB TARGETS WILL MEAN

- Less incidents of ASB and a reduced fear of ASB by all sections of the community
- There will be cleaner streets and public places with less litter, graffiti and vandalism
- 'Getting Tougher' policies will have the support of the local community
- The frustration of law abiding residents will be reduced and their quality of life improved
- Through active citizenship, communities will shape policy and improvement for their locality and maintain and enhance social cohesion
- There will be shared community ownership and pride in neighbourhoods
- Young people will feel valued and be able to access a greater range of challenging and enjoyable activities
- There will be better use of the right enforcement legislation, in the right circumstances and at the right time

STRATEGIC PRIORITY – DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The overall **AIM** – ***'To reduce problematic drug and alcohol use and the resulting effect on individuals, families and communities within the Wyre Forest District'***

STRATEGIC CHAMPION

Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust and Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team

WHAT THE AUDIT PROCESS TOLD US

- Wyre Forest had the second highest number of drug offences (413) in Worcestershire for 2002 and 2003. Possession of cannabis accounted for the majority of these offences
- For the same period there were 439 drug related crimes in the district. Kidderminster Town Centre and the Horsefair were the priority areas for these crimes which were mainly shoplifting and assault
- Most individuals committing drug related crime and offences were male and aged between 20 and 30 years old
- In 2003/04, 134 individuals who resided in the district attended drug treatment. 91% of these clients received treatment for heroin addiction
- Around two in every five residents said that drug use or drug dealing were problems in their local area
- Almost a third of residents (29%) said that they had seen evidence of drug use in their own area, particularly in the following wards: Broadwaters (43%), Oldington and Foley Park (40%), Aggborough / Spennells (38%), Mitton (36%), Sutton Park (35%) and Bewdley (33%)
- Wyre Forest had the third highest number of alcohol related offences (1627) in Worcestershire for 2002 and 2003
- For the same period, Kidderminster and Stourport Town Centres and the Horsefair were identified as alcohol related crime hotspots
- Males in the 18-24 year age category were responsible for the majority of alcohol related crime in the district in 2002 and 2003

CHALLENGES INCLUDE

- Recognising the 'hidden' nature of drug and alcohol misuse and that whatever figures are reported, in reality, are probably higher
- Supporting and promoting the services provided by Turning Point, which will shortly set up an office base in the district
- Continue to pool resources and available funding on a countywide basis to develop larger projects, which can have a greater impact
- Maintaining the recent reduction in local waiting times for all aspects of drug treatment and ensure these are kept in line or below the National Treatment Agency targets

- Aligning the outcomes of the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy with the work of the Community Safety Partnership
- Having sufficient capacity to effectively address the 16 National Key Performance Indicators on drugs
- Spending more time to share best practice at a countywide level
- Linking in with the recently established Worcestershire Criminal Justice Interventions Team
- More effective community engagement and in particular working with young people

SUB TARGETS - WHAT WE WILL DO

The targets listed below have been set by Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) and are for the whole of Worcestershire. Targets have not been set at a district level because the resources, planning and commissioning of drug and alcohol services is undertaken at a county level. Therefore responsibility for the delivery of these targets has been devolved to Worcestershire SMAT.

KPI	Description	Baseline 2003/4	Prediction 2004/5	Target 2007/8
Outcome 1: Reduce drug related deaths and drug related ill health				
	Reduce the number of drug related deaths by 20% from 15 to 12 (based on 3 year rolling average from 2001 to 2003)	20	25	12
	Increase the number of service users who have been Hepatitis B vaccinated	Not Available	41	55
Outcome 2: Reduce drug and alcohol related crime and disorder				
RS4d	Increase the number of Class A drug supply offences brought to justice per 10,000 of population (total)	1.85		
RS2d	Increase the number of seizures of Class A drugs by the police in their drug partnership area per 10,000 of the population	7.8		
	Increase the percentage of DIP referrals who subsequently engage with treatment or other drug related services	DIP not established in 2003/04	18%	80%
Outcome 3: Reduce social and educational exclusion				
	Reduce the number of young people fixed term/permanently excluded from school for drug and alcohol related issues (target based on 3 year rolling average)	< 10 permanent <199 fixed term		< 10 permanent <199 fixed term
	Increase the percentage of DIP referrals to the Social Re-integration Scheme placed in Education, Training and Employment within 2 months	DIP not established in 2003/04		80%

