



# **Safer Guildford Partnership Plan 2011 – 2014**

(Revised July 2012)

**June 2011**

## Introduction

The Safer Guildford Partnership Plan is a three year strategy showing how partners will work together to tackle crime and disorder and offer reassurance to residents in Guildford Borough. The plan has been produced by the Safer Guildford Partnership, which comprises representatives of public service agencies working together to reduce crime and disorder in the area. The work of the partnership is directed by an executive group, including representatives of the following organisations:

Guildford Borough Council  
NHS Surrey  
Surrey County Council  
Surrey Fire and Rescue Service  
Surrey Police  
Surrey Police Authority  
Surrey Probation Service

The key issues and priorities identified in this plan are based on robust evidence and intelligence gathered through an annual strategic assessment. The assessment, which is discussed further in the next section of the plan, enables partners to:

- understand the patterns, trends and shifts relating to crime and disorder;
- set clear and robust priorities for the partnership;
- develop activity that is driven by reliable intelligence and meets the needs of the local community; and
- deploy resources effectively and present value for money.

The Safer Guildford Partnership is one of five thematic groups appointed by the Guildford Local Strategic Partnership to deliver relevant objectives of the Guildford Borough Sustainable Community Strategy 2009 – 2026. The Safer Guildford Partnership Plan will contribute to the key objective of the strategy that low levels of crime will have been maintained and resident's perceptions of the level of crime improved.

If you would like this plan in an alternative format, including a different language, Braille, large print or audio, please contact:

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Further information about the Safer Guildford Partnership is available at:

<http://www.guildford.gov.uk>

## Strategic Assessment and Partnership Priorities

As the government focuses on reducing the national deficit, public sector agencies are facing significant financial restrictions and will continue to do so throughout the course of this plan. Funding for the partnership has been reduced significantly from 2010/11 with the loss of police basic command unit funding and the government's area based grant. This means that the partnership faces difficult choices on the prioritisation of its future work.

The current financial climate places an ever-increasing emphasis on partnership working and, with it, an incentive to improve operational effectiveness. An example is the move of the local neighbourhood policing teams to the Borough Council's offices in Guildford, which is leading to a more joined-up approach to dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. Partners will need to continue developing new and innovative approaches to the delivery of services, including through closer working relationships with the voluntary and faith sector. The Street Angels scheme operating in Guildford town centre gives an indication of what can be achieved.

The latest strategic assessment of crime and disorder for Guildford Borough published in March 2012 provides evidence of the key crime and disorder issues facing the area. The main conclusion is that Guildford remains a very safe borough in a very safe county. It shows that the partnership has made a significant impact in addressing local concerns in recent years, including:

- people feeling safer after dark
- people feeling that local policing is effective
- a focus being placed on town centre issues
- reduced vehicle crime
- reduced non-domestic burglaries
- comprehensive approach to persistent offenders
- structures and processes for dealing with victims of domestic abuse.

However, the assessment highlights that the partnership needs to continue to focus its resources on interventions to address:

- violence against the person, *particularly town centre, alcohol related violence*
- *vehicle* related crime
- dwelling burglaries
- *metal thefts*
- anti-social behaviour and perceptions about the effectiveness of dealing with it
- speeding and "anti-social" driving

On this basis, the strategic assessment supported the retention of the Safer Guildford Partnership's existing overarching priorities, as set out below:

Promoting confidence  
Reducing and preventing crime  
Reducing re-offending

Within these broad strategic priorities, the partnership will focus on the areas of concern identified by the strategic assessment, whilst retaining *a number of* existing successful initiatives and interventions. Flexibility will be maintained to change emphasis in the light of local and national conditions.

### Preventing Violent Extremism

The partnership is keenly aware of the current heightened national terrorist threat. Surrey Police continues to monitor rich picture locations within Guildford. Due to continued work by the community engagement officer and Guildford Borough Council to maintain good relationships within the community, there are currently no locations of concern. Prevent training is also continuing in the borough and packages like Operation Fairway are being used to raise awareness to frontline workers and key community members.

## Promoting confidence

Much work has taken place over the past three years to promote public confidence and address false perceptions about levels of crime. Key initiatives include:

- public meetings to give regular updates on crime levels and let residents have a say over local policing priorities;
- joint patrols by police community support officers and community safety wardens;
- provision of crime reduction advice, including safeguarding homes and property, security devices and media appeals;
- funding youth groups to provide diversionary activities and events and a summer holiday programme for selected young people to divert them from offending behaviour;
- introduction of Street Angels to patrol the town centre on weekend evenings and nights to support those who are vulnerable and the deployment of taxi marshals at peak public holiday times to enhance the safety of drivers and the public;
- use of anti-social behaviour orders for those causing regular problems in the town centre and the extension of the designated public places order to prevent problem public drinking; and
- Drive Smart multi-agency initiative to target anti-social driving and employment of a casualty reduction officer to work with partners and local communities to reduce vehicle speeds in priority areas.

