

# St Albans District Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2018/19



## Introduction

This Community Safety Partnership Strategy outlines the St Albans Partnership's priorities for 2018/19. It is based on a local Strategic Assessment of crime, disorder, anti social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and other data. It is informed by national and local policies including: *Modern Crime Prevention Strategy (Home Office, 2016)* and *Community Safety and Criminal Justice Plans: Everybody's Business (Hertfordshire Crime and Police Commissioner)*.

The St Albans Community Safety Partnership is made up of the following partner agencies;

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| St Albans City & District Council          | Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner |
| Hertfordshire County Council               | Hertfordshire Services for Young People     |
| Hertfordshire Constabulary                 | Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service         |
| Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group | Bench Community Rehabilitation Company      |
| National Probation Service                 |   |

In addition, the Partnership works with other agencies such as British Transport Police, Govia Thameslink, Central Herts Magistrates Bench, Crown Prosecution Service, Trading Standards, Housing Associations and third sector agencies including CGL (Change, Grow, Live) and Safer Places.

The priorities for the forthcoming year were developed from the annual review, which is based on the available data from partner agencies. This year the Partnership has decided to take a different approach and has split its priorities into high level strategic aims and specific priorities which will form the focus of particular actions and will govern our overall approach.

### **High Level Strategic Aims**

1. To effectively tackle all crime, through effective prevention, detection and prosecution.
2. To protect vulnerable people, including safeguarding children and adults at risk, individuals who may be at risk of radicalisation, victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery.
3. For all agencies to effectively tackle Anti-Social Behaviour using their available legal powers and preventative supportive/diversionary interventions.
4. To reduce controlled drug and alcohol misuse.
5. To identify the most prolific offenders in the district through the Integrated Offender Management scheme and work to manage and support these offenders through effective liaison with Bench CRC and the National Probation Service.

### **Specific Priorities**

1. To establish an effective response to local and emerging county drug markets, providing support to vulnerable younger people, tackling modern slavery, using social housing and enforcement powers to disrupt activity.
2. To develop an effective multi agency approach to fly-tipping.

3. To focus on local crimes of concern, namely fraud (cyber and face to face), robbery, dwelling burglary, car crime and shoplifting, to limit further increases.
4. To engage more effectively with the relevant agencies to support those with mental health problems and other residents who may be affected by the issued involved.
5. To establish relevant and meaningful data collection and information sharing in relation to local offenders, allowing agencies to correctly identify, engage and support them to reduce the local re-offending rate.

## Partnership Performance

The table below shows a summary of Partnership performance against key crime types from April 2017 to Jan 2018 and compares it to the same period the previous year\*.

**Fig 1: St Albans Crime Performance Summary: April 2017 – January 2018 (Source Hertfordshire Police)**

|                                       | 1 April 16 –<br>03 Jan 17 | 1 April 17–<br>03 Jan 18 | %<br>Change | Numerical<br>Change |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| All Crime                             | 5958                      | 7381                     | +23.9%      | +1423               |
| Violence Against Person               | 1572                      | 1966                     | +25.1%      | +394                |
| Domestic Abuse Related                | 696                       | 784                      | +12.6%      | +88                 |
| Burglary residential*<br>Dwelling     | 0                         | 381                      |             |                     |
| Burglary residential Non<br>Dwelling* | 0                         | 116                      |             |                     |
| Burglary Business &<br>community*     | 0                         | 163                      |             |                     |
| Motor Vehicle Crimes                  | 615                       | 913                      | +48.5%      | +298                |
| Theft From Person                     | 82                        | 95                       | +13.7%      | +13                 |
| Robbery                               | 37                        | 81                       | +87.1%      | +19                 |
| Criminal Damage                       | 775                       | 888                      | +14.6%      | +113                |
| Drug Possession                       | 175                       | 167                      | -4.6%       | -8                  |
| Theft From Shop                       | 587                       | 692                      | +17.9%      | +105                |
| Theft – Making Off<br>Without Payment | 283                       | 314                      | +11%        | +31                 |
| ASB                                   | 2240                      | 2653                     | +18.4%      | +413                |

\* figures not available for last year

The data highlights that all crime is up around 24% which is a rise of 1,423 crimes compared to the previous year. The data shows that there has been an increase in crime in Hertfordshire as a whole and in the last year St Albans offences have risen in line with this. Nationally, Hertfordshire and St Albans still remain relatively lower crime areas.