KPI	Description	Baseline 2003/4	Prediction 2004/5	Target 2007/8
	Increase the number of Young People receiving targeted drug education, including harm reduction information (all others)			

Outcome 4: Improve access to drug and alcohol treatment and support

Increase the number of problem drug users in treatment by 100% (1998 baseline) by 2008 (11% per annum)	1001	1098	1501
Increase the number of young people assessed by SPACE (young people's substance misuse service)	Not available	102	
Ensure waiting times for drug, alcohol and young people's services are 3 weeks or less	> 3 weeks	> 3 weeks	< 3 weeks

Outcome 5: Increase positive outcomes from drug and alcohol treatment

Increase the percentage of adult drug users retained in treatment for 12 weeks or more	65%	62%	74%
Ensure completion rates for specialist drug treatment prescribing are in line with national averages	Lower than national averages	Lower than national averages	In line with national averages
Ensure completion rates for Shared Care drug treatment prescribing are in line with national averages	Lower than national averages	Lower than national averages	In line with national averages
Increase the number of people receiving alcohol treatment	1000	1267	1400
Increase the number of young people accessing specialist drug and alcohol treatment	25	25	

EXISTING ACTIVITY INCLUDES

- 93% (63) of GPs in Wyre Forest are involved in Shared Care, which is the joint participation of drug workers and GPs in the delivery of care for patients with a drug misuse problem
- 31% (5) of Pharmacists in the Wyre Forest are involved in Supervised Consumption, which is a scheme whereby medication is dispensed to certain client groups, under the supervision of a pharmacist
- There is one drug treatment agency in the district, the Community Drug Team and there is also an alcohol service, the Hereford & Worcester Advisory Service on Alcohol. Both are based in Kidderminster Town Centre
- There is a Young Person's Substance Misuse Service known as SPACE, which aims to provide information and advice to young people on drug and alcohol related issues and provides intensive support to young people who are experiencing substance misuse issues

- The Drug Intervention Programme is improving access to treatment across all aspects of the Criminal Justice System
- Interactive drug and health education sessions in Wyre Forest First Schools are being run by the Life Education Centres for Worcestershire and there is also a Specialist Teacher Advisor for drug education in schools
- There is a free-phone confidential help-line called Pressure Point, which provides information and advice for anyone concerned about an individual's drug use
- Recovering drug users are supported back into work through a countywide scheme called 'Progress to Work' linked to a social re-integration scheme
- 'Floating' housing support (one-to-one support for vulnerable individuals in order to maintain their tenancies) is provided by Stonham Housing
- The Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust has set up an effective specialist support group for vulnerable young people whose problems include substance misuse

SUPPORTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- Local Delivery Plan for Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust
- North Worcestershire Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy
- Oldington and Foley Park Pathfinder Delivery Plan
- West Mercia Constabulary's Strategic and Basic Command Unit Policing Plan
- Worcestershire's Forum Against Domestic Violence Strategy
- Worcestershire Local Public Service Agreement 2
- Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team Strategy and Treatment Plan and Young Person's Plan
- Wyre Forest District Council Community Development Plan
- Wyre Forest District Council Housing Strategy
- Wyre Forest District Council Licensing Policy

ACHIEVING OUR AIM AND SUB TARGETS WILL MEAN

- Fewer drug related crimes
- Less littering of drug paraphernalia in public spaces
- A reduced fear of drugs and drug related crimes
- Greater confidence and cohesion within our communities will support local people to resist drugs and drug related crime and disorder
- Continued drug education programmes in schools will lead to more younger people making safer choices in respect of drug related and risk taking behaviour
- More young people and adults will be accessing the treatment they need to treat drug and alcohol dependency
- Better and more accessible information provision on treatment services and how they can be accessed

