



2014/15 Strategic Assessment

Dacorum Community Safety Partnership

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Executive summary

The aim of the Partnership annual strategic assessment is to identify both current crime and disorder issues emerging trends and to inform and drive activity of the Community Safety Partnership

This document is refreshed annually, to take account of any significant changes or developments which have occurred in the preceding year.

The Priorities originally identified during the 2012/2013 strategic assessment were:

Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal damage
Dwelling/Other Burglary
Alcohol Misuse
Vehicle Crime
Drug Misuse
Reassurance
Youth Related Crime and Disorder

The priorities for 2014/15 have remained broadly speaking the same, with youth crime and disorder being incorporated into anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

The Partnership is recommending the following priorities should be adopted for 2014/15 with Reassurance covering all categories.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage
Dwelling Burglary
Vehicle Crime
Alcohol Misuse
Drug Misuse
Managing Offenders/ Reducing Re Offending

It is important to stress that issues which are either

- a) not identified as priorities or are
- b) emerging

will not be ignored – they will continue to be monitored by the Partnership and dealt with on a proportionate problem solving basis.

An example of this would be “Protecting the Vulnerable” where although data can be difficult to gather, the Partnership is already supporting projects such as “Think Safe” which provides support to adults with learning difficulties.

Where data is available in relation to other categories of vulnerability this should be gathered and analysed as part of the problem solving process to determine future activity.

Introduction

Aim and purpose

The aim of the Partnership annual Strategic Assessment is to identify both current crime and disorder issues and the emerging trends, using both statistical and anecdotal evidence from all the Partnership agencies, informing the prioritisation of work and the setting of targets. The purpose of the assessment is to ensure the Partnership have a detailed understanding of all crime and disorder issues across the Borough, allowing for informed, problem solving activities to take place in line with the priorities identified.

The Strategic Assessment process uses a risk matrix to assess the issues affecting each district in Hertfordshire. The information supplied by partners is fed in to a risk assessment which identifies the key areas to be explored throughout the document. This enables the Strategic Assessment to focus on issues that present a risk to the Partnership. The family of most-similar partnerships (identified by Home Office research) remains a relevant set of comparators by which to assess our situation and performance.

Sensitivity and constraint

This document is intended for use by all partner organisations in the Community Safety Partnership to inform the compilation of a Dacorum Community Safety Plan, which includes an annually revised Community Safety Action Plan. Partners may wish to use the statistical data provided to support action based around their own organisational priorities and of course the data contained can be used to support bids for funding.

Data sources

Crime data in this assessment is extracted from Hertfordshire Constabulary's Crime and Information System (CIS) and its Incident System (OASIS or STORM since April 2013). Both the Network Management Information System (NMIS) and "I-base" have been used to extract the data. NMIS is a data warehouse, which holds a collection of information extracted from the Constabulary's source systems. I-base facilitates access to several of the Constabulary's computer systems from one place and is a data management system. Unless otherwise stated, dates relate to notifiable offences and ASB incidents recorded during the twelve months between 01/08/2012 and 31/07/2013. The sanctioned detection period is for the policing year to date (01/04/2013 to 31/10/2013).

IQuanta is a system by which forces and authorities are able to view reports from Home Office data for their own force. This includes aggregated data for their basic command unit, most similar group comparison and community safety partnership. Data available through IQuanta also relates to the twelve months between 01/08/2012 and 31/07/2013, or where specified for the three months to the end of July 2013.

Background

Dacorum is a mixture of urban and rural communities in West Hertfordshire. The market towns of Berkhamsted and Tring are situated in the more rural areas of the Borough. The resident population of Dacorum currently stands at 144,800. This shows an approximate growth of 3200 when compare to the 2001 Census, when the population stood at 141,600. Of the 2011 census figures 21.6% of residents are over the age of 60, which is an increase compared to the previous estimate of 19.5%.

The diversity of the District is reflected in the School Census. According to the most recent Schools Census of 0-19 year olds, there are 25,935 pupils of which 704 come from the Roma or travelling community and 1797 come from an ethnic minority background, accounting for 10.4% of the school population. However, it should be remembered that some of these pupils may come from outside the district and that the ethnic origins of pupils in independent schools may not be known. Furthermore, some of those residing in Dacorum may attend school outside the Borough.

The below table provides a breakdown of the proportion of ethnic groups residing in the Borough, compared to Hertfordshire. The percentages are based on the **2011 Census** from the Office of National Statistics.

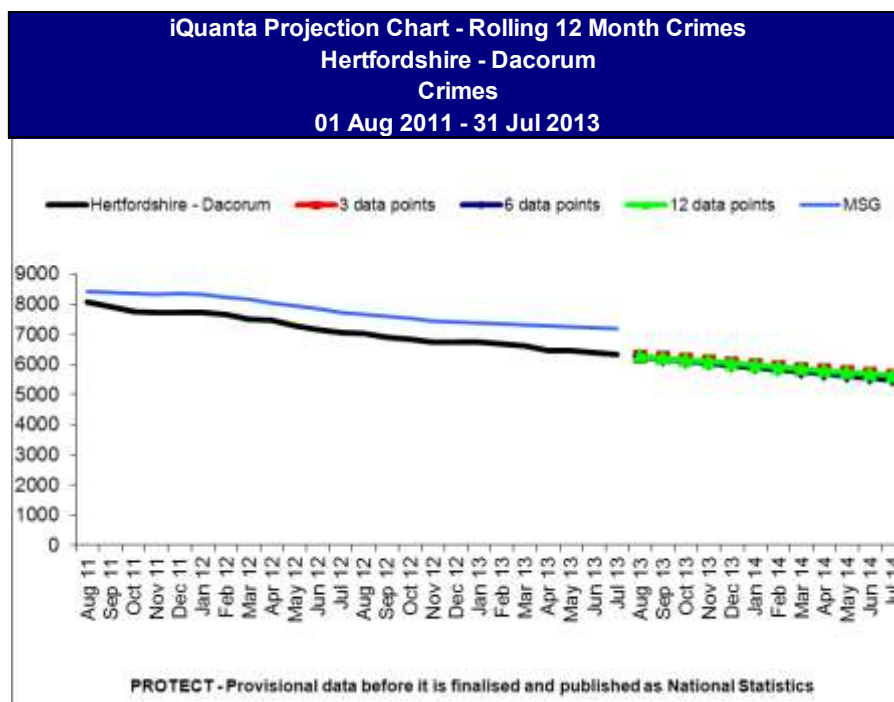
Ethnicity

Ethnicity in Hertfordshire	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other
Hertfordshire	87.5	2.5	6.6	2.9	0.6
Dacorum	90.9	2.2	4.6	2.1	0.2

The Partnership consists of a Members Forum that meets twice a year and is chaired by the portfolio holder for Community Safety and Public Protection. The Responsible Authorities Officers Group is the executive decision making group that meets quarterly. The Joint Action Group is where much of the core work is done and this group meets on a monthly basis.

Looking back at the last year:

During the 12 months assessed (ending July 2013) when compared with the same period the previous year, Dacorum CSP has seen a reduction in all crime by 11.9%. From iQuanta data for all crime recorded, the CSP is shown to be 2nd/15 within its most similar group (MSG). This reflects an improvement in position from 4th/15 the previous year. Dacorum has reported 43.48 crimes per 1000 residents and the average for the MSG is 49.466. As illustrated in the below graph, Dacorum shows a decreasing trend below the MSG average and this is predicted to continue.



There has been success around the 2013/14 priorities, with a reduction in both crimes and incidents. The table below provides a breakdown of the change in volume during the period assessed, for the crime types selected:

Crime Types/ Groups	Aug 11 to Jul 12	Aug 12 to Jul 13	Volume Change	% Change
All Crime	7241	6379	-862	-11.9%
ASB Incidents	5690	3917	-1773	-31.2%
BCS Comparator Crimes	3867	3373	-494	-12.8%
Serious Acquisitive Crime	1429	1220	-209	-14.6%
All Burglary Dwelling (Including Attempts)	430	407	-23	-5.3%
Vehicle Crime (Excluding Interference)	922	766	-156	-16.9%
All Robbery (Business and Personal)	77	47	-30	-39.0%
All Violent Crime	1309	1223	-86	-6.6%
All Criminal Damage	1286	1159	-127	-9.9%
Arson	37	15	-22	-59.5%
Burglary Other (Non Domestic Burglary)	456	364	-92	-20.2%
Shoplifting	532	522	-10	-1.9%

Theft from the Person	154	102	-52	-33.8%
All Drugs Offences	557	639	+82	+14.7%
Distraction Burglary	9	7	-2	-22.2%

Dacorum has recorded a reduction in all the crime types listed above apart from drug offences, although it can be noted that many increases in drug offences are related to active police operations and not the prevalence and use of drugs within the area. There are notable high percentage decreases in arson, all criminal damage offences and anti-social behaviour incidents.

Analysis

Burglary dwelling

Risk assessments shows a 'Low Risk'

Dacorum has generated a low risk assessment for burglary dwelling, decreasing from a medium risk the previous year. There were 407 dwelling burglaries recorded in the period which included 74 attempts and 7 distractions. There were no aggravated dwelling burglaries recorded. Of the 430 offences recorded the previous year, there were 61 attempts, 9 distractions and 1 aggravated.

Dacorum is 7th/10 in county position for the rate of burglary dwelling offences recorded per 1000 households. This is a drop compared to 6th/10 the previous year. IQanta data reflects Dacorum as 10th/15 in its most similar group (MSG), which is no change when compared to the previous year. The CSP has reported 6.7 offences per 1000 households and the average for the MSG is 6.8 per 1000 households. Although Dacorum is currently below the MSG average, there has been a trend above the average over the past two years.

Local Context

Berkhamsted Castle Ward (D2A) has reported the highest number of dwelling burglary offences accounting for 8.1% of the total (33 offences). This beat has seen the greatest increase within the CSP, up 26 offences from 7 the previous year. The other beat with a significant increase is Chaulden & Shrubhill, (D1M) up by 12 offences to 16 from 4 the previous year. Two of the wards in the top five last year have remained in the top five this year, Bennetts End (D1Q) and Woodhall Ward (D1T), although they have both seen a decrease in the number of offences.

During the period assessed each of the 7 distraction burglaries occurred within different beats, so there is no area with a significant increase.

Highfield and St Pauls (D1G), which was the second highest location for dwelling burglaries the previous year, has seen the greatest decrease in offences, down by 22 from 36 to 14.

Decreased levels of offences were highlighted in the spring and summer months the previous year (2011/12) with peaks in November and January. This year (2012/13) there was a dip in June and July and a peak in March with the rest of the months appearing relatively stable with around 30 and 40 offences per month. 49 Offences were recorded in March with 21 and 17 offences in June and July respectively.

Operation COIL was the response to a series of dwelling burglaries in the Boxmoor area of Hemel in November and December, which led to the arrest of one suspect and the detection of 26 dwelling burglary offences. This may be related to the dip in offences in February. Other notable operations were Op CONTRAIL focusing on a team of travellers who were impacting on several CSPs, including Dacorum, and Op BUILD focusing on a nominal who had

links to both Dacorum and cross border into Thames Valley. The operations combined resulted in over 20 detections for Dacorum.

Key recommendations

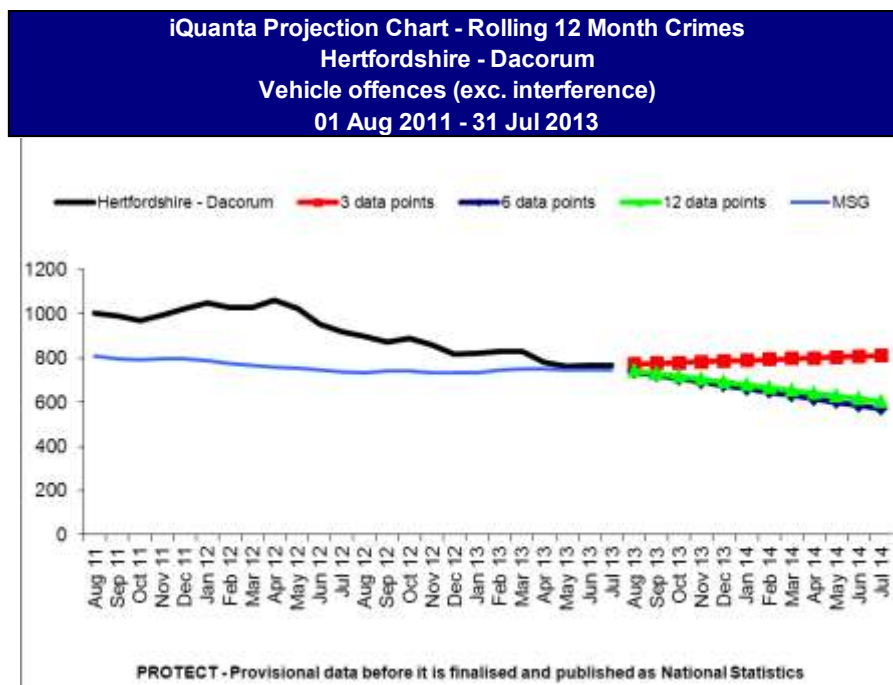
That Burglary Dwelling remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG, with consideration being given to provision of support to initiatives which may tackle this issue.

Vehicle Crime (excluding interference)

Risk assessments shows a 'Low Risk'

Dacorum CSP has generated a low risk assessment in respect of vehicle crime, which is no change since the previous year.

The CSP is 8th/10 within the county, which is no change in position compared to the previous year. IQuanta data reflects the CSP as 10th/15 within its MSG, which is also no change from the previous year. Dacorum has reported 5.286 offences per 1000 residents and the average for the MSG is 5.138 offences per 1000 residents. As can be seen in the graph below, although the numbers of offences in Dacorum are above the MSG average, over the last two years the gap has been closing and the difference is not as great as in previous years.



There has been a steady decrease year on year over the past five years (2008/2013) in vehicle crime in the CSP, with the current year showing the largest decrease in offence numbers since 2010. In the previous year there were increased offences between November 2011 and April 2012 with lower numbers of offences in the summer months. This pattern

has continued somewhat into the current year with lower numbers of offences still in the summer months, but with peaks in October and January and a dip in November and December that did not occur the previous year.

Local context

There were 766 offences of vehicle crime recorded in the current period, which is a decrease of 16.9% from 922 in the previous year. Theft from motor vehicle offences accounted for 82.2% of vehicle crime (excluding interference). These offences have decreased in Dacorum by 21.5% (down 173 offences) when compared to the previous year. The number of theft of motor vehicle offences (including attempts) has increased by 14.3% (up 16 offences), and the number of aggravated vehicle taking offences has also gone up, but only by one offence (from 6 to 7).

Two issues for the CSP during the year have been theft of number plates and theft of catalytic converters. Three nominals are currently charged with conspiracy for catalytic converter thefts and are due in court in a few months.

Adeyfield East (D1C) continues to record the highest number of vehicle crime offences in the CSP; accounting for 7.8% of the total. Whilst this beat remains top, offences here have decreased when compared to the previous year (down 12 offences from 72 to 60). Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) still remains second highest, but has also decreased by 9 offences to 55). The greatest decreases are seen in Woodhall Ward (D1T) down by 34 offences to 23 and Grovehill (D1H) down by 27 to 37 offences. Aldbury and Wigginton (D3D) and Berkhamsted East (D2B) show the greatest increase, up by 11 and 10 offences respectively.

Key recommendations

That Vehicle Crime remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG, with consideration being given to provision of support to initiatives which may tackle this issue.

Tackling drugs

Drug offences are usually an indication of Police activity as opposed to a measure of actual drugs usage, that is Police count and record the drugs which are found during operational activity, and this is not an indication as to the extent of drugs usage.

Any increase/decrease in Police drugs statistics may be due to changes in Police activity, as well as changes within the drug market.

It should also be noted that Police drugs data is assigned geographically to where the drugs are found, therefore, if a particular ward contains a Police station or other establishment where drugs are searched for i.e. a prison, nightclub etc., it is more likely to have drugs activity linked. Further analysis would be required to ascertain how frequently this happens.

A better measure of drugs activity from Police data would be to use calls into Police. However, Hertfordshire Constabulary have only recently changed their classification of calls to Police to include an entry for drugs, whereas prior to the new classification broad categories such as anti-social behaviour, crime etc. were used, which could be feasibly be used for drug related information.

Unfortunately, this does not assist the collation of a cohesive assessment when working strategically, but may be overcome by more detailed analysis in the future.

In all of the following discussion of offences of possessing or trafficking drugs, it is important to recognise that the levels of recorded crime mainly reflect the targeting of operations by police, and cannot be used as a proxy to measure the prevalence of the use of illegal drugs.

Offence type	No. of offences per 1000 population	No. of offences 2011/12	No. of offences 2012/13	% change	Dacorum Rank in County
Drug Trafficking – Class A	0.46	13	68	+423.1	8 th /10
Drug Trafficking – Other	0.63	38	93	+144.7	10 th /10
Possession – Class A	0.39	48	57	+18.8	7 th /10
Possession – Other	2.86	455	419	-7.9	5 th /10

N.B periods covered 01/08/2011 to 31/07/2012 compared with 01/08/2012 to 31/07/2013.

The above table highlights for the 12 months ending July 2013 that there has been a decrease in Possession Other and an increase in the other three types of drug offence, most significantly within drug trafficking.

Within the county, Dacorum has seen the most significant drop in position for Drug trafficking other, moving from 2nd/10 the previous year to 10th/10 in the current year. Both drug trafficking class A and possession class A have also seen a drop in position, possession other has remained the same.

From iQuanta data Dacorum is currently 14th/15 for drug offences within its MSG this is a drop in position from 11th/15 the previous year. The average number of offences per 1000 residents in the MSG is 2.918. Dacorum is above this with 4.384 offences per 1000 residents.

Local context

During the most recent 12 month period (ending July 2013), Hertfordshire County Council's Services for Young People report that Dacorum had 14 young people (under 18s) receiving specialist/targeted treatment for drug issues. Dacorum stands 5th/10 within Hertfordshire, for the number of young people receiving such treatment. For the 12 months to the end of June 2013, there were 255 clients aged over 18 in structured treatment. Dacorum stands 5th/10 in county for the number of over 18s receiving such treatment.

Also, 19 residents were taken onto the DRR (Drug Rehabilitation Requirement) caseload during the year. Dacorum is ranked 6th/10 within Hertfordshire in this respect.

In Dacorum for the most recent financial period (ending March 2013) 81.4% of drug users who were starting a treatment journey, were retained in structured treatment for 12 weeks or more. 64.6% of these drug users had either opiate or crack recorded as their primary drug. 43.7% of all drug users leaving treatment were discharged via a planned exit, 39.1% via unplanned discharge and 17.2% were transferred. 52.9% of drug users leaving via an unplanned discharge had either opiate or crack recorded as their primary drug. For the purpose of these figures please refer to 2.1 in the appendix for a definition of structured treatment.

Please refer to 2.2 in the appendix for an update concerning the provision of drug and alcohol treatment recovery services in Hertfordshire.

Key recommendations

That Drug Misuse remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG, with consideration being given to provision of support to initiatives which may tackle this issue.

Alcohol related crime

Due to changes in recording practices by the Police the data available for 2013/4 cannot be used to establish a baseline so the figures which are provided for 2014/15 will be used to establish a baseline in this category. However, all current initiatives and practices will be maintained and reviewed when baseline data is available.

Night time violent crime

Risk assessments shows a 'Low Risk'

There were 443 night time violent crime offences recorded during the 12 month period, which is a decrease of 13.3% compared to 511 the previous year. Dacorum CSP is currently ranked 4th/10 in county for night time violent crime, which is no change to the previous year, reporting 3.02 crimes per 1000 population. Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) is again the top ward (recording 128 offences) accounting for 28.9% of the total, although, night time violent crime offences recorded in this beat have decreased when compared to the previous year (down 14 offences).

Key recommendations

That Alcohol Misuse remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG, with consideration being given to provision of support to initiatives which may tackle this issue.

Anti-social behaviour incidents

Risk assessments shows a 'Low Risk'

During the 12 months assessed (ending July 2013) the number of ASB incidents recorded by the police in Dacorum has decreased by 31.2%. 3917 incidents were recorded compared to 5690 the previous year. Dacorum is currently 5th/10 in county for ASB, which is an improvement from 6th/10 the previous year, reporting 26.7 incidents per 1000 residents.

Over the previous four years there appears to have been a lower number of incidents during the winter months, which is not apparent this year. As in previous years there was a peak in August 2012 with 493 incidents, but since this point the numbers have remained relatively stable between around 250 to 350 incidents each month. The month with the lowest number of incidents was June 2013 with 241. Over the past five years the average number of incidents per month has reduced by 62.9% from 879.25 between August 2008 and July 2009 to 326.4 per month between August 2012 and July 2013.

Unlike other years, October did not have a significantly high number of incidents, in fact only three other months in the year had less incidents. However, there were an increased amount of incidents recorded on October 31st coinciding with Halloween. There were 23 incidents recorded on this date, which is above the month's average of 9.8 per day.

The category of 'Nuisance' continues to be the highest final incident class with 2552 incidents recorded in this category, 65.15% of the total. 32.1% of incidents were recorded in the 'Personal' class and 2.66% in the Environmental class.

Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) continues to experience the highest number of ASB incidents during the 12 months assessed, accounting for 14.5% of the total. This beat has however recorded the greatest decrease in levels of ASB from 912 incidents in the previous year, to 570 in the most recent 12 month period. Both Hemel Hempstead police station and the hospital are located in this ward.

Highfield and St Pauls (D1G) and Grovehill (D1H) remain the second and third highest beats with 374 and 249 offences respectively, but they have both seen a decrease in the numbers of incidents since the previous year (down by 144 and 110 offences).

The beats with the lowest numbers of incidents continue to be Ashridge (D2E) and Aldbury & Wigginton (D3D) with 12 and 19 incidents respectively. All wards in Dacorum have recorded a decrease in ASB incidents, with Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) seeing the greatest reduction (as detailed above), followed by Highfield and St Pauls (D1G) decreasing from 518 the previous year to 374 offences in the current year.

Key recommendations

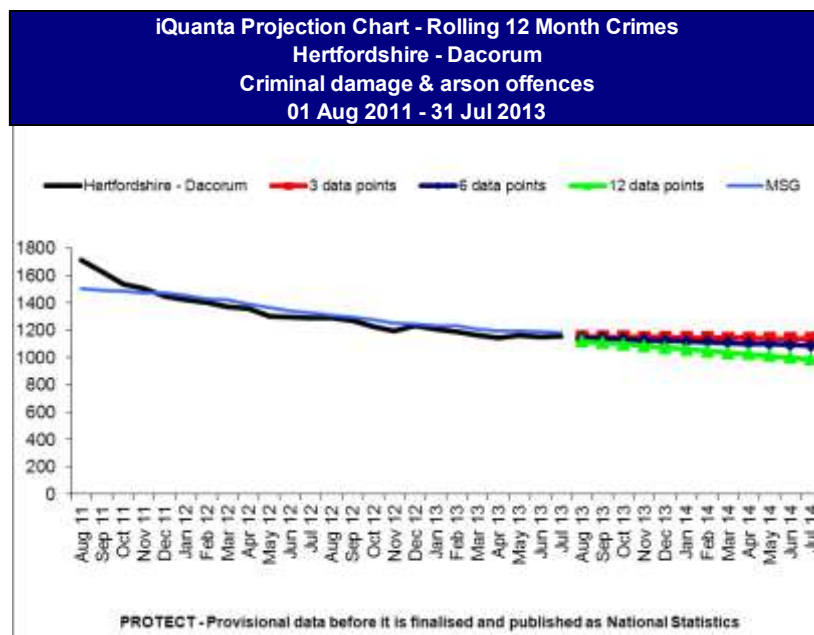
That ASB remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG and support be provided to initiatives to tackle it.

Criminal damage

Risk assessments shows a 'Low Risk'

The risk assessment for criminal damage has decreased from a medium risk to a low risk. There were 1159 criminal damage offences recorded in the current period, which is a decrease of 9.9% when compared to 1286 offences in the previous year. Dacorum is ranked 7th within county, which is no change from the previous year.

Based on data taken from IQuanta, Dacorum is 7th/15 within its MSG. This is an improvement compared to 9th/15 the previous year. For the most recent period the CSP has recorded 7.873 crimes per 1000 residents and the average for the MSG is 7.867 crimes per 1000 residents. The following graph shows that since November 2011 Dacorum has closely followed the average of the MSG. The amount of criminal damage has dropped slowly and appears to be levelling off and this may continue into the future. It is therefore possible that the levels of criminal damage over the coming year may be similar to those of the current year.



Local context

Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) continues to report the highest number of criminal damage offences (12.4% of the total), although the number of offences has reduced from 161 to 144 in the current period. Highfield and St Pauls (D1G) remains the second highest beat recording 119 offences, this is an increase compared to 113 offences the previous year.

The beat with the greatest decrease is Leverstock Green (D1E) down by 33 offences from 61 to 28. The greatest increase was seen in Berkhamsted West (D2C) up by 18 offences from 21 to 39.

November recorded the lowest number of offences and the other autumn and winter months also showed low numbers of offences, less than 100 incidents a month between September and January inclusive. August 2012 showed the highest number of offences with 127 occurring in that month.

The most prevalent offence type within criminal damage was found to be vehicle damage, accounting for approximately 54.8% of damage offences in the CSP (635 offences). This type of offence was most prevalent within all beats apart from Tring Central (D3B), where damage to a dwelling had one more offence.

Deliberate fires

Dacorum is currently ranked 4th/10 in county for deliberate fire calls, reporting 0.9 per 1000 population. Deliberate fire calls have decreased in the CSP from 165 in the previous year, to 125 in the current period and have therefore seen a reduction of 26%. The top sub-type categories recorded for the period were 'other outdoor location' (32 incidents) followed by refuse/rubbish tip/wheelie bin/skip (23 incidents).

Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A) and Watling Ward (D1s) recorded the highest numbers of deliberate fire calls with 12 incidents each. Hemel Hempstead Central has decreased by 2 incidents since the previous year and Watling Ward has increased by 3. Grove Hill (D1H), which was the highest in the previous year, has seen the greatest decrease along with Warners End (D1L) both reducing by 11 incidents. This greatest increase is in Gadebridge (D1K) going up by 6 incidents from 2 to 8 in the current period.

During the period assessed July 2013 was the top month for Deliberate fire calls (20 incidents), accounting for 16% of the total. This month coincides with the school summer holidays and when the weather may be warmer and people are spending more time outside. Levels of incidents recorded in this month are higher than those seen in July 2012 (13 incidents).

Road traffic collisions

Dacorum has recorded 268 road traffic collisions (RTC's) during the 12 month period to the end of June 2013. This accounted for 10.4% of the total number of RTC's reported in the county. Dacorum is ranked 6th/10 in county position for the number of RTC's recorded. During this period Watling Ward (D1S) was the top location for RTC's in the CSP, followed by Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A).

The number of RTC's in Watling Ward (D1S) are shown to have decreased (down 7) from 36 in the previous year, to 29 in the current period. The M1 and A5 which run through this ward are both shown to be top repeat locations for RTC's here. 24 RTC's were recorded in Hemel Hempstead Central (D1A), which is also a decrease (down 6) compared to 30 the previous year. The A4146 Leighton Buzzard Road was the top repeat location for RTC's in this ward, followed by Combe Street and the A4147.

The table below provides a breakdown of the total number of RTC's and severity in Dacorum, compared with the county totals.

RTC Severity	Dacorum		County	
	2011_12	2012_13	2011_12	2012_13
Slight	260	217	2176	2069
Serious	37	50	287	328
Fatal	2	1	23	31
Grand Total	299	268	2486	2428

N.B 01/07/11 to 30/06/12 and 01/07/12 to 30/06/13

Key recommendations

That criminal damage and deliberate fires remain as a priority for the partnership.

That the level of Road Traffic Collisions continues to be monitored and reported upon **twice a year**, with consideration to be given to supporting initiatives aimed at reducing levels.

Managing offenders/ reducing re-offending

Integrated offender management

Since April 2011 Hertfordshire have adopted the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Scheme. The integrated approach, now into its third year is led principally by Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Probation Trust and encompasses the revised Priority and Prolific Offender Scheme (PPO). The scoring matrix devised for IOM continues to effectively identify the top serious acquisitive crime offenders in the county.

Hertfordshire Constabulary maintain the lead for the 'Catch and Convict' PPO strand. The 'Rehabilitate and Resettle' PPO strand which aims to break the cycle of offending and to permanently rehabilitate offenders, is driven by Hertfordshire Probation Trust who work with a wide range of partners to achieve this goal. The IOM partnership includes; Hertfordshire Constabulary, Hertfordshire County Council, NHS, Department for Work and Pensions, drugs services and other third sector organisations. Since its inception, a number of programmes and interventions including the Choices and Consequences (C2) Programme have made a significant impact in reducing offending and rehabilitating offenders.

As at the end of quarter one (1st April 2013 to 30th June 2013) Dacorum CSP had 23 PPOs adopted under the IOM approach and continues to have the highest number of PPOs in the IOM county cohort (joint 9th/10 position with Watford). When compared to the same

quarter the previous year, the numbers of PPOs committing offences has decreased from 8 to 6 and the levels of detected offences committed by these individuals have also slightly decreased from 11 to 10 offences. Dacorum is ranked second highest (9th/10) for the re-offending rate of the IOM cohort, with 0.7 crimes per offender being committed. When compared to other areas in Hertfordshire, a continued greater need for Integrated Offender Management is highlighted in this District. Please note these figures are based on the newly refreshed cohort of 132 PPOs in total and is a slightly different group to the 192 reported last year.

Youth Offending

During the 12 month period to the end of June 2013, data provided by Hertfordshire County Council's Targeted Youth Support Services records there have been 231 youth offences and Dacorum remains highest in the county (10th/10) for the number of youth offences recorded. A youth offence is defined in the above as an offence with a substantive outcome for example Police Reprimand, Final Warning, Community Penalty given at court or a Custodial sentence. For the number of youth offenders Dacorum is also 10th/10 in county, with 82 young offenders. This is a decrease when compared to 139 young offenders during the previous assessment. When compared to other areas of the county the numbers of youth offenders and levels of youth offences remain higher in Dacorum. **This may highlight a greater need for youth engagement and diversionary activities in the CSP.**

Probation (including Community Payback)

Dacorum had 377 offenders on the probation caseload during the 12 month period ending July 2013. This places the CSP highest in county (10th/10), which is no change when compared to the previous year. Dacorum also stands highest (10th/10) in county for the number of offenders taken on to the probation caseload with an unpaid work order; 122 offenders for the same 12 month period.

Key recommendations

That Managing Offenders remains a priority for the partnership and continues to be monitored on a monthly basis by JAG, with consideration being given to provision of support to initiatives which may tackle this issue.

Reassurance

Fear of crime is a very broad and complex issue and can be seen as a local, county and indeed national problem. Although statistics suggest crime has fallen over the last ten years it appears that people do not feel any safer and indeed in some cases feel they are more likely to be a victim of crime. It is important we try and address this re-assurance gap and find out how we can best tackle it.

Improving feelings of safety is an important priority as it can affect people's health and well-being. Whilst success is not guaranteed, we must do all we can to better inform the public that Dacorum is a safe place to live and work.

We are committed to do more to educate people about the realities of their vulnerability to crime, as well as taking action to reduce fear of crime on a local and county level. There is little doubt that the public wish to see a greater visible Police presence on their streets.

When it comes to fear of crime, it can be difficult to set targets which can be measured, because there are a variety of different questions to ask, and fear of crime can often be confused with other personal safety issues, such as terrorist attacks or a natural disaster. Indeed it can be argued that just asking a question about the possibility of being a victim of crime triggers a negative reaction. Other factors can also play apart such as the time of year you are asking the question, as people will naturally feel safer in the light than they do the dark. The Partnership will continue to find ways of publicising the work of the Partnership and re-iterate that crime in Dacorum has fallen over recent years.

Business crime

Although not highlighted as a priority because of low risk to the CSP in terms of Crime/ASB, the view of the partnership is that Business Crime should be an area where the CSP monitors rates of crime due to the importance which this sector has in contributing to the economic wellbeing of the Borough, which is a strategic priority for the local authority. A difficulty presented when dealing with this issue is that there has been no standard definition of "*Business Crime*" and what it does or does not include. However, on the 5th March 2014, the Association of Chief Police Officers published an agreed definition of business crime :-

"Business crime is any criminal offence that is committed against a person or property which is associated by the connection of that person or property to a business. This can be condensed to reflect the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) definition of business crime, given that it represents any crime in, around or against a business. This is based on the perception of the victim at the time of reporting of the offence."

Strategic guidance is now awaited to assist in the development of a consistent approach.

Recommendation

Develop and maintain relationships with representatives of the business community.

Conclusion

During the last year Dacorum Community Safety Partnership has continued to work well together and this is reflected in the continued reduction of crime
(*All Crime reduced by 7.7% - Jan . 2014*).

Spectrum, the Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Referral Service (HDARS) is now established in new premises in Dacorum and the Partnership is keen to work closely with this service, particularly in initiatives which address PPOs with Substance dependency issues.

Tackling youth related issues continues to be a strong focus for the Partnership and this can be seen from the initiatives supported by Partnership funding. Success in this area can be evidenced by the reduction in both Anti Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage.

Managing PPOs is an area where the Partnership seeks to continue support diversionary activity as it is clear that this is an extremely effective way to reduce crime locally.

This strategic assessment fulfils the statutory requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and also feeds into Hertfordshire County Council's assessment.

Appendix

1.1. Drugs - Structured treatment

Care-planned drug treatment including comprehensive drug misuse assessment and care planning; prescribing interventions e.g. stabilisation and opioid maintenance prescribing; community based detoxification; structured psychosocial interventions; structured day programmes and care planned day care; liaison services for acute medical and psychiatric health services and social care services; treatment interventions for drug misusing offenders; residential specialised drug treatment.

1.2. Update: Provision of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services in Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire County Council's Director of Public Health is responsible commissioner for community-based drug and alcohol treatment services. Hertfordshire's adult substance misuse treatment and recovery system is focused on the delivery of a range of evidence-based services and interventions which address drug and alcohol misuse and support long-term sustainable recovery.

Community provision – Spectrum (formerly known as Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service)

Spectrum is Hertfordshire's single integrated drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service, provided by third sector provider CRI. Spectrum delivers a full range of intensive community-based support, treatment and rehabilitation services that are designed to meet individual needs and support the family and friends of service users. Services are delivered through nine hubs and 14 satellites in Hertfordshire's main localities. These services include:

- **Assessment and recovery planning:** a confidential assessment that enables individuals to plan their own recovery treatment program.
- **One-to-one support** - from an assigned recovery key worker who will assist with recovery planning and support individuals through the service pathways.
- **Medically assisted recovery** from an in-house **prescribing service** to support recovery from heroin addiction, with access to GP shared care.
- **A needle exchange** offers clean injecting equipment, swabs, disposable spoons, filters, water amps, sharps bins, and condoms, all free of charge. Service users can also dispose of used equipment safely using sharps bins
- **Harm reduction:** to help individuals reduce the damage caused to them and others by substance misuse.
- **Group work** provides support and help individuals develop an understanding of their problems.
- **Counseling** in a safe and confidential environment for individuals to explore their issues, feelings, attitudes and behaviors relating to their drug and/or alcohol use.
- **Alternative therapies:** a range of complementary therapies which help manage anxiety, ease stress and reduce cravings. Acupuncture is included.
- Access to confidential **blood-borne virus (BBV) screening** and **on-site vaccination** along with a referral into treatment.
- **Alcohol interventions** and access to medically supported detoxification.

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- A&E brief interventions in hospital settings
- Free and confidential **help, support and advice** for **partners, family members and friends** of people with drug and/or alcohol problems.

A pilot scheme for the provision of drug testing on arrest is in place at Hatfield Police Station, supported by Spectrum's criminal justice workers.

Primary care

Primary care also plays a key role in the treatment of those with substance misuse issues. Service users are referred from specialist prescribing in a community drug and alcohol service to receive their prescription from their GP. 35 GP's are part of Hertfordshire's GP Shared Care scheme, providing primary care support to drug and alcohol users, with support from Spectrum. Pharmacies enhance this primary care provision by delivering a pharmacy-based needle exchange scheme, and by providing supervised consumption of prescribed medications to address drug and alcohol use.

Detoxification and rehabilitation

Hertfordshire has access to a wide range of options for community and residential detoxification from both drugs and alcohol. Similarly, a wide range of options exist to access residential rehabilitation services, both close to Hertfordshire and further afield.

Services to support recovery

Housing – Supporting Herts

Supporting Herts is a consortium of three providers; working together to provide a county-wide supported housing service for drug and alcohol users. The integrated service provides:

- Floating support to people in their own homes
- Access to private rented sector housing with support
- Short term accommodation and resettlement for people leaving prison, detox or rehab with no fixed abode.
- Advice and information for other housing providers to support their management of drug and alcohol using tenants

Through the Gates

A significant problem for Hertfordshire's drug using offenders in prison is the continuity of care between prison-based services and community services on release from custody. In order to bridge this gap in provision, a third-sector organisation (SOVA) provides a 'Through the Gates' volunteer mentoring service. Volunteer mentors contact and meet with offenders prior to release to build up a relationship, and continue this on release acting as a pastoral resource, including support to access appointments on release into the community. **Funding for this project is confirmed until 31 March 2014.**