**Fig 2: St Albans Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Performance Summary: April 2017 – October 2017**

|               | Deliberate Fires  | Primary Fires    | Fire Injuries |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Hertfordshire | +14% (825 to 937) | -6% (910 to 851) | +9 (34 to 37) |
| St Albans     | +38% (87 to 120)  | -1% (115 to 114) | Equal 2       |

### Deliberate Fires in St Albans (April 2017 – October 2017)

After previous years where the number of fires has fallen, we have seen a rise in 2017, albeit from a low base.

### Road Traffic Collisions in St Albans (April 2017 – December 2017)

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue have attended 45 Road Traffic Collisions in St Albans during the period April 2017 to Oct 2017.

### St Albans District Council Community Protection Team Performance Summary

Fig 3. Performance Community Protection Team April to December 2017

| Community Safety Issues reported to the Community Protection Team to CST                     | Apr – Dec 2016/17 | Apr – Dec 2017/18 | % Change |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Anti-Social Behaviour incidents reported to the CPT  | 488               | 486               | -0.4%    |
| Domestic Abuse referrals for assistance to outside agencies by the Community Protection Team | 6                 | 14                | +133%    |
| Safeguarding contacts made by the Community Protection Team                                  | 87                | 63                | -27%     |

### Grant Funding

During 2017/18, the Partnership received grant funding for 3 years for the Onside Football Project. The football sessions are delivered by qualified Watford football club coaches, and are cater for 8-16 year olds. On average the project engages 96 young people and runs from 5 different locations; Batford/Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Batchwood, Sopwell and Redbourn.

## How the Partnership plans to deliver the 2018/19 specific priorities.

| <b>RAG Priorities 2018/19</b>   |   |
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| The partnership has used all available information and data across its members, including a detailed risk matrix system to inform and set its priorities for 2018/19. |   |
| <b>1</b>  | <p>To establish an effective response to local and emerging county drug markets, providing support to vulnerable younger people, tackling modern slavery, using social housing and enforcement powers to disrupt activity</p> <p>It has been identified that children and vulnerable people are being exploited as part of a criminal activity known as “County Lines”. This involves gangs identifying rural areas to introduce new drugs markets. Criminals focus on “Cuckooing” (occupying) local properties, often involving the homes of vulnerable individuals who may be underage or have mental health issues. Therefore victims in complex exploitation cases will be offered help and support from the broad spectrum of agencies both statutory and voluntary.</p> <p>The Partnership has a large role in helping staff and the community to identify victims. Furthermore it will share intelligence to develop a CSP response plan and the Council will use its powers e.g. possession to remove those who take advantage of vulnerable people.</p> <p>As increased awareness, publicity and education about modern slavery becomes available, more victims and cases will be identified. The council will ensure that front line staff and Councillors are trained to identify and spot the signs of modern slavery. Identified victims and information will be shared with the specialist Herts Police Unit “Operation Tropic” which has been set up to deal with this issue. Victims can then be assisted through the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation are all examples of the types of crimes criminals and their gang members are involved in. The Partnership will ensure that Identifying victims and helping them is prioritised. It hopes that this will in turn disrupt activity and bring those responsible to account for their actions.</p> |
| <b>2</b>  | <p>To develop an effective multi agency approach to fly-tipping</p> <p>Fly-tipping has been identified as a concern for local residents and also remains a priority for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Council’s Environmental Compliance Team will continue to work jointly with partners including the Police to ensure that prosecutions for fly-tipping are actively pursued.</p> <p>In addition to this Herts Police have a dedicated specialist team that investigates and proactively works to detect fly-tipping. The Police will further increase existing resources to ensure that all cases that reach the threshold, can result in a prosecution.</p> <p>The Partnership will continue to work closely with the Herts Fly- tipping group who have worked to achieve an 18.2% reduction in the last year in fly-tipping incidents across the county. We will roll out the new fly- tipping campaign and toolkit being launched in March 2018. This will allow us to increase awareness and ensure that people are aware of their personal responsibilities including how and where to report incidents. In addition to this the Council will continue to investigate local incidents and</p>   |