STRATEGIC PRIORITY – PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF CRIME

The overall **AIM** – *'To increase public reassurance in those Wards and Town Centres where crime, disorder and anti social behaviour is most prevalent'.*

STRATEGIC CHAMPION

Wyre Forest District Council

WHAT THE AUDIT PROCESS TOLD US

- Only 81% of residents felt safe in their local town centre during the day compared to 94% three years ago
- Residents from Sutton Park were most likely to worry about crime, at 80%, followed by those living in Blakedown (76%) and Greenhill (76%)
- Residents in Oldington & Foley Park were the least likely to feel safe in their own neighbourhood (67%)
- One factor influencing fear of crime was the age of residents, with young people (18-24 year olds) most likely to worry about becoming a victim of crime (82%), compared to only 51% of 65-79 year olds and 27% of those aged 80 or over
- As in 2001, the areas where residents felt least safe in the district were in public car parks, especially at night (61% stating they felt unsafe)
- The top two crime worries for all businesses were vandalism (40%) and burglary (32%)
- Interestingly businesses located on an industrial estate were more likely to worry about burglary than those located in the town centres (39% compared to 12% respectively)
- Encouragingly 18% of residents had heard of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership compared to only 9% in 2001
- Residents who had heard of the Partnership were also more likely to feel that there should be additional involvement in preventing crime from the community itself (88%)

CHALLENGES INCLUDE

- To reassure all sections of the community that Wyre Forest District is a safe place to live and work in
- To achieve balanced, constructive and timely reporting from local media sources
- Maintain effective and seamless communication channels across all tiers of the Community Safety Partnership
- Continue to build the profile and raise awareness of the Partnership and its joined up multi agency approach to tackling crime and disorder issues
- All partners to be ambassadors for the local community safety agenda
- To address social inclusion issues by ensuring optimum access to up to date community safety information

- Empower and engage local people in community safety issues in their neighbourhoods
- Learn from other Community Safety Partnerships about community reassurance initiatives that have worked well for them
- Acknowledging that greater community engagement in local issues is likely to result in increased reporting of crime and disorder, and ensuring community safety targets take this into account
- Delivering community reassurance initiatives at times of the day when communities feel most vulnerable
- To be aware that we must be realistic about how quickly we can change people's concerns and perceptions

SUB TARGETS - WHAT WE WILL DO

1. Increase residents' feelings of safety **when on foot, at night**, in the local town centres from 27% (2004) to 45% by 2008
2. Reduction in the **number of people worrying about one or more crimes** in the following neighbourhood areas:
 - **Sutton Park** from 80% (2004) to 62% by 2008
 - **Greenhill** from 76% (2004) to 58% by 2008
 - **Broadwaters** from 68% (2004) to 50% by 2008
 - **Oldington and Foley Park** from 63%(2004) to 45% by 2008
3. Reduction in the **number of young people (aged 18-24) worrying about becoming a victim of crime** from 82% (2004) to 64% by 2008
4. Increase all **residents' awareness of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership** from 18% (2004) to 36% by 2008

EXISTING ACTIVITY INCLUDES

- A long and well established partnership exists with the Kidderminster Shuttle, Times and News newspaper
- A team of Neighbourhood and Street Wardens work with the district's most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities
- Successful urban, rural, business and community safety groups e.g. Offmore and Comberton Action Group, Neighbourhood Watch, Sandy Lane Business Association
- Proactive promotion of community safety initiatives and good news stories, through the local media and other county, regional and national publications e.g. introduction of CCTV in Wyre Forest Taxis
- New developments are designed, as far as possible, to meet the principles of secure by design to reduce the potential for criminal acts and to reduce fear of crime
- Individual partner organisations hold community safety awareness days to promote specific areas of work, e.g. Fire Safety (Fire Brigade), Home Safety (Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust)
- Diversionary activities delivered by the Council's Community Development Section are targeted to address social inclusion issues

- There is an effective countywide Joined Up Information System which collects and shares crime, disorder and other partnership data between the four Worcestershire Community Safety Partnerships

SUPPORTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- Bewdley Town Centre Management Forum Strategy and Action Plan
- Helping to Transform Your Life – A Community Strategy for the Wyre Forest District
- Kidderminster Town Centre Partnership Strategy and Action Plan
- Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Delivery Plan
- Opportunity Bewdley Action Plan
- Partnership Towards Excellence – A Community Strategy for Worcestershire
- Stourport Town Centre Forum Strategy and Action Plan
- Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Communications Strategy
- Wyre Forest District Local Plan
- Wyre Forest District Town and Parish Plans

ACHIEVING OUR AIM AND SUB TARGETS WILL MEAN

- More people feeling reassured that they will not become victims of crime
- Greater confidence among local people in their neighbourhoods
- More balanced, constructive and responsible reporting by all local media on sensitive community safety issues
- Improved security and design of development, streets and public open spaces
- Enhanced engagement of the local community in tackling community safety issues through various groups including Neighbourhood Watch, Urban Safety Groups, Young and Older People's groups
- More accessible information about the real extent of crime and measures to reduce it
- An increased awareness and profile of the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

VIOLENT CRIME

STRATEGIC PRIORITY

The overall **AIM** - *'To reduce the number of recorded incidents of Violent Crime by 18% by March 2008'*

	Benchmark Year 03/04	Target 07/08
Recorded Incidents of Violent Crime	2361	1936

STRATEGIC CHAMPION

West Mercia Constabulary

WHAT THE AUDIT PROCESS TOLD US

- Violent disorder and affray offences have increased year on year
- Between January 2001 and December 2003, incidents of violent disorder increased by 15% and during this same period there was a 36.8% increase in the number of assaults
- Detection rates for violent crime remain consistently high at 63.20% for 2003/04
- In 2003/04 the district had the third highest rate in Worcestershire for violence against the person at 22.6 per 1000 population, which was above the West Mercia Force average of 19 per 1000 population
- Assault was one of the most common and recurring drug and alcohol related crimes committed in Wyre Forest between 2002 and 2003
- In the last 12 months, residents reported to having worried about the following types of assaults happening to them in their local area - street robbery (19%), other type of physical assault (15%) and being sexually assaulted (7%). However residents actual experience of these same assaults were only 0.5%, 2.9% and 0% respectively
- Encouragingly just 8% of businesses felt worried about physical assaults on them, or their staff when on their premises
- There were 991 hate crime incidents between January 2001 and December 2003, which represented 16.6% of all hate crimes recorded in Worcestershire for that period
- 16.5% of all domestic violence incidents in Worcestershire between January 2001 and December 2003 were recorded in the Wyre Forest

CHALLENGES INCLUDE

- Being able to measure progress effectively if there are further changes in the Home Office's counting rules for violent crime
- Being able to provide a county, regional and national context to explain this district's violent crime figures and to reassure people that they are safe in the Wyre Forest

- Through the Prolific and Other Priority Offenders Strategy to reduce crime and re-offending by those individuals who commit the most crime or create the maximum disorder in the district
- Tackling the increasing culture of binge drinking and in particular Friday and Saturday night disorder in town centres
- Changes in the licensing laws, which may further increase alcohol related violence and disorder
- Increasing public confidence to further the number of hate crime and domestic violence incidents reported and ensure targets set take this into account
- Better engagement with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure all possible cases are brought to court

SUB TARGETS

1. Deliver the detection rate of violent crime by "sanctioned" detections at XX (target to be set by Police)
2. Reduction by 18% in the number of incidents of Sections
 - **47 (actual bodily harm)** from 1054 (2003/04) to 864 by 2008
 - **39 (common assault)** from 431 (2003/04) to 353 by 2008
3. Reduction in the number of incidents of **domestic violence re-victimisations** by 10% from 779 (2003/04) to 701 by 2008
4. Reduction in the number of incidents of **violence against a person** from 22.6 per 1000 population (2003/04) to 18.5 by 2008

