

Strategic Assessment for 2011-12

The previous strategic assessment, published in February 2011, identified five key priorities for 2011-12:

Reducing crime

- Arson, especially in parks, public areas and open ground
- Crime in rural areas, especially acquisitive crime
- Non-dwelling burglaries, especially from sheds

Feeling safe

- Continued focus on traffic issues, especially speeding, anti-social driving and congestion
- Reduction in public concern in relation to a number of areas including graffiti, vehicle crime and noisy neighbours
- Efforts to reduce the number of pedestrian, pedal cycle and motor cycle casualties in road accidents
- Focus on reducing the number of children killed or seriously injured as a result of road accidents

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

- Continued focus on anti-social behaviour in known hotspots and associated anti-social activity, youth disorder, litter
- Target the factors felt to be contributing to youth anti-social behaviour, but especially alcohol and associated under-age drinking and boredom

Tackling Substance Abuse

- Continued efforts to further reduce the level of alcohol related offending

Based on this assessment, the Safer Waverley Partnership adopted the following priority areas in its action plan for 2011/12:

1. Building Confidence in our Communities
2. Anti-social Behaviour and Promoting Acceptable Behaviour
3. Responding to Change
4. Tackling Crime

This assessment will consider community safety issues under these headings where possible, reviewing performance in the past year, and identify ongoing strategic priorities for 2012/13.

Priorities for 2012-13

1. Building Confidence in our Communities

The Resident's Survey (previously the Joint Neighbourhood Survey) asks residents in every borough what issues they consider to be a problem in their neighbourhood. The table below gives a summary of the issues and proportions of residents who feel they are either a very or fairly big problem.

Issue	Waverley %			County %	Waverley rank
	Sept 2009	Sept 2010	Sept 2011	Sept 2011	
Speeding motorists and anti-social driving	40.6	42.8	40.2	41	8 th
Traffic congestion	38.1	41.0	37.8	40	8 th
Teenagers hanging around on the streets	17.2	19.3	21.4	27	8 th
Graffiti and litter	20.0	17.4	20.3	21	6 th
Parents not taking responsibility for behaviour of children	18.7	17.5	18.6	22	9 th
Drunk or rowdy behaviour in public places	15.5	12.2	16.1	17	7 th
Burglary	12.8	13.6	14.5	16	9 th
Vandalism / Damage	10.6	10.5	11.2	15	10 th
Vehicle crime (theft of / from / damage to)	12.6	9.6	10.9	17	10 th
People not treating others with respect and dignity	9.1	10.3	9.7	15	11 th
Problem or noisy neighbours	8.2	5.2	8.8	10	5 th
People cycling / skateboarding on pavements	7.5	5.7	8.5	12	8 th
Presence of drug users / dealers	7.7	8.0	7.4	10	9 th
Physical attack	3.2	2.9	3.0	4	10 th

Issues are listed in order of concern for Waverley residents (rank good to be low)

Waverley scores below the countywide figure for all areas of concern, although by varying amounts. The proportion of residents who are concerned about particular issues has risen in 10 of the 14 categories and fallen in four, however, the changes are relatively small for most issues.

Speeding motorists and antisocial driving – which is the issue of greatest concern in Waverley – was a very or fairly big problem for 40% of residents, compared to a county average of 41%; the borough is ranked eighth on this issue.

Traffic congestion was a very or fairly big problem for 39% of residents in the borough, compared to a county average of 40%; the borough is also ranked eighth in the county on this issue.

21% of residents in Waverley considered teenagers hanging around on the streets to be a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, 6% below the county average and ranked eighth in the county.

20% of residents in the borough felt graffiti and litter lying around was a very or fairly big problem in their neighbourhood, only slightly lower than the county average with the borough ranked sixth in the county.

The greatest change was seen in the percentage of residents viewing drunk or rowdy behaviour in public places as a very or fairly big problem, increasing from 12.2% to 16.1%. It should be noted this is contrary to 4% reductions seen in incidents of rowdy / nuisance behaviour and alcohol-related violent crime.

91.6% of local residents said they felt very or fairly safe in their local area after dark, a very slight increase of the previous year's figure of 91.2%.

The percentage of the population tending to agree or strongly agree that the police and local council are dealing with the anti-social behaviour and crime issues that matter in their area increased 8% in the past year to 62.9%, the highest figure for Surrey to date.

2. Antisocial Behaviour and Promoting Acceptable Behaviour

In total, 4,040 reports of antisocial behaviour were made to Surrey Police in this assessment period, a reduction of 16% on the same period last year (down by 750 from 4,790). Of these, 39% (1,567) were reports of rowdy or nuisance behaviour.

Based on volume of complaints over a seven month period (April – October 2011, table below) Farncombe, Binscombe and Charterhouse was the main neighbourhood location for antisocial behaviour, followed by Ockford Ridge, Aarons Hill, Busbridge and Godalming Town Centre, and then Farnham Town Centre (*these figures are based on volume alone and would be useful if expressed as a rate per 1,000 pop.*). The majority of neighbourhoods in the borough show good reductions over this period, with only three, Bramley, Shamley Green, Blackheath, Wonersh, Hascombe and Winterfold (up 3% from 99 to 102), Tilford, Elstead, Thursley, Frensham, Peper Harow and Dockenfield (up 25% from 118 to 147), and Weybourne, Badshot Lea and Moor Park (up 3% from 152 to 157), showing increases. The most frequent ASB category for all neighbourhoods is rowdy nuisance behaviour, with the most frequent flag being youth related antisocial behaviour apart from Dunsfold, Alfold and Ellens Green, and Milford, Witley, Hambledon and Brook, which were flagged as alcohol-related disorder.

Neighbourhood	April - October 2010	April - October 2011	% change
Bramley, Shamley Green, Blackheath, Wonersh, Hascombe and Winterfold	99	102	3.0
Cranleigh, Ewhurst and Rowly	269	187	-30.5
Dunsfold, Alfold and Ellens Green	58	56	-3.4
Ockford Ridge, Aarons Hill, Busbridge and Godalming Town Centre	328	293	-10.7
Farncombe, Binscombe and Charterhouse	355	327	-7.9
Farnham Town Centre	334	290	-13.2
Haslemere, Grayswood and Chiddingfold	178	138	-22.5
Milford, Witley, Hambledon and Brook	195	177	-9.2
Shottermill, Critchmere, Hindhead, Beacon Hill, Churt and Weyhill	255	218	-14.5

Sandy Hill, Upper Hale, Dippenhall and Folly Hill	219	181	-17.4
Tilford, Elstead, Thursley, Frensham, Peper Harow and Dockenfield	118	147	24.6
Weybourne, Badshot Lea and Moor Park	152	157	3.3
Wrecclesham, Rowledge and The Bourne	364	256	-29.7

The wider reassurance crime trends for the borough are displayed in the table below.

Issue	01/10/2009-30/09/2010	01/10/2010-30/09/2011	% change 10/11
Burglary by under 18s	18	20	11
Shoplifting by under 18s	30	26	-13
Auto-crime by under 18s	19	13	-32
Criminal Damage (by u18)	66	77	17
Arson (by u18)	6	3	-50
Graffiti crimes (ICADs)	31	37	19
ICAD social disorder (u18) ¹	741	704	-5
Rowdy/nuisance behaviour (u18) ²	696	670	-4
Neighbour nuisance	531	364	-31
Nuisance vehicles	873	909	4
Youth on youth violence	55	63	15
Youth on youth robbery	6	0	-100
Youths and weapons (ICADs)	15	14	-7

It should be noted that crimes/ICADs denoted as under 18 in the table above only reflect detections where the age of the offender is known and there is always a proportion of offences where a suspect is not identified and therefore no sound conclusion about age can be drawn. It is just as likely that any year-on-year change is due to different detection strategies compared to changing levels of crime by young people. The numbers reported should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Burglary (under 18)

There has been a notable percentage increase in burglary linked to under 18s, up 11% in this assessment period. However, the actual volume is relatively low (up by 2 offences) and only accounts for 2% of total burglary offences in the borough. Without additional detail, such as the number of offenders (i.e. do the figures account for a small number of prolific offenders) and the change in proportion of adults linked to burglaries, it is difficult to conclude whether or not young offenders are having a disproportionate affect on burglary figures in the borough.

Criminal damage (under 18)

Criminal damage by under 18's increased by 17% (from 66 to 77) in this assessment period, while graffiti crimes (ICADs) increased 19% (from 31 to 37). In this period, as in the last, most criminal damage offences occurred in Godalming, followed by Farnham. This is attributed to a group of youths in the Godalming / Farncombe area

¹ Changes to ICAD reporting and recording occurred during 2010 resulting in some data discrepancies between periods before and after this change

who are well known to police and regularly commit antisocial behaviour offences, as well as thefts such as shoplifting. In terms of when offences occur, incidents tend to rise in April / May, again in August / September, and also in December, in-line with school holidays.

In contrast, graffiti offences in this assessment period generally occurred in Farnham, and the problem in the area was being monitored by the JAG as a result. Interestingly, Surrey Police report no notable trends in when these incidents take place.

Youth on youth violence

Not recommended as a priority, but requiring a watching brief is the increase in youth violence in the borough. Although a relatively small number of offences, this was seen to increase by 15% in this assessment period, with the issue concentrating in Farnham, where offences increased by 50% (up from 20 to 30). The Beldham Road area was a prominent location during early summer, and additional resources were made available to address this problem. As a result, it is anticipated that incidents will be at a lower level next year, however, given the potential for serious harm and impact on the public's feelings of safety, this should remain in scope for the partnership. It would be beneficial to undertake more detailed analysis of these offences to ascertain whether incidents are alcohol related and linked to licensed premises and underage sales.

Nuisance vehicles

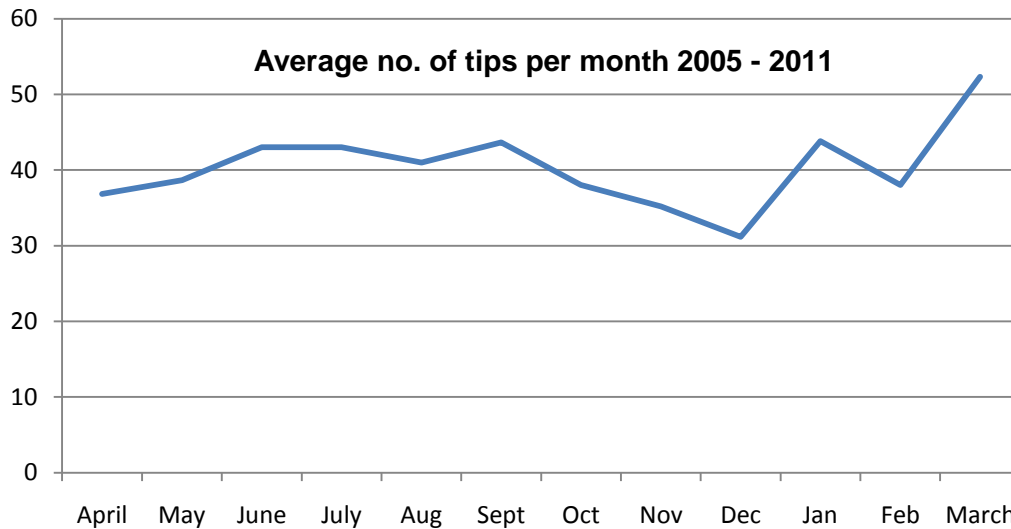
Reports of nuisance vehicles have increased slightly this year, by 4% from 873 to 909. This has been attributed in part to the opening of the Hindhead Tunnel on the A3 in July 2010, which has attracted driving enthusiast to the area. Several reports relate specifically to the tunnel itself, but also to the surrounding residential roads drivers appear to use when turning around to travel back through the tunnel in the opposite direction. It is not yet known what the full impact of tunnel will be, and this should be kept in mind as a potential issue for the coming year.

Fly tipping

Issue	01/10/2006-30/09/2007	01/10/2007-30/09/2008	01/10/2008-30/09/2009	01/10/2009-30/09/2010	01/10/2010-30/09/2011	% change
Fly tips	475	401	478	463	394	-14.9

Detailed figures recorded by Waverley Environmental Services show the annual number of reported fly-tips to have gradually declined over the past few years (albeit with some fluctuation), with a reduction of 15% in this assessment period. It's not possible to draw conclusions as to why this is without further information, although it is plausible there has been an increase in recycling in the borough, or items previously dumped are being sold or traded given the increased value of scrap metals etc.

In terms of seasonal variation, the average number of tips is fairly consistent throughout the year, with a notable decline between October and December, returning to typical levels by January, and a peak in March. It's likely this relates to seasonal influences on behaviours such as home improvements and gardening, which may decline during the autumn and see a resurgence during spring.



Approximately 53% of all recorded fly-tips are of household waste, with the next largest element being construction waste at 17% of the total. Green Waste and white goods are the follow at 7% and 6% respectively.

Fly-tipping is not evenly spread across the borough; there are 'hot spots' centred around the main urban areas, with some localised issues in areas such as Dunsfold, Bramley, Milford and Elstead.

While graffiti and litter is the fourth biggest issue of public concern in the borough, information is not available to separate out these two issues and suggest whether fly-tipping is a concern for residents. Given the consistent removal of dumped materials within the borough's 1.5 day target however, and the removal of abandoned cars within 24 hours, it is possible that the low levels of fly-tipping are not causes of significant public concern.

3. Responding to Change

The Safer Waverley Partnership has highlighted responding to the changing local national and landscape as one of its priority areas. In essence this means improving the efficiency of the partnership, continuing to deliver the same level of service with reduced funding by exploring opportunities to mainstream activities and working closer with neighbouring authorities wherever possible.

Government funding to CSPs has significantly reduced since 2009-10, with almost 70% less money available in the Community Safety Fund (CSF) for 2012-13. Given the size of this reduction and the transfer of the entire CSF to the Police and Crime Commissioner in 2013-14, the Community and Public Safety Board has agreed not to allocate any funding to CSPs in this financial year. This undoubtedly puts pressure on the delivery of community safety projects in Waverley, and the partnership needs to ensure that it employs an intelligence-led approach to delivering services with the budget it does have, seeks additional match-funding wherever possible, and re-engages with partners to make better use of shared resources. By working across areas in this way, the partnership will be in a better position to influence funding decisions made by the PCC by presenting clear evidence of not only the risk and costs of crime in the borough, but the effectiveness of delivering solutions through the Safer Waverley Partnership.

A specific issue that partnership colleagues have raised is communication and information sharing between partners, particularly the consistency of data provided to the JAG. This has been identified as an ongoing issue and is one that will have significant impact on the groups function and ability to solve problems in a creative and cost-effective way. Without access to the relevant information, colleagues are less able to identify the extent and root causes of neighbourhood issues and therefore respond with appropriate solutions in the first instance. It is recommend that the partnership review current JAG products, identify gaps, and look to develop products that are fit for purpose.

4. Tackling Crime

Under this section, consideration is given to the crime trends which have shown the greatest increase and should be analysed further.

Offence	01/10/08 – 30/09/10	01/10/09 – 30/09/10	01/10/10 – 30/09/11	% change this period
Criminal Damage	1221	956	1,039	9%
Theft of Metal	-	87	186	114%
Theft of Catalytic Converters	-	17	35	106%
Theft from Motor Vehicles	461	369	387	5%
<i>Sat Navs</i>		33	40	21%
<i>Tools</i>	77	27	53	96%
<i>Number Plates</i>		51	39	-24%
<i>Audio</i>		30	21	-30%
<i>Laptops</i>		3	4	33%
<i>Fuel</i>		4	11	175%
Burglary Dwelling	259	290	318	10%
Burglary Non-Dwelling	634	550	537	-2%

Criminal Damage

Offences of criminal damage, increased in this assessment period by 9%, up from 956 in 2010/11 to 1039 offences; however, this is still below the levels seen in 2008/09. Waverley is ranked 10th in the county for criminal damage per 1000 residents and is just below the average rate for its most similar group (8.64 compared to 8.68)

Offences of criminal damage tend to occur in Godalming, which saw an increase of 62% this year, followed by Farnham. The steep increase seen in Godalming has been attributed to a group of nominals living in the Godalming / Farncombe area who regularly commit anti-social behaviour and theft. Offences follow a seasonal trend, with traditional peaks in April to May and August to September, coinciding with the Easter and summer holidays. December 2010 also saw an increase in offences, which is consistent with this pattern, although unusual compared to previous years.

