

Wiltshire Violence Reduction Strategy

2009-2011

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FOREWORD

Tackling violent crime is one of the most important issues facing society and communities today. Violence blights lives in so many ways whether it be direct violence, the consequence of violence or through fear of it.

Within Wiltshire, Violent Crime accounts for approximately one fifth of all crime [confirm detail] and whilst the trend across the country is a reduction the prevailing trend within Wiltshire is showing a marginal increase.

There were 5274 Violent Crimes reported to police between the period April 2007 to March 2008. Each of these incidents has a victim and the effects felt by them and their families is considerable.

The Government has identified Violent Crime and in particular Serious Violent Crime as a priority. The message to local Partnerships was delivered by way of a three year action plan for tackling violence- 'Saving Lives. Reducing Harm. Protecting the public.'

The Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership (WCSP) has identified Violent Crime as one of a number of priority areas for partnership action. This work cannot stand alone and for continuity and coordination the Violence Reduction strand will work with all areas of partnership work but in particular Domestic Assault, Alcohol, Anti-Social Behaviour Reduction and the Local Criminal Justice Board. The Violence Reduction area of crime will be tackled under four strands, namely prevention, intervention, enforcement and rehabilitation. The partnership will target resources to engage with communities most affected by violence and seek to deliver reductions.

The Wiltshire Violence Reduction Strategy (2009-2011) will enable partners to consolidate efforts and approaches to tackling Violent Crime. Whilst Violent Crime is dealt with as a priority, and has been for some time, for partners it provides the opportunity to examine existing ways of working and ensure our not inconsiderable efforts are being channelled in the right direction. It provides a framework for the partnership to ensure appropriate activity is taking place and, where necessary, challenge existing practices. This will ensure maximum partnership effectiveness in delivering a reduction in violence and provision of support where necessary to communities within Wiltshire.

DEFINITION OF VIOLENCE

The Home Office separates violence into two broad categories; those that take place in private, usually between people who are known to each other, and those that take place in public spaces, more frequently between people who do not share a close relationship:

Private Space Violence

Violence that takes place in private, often in the home, usually between individuals who have or have had some form of relationship with each other. The vast majority of these crimes are committed by men against women and represent both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. This includes:

- Domestic violence (including honour-based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation)
- Sexual violence
- Trafficking for sexual servitude
- Domestic servitude

Public Space Violence

Violence that primarily takes place in public, frequently by, among or targeted at groups of people. These crimes are usually committed by individuals who are not intimately known to each other, and the majority of offenders and victims of these crimes are men. This includes:

- Youth and gang violence, which can involve the use of guns and knives.
- Hate crime
- Alcohol related violence
- Serious organised violence (often committed in a business context with the aim of enforcing debt, protecting or furthering business interests or extorting money)

(HM Government, 2008: Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public: An Action Plan for Tackling Violence 2008-2011)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Wiltshire Violence Reduction Strategy aims to identify the types of violence taking place in the county and by identification of areas of higher incidence apply effective actions to prevent offending, re-offending and, where necessary, bring to perpetrators to justice. It also aims to ensure appropriate services for victims and overall reduce the levels of all types of violence. It is imperative that the communities of Wiltshire have confidence in the agencies they rely on and the Government has prioritised this by giving the police and council one target and that is to improve confidence.

The management and reduction of Private Space Violence is primarily managed by specialist agencies in conjunction with the Police Domestic Abuse Unit, the Child Protection Unit and the Public Protection Unit. The priority areas of activity surrounding this come from the Wiltshire Domestic Abuse Strategy and Implementation Plan. Therefore the remaining priority area of Public Space Violence and in particular alcohol related violence linked to the Night Time Economy will come under the remit of this Strategy.

In the current economic climate it is essential that the work directed by this Strategy is not tackled in isolation, but that it complements the other WCSP priorities and particularly those of reducing alcohol related harm, reducing anti-social behaviour and reducing offending. In this way the resultant cross-cutting activities can provide true value for money across the relevant agencies.

The key objectives are:

- To reduce the level of violent crime in Wiltshire and to achieve the National Indicator¹ (NI) 20 target within the Local Agreement for Wiltshire of reducing the assault with injury rate per 1,000 population by 2% by March 2011.
- To improve the perception of the level of violent crime by the population of Wiltshire, and to provide reassurance and engender confidence in communities that even at the current low levels, all agencies and the wider the partnership are working together to further reduce it.

PRIORITIES

A Strategic Assessment for Wiltshire has been commissioned and provides strategic guidance to the Community Safety Partnership. It details community safety issues to be included in any plan. This strategy has been guided by detailed analysis surrounding violent crime. The analysis has been produced in the form of a problem profile. This data has been used to identify priorities for action by each of the partner agencies in Wiltshire from 2009 to 2011. These priorities are focused on the four themes as below. The strategic assessment is available at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/communitysafety.htm

¹ National Indicators (NI) are streamlined indicators that reflect national priority outcomes for local authorities, they are the only measures on which central Government will performance manage outcomes delivered by local government

THEMES

The Wiltshire Violence Reduction Strategy will:

- **Prevent** adults and young people from using or engaging in or becoming victims of violence in public or private spaces
- **Intervene** by providing appropriate and widely available services to help people who have problems with violence and for their victims and families.
- Take robust **enforcement** action against those committing or enabling violence in public or private spaces.
- Provide effective **rehabilitation** and treatment programmes for those within the criminal justice system who have been convicted of violent offences.

Underpinning these themes and running through all the resultant activities is the need to provide public reassurance and confidence that actions are being successfully taken.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Violence Reduction Implementation Plan will detail what actions will be taken by partner agencies. It will identify resources available to deliver activities, specify the lead and others who take forward actions and provide information about how progress is measured and monitored.

The Wiltshire Violence Reduction Delivery Group will report progress against the Implementation Plan to the Executive Board of the Wiltshire Community Safety Partnership as the delegated Thematic Delivery Partnership of the Wiltshire Assembly, via the Delivery Performance and Monitoring Group on a quarterly basis.

National Picture

The Government's Tackling Violence action Plan published in February 2008 focused on serious violence, managing risk and support for victims of violence. The refresh of the original Tackling Violence Action Plan 2008 – 2011, gave us the 'One Year On' Action Plan which widened the commitment under PSA 23(1) to include a reduction in **all violence with injury**. This is welcomed by the partnership as a major part of violent crime within Wiltshire fits within the assault with injury category.

Local Picture

Recent developments between agencies have included better data exchange and this cooperation has allowed a better understanding of crime issues across the county. Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) data has been provided by NHS Wiltshire and is included in the following themes. Whilst it is a small proportion of incidents it is important data that the partnership can use to improve services.

A. PREVENTION

Local Profile

Alcohol and domestic violence are aggravating factors in the greatest number of crimes

A large proportion of violent crime is associated with the night time economy

Longer-term trends from the British Crime Survey (BCS) show the number of violent incidents has fallen by half (49%) since 1995

People living in social-rented accommodation had more than twice the risk of being victims of violence (5.0%) than those living in owner-occupied accommodation (2.1%) (BCS)

57% of people attending the Minor Injury Units (MIU) within Wiltshire to receive treatment for assault did so following alcohol related incidents

78% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault were attacked by a body part (fist, hand, leg etc)

6% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault were attacked by a sharp object

35% of assaults on people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault occurred at residential address

To prevent alcohol related violence we will

- A1. Develop and deliver education in schools, colleges, and other identified areas
- A2. Develop coordinated multi-agency activities to reduce violent crime
- A3. Develop local evidence based campaigns and support national campaigns to provide information about violent crime to the public
- A4. Review local crime across Wiltshire in order to recognise any patterns and increases in occurrences to inform activity
- A5. Encourage greater participation by licensees in responsible retailing schemes
- A6. Engage with and assist licensees with aspects of the Licensing Acts to support and ensure their compliance
- A7. Ensure that licensees employ trained and accredited door staff

B. INTERVENTION

Local Profile

The three towns of Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge account for 86% of all violent crime for Wiltshire

The highest risk age range is 18 – 24 years, followed by 24 – 39 years. The offender risk age is 18 – 24 years, followed by 24 – 39 years

On average 20% of offences that occur within the night time economy time frame are youth (<18) related. Of those, offenders tend to be known and alcohol is not an aggravating factor

The BCS shows that risk of victimisation varies by personal characteristics, with men, and in particular young men, being at greater risk of victimisation for overall violence, although women were more likely to experience domestic violence

75% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault said their assailants were male

65% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault suffered head, face or neck injuries

67% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault said the assault occurred between 1900 – 0300 hours

To ensure provision of support and resources we will:

- B1. Raise awareness of licensees regarding the role they play in reducing crime and disorder within neighbourhoods
- B2. Review the training provided to front line staff to ensure it meets the current needs
- B3. Explore and employ the application of nationally recognised best practice interventions to reduce violent crime
- B4. Encourage fitting, using and updating CCTV equipment in premises frequented by users of the night time economy
- B5. Support the use of radio links used within the business and night time economy
- B6. Promote the use of Ion Track Itemisers and other drug identification equipment inside licensed premises
- B7. Identify and deal with premises identified as being in need of attention and assistance
- B8. Work with Town and City Planners and Community Area Boards to manage the development of areas of the night time economy in town and city centres
- B9. Consider the use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) on violent offenders
- B10. Explore ways in which brief interventions can be delivered by front line agencies to address alcohol problems earlier

C. ENFORCEMENT

Local Profile

Actual bodily harm (ABH) and common assault represent the greatest number of incidents across Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge, followed by public order offences

Where weapons are carried they are used to cause fear and distress

Most street offences are committed using bodily force, weapons are the exception

Peak times for violent crime offences are shown as being between 2300 and 0400 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings

The highest concentration of violent crime offences is committed between 0100 – 0300 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings

47% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault were attacked by strangers

69% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault were attacked by a sole assailant

6% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault were attacked by 5+ assailants

27% of people attending the MIU to receive treatment for assault said the assault occurred in a public highway or on the pavement

To address violent crime linked to the night time economy we will:

- C1. Develop aligned licensing policies across all agencies to use all the powers and tools available within the relevant legislation including the Licensing Act (2003), the Violent Crime Reduction Act (2006) and the Criminal Justice and Police Act (2001)
- C2. Develop co-ordinated action across partner organisations to prevent and address alcohol related violent crime using the National Intelligence Model, enabling analysis and focussed activity on communities being affected by poorly run licensed premises and alcohol related incidents
- C3. Take consistent and robust action against licensees who do not comply with all aspects of the Licensing Act 2003, including publicising actions against irresponsible traders
- C4. Develop a Wiltshire-wide and multi-agency media strategy to promote positive news stories and manage negative headlines
- C5. Support the development of a consistent age verification scheme to assist licensees [terminology]
- C6. Review local crime across Wiltshire in order to recognize any patterns and increases in occurrences to inform activity
- C7. Ensure data is collected from, and shared between partner agencies and assess how it can be best applied to ensure best use of resources
- C8. Develop local groups to tackle violent crime

D. REHABILITATION

Local Profile

There are low numbers of repeat victims across the area but recognizable numbers of repeat offending

The majority of all violent crimes are accounted for by actual bodily harm (ABH) and common assault

265 persons attended MIU to receive treatment for assault in August '09¹

39% of victims that attended MIU to receive treatment for assault were aged 25 – 39 years

57% of persons that attended MIU to receive treatment for assault reported the attack to the police

Just over half (52%) of all BCS violent incidents, and just under half of all police recorded violence against the person (47%), resulted in injury to the victim²

The most common injuries sustained in violent incidents were minor bruising or a black eye (34%), followed by cuts (15%) and severe bruising (13%) (BCS)

The 2008/09 BCS shows that in 15 per cent of violent incidents the victim received some form of medical attention; in ten per cent of incidents victims received attention from a doctor and around two per cent of all violent incidents resulted in an overnight hospital stay

To ensure provision of support and resources we will:

- D1. Review current availability and accessibility of support and treatment for perpetrators of violent crime at all stages of the criminal justice system and address any identified gaps in provision
- D2. Ensure that adequate and robust systems are in place to reduce repeat victimisation through use of Anti-Social Behavior (ASB) Panels, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) and Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) processes
- D3. Support the use of alternatives to prosecution where appropriate
- D4. Ensure that offenders are held accountable for the impact of their offending on victims
- D5. Review availability and effectiveness of resources for victims of violent crime
- D6. Support initiatives and schemes which bring victims and offenders together through mediation and community payback approaches
- D7. Support the development of services to address offending behaviour