EXISTING ACTIVITY INCLUDES

- There is a well established Hate Crime and Domestic Violence Unit for North Worcestershire, which works across the three District Community Safety Partnerships
- Wyre Forest Women's Aid has a very effective 24 hour domestic violence help line
- Proactive monthly monitoring of violent crime and disorder incidents is undertaken by the multi agency District Tasking Group, which is led by the Police and has been provided with funding by Government Office for the West Midlands
- Over 30 members of the Wyre Forest Taxi Drivers Association have their taxis installed with CCTV cameras, which has successfully reduced incidents of assaults and violence that were previously being experienced by local drivers
- Established and managed by the local business community, there is a robust radio watch system between the three local town centres
- Successful targeted operations by the Police have included – Operation Magnum (proactive working with licensed premises) and Operation Ghost (multi agency approach to disorder incidents)
- A seven camera CCTV hotspot scheme has recently been introduced in Kidderminster Town Centre and is monitored by Bromsgrove District Council on behalf of Wyre Forest partners

SUPPORTING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Justice Plan
- Local Health Delivery Plan for Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust
- National Probation Service, West Mercia Area Business Plan
- North Worcestershire Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy
- North Worcestershire Victim Support Business Plan
- West Mercia Constabulary's Strategic and Basic Command Unit Policing Plan
- Worcestershire's Forum Against Domestic Violence Strategy
- Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team Strategy
- Wyre Forest District Council Licensing Policy

ACHIEVING OUR AIM AND SUB TARGETS WILL MEAN

- Fewer people becoming a victim of violent crime
- There will be a culture where drinking sensibly is the norm, and where alcohol misuse is considered socially unacceptable
- Local people will feel safer when out in public, at all times of the day
- An improved and more accessible support network of counselling and other services for victims of crime
- Greater confidence in the Criminal Prosecution Service
- Less victims of domestic violence and reduced cases of re-victimisation
- There will be earlier and increased reporting of domestic violence and hate crime incidences from all communities

Implementation and Performance Management

As discussed earlier, this strategy will adopt a problem solving approach to crime and disorder reduction. This approach, one that favours prevention and the causes of offending as well as police enforcement, should lead to crime and disorder reductions that are sustained into the future.

In addition, the successful delivery of the strategy will depend upon the Partnership remaining 'fit for purpose'. It has therefore identified the following key areas to focus and improve upon.

Building the Partnership – the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership will continue to:

- Develop the contribution of all partners, the local communities and the voluntary sector
- Ensure that Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act is implemented by all responsible partner agencies
- Develop joint funding and commissioning initiatives
- Develop joint training, in particular where agencies are working alongside each other on new approaches to prevention
- Improve information sharing between partner agencies to ensure that resources are targeted where they are most needed and support robust performance management

Resources

The strategy seeks to redirect **mainstream resources** to tackle the four strategic priorities identified. Thus, in the main, resources will be provided from the mainstream budgets of partner organisations but additional monies are expected from funds that central government will make available for developing safer and stronger communities.

Performance Management

The Community Safety Partnership will continue to develop and improve its existing performance management framework to ensure that performance is accurately measured and targets are met. In summary, performance will be reported and reviewed by the following tiers of the Partnership:

- **District Tasking** – on a monthly basis the performance of all British Crime Survey (BCS) Comparator Crimes for the district will be reported and reviewed. In view of the performance achieved, all existing and planned operational activity will be discussed, and where required, resources may be re-directed accordingly.