Graffiti was more of a problem in Farnham, and was identified as an issue in the town centre on a number of occasions by the JAG. As reported earlier, there appears to be no seasonal pattern for this type of offending, and this presents an opportunity for

further analysis with regard to location details, times and type of property targeted to see if any other patterns exist.

Thefts of metal and catalytic converters

These two offences have been grouped under the same heading because they are both driven by the rising value of metals, *potentially committed by the same offenders* and require similar responses. Both are countywide issues and it is likely that some cluster based working, particularly in developing a strategy, will have the biggest impact.

Theft of metal increased by 114% in this assessment period, and mostly centred on Farnham and large commercial properties where significant quantities of lead are used in roofing, although copper used in telecommunications cabling is also targeted. It has traditionally been thought difficult to trace and identify the materials stolen during these thefts, although new developments in forensic property marking now make it easier to individually mark and trace large quantities of metal, and concerted efforts to target scrap metal dealers in partnership with trading standards, can work to reduce the market for these materials.

Theft of catalytic converters, although a far smaller volume of offences, increased by 106% in this assessment period, again reflecting countywide trends. Thefts are usually from larger commercial vans, with Mercedes vans being targeted more often than others because they utilise two converters.

Metal theft is likely to increase in 2012 with the continued rise of metal prices and greater publicity prompting increased reporting.

Theft from motor vehicles

Theft from motor vehicles is the third highest volume offence for the borough and has previously been discussed by the JAG, but increased only slightly in this assessment period. Of note within this category of offences, however, are the 21% increase in theft of sat navs and the 96% increase in theft of tools; police analysis suggests tool thefts are returning to more typical numbers following reductions brought about in 2009/10 by the arrest of a network of individuals, however, it has not been suggested whether the increase is due to the release of these offenders or not.

Burglary

Both dwelling and non-dwelling burglaries are recommended as strategic priorities again this year.

Burglary dwelling is the fourth highest volume crime for the borough and increased by 10% in this assessment period. Of note is the change in 'hotspot' location this year, from Farnham to Godalming; the number of offences in Farnham actually reduced, being partly attributed to the arrest of two drug-related offenders who were remanded. The seasonal trend for dwelling burglary across the borough indicates peaks from October to December and, to a lesser extent, January to March. Most offences are committed on weekdays, during the day, when properties are unoccupied.

The most notable increase within dwelling burglary is that for theft of jewellery, which has almost doubled in this assessment period, and is attributed to the sharp rise in gold prices, the concealable nature of items, and the growing ease with which they

can be disposed of through 'cash for gold' outlets. Intelligence suggests offenders are young males who commit offences on foot local to their home address.

It is anticipated that, with the current economic climate and high value of precious metals, the risk of dwelling burglary will remain for the coming year.

Although burglary non-dwelling showed a slight reduction in this assessment period, it remains the largest volume crime in the borough, particularly affecting sheds in rural areas where garden machinery is taken. There is limited analysis of seasonal trends for these offences, although fewer incidents are recorded during the winter months.

Conclusion

The Safer Waverley Partnership is recommended to maintain the priorities identified in its action plan, with a focus on the following issues:

1. Building Confidence in our Communities
 - working to address the public's concern in relation to the most important issues
2. Antisocial Behaviour and Promoting Acceptable Behaviour
 - antisocial driving and speeding motorists
3. Responding to Change
 - funding, partnership work, improving JAG data
4. Tackling Crime
 - burglary
 - theft of metal
 - criminal damage