



## Foreword

Community Safety is important to us all, as we all want to feel safe and secure in our homes and communities. That is why, as Chair of the St.Helens Community Safety Partnership (CSP), I am pleased to present this Plan, which sets out our priorities, aims and objectives to tackle crime and to make St.Helens a safer place over the next four years.

The CSP brings together a wide range of partner organisations including Merseyside Police, Merseyside Probation Trust, Health Services, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Courts Service, Housing Associations, the St.Helens Chamber of Commerce and the Voluntary Sector with the aim of collectively reducing crime and disorder across St.Helens.

Our work not only covers preventing and detecting crime but also seeks to make sure that our own communities are places where the opportunities to commit crime and anti-social behaviour are minimised. We believe that only by working in partnership to tackle the causes of crime can we be most effective in maintaining the reductions that have been achieved.

In last year's Plan, I identified how the Government's spending review had forced all public and voluntary sector organisations to make unprecedented cuts across services and explained that we would be required to make further cuts over the next few years. Despite these significant pressures, the CSP has continued to play a major role in helping to achieve the continued reductions in crime and disorder that we have witnessed in St.Helens during the previous 12 months. Some of our key achievements have been:

- 12% reduction in all crime;
- 7% reduction in all anti-social behaviour reports to Merseyside Police;
- 8% reduction in domestic burglary;
- 4% reduction in violence against the person; and
- 26% reduction in the reoffending rate of individuals targeted through the Integrated Offender Management Programme.

Following the election of the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Jane Kennedy, in November 2012, we have decided it is appropriate for our local Community Safety Delivery Plan to align with the PCC's Police and Crime Plan 2013-17.

The PCC and the CSP have a reciprocal duty of regard for the relevant priorities and objectives in working together to improve community safety, here in St.Helens.

The CSP Plan's emphasis is on tackling the issues that matter the most to our residents, businesses and visitors. The purpose of the Plan is to allow the CSP to hold partners to account for their actions in tackling crime and improving community safety and to outline a clear set of priorities and deliverable actions to sustain the progress we have made in making St.Helens a safer place. The priorities of the Delivery Plan have been identified through strategic intelligence assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in St.Helens, from information supplied by partner agencies and by asking local residents about their concerns and priorities.

The priorities of the CSP in St.Helens will be on tackling the following:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary and Vehicle Crime);
- Domestic Violence and Abuse;
- Alcohol and Drug related Crime;
- Violent Crime;
- Hate Crime;
- Tackling Organised Crime; and
- Reducing Reoffending.

St.Helens CSP is determined to build on the progress that has been made in recent years and to improve our partnership record. We are confident that with the continued commitment of our partners and by improving our work within communities, we will succeed in making St.Helens a safer place.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. McCauley'.

**Councillor Richard McCauley**  
**Cabinet Member for Safer Communities**  
**Chair: St.Helens Community Safety Partnership**

## Aims and Purpose

The role and purpose of the CSP is to ensure that partner organisations are working collectively, that continuing and emerging threats are identified and understood, and that partners have the capacity and resilience to meet challenges head-on so that crime will continue to be reduced and communities will become safer.

The priorities for the CSP are those of our community. This Delivery Plan provides an overview of the priorities, an analysis of current performance, a summary of the actions we intend to take to tackle crime and disorder, the outcomes that partners are expected to deliver and an explanation of how we will monitor our performance so that we will know if we have been successful in delivering what the Partnership set out to achieve.

The Plan has been developed to provide partners, stakeholders and the community with a comprehensive picture of the actions we intend to take during the current year. We recognise the importance of keeping residents and communities informed of this work, and copies of this Plan will therefore be made available via the Council's website and other interest points.

This Delivery Plan will be kept under review to ensure the work of the CSP is effective and that the priorities remain relevant to local needs.