- **Steering Group** – on a quarterly basis, the performance of initiatives being delivered for the four strategic priorities will be discussed and reviewed against targets set. In addition, the performance of all BCS Comparator Crimes for the district will be reported. The Group will also instigate appropriate action where milestones or targets are not being met and address any barriers or blockages to delivery.
- **North Worcestershire Responsible Authorities Group** – three times a year, the performance of the Partnership in delivering the strategy and reducing BCS Comparator Crimes by the agreed percentage will be reported and reviewed. Individual partners will be required to account for their organisation's contribution to the level of performance that has been achieved. In addition, this body will commission crime and disorder initiatives for North Worcestershire where there is evidence that added value will be achieved by a wider geographical approach.

This robust performance management structure should help all partners to understand and own the strategy, as well as providing mechanisms for their accountability. It should also be noted that **Wyre Forest Matters, the Local Strategic Partnership** will receive quarterly progress reports from the Community Safety Partnership as it delivers the Safer Communities Theme of the District Community Strategy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are vital components of the strategy. The Partnership will establish robust baselines for all areas of delivery and individual partner agencies will be identified for collating and distributing monitoring data. Furthermore monitoring and evaluation will be a fundamental element of the Partnership's annual review, which will determine the key areas of focus and distribution of resources for 06/07 and 07/08 respectively. In addition, we will share best practice of successful initiatives.

Managing and Sharing Information

Crucial to the ongoing development of the Partnership's performance management framework is the improvement and implementation of joint information sharing protocols for delivery of this new Community Safety Strategy and associated supporting strategies e.g. North Worcestershire Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy. Work is currently being undertaken to revise and update existing protocols, which will ensure that the data sets required for measuring performance are being captured and are available. The protocols will also support partners when they undertake to use legislative crime and disorder powers e.g. Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.

Community Engagement

Continuous community involvement will be another integral element of the strategy's successful delivery. The ongoing action planning processes and the delivery of initiatives will engage local communities and groups to ensure ownership and effective approaches are adopted. It is however, recognised that the Partnership's emphasis on community engagement and working at a very local neighbourhood level is likely to increase people's confidence to report crimes that previously they may not have. Whilst we have tried to factor this issue into the reduction targets set, we shall need to review on an annual basis the impact of this and, if required, revise targets accordingly.

To find out more

Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

Tel no 01562 732788

c/o Wyre Forest District Council

Anti-Social Behaviour

Tel no 01562 732379

Wyre Forest Community Housing

Drugs and Alcohol

Tel no 01562 826388

or

01905 766661

Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust
Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team

Public Perception of Crime

Tel no 01562 732781

Wyre Forest District Council

Violent Crime

Tel no 0845 7444888

West Mercia Constabulary

Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership

Steering Group Members

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce
Herefordshire and Worcestershire Youth Offending Team
Kidderminster Shuttle, Times and News
Oldington and Foley Park Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder
Worcestershire County Council
Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team
West Mercia Constabulary
West Mercia Police Authority
West Mercia Probation Service
Wyre Forest Community Housing
Wyre Forest District Council
Wyre Forest District Parish and Town Councils
Wyre Forest Neighbourhood Watch Association
Wyre Forest Older People's Forum
Wyre Forest Primary Care Trust

Glossary of Terms

Actual Bodily Harm - is defined as 'any hurt, which interferes with health or comfort but not to a considerable degree'. It can include a bleeding nose, a black eye, bruising and scratches. It can also include psychiatric illness and mental hurt. This is Section 47 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. This offence can also be racially aggravated

Affray - is a serious public disorder incident where a group of people are present

Anti-Social Behaviour - is a behaviour that affects the quality of life of another and breaches their right to a peaceful existence. Home Office definition includes nuisance behaviour, abandoned vehicle, nuisance neighbours, nuisance inappropriate gathering, vehicle related nuisance, nuisance fireworks, hoax call to emergency services, street drinking in general, nuisance environmental, inappropriate use of public space, noise pubs and clubs, substance misuse - nuisance, noise alarm, vehicle inappropriate use - parking, noise business - industry, street drinking and begging

ASB - is an abbreviation for Anti-Social Behaviour

BCS Comparator Crime - a suite of statistics that the police record that covers the crime types that are most similar to those captured by the British Crime Survey (BCS)

