

Test Valley  
PARTNERSHIP



## ***Building on Achievement***

Test Valley Crime Disorder Reduction  
Partnership Plan, 2008/11

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## Profile of Test Valley

Test Valley is a mainly rural borough covering 628 square miles (243 square kms) 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 Natural 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 live in the small rural settlements scattered across the borough.

Test Valley is a predominantly affluent area. The Indices of Multiple Deprivations 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 wider range of demographic and statistical information can be found in the Test Valley Borough Profile.

# Introduction-Community Safety 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 as a whole experiences low levels of crime, associated drug misuse. Statistical information shows that burglary, robbery and drug supply offences have remained a very low level and violent crimes dropped from 1,863 in 2004/5 down to 1,783 last year. However, key recorded crime figures for the borough have risen steadily in the last few years with figures suggesting that there are higher levels of less serious crime in Test Valley compared to other similar areas.

The steady rise appears to be primarily linked to an increase in the recorded incidents of criminal damage which indicates that anti-social behaviour is an issue of primary concern. Also there appears to be persistent crime and antisocial behaviour that is more prevalent in some areas of Test Valley than others; this results in some people being disproportionately affected by these problems.

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' Panels 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 this, the Test Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership is targeting education Partnership is targeting resources to intervention 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 coordinated, consistent and effective approach to youth crime.

This is the first Partnership Plan published by the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership – the borough's statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue, the Police authority and Hampshire PCT.

Last year, Parliament approved new regulations for all ICDRPs 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. Of particular concern are,

- 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 of 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) The high number of young people entering the criminal justice system for the first time.

For the last three years the Test Valley Community Safety Partnership has been assessing its performance on crime and disorder against a framework set by the Borough's Community Safety Strategy agreed in 2005 and a set of 'Public Service Agreements' incorporating improvement targets published by the Government.

The current Public Service Agreement ended in March of this year, as did the current Community Safety Strategy. In their place will be a new framework for the Borough's crime reduction comprising:

- 1 annual Strategic Assessments and Partnership Plans (replacing the three year crime audits and Community Safety Strategies);
- 2 a new set of Public Service Agreements (PSAs) for 2008-11 (in particular PSAs 23 and 25) with a shift in focus away from volume crime reduction towards violent crime;
- 3 a new Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement for the Borough providing the 'top level' strategic priorities and targets under which the Partnership Plan will operate.

## Our Priorities

The aim of this first Partnership Plan is to outline:

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

### We will focus on achieving the following five outcomes:

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 fear of crime so that people feel safe in the communities they live in and are part of
5. A reduction in the number of young people who enter the criminal justice system for the first time

### These are examples of some early actions:

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

1. Ensuring that 'Safer Neighbourhood' staff (including police, wardens and other key agencies) work closely together
2. Developing a project focusing on changing the behaviour of the few offenders who commit the most crime
3. Developing a system of brief intervention treatment for hazardous drinkers in Test Valley

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

1. Developing a 'Safer Neighbourhood' project to increase high visibility patrolling
2. Working with families who are involved with high levels of anti-social behaviour
3. Developing a community-based mediation service

#### 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)

# 1. Outcome 1: Domestic Abuse

Whatever form it takes, domestic abuse is rarely a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour over their victim. Domestic abuse occurs across gender, race, sexuality, wealth and geography. The consists mainly of violence by men against women.

one-off incident. More usually through which the abuser seeks power over their victim. Domestic abuse occurs across society, regardless of age, figures show, however, that it

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.

health, housing, education - ant, and without fear.

## Key issues: what the Strategic Assessment told us

Domestic violence (DV) 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 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

### Over the next 12 months 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
- Improved detection and conviction rates for domestic abuse

## Objectives for this Priority

Over the next three years, 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
- Reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic violence

## 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 Assessment 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.

- **NI32: 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).

Underneath these key 'headline' indicators, we are also proposing a set of tactical indicators (i.e. additional success measures which 'add value' to the key headline indicators for this priority). These include:

- **NI18: adult re-offending rate** – This indicator provides the rate of proven re-offending of all offenders on the probation caseload over the relevant quarter. This indicator provides a timely snapshot measure of the re-offending of offenders on the probation caseload, regardless of how long they have been under supervision.
- **NI28: serious knife crime** – This indicator covers threats and attempts to injure in addition to actual stabbings. Where the victim is convinced of the presence of a knife, even if it is concealed, and there is evidence of the suspect's intention to create the impression, then the incident is included in this indicator.

## Outcome 2: Alcohol Related Violence

Alcohol related violence and Anti-social behaviour are the key drivers for 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 fuelled 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

#### Over the next 12 months we will:

- 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.
- Continue to monitor and intervene in the identified alcohol 'hotspots' within Test Valley.
- Further develop the Alcohol Arrest Referral Pilot Project aimed at hazardous drinkers whose alcohol use has a direct correlation with crime and anti-social behaviour.

### Objectives for this Priority

Over the next three years, 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 requiring support around their drinking

- 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 Awards scheme.
- promoting education, knowledge, responsibility and safer attitudes around alcohol.
- reducing health inequalities with particular focus on marginalised and disadvantaged groups by working with 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.

### The success measures for this priority

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

- **NI41: perception of drunk rowdy behaviour** – this is a national and APACS indicator which through licensing decisions, environmental design and public awareness campaigns contribute to reducing the problem arising from drunk and rowdy behaviour

Underneath these key 'headline' indicators, we are also proposing a set of tactical indicators (i.e. additional success measures which 'add value' to the key headline indicators for this priority). These include:

- **NI38: drug related (class A) offending rate (introduced 2009/10)** – This national and APACS indicator that aims to measure and drive partnership performance to drug misuse as a key driver of crime and offending
- **NI20: 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%
- **NI39: rate of Hospital Admissions per 100,000 for Alcohol related Harm** – This indicator measures admissions classified as ordinary or day cases.

### 3. Outcome3:Anti-SocialBehaviour

In recent years worrying trends have come together anew and serious problem that requires urgent action in the public place, criminal damage, arson and victimisation have increased over the last couple of years.

to confront the borough with on. Anti-social behaviour in intimidation and harassment

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

Criminal damage is becoming 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 inappropriate to simply 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 can reduce the number of offences.

#### Commitment to action

Over the next 12 months we will:

Recruit two new specialist anti-social behaviour Neighbourhood Wardens

Offer a place on the LIFE programme to young people who are convicted of arson or are likely to receive a criminal conviction (arson reduction awareness programme through Hampshire Fire and Rescue)

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

#### Objectives for this Priority

Over the next three years, 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

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

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

## The success measures for this priority

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

- **NI45: Young offenders' engagement in suitable education, employment or training**– The indications are that young offenders' engagement in education, training and employment is a key protective factor against re-offending, and a key outcome for young people by itself. This indicator measures the proportion of young offenders who are actively engaged in education, training or employment.
- **NI33: The reduction of deliberate, primary and secondary fires.**
- **NI17: 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.
- **NI21: 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 Motor Vehicle anti-social behaviour by 5%
- A reduction in Criminal Damage by 12%

## 4. Outcome 4: Support more cohesive and resilient communities in our most deprived wards

Perception of how safe people feel remains disproportionately to the reality, and Test Valley is no different as people's perceptions are driven both by what they see locally and what they see and hear about nationally. The Respect Agenda states that "Communicating with the local community about the action you have taken to tackle the problems they are facing is vital, because what matters most to people in communities is what they see on and around their own doorstep, day in day out. And for far too many, that is anti-social behaviour".

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

If some of our local communities do not have a sense of belonging then the efforts of all the agencies to make these areas safer becomes much harder. Taking pride, respecting others and caring about local issues is essential if crime and the perception of crime are to be driven down. In some of the more deprived wards in Test Valley it appears that local people do not feel a strong sense of belonging and commitment and consequently there has been difficulty in engaging with residents in some areas.

### Commitment to action

#### Over the next 12 months we will:

- Support community associations in Test Valley, promote community events and set up programmes of activities in school holidays
- The Test Valley Partnership's Community Development Action Group will continue to co-ordinate community development across the Borough
- Community information shops in Alamein and North Baddesley will encourage local participation and will signpost, engage and offer information to local people
- Develop Local Action Groups (LAGS) in problem areas with the 'buy in' from local residents and businesses.

### Objectives for this Priority

Over the next three years, our key objectives for delivering this priority will include:

- The need to build on community engagement. Setting priorities and problem solving to promote neighbourhood management within communities safety through community participation of the solutions.
- Increasing accountability to local communities, including marginalised groups, and crime reporting options.
- Working with those at risk of becoming involved in low level criminality and anti-social behaviour, especially young people through the PPO and ASB panels.

## The success measures for this priority

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

- **NI2: Perception of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood** – this national indicator measures community cohesion at a neighbourhood level and in relation to communities of place. Collection is proposed through the new Place Survey.
- **NI5 : Overall/general satisfaction with local area** – data is collected through the new Place Survey and will provide the partnership with help to identify and address the sort of issues affecting how residents feel about their local area

Underneath these key 'headline' indicators, we are also proposing a set of tactical indicators (i.e. additional success measures which 'add value' to the key headline indicators for this priority). These include:

- **NI4: Percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality** – this national indicator measures accountability to local communities. Collection is proposed through the new Place Survey. Link to objectives 1, 2 and 5

## 5. Outcome 5: Reduce the number of young people entering the Criminal Justice System

As the focus within crime reduction moves away from volume crime (PSA1) reduction target towards a focus on serious crime, Test Valley Partnership must face the challenge of reducing the low level of offending and anti-social behaviour that affects communities.

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

The importance of public engagement and participation is imperative in order to ensure a more responsive intelligence-led partnership able to address the underlying issues.

### Commitment to action

#### Over the next 12 months we will:

- Support increased reporting of anti-social behaviour by the public;
- Ensure clear and accountable partnership services deliver in order to support the significant and sustained reduction of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour;
- Be creative and innovative about how we analyse agency and community intelligence to identify hotspots and how we target and pool resources.
- Develop an Intensive Family Based early intervention project to target those families who commit crime and anti-social behaviour
- Targeting Persistent Offenders and those at risk (through Prevention, Intervention, Rehabilitation)

### Objectives for this Priority

Over the next three years, our key objectives for delivering on this priority will include:

- improving community involvement in the identification of environmental 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)

## The success measures for this priority

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

**NI30: 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.

Underneath these key 'headline' indicators, we are also proposing a set of tactical indicators (i.e. additional success measures which 'add value' to the key headline indicators for this priority). These include:

- **NI17: Perception of ASB** – Anti-social behaviour is a high profile national and local priority. This indicator will be measured data collected through the new Place Survey and through the British Crime Survey.
- **NI22: parent taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children** – the focus of this indicator is on the parental responsibility and will be measured through the new Place Survey.