

East Herts Community Safety Strategy

2005 - 2008

Foreword

East Herts is a safe district in which to live and work. This has been confirmed by the findings of the crime, disorder and drugs audit carried out during 2004. However, the audit has highlighted that a number of different crimes have increased over the last three years. It is this information that has shaped this strategy and will guide the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) over the next three years.

We know that tackling crime and disorder is the top priority for residents of East Herts as it adversely affects their quality of life. It is only through working in partnership that significant reductions in crime can be achieved and long term solutions can be found.

There is a very strong relationship between all the agencies that make up the partnership and each recognise the contribution they need to make to ensure East Herts remains a safe district. The strategy details how we will continue to work together to effectively tackle crime, disorder and drug related crime across East Herts.

To focus our efforts, the CDRP has identified five key priorities to tackle during the course of 2005 to 2008. Consultation on these priority areas has taken place, and a number of three year targets have been set using guidance issued by central government. Further targets have also been set against local issues that are important to the residents of East Herts.

Through this strategy it is hoped that East Herts CDRP will achieve its three year mission to:

'... Reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, increase people's sense of community safety and effectively tackle alcohol and drug misuse across the district.'



*Rachel Stopard
Chair of East Herts Crime and Disorder
Reduction Partnership*

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Introduction

Overview of East Herts

East Herts is the largest, and the most rural, of the ten Local Authorities in Hertfordshire. The district has a population of 130,800 (2003 mid year estimate) and a total of 55,053 households. These are spread across 30 wards, 13 of which were classified as rural by the Countryside Agency in 1998. The general affluence of the area hides pockets of disadvantage and areas that do not have easy access to services.

Unemployment is low at 1.6%. Almost 70% of the population of East Herts is employed, which is substantially higher than the national average. Qualification levels are high, with a quarter of people educated to degree level or higher. However, 21% of the population has no qualifications.



East Herts Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

East Herts Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is a multi agency partnership comprising of six statutory Responsible Authorities; these are:

- East Herts Council
- Hertfordshire Constabulary
- Hertfordshire County Council (Crime and Drugs Strategy Unit)
- Hertfordshire Police Authority
- Primary Care Trusts
- Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue

Other key members of the partnership include:

- National Probation Service
- Youth Offending Team
- Children, Schools and Families

The partnership also comprises of other non-statutory agencies including organisations from the voluntary sector (for example, drug and alcohol agencies, Victim Support, Age Concern etc) and Registered Social Landlords (the two biggest within East Herts are Riversmead Housing Association and Stort Valley Housing Association).

The CDRP brings agencies together to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and increase people's sense of community safety. It is the Community Safety Strategy that guides the work of the CDRP.

This Community Safety Strategy will run from 2005 to 2008. It is the third, three-year Community Safety Strategy created by the CDRP.

Why produce a strategy?

Under Section five of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by Sections 97 and 98 of the Police Reform Act 2002, all Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are required to develop three-year strategies. The strategy follows an audit of crime and disorder that provides a picture of the major issues within the district. East Herts collated information for this audit in three different ways.

Data Collection -

All agencies making up the CDRP were asked to feed data they kept relating to crime and disorder through to a consultancy firm that collated and analysed this data, Perpetuity Research and Consultancy International. This included police data relating to crimes and incidents over the past three years, information from the fire service, information from East Herts relating to environmental crimes, data from the county council including Youth Offending Team clients and school exclusions.

Public consultation -

A 'feelings of safety survey' was devised and sent out randomly to 1000 addresses. There was a 34% response rate. This survey asked residents about their experiences and perceptions of both crime and disorder in their local area. It also asked about individual personal feelings of safety in different parts of the district at different times of the day. The survey also explored how respondent's views of crime and disorder were influenced and what security measures respondents made use of.

Focus groups -

Further consultation was carried out to feed into the audit by speaking with specific groups about their perceptions of crime and disorder. There were five focus groups including an elderly group, a young person's group, representatives from the rural community, a black minority and ethnic group and representatives from East Herts Community Safety Partnership.