Common Assault - is an assault contrary to Section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, which can be an assault and / or battery. A battery is an intentional or reckless act whereby unlawful force is inflicted and can be a mere touch. Where there is no injury it is questionable whether the circumstances justify a charge. The only factor, which distinguishes common assault from Actual Bodily Harm, is the degree of injury which results and the sentence available to the court. Common assault is appropriate where injuries amount to no more than grazes, scratches, abrasions, minor swellings, or reddening of the skin for example. Charging standards agreed by the Police and Criminal Prosecution Service offer guidance in selecting the most appropriate charge

CCTV - an abbreviation for closed circuit television. Such systems allow public areas to be monitored to ensure public safety and detect / prevent criminal offences

Community Group - a group formed locally to address specific needs. May be organised by a recognised agency or by local residents

Crime Rate - the number of recorded criminal offences over time in a given geographical area. May be expressed as a total or in categories

Criminal damage - without a lawful excuse, intentionally or recklessly causing damage to another's property. Home Office definition includes, Arson endangering life, arson not endangering life, criminal damage endangering life (not arson), other criminal damage (over £5000), other criminal damage (£20-£5000), other criminal damage (under £20), criminal damage (not HO)

reportable), threat to commit criminal damage, possession with intent to commit criminal damage, criminal damage £5000 and under

Data – number of facts, incidents or other phenomenon collected and presented in crude form

DIP – Drug Intervention Programme

Domestic Violence - is any physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse between partners who have been in or are in an intimate relationship or are family members (not children). **Re-victimisation** - is a repeat incident within twelve months

Fly Posting – the unauthorised display of printed material on walls and other surfaces within public view

Graffiti – defacement of buildings or other surfaces by paint, pen for example

Harassment – an act done intentionally to another that is annoying, intimidating or threatening

Hate Crime – a crime where the perpetrators prejudice against any identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised

Hotspot – a geographical location where a high frequency of incidents or offences have been identified

JUIS – Joined Up Information System. The systematic collection of data from multiple sources by Worcestershire County Council

KPI – Key Performance Indicator

Neighbourhood – a residential area. There are no official geographically defined limits but the term is commonly accepted as being an area small enough for local residents to regard as 'home territory'

Problem Solving Approach – all features of the issue are considered when considering how to solve it

Public Order Offence – an unlawful act performed in public that has the effect of frightening or intimidating a bystander, such as abusive language or making threats

Sanctioned Detections - are those detections which are processed through the Criminal Justice System and include charge, caution, summons, reprimand, final warning, TIC (offences taken into consideration), and the new Fixed Penalty Notices for minor criminal offences. In short all detections apart from those detected with no further action

Section 30s – part of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, which provides a power for the dispersal of groups and removal of persons under 16 to their place of residence

Substance Misuse – the problematic or inappropriate use, whether deliberate or unintentional, of illegal drugs, prescribed drugs, alcohol and substances such as solvents etc

Vandalism – unlawful damage and defacement of property that tends to adversely affect quality of life of an area

Violence Against the Person - is defined by the Home Office as:

Murder; attempt murder; threat or conspiracy to murder; threats to kill; manslaughter; infanticide; child destruction; causing death by dangerous driving; cause death by aggravated vehicle taking; wounding and other acts endangering life; other wounding (including actual bodily harm); possession of weapons; harassment; racially and religiously aggravated wounding, assault, and harassment; cruelty and neglect of children; abandoning child under 2 years; child abduction; procuring illegal abortion; concealment of birth; Sections 4 & 5 Public Order act; assault on a constable; resist arrest by police officer; common assault

Violent Crime - is only defined as per violence against the person but includes sexual offences; abduction; bigamy; robbery

Vulnerable Communities – may be people who live in distinct geographic areas but also includes groups of people who are distinguished by their lack of access to facilities and services i.e. young persons, older people

Ward – an area defined for administrative and democratic purposes

WFCSP – Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership