



# Your Test Valley

## Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan

### 2008 - 2010



# Test Valley PARTNERSHIP

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## Profile of Test Valley

Test Valley is a mainly rural borough covering 628 square kms (243 square miles) of the western side of Hampshire. The borough has high quality natural and built environments, with a number of conservation areas, listed buildings and areas covered by designations, such as the New Forest National Park, and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB).

At the 2001 census, the population of the borough was 109,760. This population is projected to increase by around 14% by 2026 (HCC projections). Around half of the total population lives in the two market towns - Romsey in the south and Andover in the north. The rest of the population lives in the smaller rural settlements scattered across the borough.

Test Valley is a predominantly affluent area. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation show that of 354 local authority areas, Test Valley ranks 317th (where 1 is the most deprived). However the Borough does contain some pockets of relative deprivation, and average incomes are lower than those regionally and nationally. Average house prices are higher than those nationally, and comparable to regional averages.

A wide range of demographic and statistical information can be found in the Test Valley Borough Profile, which is available on the council's web site.

<http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=7238>

## Introduction – Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Plan

### Our aim:

*'To ensure that people in all parts of the borough enjoy a quality of life that is undiminished by crime, fear of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour' -Test Valley Partnership Community Plan January 2008*

Test Valley experiences low levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. Some areas of the borough have experienced a small increase in burglary and drug-related offences over the last 12 months. It still appears that persistent crime and antisocial behaviour is more prevalent in parts of Test Valley than others. This results in some people being disproportionately affected by these problems and this can include anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour encompasses issues such as street drinking, noise, substance abuse, drug dealing, rowdy behaviour, intimidation and criminal damage. All of these concerns have featured highly in borough-wide Citizens' Panel surveys and in the strategic assessment carried out in November 2007. Combating this behaviour is a crucial ingredient in reducing crime and responding to what residents say is important to them.

To achieve a reductions in crime, the Test Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is targeting resources to interventions that will have the greatest impact and those that are rooted in best practice. The CDRP has successfully piloted a range of youth crime prevention measures and is working closely with the Youth Offending Team to adopt a co-coordinated, consistent and effective approach to youth crime.

The first Partnership Plan was published by the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership in April 2008 – the borough's statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) that brings together Test Valley Borough Council, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, the Hampshire Police Authority, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Primary Care Trust.

In 2007, Parliament approved new regulations for all CDRPs in England. The new regulations:

- 1 remove the responsibility of CDRPs to produce a three year Crime Audit and replace it with an annual review of the crime and disorder situation in their areas, to be known as a 'Strategic Assessment';
- 2 require CDRPs to use the Strategic Assessment in order to specify the priorities for crime reduction for the year ahead and to allow the Partnership Plan to be refreshed annually.

Although updated annually, the Partnership Plan is actually part of a three year strategic approach to crime reduction in the Test Valley.

Our first Strategic Assessment was conducted in October to December 2007 and highlighted that, while Test Valley as a whole experiences low levels of crime, there are higher levels of less serious crime in Test Valley compared to similar areas. Areas of particular concern in 2008 were,

- a) Domestic Abuse – to reduce the number of Domestic Abuse assaults resulting in injury and to increase the number of people reporting Domestic Abuse.
- b) Alcohol Related Violence – our aim is to reduce the number of alcohol related assaults in the Test Valley
- c) Anti-Social Behaviour – Anti-Social Behaviour (including Criminal Damage, Arson and

intimidation connected with Anti Social Behaviour) is a social problem that affects communities and individuals, and the reduction of these offences is a high priority for the Partnership for the next 3 years.

- d) Community Cohesion – ensuring that our residents feel they belong, especially in our most deprived wards and that there is a high perception of feeling safe where they live, work and play.
- e) Offender Management - the high number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.