Alcohol and Drug audit -

This is the first time there has been a statutory duty to produce a specific audit and subsequent strategy on substance misuse. Information for this audit was compiled through data provided by partner agencies, including police data on drug crime and information from treatment providers. Interviews were also carried out with drug and alcohol workers in different agencies, the clients who visit these services and young people.

Key findings of the audit

East Herts has one of the lowest levels of crime in the county and in the Eastern Region. It is one of the safest districts and this is supported by both the quantitative and qualitative findings of the audit. East Herts is ranked 289th out of 376 CDRPs based on the volume of British Crime Survey comparator recorded crime (03/04). Rank 1 is the highest crime area. The most important concern highlighted by those consulted was anti-social behaviour and community disorder as opposed to crime..

The findings of the audit have identified five headline priorities for the CDRP to concentrate on for the next three years. These are:

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Violent Crime
- Acquisitive Crime (for example theft from motor vehicles / residential burglary)
- Sense of Community Safety
- Alcohol and Drugs

The reasons for these chosen headline priorities are detailed within each theme.



Delivery Mechanism

The key to success for the Community Safety Strategy is the mechanism for delivery. This requires the monitoring of both the action plans for each theme and the targets within the strategy. East Herts CDRP has structures in place to ensure the effective delivery of the strategy.

East Herts Responsible Authorities Group (RAG) -

This is the strategic steering group for the partnership and is attended by senior representatives of the previously mentioned Responsible Authorities. This group receives reports on the delivery and performance of the strategy and make resource decisions to address any shortfalls.

East Herts Performance Management Group (PMG) -

This group sits below the RAG and is represented by officers that lead on each of the headline priorities within the strategy. At this level specific actions are monitored to ensure they are being delivered and targets are being met. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis in advance of the RAG to review performance of the strategy against the targets and objectives set within it. It is the lead officer for each theme who works with partners to ensure actions are being delivered

Themed Groups -

Themed groups meet to deliver the specific action plan for the different priorities. It is at this level that specific projects are run to contribute towards achieving the SMART objectives (objectives that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) of each priority. The priority lead officers are represented on these groups.

Issues of crime and disorder are identified by the Operational Planning Group that meets every two weeks. Members of the partnership use these meetings to proactively plan a response to issues of crime and disorder occurring across the district.

Locality Problem Solving -

The Community Safety Strategy allows the flexibility to address local problems. The process involves the partnership working with local councillors and members of the public to address a problem by looking at the location, the offender and the victim. This process has been used to good effect in anti-social behaviour hotspot areas such as Ware Priory in Ware during 2003, and areas of Bishop's Stortford during 2004/2005. The problem solving process allows the partnership to proactively tackle emerging problems in specific locations.

Funding to aid with delivery

Funding is available to allow the CDRP to deliver the actions under each theme of the strategy.

East Herts CDRP currently receives funding from the Home Office via its Safer, Stronger Communities Fund. This funding is issued to the CDRP on an annual basis. Funding is also currently issued to Police Basic Command Units for partnership working across the four CDRPs in the Eastern area of Hertfordshire. East Herts Council makes funding available for Community Safety projects through the Specific Initiative fund.

The funding is used to deliver the annual action plan for each theme within the strategy. In 2005/2006 East Herts CDRP received approximately £145,000 Safer, Stronger Communities funding.

The CDRP actively pursues all available funding streams in support of its stated aims and objectives.

Cross-Cutting Topics

Although five specific themes have emerged from the audit, there are priority areas that cut across all themes within the strategy. These are detailed below.

Prolific and other Priority Offenders -

The Chair of the CDRP has overall responsibility for delivery of the Prolific and other Priority Offenders Scheme. Prolific and other Priority Offenders cut across all the themes within the strategy, as the individuals that make up this list are responsible for various offences including violent crime, acquisitive crime, drug and alcohol related offences and anti-social behaviour. It is also the case that the small number of Prolific and other Priority Offenders cause a disproportionately large amount of crime, therefore by successfully targeting these individuals the crime rate should drop, potentially raising a sense of community safety.

There are three strands to tackling Prolific and Other Priority Offenders.

- **Prevent and deter** helps around 20 individuals regularly coming to the attention of different agencies for anti-social behaviour and minor criminal offences, steer clear from becoming prolific offenders. This section is led by the Youth Offending Team.
- **Catch and Convict** concentrates on targeting and bringing to justice the 15-20 most prolific offenders in the district - the Police lead on this section. It is estimated that these prolific offenders are responsible for around nine percent of all crimes within the district.
- **Rehabilitate and resettle** concentrates on helping to ensure those offenders that have been brought to justice do not return to their previous offending behaviour. This section is closely linked to drug and alcohol treatment and is being delivered by Probation.

Alcohol and Drugs -

Although there is a specific theme for this area it is important to note how drugs and alcohol influence the other priorities within the strategy. Alcohol abuse, in particular under age drinking, is frequently linked with anti-social behaviour, and there are clear links between violent crime and alcohol in the district's town centres. Acquisitive crime is also very commonly associated with drug abuse, as a high percentage of crimes such as theft from motor vehicles and dwelling burglaries are committed to feed drug habits.

Young People -

There is no specific theme for this topic as it is an area that has clear links with all the priorities in the strategy. Perhaps the most important priority that this area links into is 'Feelings of safety'. A great many respondents to the feelings of safety survey expressed their concerns over 'gatherings of young people'. People frequently feel intimidated by large groups of young people, even if they are not engaged in criminal or anti-social behaviour. The partnership wants to target those individuals that are the ringleaders for criminal and anti-social behaviour and work in partnership to provide constructive diversionary activities for young people who hang about on the streets.

Rural issues -

East Herts is a predominantly rural district, as has been previously mentioned. The priorities within the strategy refer to rural areas as much as they do to the district's town centres and estates. Although the hotspot wards across East Herts are generally town centre wards and residential estates within the five towns, the audit points to how issues such as vehicle crime, drugs and violent crime occur across the entire district whether urban or rural.

Target Setting

All Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships are required to make a contribution to the Home Office Public Service Agreement targets. East Herts is committed to the following national target:

“To reduce overall crime by 15% by 2008”

To achieve this target East Herts CDRP will make reductions in the following crime categories:

- Theft or unauthorised taking of a vehicle
- Theft from a vehicle
- Domestic Burglary
- Theft from person¹
- Criminal damage and vehicle interference
- Common assault²
- Wounding
- Robbery of personal property³
- Arson
- Drug supply and taking

A reduction in each of these crime areas will contribute to East Herts CDRP achieving the Home Office target of reducing overall crime nationally by 15%.

¹ A theft from an individual without the use of or threatened use of force

² An assault resulting in a minor injury

³ A theft of personal property using actual or threatened use of force

Anti-social Behaviour

Why has this priority been chosen?

Section 1(1) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 defines anti-social behaviour as

“acting in an anti-social manner as a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the complainant.”

However, it goes beyond this to include crimes that effect the environment. Such as graffiti, fly tipping and abandoning vehicles.

East Herts is characterised as one of the safest places in the Eastern Region. However, the Crime and Disorder Audit has highlighted all areas of anti-social behaviour to be of the highest priority to residents of East Herts. This is also indicated by the responses received from the consultation on the headline priorities.

The need for this theme is captured by the following areas of the audit:

Data Collection -

- Criminal damage has increased by 59% over the three-year period from 2001 - 2004, this is above the county-wide increases. This is frequently linked to alcohol-related disorder in town centres and large groups gathering in residential areas and out-of-town shopping parades.
- 31% increase in community disorder across the district. This category includes offences such as drunkenness, neighbour disputes and noise. Again this is most common around town centres and surrounding residential estates.
- The use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, Anti-social Behaviour Orders and Section 30 dispersal orders has increased and this legislation needs to be further utilised to keep in line with the national drive on this area.
- The audit also points to continued issues around abandoned vehicles, increasing fly tips and graffiti, the audit highlights that these offences occur across all wards of the district.

Public Consultation -

- The response suggested that anti-social behaviour for many people was a bigger issue than crime.
- Half of the respondents thought that vandalism was a very big or fairly big problem.
- 45% perceived groups of youths to be a very big or fairly big problem.
- In total 44% felt that the level of disorder in East Herts had increased over the past three years.

Linked into the issue of anti-social behaviour were the three top improvements people listed for the district.

- More Police foot patrols
- More activities for young people
- More leisure facilities

Those consulted considered that these would have a positive impact on the level of anti-social behaviour across the district.

The five 'Community Voice' meetings held in each of the Town Centres in 2004 illustrated how strongly people felt about this topic. The meeting held in Bishop's Stortford in September 2004 to discuss this topic attracted more than 100 people. In all meetings the major concerns raised by the public were that of police numbers on the ground providing a visible presence, anti-social behaviour and young people.



Focus Groups -

- All the groups consulted agreed that the most common problem among communities across the district was anti-social behaviour, the majority perceived as being committed by young people.
- Those consulted felt that anti-social behaviour escalated into abusive behaviour, arson, vandalism, racism and under-age drinking. The focus groups felt that some of these issues could be alleviated by improving youth provision, for example youth shelters, skate parks, subsidised activities and graffiti walls.
- It was recognised that adults also commit anti-social behaviour such as abandoning vehicles, fly tipping and causing problems after consuming too much alcohol.

Nationally, anti-social behaviour is a key issue. The importance the Government places on this topic is illustrated by the Anti-social Behaviour Act introduced in 2003 and the launch of the 'Together' campaign to raise awareness of, and help tackle, the issue. All CDRPs received funding from the Home Office, at the start of 2004 to employ an officer specifically to co-ordinate the partnerships response to anti-social behaviour.

Performance Management Area

Aims

- To reduce the incidences of anti-social behaviour and arson in East Herts.
- To record and reduce on a yearly basis the number of anti-social behaviour complaints received, specifically regarding groups of young people causing alarm, harassment and distress in East Herts.

SMART Objectives

- To reduce criminal damage by 12% across the district by 2008.
- To reduce incidents of arson by 7% across the district by 2008. (Taken from the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework).
- To carry out 12 visual audits of East Herts anti-social behaviour 'hotspot' areas over three years to identify ways to design out anti-social behaviour and associated crime. To be broken down as four per year.
- To appropriately use anti-social behaviour legislation, including ASBOs, ABCs, Section 30 dispersal orders⁴, Exclusion orders, Alcohol free zones.
- To increase awareness of anti-social behaviour issues among young people.
- Focus on tackling crimes that affect the environment throughout 2005 to 2008.

Performance Measures

- Number of police reports of criminal damage.
- Number of ASBOs, ABCs and Section 30 dispersal orders, Exclusion orders, Alcohol free zones.
- Number of complaints received by/referred to East Herts, Police and Housing ASB co-ordinators.
- Number of visual audits carried out.
- Number of Environmental Crimes reported to the Council.
- Number of deliberate property fires (including vehicles).

Priority Lead Officer

- Paul Griffin, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager, East Herts Council.

⁴ Used to designate an area where the Police are able to disperse groups who are behaving in an anti-social manner.

Violent Crime

Why has this priority been chosen?

Violent crime has been highlighted by the audit as the offence with the greatest increase over the past three-years. There have been national increases in this offence and East Herts is no exception.

Data Collection -

- Over the past three-years the number of robberies per year has increased from 15 in 2001/02 to 53 in 2003/04.
- Over the past three-years the number of sexual offences per year has increased from 26 in 2001/02 to 53 in 2003/04.
- There has been a 66% increase in violence against the person. Violence against the person is most prevalent in town centre wards, and wards with large areas of housing and shopping parades. Police reports account many of the personal robberies as youth on youth mobile phone theft.
- The violence against the person category encompasses a wide variety of offences, from homicide to common assault or harassment. This particular category increased across the county by an average of 186.8%.

Public Consultation -

- 35% of respondents were either fairly or very worried about being affected by assault in the next 12 months.
- 39% of respondents were either fairly or very worried about being affected by robbery or mugging in the next 12 months.
- 19% were either fairly or very worried about being affected by sexual assaults in the next 12 months.

The surveys also revealed slightly higher levels of domestic violence and sexual assaults than is illustrated by Police statistics, this illustrates that despite much work done to raise the level of reporting of these incidents there is still under-reporting of the crime. Equally, over half of respondents took precautions to ensure their public safety, for example by carrying personal attack alarms.

Focus Groups -

- Violent crime and fear of violent crime was not something specifically highlighted by the focus groups, although the link between anti-social behaviour and alcohol related disorder, which was mentioned, is clear.
- Anti-social behaviour can lead to more serious crimes including violence against the person - this is especially the case when influenced by alcohol.

Performance Management Area

Aims

- Raise the profile and encourage the reporting of hate crimes and incidents.
- Support a positive night-time economy whilst tackling alcohol associated violent crime.
- Use the new Licensing Act as an enforcement tool for the CDRP.
- Effectively tackle Robbery throughout the district.
- Increase the reporting of Domestic Violence throughout the district.

SMART Objectives

- To reduce the number of recorded robberies by 4% per year across the district between 2005 and 2008.
- To reduce the number of recorded violent crimes by 6% per year across the district between 2005 and 2008.
- To reduce by 3% per year the number of violent crimes in which alcohol is an aggravating factor across the district between 2005 and 2008.
- To reduce the number of repeat victims of Domestic Violence by 2008.
- To achieve a detection rate for domestic violence crimes of at least 45% by 2006 and maintain this target.

Performance Measures

- Number of recorded robbery offences.
- Number of recorded violent crime offences.
- Number of repeat victims of domestic violence.

Priority Lead Officer

- Inspector Patrick Rawle, Community Team Inspector, Hertfordshire Constabulary.

Acquisitive Crime

(For example theft from motor vehicles / residential burglary)

Why has this priority been chosen?

'Acquisitive crime' literally means a crime committed to obtain something. This includes crimes such as motor vehicle crime, home burglary, robbery, theft. These crimes are being increasingly linked to individuals stealing goods to feed drug habits. For example, the bulk of dwelling burglaries tend to be committed by offenders who 'need' money for one reason or another, frequently to fund a drug habit.

Data Collection -

- 16% increase in theft from a motor vehicle over the last three years.
- Dwelling burglary fell by 13% during this same period although it is paramount that reducing this crime remains a priority to ensure this decline continues. However, there was a slight increase in the number of distraction burglaries between 2003 and 2004.
- The increase in robbery has been detailed in the previous section, and this underlines the importance of tackling this offence.
- 17% of Youth Offending Team clients within East Herts were arrested for Theft and handling offences.
- Probation data illustrated that around a third of male clients and almost half of female clients are with the probation service for acquisitive crimes.

Public Consultation -

- The second biggest fear in the next 12 months among respondents to the survey was home burglary.
- 56% of respondents were either fairly worried or very worried about being affected by home burglary. The fear of being affected by this crime is far greater than the actual chance of being a victim.
- 42% of respondents were either fairly worried or very worried about being affected by theft from their motor vehicle.

Focus Groups -

- Focus groups highlighted hotspot areas for dwelling burglaries and these covered both rural and more urban residential areas.
- The rural focus group also identified problems around targeted thefts on garages, sheds and tack.
- The young people consulted further highlighted the problems with robberies, noting that theft of motorbikes, mobile phones and wallets were reasonably common among their age group.