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|   | proceed with prosecutions including issuing fixed penalty notices.   |
| 3 | To focus on local crimes of concern, namely fraud (cyber and face to face), robbery dwelling burglary, car crime and shoplifting to limit further increases.   |
|   | <p>St Albans is the county hotspot for offences relating to a scam. Cybercrimes and scams involving some element of fraud is the issue that affects local residents. Residents are being targeted by cyber criminals as they realise that older people may not recognise or be suspicious of fraudsters and potential scams. Therefore the Partnership will undertake work to educate local residents together with its partners especially Trading Standards, Herts Police and Action Fraud and voluntary agencies and charities. Through events such as Older People's Activity Learning and Safety (OPALS) the Partnership hopes to teach individuals and potential victims about scams and how to keep safe on line. We will share evidence and intelligence with the Police and the National Crime Agency. It is hoped that this will in turn, assist in disrupting and disengaging local, national and even international fraudsters.</p> <p>The Partnership will work closely to engage young people through projects such as Onside to divert them away from crime and anti- social behaviour. However where young people are either victims or perpetrators of incidents, especially robbery, we will ensure that Herts Police, Services for Young People and Targeted Youth Support are all engaged with them. Information and intelligence about robberies will be shared amongst agencies to make sure any existing links to other more serious and organised crime are joined up.</p> <p>Face to face fraud such as rogue trading still remains a challenge for the Partnership. Multi- agency days and days of action to help identify individual offenders will be organised as well as enforcement action where applicable. The Partnership will encourage victims to come forward and report incidents and will educate and advise consumers of their rights and legal protections.</p> |
| 4 | Engage more effectively with the relevant agencies to support those with mental health problems and other residents who may be affected by the issued involved.  |
|   | <p>People with complex mental health issues frequently require input from both statutory and or voluntary agencies. Often it is these very same people, who require the most assistance, who are unable to ask for help. Sometimes they do not recognise how their actions may be impacting on others in the community.</p> <p>The Partnership understands how distressing the effect of mental health problems can be on individuals, their families and members of the wider community who may also be affected. It also realises how much of a strain the more complex cases can have on an individual partner agency. Mental health is often a factor in crime, ASB and in safeguarding cases. It is vital therefore that the Partnership assists to provide the right help from the appropriate agency at the right time. This will ensure that both victims and perpetrators are supported when they need it most.</p> <p>The Street Triage initiative put in place by the Police and Crime Commissioner has been a successful project and therefore has been considerably expanded It is hoped that this will ensure that more people, who need acute mental health assistance, receive it when they need it most. The project, which is a partnership between the PCC and mental health support services, allows for direct support and advice to be provided when the Police are called out to an incident. Whilst this is one answer it is also important that the Partnership develops closer working with Herts Partnership Foundation Trust (HPFT) and the local health services like GPs and Young People's mental health services to try to get people the right support.</p> <p>Together with the help of specialist projects and the information and resources held by</p>  |

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|                 | <p>other agencies, the Partnership will register and broaden local practices to assist those with mental health problems.</p>   |
| <p><b>5</b></p> | <p>To establish relevant and meaningful data collection in relation to local offenders, allowing agencies to correctly identify, engage, support them to reduce the local re-offending rate.</p>  |
|                 | <p>The Partnership will continue to engage with probation services; both the National Probation Service (NPS) and Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (BeNCH) Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC), which is managed by Sodexo. We have requested information on offenders and re-offending rates and hope to continue to improve co-operation with probation services in 2018/19.</p> <p>The Partnership hopes to be in a position to share relevant and accurate information about concerns which will in turn allow it to work together to address concerns.</p> <p>Community Payback is a punishment which requires offenders to pay back the community for the crimes that they have committed. This in turn makes the communities safer and better places to live, examples include removing graffiti and clearing wasteland. The Partnership will work with Probation to ensure that suitable projects are identified locally and undertaken.</p> |

This Strategy will be finalised by the Community Safety Partnership following a public consultation and discussion with the Community Safety Scrutiny Working Group.

This strategy feeds into local and countywide strategies and contributes to and reflects the priorities of the St Albans Strategic Partnership. The strategy also reflects the priorities of Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police and Crime Plan. Full details of these plans are available on request from the Community Protection Team **01727 819305** or on [www.stalbans.gov.uk](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk)