

CUTTING CRIME TWO YEARS ON

A summary for local partnerships



CUTTING CRIME

SOME KEY FACTS

Crime overall has fallen by 45% since peaking in the mid-1990s and remains at its lowest level since the first British Crime Survey (BCS) in 1981. Domestic burglary and vehicle crime have both more than halved since 1997. The chance of being a victim of violent crime has fallen by more than a third.

Through effective crime reduction strategies and the work of crime reduction partners, we have made great progress in tackling crime at all points in the cycle and addressing the root causes of crime.

CHALLENGES AND CHANGES

Economic conditions are now tougher and provide a challenging context to build on our achievements. Some types of acquisitive crime, such as burglary, are showing signs of increasing. But others are continuing to fall, for example vehicle crime.

Crime remains a top public concern in Britain; only the economy ranks higher. Fear of crime is not reducing as fast as actual crime rates. And the perception gap matters. It creates a negative cycle of low confidence in local communities, leading to fear, disengagement and a less effective response. Turning statistical improvement into real differences for people in their neighbourhoods is key.

Louise Casey's review (*Engaging Communities in Fighting Crime*, published summer 2008) gave us clearer insights into what drives public confidence – including the desire for more information about crime. Police reform is driving measures to cut red tape and to respond to the public through initiatives such as the Policing Pledge and the single target to increase public confidence.

To meet these challenges and reflect the changed delivery landscape, the Government has updated and sharpened the priorities in the crime strategy. The update was launched by the Prime Minister in May 2009.

CRIME REDUCTION OBJECTIVES

The Government's approach on crime is rooted in public concern. Its objectives are therefore to tackle those crimes that matter most to the public: anti-social behaviour; property crime, particularly domestic burglary; and violent crime, particularly knife crime.

The Government has also maintained pressure on organised criminals. It launched the revised counter-terrorism strategy (CONTEST) in March 2009.

THE PRIORITY APPROACHES

CHALLENGES FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The key strength of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in England and Wales has always been that more can be achieved by combined resources than by individual agencies.

Limited financial resources over the next two years must be targeted where there is greatest need. The changed environment requires that we shape our delivery plans around the five refocused priorities below and to ensure that the public are engaged. Some suggested challenges for CDRPs/CSPs to consider are set out below. This is not an exhaustive list. And not all will apply in every area. It is intended to complement the Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships.

TAKING EARLY ACTION TO PREVENT CRIME

This approach requires intervening early in situations or with people to prevent crime from escalating, with effective use of tools and powers and by tackling the root causes of crime, particularly alcohol and drugs.

This includes intervening early in the lives of young people who are at risk of getting involved in crime, either as victims or offenders, through the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP).

- Is the CDRP/CSP maximising the use of appropriate tools and powers to prevent anti-social behaviour, for example by closing down nuisance

premises, including crack houses, using civil injunction powers?

- Does the partnership have robust strategic assessments and local strategies in place to identify and tackle the root causes of crime, particularly alcohol and drugs?
- Are all partners effectively engaged in delivering partnership priorities. For example, are local health authorities, children's services, housing and training providers fully engaged with and appropriately represented in the partnership?
- In England, have Safer School Partnerships, promoted in the YCAP, been established in every school in the CDRP area?
- Is the Youth Offending Team working with the Children's Trust to co-ordinate provision of services for young people at risk of offending or re-offending?
- Is the partnership engaging with police design advisers, community safety teams, housing providers and planning and highways officers to 'design out' crime as new places are built and existing areas regenerated or properties refurbished?

TURNING THE TABLES ON OFFENDERS

This aspect of the crime strategy focuses on ensuring that, where necessary,

offenders face fast-track punishment while also being supported to reform and turn away from crime through existing programmes such as the Prolific and other Priority Offender (PPO) programme and Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), and approaches such as integrated offender management (IOM). Support to partnerships is provided through initiatives such as the Vigilance programme.

- What steps are the CDRP/CSP taking to introduce more consistent and co-ordinated IOM arrangements in light of the Government's policy statement (issued by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice in June 2009)?
- How well is the partnership developing a strategy to deal with reducing re-offending? (Probation will become a formal delivery partner in CDRPs/CSPs and partnerships will become responsible for reducing re-offending.)
- What steps is the local partnership taking to ensure that its local PPO scheme is focused on the most damaging offenders, in light of the joint Home Office and Ministry of Justice guidance issued in June 2009?
- Is the partnership ensuring that DIP schemes are effective in gripping drug-misusing offenders and reducing their re-offending?
- Is the local area providing appropriate drug treatment and additional support provision across offender-focused interventions? Are penalties being combined with other crime

interventions such as alcohol arrest referral pilots?

- Are Serious Crime Prevention Orders being used innovatively to place restrictions on the activities of those involved in serious crimes?

DELIVERING RESPONSIVE, VISIBLE JUSTICE

The Government's vision is for a criminal justice system that puts victims at its heart and inspires public confidence and engagement. Delivering responsive, visible justice in which criminals face – and are publicly shown to face – the consequences of their crimes is a crucial part of improving public confidence.

- Is the CDRP/CSP using local communications to publicise the convictions and punishment of offenders?
- Are all adult offenders on Community Payback wearing branded, high-visibility jackets, as they should? And is the partnership using local leaflets and other communications to make the public aware of work being carried out as punishment and payback to the community?
- Has the partnership formed appropriate relationships with local magistrates' courts and developed a strategy to deliver increased witness and victim satisfaction (for example, through a joint communications strategy)?
- Is licensing legislation being used to tackle premises that contribute to alcohol-related crime and disorder? Are other alcohol tools and powers being effectively used?

PUTTING THE PUBLIC IN THE DRIVING SEAT

The Government is committed to empowering communities by listening to public concerns, giving them more information and making the public and communities part of the decision-making process, for example through crime mapping, the Policing Pledge and neighbourhood policing teams.

- Does the CDRP/CSP have appropriate links with Local Criminal Justice Boards (LCJBs)? For example, working in conjunction with LCJBs will enable partnerships to bid to use the new Community Fund (cash assets seized from criminals) to support community-based projects.
- Do local people get a say in what reparation activity young offenders do and nominate projects or schemes for Community Payback?
- Does the partnership promote the use of local crime information, crime maps and neighbourhood policing meetings?
- Does the partnership's strategy meet the public's priorities and address their concerns?
- What is the partnership doing to encourage the reporting of under-reported crime, such as hate crime, by victims and third parties?

TAKING ACTION AT THE RIGHT LEVEL

The Government recognises that local professionals know what matters most to their communities. The Home Office

provides support, national strategic leadership and action on crime reduction while freeing up local partners to tackle local priorities, taken forward through Local Area Agreements (LAAs) in England and policing reforms.

- In England, is the CDRP aware of the work of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership and sought support from them (if available)?
- Is the executive of the partnership made up of professionals at a suitably strategic level (for example, borough commanders, NHS Trust chairs, chief officers of local authorities) to give a strategic perspective and act as champions in their sectors?
- Is each CDRP in England delivering on priorities set by the LAA?
- Does the partnership monitor and manage its own performance across the full range of community safety priorities, seeking support as necessary to ensure continuous improvement?
- Is the partnership working with the transport sector to address crime and disorder on public transport?
- Is the partnership working with local businesses and retailers to tackle crimes against business?
- Is the partnership aware of the refresh of the Tackling Violence Action Plan and how the partnership actions within that seek to make the link between the strategy and the need to tackle local priorities on violent crime?

LOOKING FORWARD

Local partnerships will continue to undertake strategic assessments (at least once a year) and develop partnership plans to respond to the crime reduction priorities. Local partnerships and professionals, who know what matters most to their communities, will continue to make decisions on how best to respond to the needs of those local communities. The Government will continue to monitor performance to ensure that its national commitments are met. It will provide support and strategic leadership in places where local areas face the greatest challenges.

Copies of the full updated crime strategy, *Cutting Crime: Two Years On. An update to the 2008–11 Crime Strategy* (ISBN: 978-1-84726-917-1) is available from the Home Office website at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/crime-strategy-07/

Hard copies of the booklet are available from the Prolog Home Office Orderline (see below).
Quote reference CDS28

If you require further copies of this leaflet, contact the Prolog Home Office Orderline and quote reference CDS31

Tel: 0870 241 460 (Monday to Friday, 8.30 am to 6.00 pm)

E-mail: dpas@prolog.uk.com

© Crown copyright 2009



Produced by HM Government, July 2009.

Ref: 297310. ISBN: 978-1-84726-964-5