Performance Management Area

Aims

- Reduce Acquisitive Crimes - burglary, theft of/from a vehicle.
- Raise profile of and tackle distraction burglary.
- Support communities to prevent them becoming victims of acquisitive crime.

SMART Objectives

- To reduce the number of recorded burglaries by 4% per year across the district between 2005 and 2008.
- To reduce number of recorded vehicle crimes by 3% per year across the district between 2005 and 2008.

Performance Measures

- Number of recorded burglary offences.
- Number of recorded vehicle crime offences.

Priority Lead Officer

- Inspector Paul Lawrence, Community Team Inspector, Hertfordshire Constabulary.



Sense of Community Safety

Why has this priority been chosen?

East Herts CDRP wants to transfer the 'fear of crime' from victims of crime and innocent people on to the perpetrators of crime. The audit highlighted that despite low levels of crime and disorder throughout the district, there was a disproportionately high level of the fear of crime. This theme is linked to all the other themes of the strategy, as it is hoped people will feel safer within East Herts if they see the partnership effectively tackle the other priorities.

Data Collection -

- The crime and disorder data collected from the different agencies illustrates how safe the district is, and that it has some of the lowest levels of crime and disorder in comparison to other parts of the county. However, the responses received from the public consultation illustrate that people's perception is different to the data.

Public Consultation -

- In general the vast majority of people felt safe visiting any part of the district during the daytime, but these feelings of safety fell after dark.
- 55% of people worried about being affected by gatherings of young people.
- 46% of people worried about being affected by other theft.
- 45% of respondents either avoided or felt unsafe in their nearest town centre after dark.
- 44% of respondents mentioning disorder increasing.
- 42% of people were concerned about motor vehicle crime.
- 39% of people worried about being affected by robbery or mugging.
- 35% of respondents mentioning crime increasing.
- 35% of people worried about being affected by assault.
- 32% of respondents had their views on crime and disorder influenced by the local newspaper.
- 30% of people worried about being affected by people dealing and using drugs.
- 30% either avoided or felt unsafe walking in residential areas after dark.

These findings highlight high levels of fear of crime and underline the importance of increasing the public's feelings of safety.

Performance Management Area

Aim

- To increase feelings of safety for people living in and visiting East Herts.

Objectives

- To ensure partnership initiatives are released to the press and communicated to the public through different mediums throughout 2005 - 2008.
- To reduce public perceptions of Crime and Disorder by 2008. (Feelings of Safety public survey).
- Reduce the number of people worried about the different crime types as highlighted in the feelings of safety survey 2004, by 2007.
- Work with partners to increase the range of activities for young people throughout the district during the life of the strategy.
- Work with partners to ensure high visibility patrols are available in 'hotspot' areas through deployment of Police Officers, PCSO's and Community Safety accredited staff campaigns.
- Review levels of lighting in identified 'hotspot' areas to improve sense of community safety.

Performance Measures

- Feelings of Safety survey to be circulated to residents in 2007 as part of the new Crime and Disorder Audit process.
- Number of 'good news' partnership stories in the press.
- Arrest rate/re-offending rate of Prolific and Other Priority Offenders and successful completion of rehabilitation phase.
- Number of 'hotspot' areas where lighting etc improved.
- Number of Partnership run public meetings.
- Feedback from residents in identified 'hotspot' areas.

Priority Lead Officer

- Paul Griffin, Community Safety and Partnerships Manager, East Herts Council.

Alcohol and Drugs

Why has this priority been chosen?

For the first time all CDRPs have a statutory duty to create a drug specific audit and subsequent strategy on this area. It is the information taken from this audit that illustrates the need for this specific theme.

Data Collection -

- There has been a 74% increase over the three-year period of drug offences recorded by the police, although the actual number is still relatively low at 1.3 offences per 1,000 people. However, the police figures for drug crimes is considered not to provide the whole picture as only those drugs that are detected are normally recorded by the police.
- Police intelligence following specific operations points to the fact that the drug markets have increased in the area over the past two years (2002 - 2004).
- Information on alcohol related crime is not always possible to record. However, across the county 35% of Domestic Violence offences were linked to alcohol, not less than 25% of violent crimes were affected by alcohol (although this is likely to be higher). At least 22% of arrested persons were affected by alcohol at the time of arrest.
- Recent Home Office statistics show that alcohol was a feature for 62% of DV offenders with 48% being alcohol dependent.

Public Consultation -

- 30% of respondents were either fairly worried or very worried about being affected by people dealing and using drugs.
- People's concerns of other crimes such as dwelling burglary, vehicle crime and robbery are also frequently linked to the misuse of drugs, as has previously been mentioned.

Focus Groups -

- Some of the service providers interviewed noted that drug use had spread to new areas and drugs had become more available.
- Many of the alcohol treatment services noted that the number of presentations from alcohol users had increased, which was explained by a reduction in the stigma attached to users; some felt this mirrored an increase in alcohol use.

- Many treatment providers specifically highlighted an increase in the availability and use of crack cocaine and poly-drug use in the county and district.
- Drugs and alcohol were raised as a district-wide area of concern by both the Community Safety Partnership and the group of young people consulted.

The National Drug Strategy has identified four key areas that must be addressed in order to effectively tackle drug abuse. They are:

- Reducing Supply
- Communities
- Young People
- Treatment

From April 2005 both the Availability and Communities themes of the national strategy are to be delivered by CDRPs. This is reflected in the aims of this priority.

There is also a national Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which also details four key themes for tackling alcohol misuse. They are:

- Better education and communication
- Improving health and treatment service
- Combating alcohol related crime and disorder
- Working with the alcohol industry

East Herts CDRP has adopted the two national strategies to meet our local requirements

Performance Management Area

Aims

- To reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs, including substantially increasing the number of drug misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System.
- To reduce drug-related crime and its impact on communities, individuals and their families.
- Reduce and disrupt the supply of illegal drugs on our streets.
- Reduce the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25.
- Effectively tackle alcohol related disorder and reduce the effects this has on communities.
- Identify areas and locations where drug related crime is present on the streets of East Herts.

SMART Objectives

- Implement the Drug Intervention Programmes (DIP) across East Herts. 45 generic DIP cases and at least 12 Prolific and other priority Offender DIP cases managed by March 2006.
- Train 20 frontline staff per year to identify drug paraphernalia, 2005-2008.
- To increase by 2% year on year the number of offences resulting in a charge, caution or summons for trafficking and supply offences in respect of Class A drugs.
- Provide alcohol education to young people, who have or are considered at risk of entering the criminal justice system (county-wide target).
- To assess the built environment of all drug hotspot areas brought to the attention of the CDRP. 4 visual audits to be carried out per year.
- To carry out test purchase schemes across the district in each year and prosecute where possible.

Performance Measures

- Number of Prolific Offenders receiving drug treatment / engaged with DIP.
- Quarterly reports of drug paraphernalia found throughout the district.
- Number of young people receiving alcohol-specific education.
- Number of people receiving drug-awareness training.
- Mediums used to promote FRANK (national drug information line), Crimestoppers, Hertfordshire Constabulary Class A drug information line and www.itsmanicinherts.com (Alcohol awareness website for young people).
- Number of test purchases / multi agency licensed premises visits carried out.
- Number of licensee's warned for breach of their license.
- Number of licensee second breaches enforced.

Priority Lead Officers

- Nick Ford, Project Officer. South East Herts Primary Care Trust.
- Mark Morton, Drug Strategy Manager, Crime and Drugs Strategy Unit.

Further Enquiries

For enquiries about this Strategy or to find out more about Community Safety initiatives in East Hertfordshire, please contact:

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