While the majority of the priorities stay the same, this year's Strategic Assessment has identified a new area of concern for the Partnership, which is known as acquisitive crime and drugs. The term 'Acquisitive Crime' is used to describe crime where items are stolen from persons or property, or acquired fraudulently. This includes burglary, theft, vehicle crime, fraud and counterfeiting. In light of the new information, we will have a new Joint Area of Focus replacing Community Cohesion. Community Cohesion is still a priority of the partnership and is a Joint Area of Focus within the Community Development Action Group.

#### **d) Acquisitive Crime and Drugs (Replacing Community Cohesion)**

When we take into account the slight increases in some offences, such as burglary and drugs, in some areas of the borough, crime in Test Valley is still down 6% (1<sup>st</sup> April 08 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 08) compared to the previous year. This is good news and is an early indication that the Partnership is targeting resources in the right areas. This years plan will continue the good work carried out last year and will strengthen some areas including, becoming more focused on managing offenders and look more broadly at alcohol-related crime in conjunction with other action groups under the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

## **Our Priorities**

The aim of this refreshed Partnership Plan is to outline:

1. the key findings of the Strategic Assessment;
2. the crime reduction priorities for the year ahead (2009/10) for the Partnership;
3. the aims and objectives for each priority;
4. the measures against which our performance as a Partnership will be assessed.

To achieve progress against our outcomes, partners through the Test Valley Partnership have identified a number of "Joint Areas of Focus" (JAF). A Joint Area of Focus is created by agreeing what are the current barriers in Test Valley which are stopping us from achieving the outcomes in the community plan. The Joint Areas of Focus are issues currently affecting the area and are those that require a partnership approach in the short (0-6 months) to medium term (6-18 months). The effect of tackling them at this time will directly contribute to the Partnership meeting the longer term outcomes it has set itself on behalf of residents.

### **To achieve our outcomes, our Joint Areas of Focus for 2009/11 are:**

1. A reduction in the number of domestic abuse assaults which result in injury
2. A reduction in alcohol related crime
3. A reduction in anti-social behaviour – including criminal damage, arson and victim intimidation and harassment
4. A reduction in the number of people suffering from acquisitive crime and drugs
5. A greater emphasis on offender management

### ***Below are some examples actions completed between April 2008 and March 2009:***

#### **A reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour**

- 1 Review of how Anti-Social Behaviour is managed in Test Valley, culminating in the launch of the Partnership Action Team in Romsey and Andover
- 2 Extending the Designated Public Places Order in Test Valley (DPPO)
- 3 Starting a family based intervention project working with some of the most troubled families

#### **People feeling that they live in a safe community**

- 1 Further developing the 'Safer Neighbourhood' project
- 2 Working with families who are involved with high levels of anti-social behaviour
- 3 Achieving a 58.3% reduction in Criminal Damage and 64.3% reduction in rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour during Halloween and Bonfire Night

#### **Young people at risk of offending receiving early and effective Support**

- 1 Extending the Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) beyond Andover to support young people across the whole borough

- 2 Developing and improving the ability to identify 'at risk' young people and providing them with tailored support

**Communities playing an active role in identifying and addressing local issues related to crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour**

- 1 Developing regular Neighbourhood meetings between local people and key partners to discuss issues and solutions
- 2 Extending the reach of Neighbourhood Watch through active participation in the Joint Action Group to ensure key messages are sent out to Watch members
- 3 Organising street briefings and other innovative ways to engage with the community as part of the PRIME initiative (Problem Resolution in Multi-Agency Environments)

## **Joint Area of Focus 1: Domestic Abuse**

**Whatever form it takes, domestic abuse is rarely a one-off incident. Usually it's a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the abuser seeks power over their victim. Domestic abuse occurs across society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. The figures show, however, that it consists mainly of violence by men against women.**

**Victims of domestic abuse suffer on many levels - health, housing, education - and lose the freedom to live their lives how they want, and without fear.**

### **Key issues: what the Strategic Assessment told us**

Domestic violence and rape are both historically highly underreported crimes.

Even with the high level of under-reporting, domestic abuse reporting in Test Valley increased by 8% compared to the previous 12 months. This means that reported cases of domestic abuse increased by 101 cases from 1157 to 1258. We are encouraged that domestic abuse reporting has increased but are keen to see a reduction in repeat reports and where violence has occurred.

### **Commitment to action**

#### **Objectives for this JAF**

Over the period of the Plan, 2008-2010, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

- Developing a training programme to raise awareness of domestic abuse for frontline staff e.g. teachers, doctors and police staff
- Developing early intervention strategies
- Identifying funding to develop an education pack that can be used to promote awareness of domestic abuse
- Encouraging employers to develop policies for their staff
- Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic violence

#### **What we did last year:**

- We set up a Domestic Abuse panic alarm project to provide victims of Domestic Abuse with a system to call for assistance from the emergency services if needed. This will enable victims to either continue living in or return to their homes, reducing the need for emergency accommodation and helping to create stable family environments
- Training programmes have been developed by the County Domestic Abuse Coordinator and frontline staff are receiving a training programme to raise awareness of domestic abuse

**During 2009\10 we will:**

- Increase the level of reporting of domestic abuse and serious sexual assaults
- Carry out a more in-depth analysis of domestic abuse in Test Valley
- Improve detection and conviction rates for domestic abuse

**The success measures for this priority**

Using the framework of the Strategic Assessment, we are proposing the following indicators selected from the National Indicator set and the Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) indicator set. These measures offer a robust, nationally approved benchmark by which we can measure progress and success against this priority.

- **NI 32: domestic violence, victimisation** –Domestic violence victims currently have the highest level of repeat victimisation, often with the severity of incidents escalating over time. This measurement is via the percentage reduction in repeat victimisation for those domestic violence cases being managed by a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARACs).

## Joint Area of Focus 2: Alcohol

**Alcohol related violence and anti-social behaviour are the main contributors to crime and offending in Test Valley. Whilst immediate action to reduce violent crime is a priority for the Partnership, we appreciate that tackling problematic alcohol use is the most significant step that can be taken to prevent future offending.**

### **Key Issues: What the Strategic Assessment told us**

Tackling anti-social behaviour is a priority because more people in Test Valley see alcohol related anti-social behaviour as a major problem.

Links between alcohol use and anti-social behaviour and criminal damage are well-evidenced locally.

There is also evidence at a national level of causal links between alcohol use and violent crime; though the limited evidence available to support this locally suggests that it is the victims, rather than the perpetrators, who are most likely to be under the influence of alcohol.

### **Commitment to action**

#### **Objectives for this JAF**

Over the period of the Plan, 2008-2010, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

- Preventing young people becoming future problematic alcohol users

Increasing the integration of substance misuse needs with related work streams including teenage pregnancy, restorative justice and sexual health through:

- Integration of substance misuse screening, assessment and onward referral within the work practice of social workers working with families and looked after children including attendance at specialist training.
- Developing clear referral and care pathways for the following:
  - Young people whose alcohol consumption is causing them and society harm
  - Pregnant young women who have substance misuse issues
  - Young parents with substance misuse issues
  - Clarifying good practice and funding arrangements for young people who require residential treatment

Reducing alcohol-related harms by;

- developing more accessible alcohol treatment pathways providing a high quality system of treatment for people with problematic alcohol use and their families.
- reducing the level of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour, making use of Licensing regulations and the further development of the Safer Socialising Award scheme.

- promoting education, knowledge, responsibility and safer attitudes around alcohol.
- reducing health inequalities with particular focus on marginalised and disadvantaged groups by working with local strategic partnership and in particular the Primary Care Trust .
- monitoring the level of harm caused by problematic alcohol misuse, measuring its impact and assessing the interventions needed to address this.

#### **What we did last year:**

- Extend the Designated Public Places Order in Test Valley to enable Police and accredited officers to confiscate alcohol in designated areas of the Borough where there is evidence that alcohol use is a problem
- Continued to monitor and intervene in the identified alcohol 'hotspots' within Test Valley

#### **During 2009\10 we will:**

- Hold drink awareness events in secondary schools in Test Valley
- Target areas with high levels of drink-related violence with an awareness campaign

#### **The success measures for this priority**

- Using the framework of the Strategic Assessment, we are proposing the following indicators selected from NIS and APACS.
- **NI 20: number of Assaults with less serious injury** – This indicator is used to measure alcohol related offences. However, it is acknowledged that it will include a proportion of offences which have no alcohol element. We will also measure the reduction in line with Hampshire Constabulary's reduction target of 5%

## **Joint Area of Focus 3: Anti-Social Behaviour**

**Anti-social behaviour causes lasting harm to individuals and the community and must be stopped at the earliest opportunity, when the minimum harm has been caused. In many instances anti-social behaviour can be stopped if it is challenged early enough. Anti-social behaviour in the public place, criminal damage, arson and victim intimidation and harassment have increased in Test Valley over the last couple of years and it is this reason that this area of work is Joint Area Of Focus for the Test Valley CDRP.**

### **Key Issues: what the Strategic Assessment told us**

Criminal damage is a significant problem within Test Valley. The Strategic Assessment has identified that work with young people is crucial to reduce the current level of criminal damage and arson. It is, however inappropriate simply to identify this issue with young people. Adults are also responsible for a high percentage of anti-social behaviour and by working with these families, Registered Social Landlords (housing associations) and other key service providers we aim to reduce the number of offences.

### **Commitment to action:**

#### **Objectives for this JAF**

Over the period of the Plan, 2008-2010, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

Generating pathways to employment – employment is crucial in preventing offending behaviour; we need to direct people to suitable employment

Tackling anti-social behaviour at a local level and working with communities to resolve issues

### **What we did last year:**

- Recruited two new specialist anti-social behaviour officers
- Ran the LIFE programme to 11 young people (The LIFE programme is the arson reduction awareness project run by Hampshire Fire and Rescue)
- Formed a new Partnership Action Team (PAT) to manage Anti-Social behaviour in Test Valley

### **During 2009\10 we will:**

- Target diversionary activities at young people and work with the most troubled families to work together to address their offending
- Increase intelligence and information sharing - keeping one step ahead of the problem
- Supporting family life – intensive family intervention has a proven track record in addressing the behaviour of the most troubled families and helping them to alter their behaviour

## The success measures for this priority

Using the framework of the Strategic Assessment, we are proposing the following indicators selected from NIS and APACS.

- **NI 33: The reduction of deliberate, primary and secondary fires.**
- **NI 17: Perceptions of anti-social behaviour** - Anti-social behaviour is a high profile national and local priority. This indicator will measure data collected through the new Place Survey and through the British Crime Survey.
- **NI 21: Dealing with local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime issues by the local council** – This is an indicator of people’s view about those issues which are important to their quality of life and will be measured through the Place Survey and British Crime Survey.

We will also measure the success of this priority through a reduction in recorded crime to Hampshire Constabulary.

- A reduction in reported anti-social behaviour cases by 5%
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour caused by motor vehicles by 5%
- A reduction in criminal damage by 12%

## **Joint Area of Focus 4: Acquisitive Crime and Drugs**

**We have removed the previous outcome 4: Support more cohesive and resilient communities in our most deprived wards and have replaced it with Acquisitive crime and drugs. The reason behind this is because Community Cohesion is a key focus of the Community Development Action Group, and therefore we do not need a separate outcome under the CDRP.**

**Acquisitive Crime and Drugs is a growing concern in Test Valley now and it is important that this refresh of the Partnership Plan includes these areas. Acquisitive crime is a label used to describe a criminal act where property is taken without the owners consent i.e. burglary, theft, car crime and shop lifting.**

### **Key Issues: What the Strategic Assessment told us**

A number of areas covered by the title 'acquisitive crime' (meaning crimes where property is stolen) have increased over the last 6 months. It is believed that this is due to the economic down turn and while there is no evidence to prove this, we do know that in previous recessions similar increases were seen. The new Strategic Assessment has identified that dwelling burglary is up 36% year on year, meaning that there were 81 more burglaries in Test Valley compared to the previous strategic assessment. We have also seen an increase in shoplifting of 10% (reported crimes) 40 more offences compared to the previous year.