# Community Safety Priorities

To help us identify our priorities we have listened to our community so that we can understand the issues which really matter at a local level. We have also spoken to our partners about their priorities and requirements and considered the priorities of the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, as set out in her Police and Crime Plan 2013 -17. We have analysed this information and we are confident that the priorities the CSP have identified in this Plan will have the largest and most positive impact in meeting the needs of our communities.

## (1) Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB):

ASB has an adverse effect on communities and directly influences people's perceptions of their homes and neighbourhoods. In St.Helens levels of reported ASB have fallen in each of the last three years. However, when asked, local people consistently identify ASB as their greatest concern. This was reflected in the most recent survey carried out in 2012, when 60% of those surveyed identified ASB as their key concern.

ASB can include criminal damage, underage and anti-social drinking, noise, excessive littering, graffiti and harassment. It can degrade the local environment; it has an adverse affect on communities and directly influences people's perceptions of their local neighbourhood and their personal safety. Without effective interventions it results in significant and detrimental harm to individuals and communities, and can lead to a downward spiral of criminality and neglect in communities.

In recent years, the CSP has developed an ASB Pledge, which has required partners to commit to tackling ASB, and to delivering a programme of campaigns, advice offering and identifying supportive resources through a number of multi-agency annual operations. In addition, the following preventative programmes have been put in place:

- Operation Spring Watch;
- Operation Safe Space;
- Operation Good Guy.

## Performance

The table below identifies the reduction in incidents of ASB reported during the last three years.

In St.Helens, the levels of ASB are measured by looking at the type of incidents reported and to whom. Secondary fires are also an indicator of the levels of ASB in an area (secondary fires are often minor and include the burning of rubbish, grass and derelict properties).

**Table 1: Incidents of ASB 2010-2013**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>ASB (reported to police)</b>	6,358	6,270	5,838
<b>ASB (reported to Council)</b>	N/A	5,811	5,537
<b>Secondary fires</b>	844	614	547

The CSP's strategic intelligence assessment identified that a significant number of the calls for service to the police for ASB, related to rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour (57.6%). Rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour has been tackled by means of the deployment of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers to known areas of youth ASB under the Operation Stay Safe and Operation Greenall programmes. Officers have been supported by colleagues from the ASB outreach team and children's social care. As a result we have experienced a reduction in street (alcohol) drinking by young people and fewer young people being found in situations that make them vulnerable.

## Objectives and Outcomes

The overall objective is to reduce ASB across St.Helens, and improve quality of life for all residents and communities.

Further objectives will include working with specific families to support changes and intervene before they become more entrenched in ASB patterns.

The key outcomes in reducing ASB will be:

- a reduction the number of ASB calls to the Police and St.Helens Council;
- improving residents' perceptions of St.Helens as a safe place, and reducing the impact of ASB on individuals;
- a reduction in the number of repeat callers; and
- the development of a 'community trigger' for residents.

## Delivery

Addressing ASB requires an integrated approach to enforcement and prevention from a range of local partners. This includes:

- recognising the importance of intervening to prevent young people and others becoming involved in ASB;
- taking action to stop harm to victims and to support behavioural changes by perpetrators; and
- keeping communities informed and reassured.

The following groups have been established to address issues relating to ASB:

- Police ASB Governance Group;
- ASB Steering Group;
- Neighbourhood Action Groups.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Intelligence based quarterly reports will be presented to the CSP detailing the following:

- number of ASB calls for service;
- number of ASB repeat callers for service;
- number of ASB Fires;
- perception of high level ASB.

## (2) Serious Acquisitive Crime:

There are four main types of serious acquisitive crime:

- burglary of a dwelling;
- theft from vehicles;
- theft of vehicles; and
- robbery.

These types of crime are a priority for the CSP, as they cause great distress to those who find themselves a victim. It is also a crime people hear about often and causes people to feel unsafe.

A range of partnership approaches are in place to address serious acquisitive crime, such as the Integrated Offender Management scheme (which focuses on high impact and repeat offenders), an extensive alley-gate scheme to protect homes effectively, targeted policing in vulnerable areas, and a 'synthetic dna' property-marking scheme in hotspot areas.

## Performance

**Table 2: Incidents of Serious Acquisitive Crime 2010-2013**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
<b>Serious Acquisitive Crimes</b>	1,661	1,620	1,557

- 60% reduction in theft/unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle;
- 37% fewer thefts from vehicles; and a
- 25% reduction in the number of domestic burglaries.

Since 2007, there has been a 38% reduction in serious acquisitive crime, but there have been seasonal variances. There have been variances to the rates of domestic burglary; however there is evidence of a downward trend and the number of robberies from businesses and individuals has remained low.

## Objectives and Outcomes

In terms of reducing the rate of serious acquisitive crime, the primary objectives are to:

- reduce household burglary and increase awareness among residents about proactive measures to guard against burglary;
- reduce vehicle crime through a range of preventative, intervention and enforcement initiatives; and
- have a reduced rate of reoffending of the Integrated Offender Management Cohort.

## Delivery

Serious acquisitive crimes can often be linked to drugs offences and repeat offenders. This means that there are significant overlaps in the delivery of the objectives relating to tackling serious acquisitive crime. However, there are a number of delivery mechanisms for reducing the number of serious acquisitive crimes, in particular the Drug Intervention Programme and the Integrated Offender Management Programme, which includes Prolific and Priority Offender Management.

## Monitoring and Evaluation:

The level of serious acquisitive crime in St.Helens is continually monitored and reported on, and the CSP holds members and partners to account. Intelligence based quarterly reports will be presented to the CSP detailing the following:

- number of domestic burglaries;
- number of thefts of motor vehicle; and
- number of thefts from motor vehicle.

In addition, there will be continued monitoring and evaluation in place of the specific programmes.

## (3) Domestic Violence (DV) and Abuse

In St.Helens, the CSP is dedicated to tackling DV and Abuse. Domestic Abuse is not confined to physical violence; it also includes psychological, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. The CSP actively works to target offenders and provides support for victims, and supports the 'White Ribbon' campaign, a global campaign designed to stop violence to women by men.

National statistics identify that only 1 in 4 people who suffer abuse at the hands of their partner report it to the police; that only 1 in 10 women who experience serious sexual assault report it to the police; and there can be as many as 35 separate incidents of domestic abuse before a survivor reports it to the police. Understanding the hidden nature of domestic abuse and violence is crucial to delivering any effective programmes to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse.

The CSP seeks to address domestic abuse through prevention (raising awareness and providing education for young people); intervening early to prevent escalation and reduce further risk in individual cases; providing support for victims to enable them to recover; bringing perpetrators to justice and providing interventions to change behaviour; and working in partnership to make the best use of resources and knowledge.

## Performance

**Table 3: Incidents of DV and Abuse 2011-2013**

	2011/12		2012/13	
	Total	Rate per 1,000 population	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
<b>DV Incidents</b>	4354	24.58	4354	24.58
<b>DV Repeat Incidents</b>	1897	10.71	1897	10.71
<b>DV Repeat Rate</b>	44%		44%	
<b>DV Crimes</b>	374	2.11	328	1.85

The numbers of incidents and the repeat rate have remained broadly stable, however the figures should be treated with caution, as calls can capture issues that fall outside the definition of DV and Abuse. The proportion of individuals' recently experiencing abuse rather than the number of incidents is probably a more meaningful indicator.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

**Table 4: Number of cases considered by MARAC 2010-2013**

	Cases Heard	Repeat Rate
<b>2010/11</b>	266	27.8%
<b>2011/12</b>	266	14.7%
<b>2012/13</b>	256	18.0%

Although the number of cases heard remain constant over the last three years, the repeat rate (18.0%) has remained encouragingly under the Merseyside average (22%), but is an increase on last year due to small spikes in May and February.

The CSP has supported a range of supportive, enforcement and preventative initiatives aimed at tackling DV, such as continuing to commission the Independent DV Advocacy service, which has engaged with 189 high-risk victims; launching a DV awareness campaign with St.Helens RFLC, alongside a 'pledge' for local residents and organisations to stand up against DV in St.Helens; and successfully applying to become a 'White Ribbon' town, joining the global initiative to change the social norms that lead to violence against women.

## Objectives and Outcomes

One of the primary aims for the CSP is that every victim and survivor of domestic abuse should feel confident enough to report incidents in the knowledge that they will be believed, be given advice about their choices and be advised of the support services available to them.

The objectives for dealing with cases of domestic abuse are to:

- enable victims/survivors and professionals to identify the need to seek help as early as possible, and to provide them with the support needed;
- ensure children and young people affected by DV are identified and protected from further harm;
- work with perpetrators (convicted and non-convicted) of DV to intervene early and prevent reoffending; and
- reduce the likelihood of reoffending and ensure that abusers are held accountable.

## Delivery

The CSP works collectively to provide specialist training for frontline staff, including the police, health agencies and Council services. An Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service is commissioned to provide individual support for victims of domestic abuse.

The CSP also operates a MARAC where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing all agencies together at a MARAC, and ensuring that whenever possible the voice of the victim is represented, a risk focused, co-ordinated safety plan can be drawn up to support the victim.

The MARAC is also the prime delivery mechanism for reducing the numbers of repeat incidents of DV. The following groups also address issues relating to DV;

- Tackling Violent Crime Group;
- MARAC Steering Group;
- DV Involving Children Group;
- Neighbourhood Action Groups.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The CSP's principal measure of DV is the number of repeat, high-risk victims going through the MARAC, and this will be continually evaluated and monitored.

The MARAC will conduct a self-assessment that will further enable monitoring and management of the performance of the MARAC for continuous improvement. It is a simple and effective programme, which has been funded by the Home Office.

## (4) Drugs and Drug-related Crime

National research tells us that between a third and half of all acquisitive crimes are drug related. The high number of drug offences and drug-related acquisitive crimes place a heavy burden on the police and the criminal justice system, and contributes significantly to the fear of crime. In St.Helens, the Community Safety 2012 Survey results told us that over 40% of residents surveyed were concerned about drug use and dealing. The CSP is committed to breaking the cycle of drug use and crime through an effective mix of enforcement and support.

St.Helens is part of the 'Test on Arrest' programme, where those arrested for 'trigger offences' (including acquisitive crimes, or when the offence is suspected to be connected to the use of heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine) are tested and provided with pathways into treatment via the Drugs Intervention Programme where appropriate. The purpose of drug testing is to identify those adults who misuse Class A drugs that are most commonly associated with acquisitive crimes and to move them into treatment.

## Performance

Test on Arrest:

- between April 2012 and March 2013 there were 1,916 tests carried out, of which 658 were positive.

The positive tests in St.Helens related to 440 individuals. Of these 329 (74.8%) did not re-present across Merseyside within 12 months, however 111 (25.2%) did re-present and this is described as the 're-presentation rate'. Targeted work is underway to understand how effective the local drug treatment offer is for people who repeatedly re-present.

## Objectives and Outcomes

The key objective is to reduce the number of drug related offences that occur, including serious acquisitive crime and the re-presentation rate of offenders for trigger offences. Success in reducing drug offences should improve local resident's perception of their communities as safe places. Further objectives in reducing drug offences include the number of problematic drug using offenders moving into recovery drug treatment services.

The scale of the challenge in reducing drugs offences in St.Helens is significant; there is an entrenched opiate-using cohort of offenders in St.Helens, who until recently have not had meaningful recovery options or an environment in which achieving abstinence was a credible option. Whilst we may be familiar with the harmful effects of drug misuse, there are still only relatively few visible examples of what success or recovery looks like.

## Delivery

The CSP fully supports the Merseyside Police strategy of reducing the demand for, the supply of, and the harm caused by, illegal drugs, and will work in conjunction with a variety of partners to reduce offences related to drugs. The Probation Service will manage all offenders subject to Drug Rehabilitation Orders and the Addressing Substance-Related Offending Programme. The Young People's Substance Misuse Team will work with partners to reduce drug use by young people. The Council's Environmental Protection Department will continue to provide a service to collect needles that are discarded on public land.

The following groups have been established to address issues relating to drug crimes:

- St.Helens Drug and Alcohol Commissioning and Strategy Group;
- Police Tasking and Coordinating Group;
- Integrated Offender Management Operational Delivery Group; and
- Neighbourhood Action Groups.

Addaction, the Council's commissioned drug treatment provider service, is making recovery visible through supporting local recovery champions and volunteers and encouraging the growth of mutual aid groups in the area. This will raise ambition and show people what can be achieved, as well as providing longer-term support to prevent relapse. Targeted work is underway to understand how effective the local drug treatment offer is for people who repeatedly represent.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress relating to drug and alcohol, recovery orientated treatment services (run by Addaction) is regularly reported to the St.Helens Drugs and Alcohol Commissioning and Strategy Group and the CSP. Test on arrest and drug enforcement data is continually monitored and reported to the CSP.

## (5) Violent Crime

Although rates of violent crime have fallen in St.Helens, challenges remain, especially in areas where there is a high concentration of late-night bars. Violent crime has high physical, emotional and financial consequences for individuals and families leading to increased feelings of insecurity in communities. Alcohol is often a common factor in relation to levels of violence; peak times for violent crime coincide with busy trading hours and closing times of licensed venues. Incidents are often clustered within small, well-defined areas and can sometimes be linked to specific premises.

While violent offences occur throughout the Borough, the Town Centre has the highest concentration of violent offences, especially on weekend nights. As a result violent incidents are often associated with the night-time economy.

Violent crime is also linked to DV and abuse, which is dealt with specifically at Priority 3 of this plan.

## Performance

**Table 5: Incidents of Violent Crime 2010-2013**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
Violent Crime	1773	1585	1522
Violence against the person	1588	1393	1333
Wounding	633	661	690

During the last three years there have been reductions of 16% and 19% respectively in incidents of violent crime and violence against the person. However set against these encouraging trends has been the increase in wounding offences, which have increased by 8%

## Objectives and Outcomes

The overall objective is to further reduce the incidence of violent crime in St.Helens by reducing serious violent crime and reducing assaults causing less serious injury.

Associated outcomes will include educating and raising awareness of sensible drinking; reducing violent crime linked to alcohol consumption; contributing to a reduction in alcohol-related assaults presenting at Accident and Emergency (A&E) Units and intervening early to prevent violent crime and disorder.

## Delivery

Nearly half of violent crime in England and Wales is associated with the consumption of alcohol, and the CSP will continue to support ongoing operations, especially those related to alcohol: Operation Greenall (targeting young people and alcohol confiscations across the Borough), and Operation 'STAND' in the Town Centre at weekends. The CSP will use Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAAPA) to provide intensive multi-agency supervision of high-risk offenders.

The following groups have been established to address issues relating to Violent Crime

- Tackling Violent Crime Group;
- Police Violence Governance Meeting;
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPP);
- Neighbourhood Action Groups;
- St.Helens Pub Watch.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Intelligence based reports will be presented to the Tackling Violent Crime Group and the CSP. In addition performance is continually monitored and reported upon by the Police and the Safer Communities Department.

### (6) Reduction in Reoffending:

Although national and local crime levels are falling, the prison population is growing. Nationally, almost half of all adult prisoners are reconvicted within a year. Reoffenders often face multiple and interrelated problems, which pull them into offending and sustains the cycle of reoffending. Limited employment prospects, a low skills base and unstable accommodation arrangements mean that offenders often experience difficulty in reintegrating into society once released from prison. Enormous potential exists for the St.Helens CSP to have a significant impact on reducing crime by focusing on the reduction of reoffending.

The Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOM) is a multi-agency team consisting of Police, Probation, the Youth Offending Service, HMP Liverpool, Safer Communities and Addaction. It manages a selected and locally defined cohort of offenders, who are offered the opportunity to change their lifestyle, through extending the reach of existing offender programmes and drug intervention programmes.

## Performance

**Table 6: IOM Programme Outcomes October 2010-September 2012**

The IOM programme is measured in 12-month cycles from October to September:

	Oct 2010 - Sept 2011	Oct 2011 - Sept 2012	Difference	Difference (%)
Convictions	390	290	-100	-26%
Acquisitive Crime Convictions	43	37	-6	-14%
Drugs Offences	23	12	-11	-48%
Theft Shop	154	86	-68	-44%

Targeted prolific offenders through the IOM scheme achieved a 26% reduction in reoffending.

**Table 7: Local Adult Re-offending Rate.**

Local Adult Probation Re-offending rates April 2012 - March 2013	Caseload	Actual Reoffending Rate	Predicted Reoffending Rate
Merseyside	20,395	7.97%	8.45%
St.Helens	2,027	8.03%	8.64%

In 2012/13 the Probation Service in St.Helens achieved a local reoffending rate of 8.03% for St.Helens against a predictive rate 8.64% for the year, a 6.99% improvement against the baseline measurement set in 2007.

## Objectives and Outcomes

A reduction in reoffending is a statutory responsibility for the CSP. Our principle aim is to reduce the reoffending of those offenders who commit the most crime and cause the most damage to our communities, through the improved management of offenders and the provision of relevant and appropriate interventions by ensuring they are identified, targeted, and given appropriate levels of enforcement, intervention or support. The key measures we will use to identify if we have been successful are:

- reductions in acquisitive crime offending by IOM cohort;
- reductions in the acquisitive crime rate;
- reductions in Adult reoffending; and
- reductions in Youth reoffending.

## Delivery

The CSP will focus on offenders not offences. The IOM Operational Delivery Group consists of partner agencies, including the Probation and Youth Offending Services, and discusses performance, blockages and the management of nominations on and off the cohort of offenders to be managed.

The cohort which includes prolific and priority offenders, is managed through a co-located team consisting of dedicated Probation officers (managing both statutory and non statutory offenders), dedicated Police officers and administration support. This team draws on expertise from the local Youth Offending Service (as appropriate), and local partners such as Addaction and the Apex Trust. In addition the following groups also provide support to address issues relating to reoffending;

- Youth Offending Service Management Board;
- Police Tasking and Co-ordinating Group; and
- Neighbourhood Action Groups.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Intelligence based reports will be presented to the IOM Operational Delivery Group and the CSP. In addition performance is continually monitored and reported upon by the Probation Service, the Youth Offending Service and the Safer Communities Department.

## (7) Tackling Organised Crime

Research has identified the North West, in addition to London, the South East and the West Midlands, as one of four major hubs where there are more organised crime groups involved in criminality including the supply of drugs and other commodities throughout the UK. It also highlights that those involved in Merseyside organised crime groups have a disproportionate impact on crime across the region and nationally.

Over half of the organised crime groups operating in the UK are involved in drug-related crime; a significant proportion is also involved in violent crime. Although illegal drug use is falling, the UK's illegal drugs market is still worth approximately £3.7 billion a year, and led to over 2,000 drug-related deaths in 2012. Offences involving the use of a firearm make up a small proportion of all police recorded crime in England and Wales (around 0.2%); however, the majority of criminally linked shooting incidents in the UK are conducted by urban street gangs.

Fraud is estimated to cost the UK £50 billion each year, at least £8.9 billion of this is attributed to organised crime. As money laundering is often covert and complex, it is difficult to assess the scale of money laundered. Illicit profits are often laundered through cash rich businesses; typically nail bars, food and licensed premises, security companies, taxi firms and car washes.

Child sexual exploitation and abuse remains a largely solitary crime; where it occurs on a larger scale, it shares few of the characteristics traditionally associated with organised crime. The offending is extremely serious; it is very often online using sophisticated technology and techniques to evade law enforcement attention.

Other types of serious and organised crimes include organised immigration crime and human trafficking, cyber crime, and organised acquisitive crime. Organised acquisitive crime is determined in response to supply and demand. UK-based organised crime groups have become involved in metal theft, antiques, smart phones, and vehicles.

## Objectives and Outcomes

- Embedding a partnership approach;
- To engage the community in tackling organised crime;
- Effectively undertaking disruption, enforcement and/ or prevention activity against organised crime.

## Delivery

In addition to the establishment of the National Crime Agency, the Government intends to make changes to legislation to make powers more effective, and expects more cross-government collaboration at every level of government. Police forces will continue to conduct most law enforcement work on serious and organised crime, and should be supported by new local organised crime partnership boards, including local authorities.

The precise structure for local multi-agency partnerships will be determined by Police and Crime Commissioner, whether this is adapting existing partnership mechanisms or developing new partnerships. However, there should be representatives from the police, local authorities, education, health and social care, and immigration enforcement. The partnerships will be informed by local profiles of serious and organised crime.

In addition the following groups have been established to address issues relating to Organised Crime:

- Merseyside Intervention Partnership - Organised Crime Disruption Activity;
- Police Organised Crime Partnership Group.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The Government intends to create a programme to stop people starting or continuing to engage in serious and organised crime. This will include new education and communication programmes, designed to raise awareness of the reality of serious and organised crime, the damage it causes and the consequences for offenders and their families.

Existing programmes, notably Troubled Families will be used to prevent serious and organised crime. The Home Office will work with the national Troubled Families Team to develop evidence of the nature and extent of the troubled families/organised crime connection; monitor the referral mechanisms; collaborate on appropriate interventions; and monitor outcomes.

## 8) Hate Crime

Hate crime and hate incidents often go unreported. St.Helens CSP is committed to raising awareness of hate crime, ensuring that victims are supported and offenders are dealt with effectively. Hate crimes are defined as "any incident, which constitutes a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate," because of gender, race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

Recently the CSP launched a public pledge to help eliminate hate crime in St.Helens. Local organisations have been asked to sign a pledge committing to promoting "St.Helens No Place for Hate", to make local people more aware of hate crimes and to feel more confident in reporting any incidents of hate crime.

The St.Helens Hate Crime Reduction Partnership exists to co-ordinate, steer and concentrate the attention of the public and all agencies on reducing hate crime in St.Helens and has developed an annual Hate Crime action plan.

## Performance

**Table 8: Incidents of Hate Crime 2010-2013.**

	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
Racially or Religiously Aggravated Offences	78	65	63
Hate Crime (MCJB recorded)	122	100	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>171</b>

## Objectives and Outcomes

As with DV, it is recognised that hate crimes are under-reported. Some minority groups and victims may be mistrustful of authorities, be fearful of reprisals, or not have the confidence to speak to the Police. This means that one of the primary objectives is to raise public awareness, and to ensure that victims feel supported; in addition the CSP aspire to develop an advocacy service and enhance the process for all agencies involved in responding and working to prevent hate crime.

## Delivery

The CSP will continue to provide a 24-hour support service to people who have been affected by Hate Crime. Victims and witnesses can contact STOP Hate UK by phone, text, and post or online to report Hate Crime, access support and get information.

Merseyside Police have a dedicated Hate Crime Investigation Unit (SIGMA), which is experienced in dealing with incidents of Hate Crime. The Sigma Unit primarily investigates hate crimes based on the following diversity strands: Disability, Race, Religion/ Faith, Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The annual Hate Crime Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed and Intelligence based reports will be presented to the Hate Crime Reduction Group, the CSP and the Merseyside Criminal Justice Board. In addition crimes/incidents are continuously monitored by both the Police Sigma Unit and the Safer Communities Department ensuring that effective actions have been implemented.

## Emerging Issues

In addition to the key priorities, identified in this plan the St.Helens CSP has identified the following areas as requiring monitoring and some actions:

### a) Business Crime

St.Helens Council is committed to ensuring that St.Helens is a safe place for businesses to prosper. Crime and disorder is detrimental to business, it leads to a loss of investment, empty shops, and fewer employment opportunities. This can result in less busy streets, and people feeling less secure in their local areas. St.Helens Chamber is a key member of the CSP, and works alongside other partners to deliver the Business Crime Group meeting and oversees Shop Watch and Pub Watch.

### b) Gun and Knife Crime

The extent of gun and knife crime in St.Helens is continually monitored to understand emerging threats. In the past year, there have been few incidents relating to gun and knife crime; as such it has not as yet emerged as a significant threat for the Borough. However, it is important to examine developments in the future given the high priority placed on gun and knife crime both nationally and by Merseyside Police. To tackle gun crime, the Matrix Disruption Team is Merseyside Police's first response unit, and provides the Force with a level two response to gun crime, faction based criminality and cash-in-transit robberies. Officers are specifically trained to deal with a variety of situations.

### c) Youth Crime

Youth Crime is connected to several of the CSP's key priorities. St.Helens Youth Offending Service produce an Annual Strategic Youth Justice Plan which sets out a clear improvement plan, linked primarily to performance improvement in relation to the three Youth Justice Indicators:

- reducing the number of first time entrants by preventing offending;
- reducing re-offending; and
- reducing the use of custody, including remand to Youth Detention Accommodation.

The implementation of this plan in conjunction with the following actions will be employed to specifically deal with preventing and reducing offending by young people:

- Stay Safe operations will be deployed throughout the year to remove 'at risk' young people from the streets by the Police, which will be followed up by social care and Youth Service workers, if required;
- The Safer Communities Active Engagement Team will provide outreach services across the Borough, working to engage young people in positive activities;
- Police and Police Community Support Officers will target hotspot locations for youths drinking alcohol at weekends;
- The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAAT) will continue to work with partners to reduce substance use by young people, particularly the most vulnerable;
- The Youth Offending Service will continue to operate Triage (a restorative intervention, which provides quicker and better informed decisions about children and young people who have been arrested) in the custody suite of St.Helens Police Station and will continue to work with partners to ensure that young people are appropriately diverted from the CJS;
- The Youth Offending Service will continue to deliver a prevention programme for those young people identified as being most at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System;
- The Youth Offending Service, Safer Communities and partners will identify young people involved in crime and anti-social behaviour and consider referral to the Priority Families Programme if appropriate.

## Appendix

St.Helens Community Safety Partnership

The St.Helens Community Safety Partnership was formed in 1999 and consists of representatives from the following organisations:

St.Helens Council

Merseyside Police

Greater Merseyside Connexions - St.Helens

Crown Prosecution Service

Helena Partnerships

Your Housing

Riverside

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Merseytravel

Merseyside Probation Trust

St.Helens Chamber

St.Helens Council for Voluntary Service

SHINE

St.Helens Voluntary and Community Action

St.Helens Magistrates' Court

Her Majesty's Prison Liverpool

St.Helens Clinical Commissioning Group



# st.helenstogether

YOUR LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

## Safer Communities Thematic Group

### Members:

St.Helens Council  
Merseyside Police  
Your Housing  
Connexions  
Crown Prosecution Service  
HMP Liverpool  
St.Helens and Knowsley Magistrates' Court  
Halton and St.Helens Primary Care Trust

Helena Partnerships  
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service  
Merseytravel  
Merseyside Probation Trust  
Riverside Housing  
Regenda Housing  
St.Helens CVS  
St.Helens Chamber



St.Helens Council

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Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.

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