### **Commitment to action**

#### **Objectives for this JAF**

Over the period of the Plan, 2008-2010, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

- Working with businesses and business groups to understand how we can work together to reduce the impact of crime.
- Increase the membership of Andover Business Against Crime (ABAC) scheme
- Identify how we can work with our rural communities to reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Make Test Valley an even safer place to live by reducing the chances of being a victim of an acquisitive crime

#### **During 2009\10 we will:**

- Develop a rural neighbourhood management group to help us to reduce rural crime. Understanding the problems our rural communities face from the theft of property and how we can all work together is the first step to finding long term, sustainable solutions to crime
- Set up a drugs action group in Test Valley to bring together everyone who is working with drug addicts. This group will help us to understand the nature of the problem and find the appropriate solutions
- Deliver targeted burglary crime awareness campaigns in Test Valley
- To provide 4 personal safety awareness events

## **The success measures for this priority**

- **NI 21: Dealing with Local concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime by the local council and police** – this national indicator measures local confidence in agencies to tackle the community safety issues that matter to local people. Data for this indicator will be collected through the Place Survey

## **We will also measure the success of this priority through a reduction in reported crime to Hampshire Constabulary**

- A 3% Reduction on past 3 year's average (8000 reported crimes)
- A 5% reduction in serious acquisitive crime

## **Joint Area of Focus 5: Offender Management**

**The focus last year was on reducing the number of young people entering the criminal justice system. While this is an identified outcome, it is now recognised that we need to manage the few people who commit the majority of crimes. Therefore, young people will still be a focus of this plan as well as older offenders who are called priority persistent offenders. Test Valley Partnership must face the challenge of reducing the low level offending and anti-social behaviour that affects communities.**

### **Key Issues: what the Strategic Assessment told us**

That a small number of people commit a high proportion of crime in Test Valley. We need to broaden our focus and look at offender management as a way of reducing crime and therefore the fear of crime in the borough.

### **Commitment to action**

#### **Objectives for this JAF**

Over the period of the Plan, 2008-2010, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

- Working with businesses and business groups to understand how we can work together to reduce the impact of crime.
- Increase the membership of Andover Business Against Crime (ABAC) scheme
- improving community involvement in the identification of enviro-crime hotspots, to increase a sense of ownership of neighbourhoods and public space
- Improved reporting of anti-social behaviour, data collection and information sharing
- Using the full range of enforcement powers to tackle anti-social behaviour
- Supporting victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour
- Improved Partnership working with key service providers (including the third sector)

#### **What we did last year:**

- Developed an Intensive Family Based early intervention project to target those families who commit crime and anti-social behaviour
- Ensured clear and accountable partnership service delivery in order to support the significant and sustained reduction of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour (Partnership Action Team process)

#### **During 2009\10 we will:**

- Review the Prolific and Priority Offender scheme
- Work with Eastleigh and the New Forest to develop an offender manager scheme

- Support increased reporting of anti-social behaviour by the public;
- Be creative and innovative about how we analyse agency and community intelligence to identify hotspots and how we target and pool resources.
- Targeting Persistent Offenders and those at risk (through Prevention, Intervention, Rehabilitation)

### **The success measures for this priority**

Using the framework of the Strategic Assessment, we are proposing the following indicators selected from NIS and APACS.

- **NI 30: Re-offending rate of Prolific and priority offenders** – this indicator measures the change in convictions for prolific and other priority offenders over a 12 month period.
- **NI 17: Perceptions of ASB** – Anti-social behaviour is a high profile national and local priority. This indicator will measure data collected through the new Place Survey and through the British Crime Survey.
- **NI 111: First time entrants to the youth justice system**