## Future priorities

During the course of the current plan, the partnership will:

- (a) focus on reducing anti-social behaviour of greatest concern to residents, including speeding motorists and anti-social driving, youth disorder, neighbour nuisance, vandalism, illegal parking, graffiti and litter.
- (b) target areas experiencing increases in anti-social behaviour and address ongoing problems at specific known locations.
- (c) develop its approach to community engagement and involving the community in building safer and stronger communities.

## Reducing and preventing crime

The Partnership has undertaken several successful initiatives to reduce and prevent crime in recent years. Some of the principal interventions include:

- town centre violence patrols at key times;
- CCTV and portable video technology to capture and prosecute offenders;
- police specialist resources, such as surveillance and local crime teams, to target those committing dwelling burglary and vehicle crime;
- targeted campaigns to raise awareness of domestic and non-domestic burglary and theft in public places;
- automatic number plate readers to target vehicles used by offenders;
- safe plates initiative drawing attention to and distributing tamper-proof screws for number plates;
- use of CID specialist investigators for linked crime series to work with scene of crime officers;
- crime prevention specialist advice to neighbourhoods and locations suffering from repeat offences;
- targeted local policing patrols based on current intelligence about crime patterns;
- specific operations to target those committing all types of vehicle crime, such as speed, tax, insurance and fuel offences;
- specialist police domestic abuse unit based at Guildford police station prosecutes offenders and gives support to victims in partnership with other agencies;
- support for domestic abuse awareness week, including through radio interviews, articles in school newsletters and posters displayed by borough and parish councils;
- multi-agency outreach work completed in areas such as public sex environments where victims are targeted because of their sexuality; and
- dedicated hate crime officer to identify best practice in dealing with both offenders and victims.

## Future priorities

In light of the strategic assessment, during the course of the current plan the partnership will:

- (a) implement measures to reduce and prevent crime, focusing in the first instance on burglaries from dwellings, violence against the person, including alcohol related violence, vehicle related crime *and metal thefts*.
- (b) target perpetrators of crime, focusing in the first instance on those committing burglaries from dwellings, violence against the person, including alcohol related violence, vehicle related crime *and metal thefts*.

## Reducing re-offending

The South West Surrey Integrated Offender Management Unit (IOMU) is a multi-agency approach to dealing with repeat offenders in the community who are causing harm or nuisance to local people with their re-offending. The team undertakes the following duties:

- case building work, including follow up visits for appropriate individuals;
- dealing with antisocial behaviour orders and crack house closures;
- daily monitoring of cases and breach of conditions of appropriate individuals;
- dealing with acceptable behaviour contracts (ABC)

Within the IOMU, each individual client is assessed on the factors influencing his or her motivation to continue offending. The areas addressed include accommodation, employment, training, education, mental or physical health, substance misuse, finance, benefits and debt, children and families, attitudes, thinking and behaviour. The principal issues amongst re-offenders are substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) and, to a lesser extent, accommodation.

The work of the IOMU and activity relevant to integrated offender management generally is key to dealing with the Partnership's strategic aim to reduce offending and re-offending. The involvement of the team has demonstrated a reduction in offending by clients and associated savings in crime and criminal justice costs.

In addition to the work of the IOMU, the Partnership has implemented a number of initiatives to reduce re-offending, including:

- use of the joint and community incident action partnership groups to address local problems and reduce offending by specific individuals;
- proactive investigations targeting prolific offenders;
- specialist police unit established to deter and deal with young offenders;
- specific operations to target Class A drug suppliers; and
- targeting licensed premises where offenders have obtained alcohol before committing crimes.

## Future priorities

In light of the strategic assessment, during the course of the current plan the partnership will:

- (a) target people having a disproportionate effect on the level of crime.
- (b) work with young people to prevent them becoming perpetrators of crime.
- (c) work with voluntary, community and faith organisations to promote diversionary projects and activities for young people.

## Delivering the priorities

Delivering the priorities of this plan cannot be achieved by one organisation alone. Partners all have a role in dealing with problems and, where possible, preventing them from occurring in the first place. A joined up approach will ensure more effective and robust methods are adopted to deal with the Partnership's priorities. The move of local neighbourhood policing teams into the Borough Council offices in Guildford in 2010 ~~is~~ was an important first step in developing an improved collaborative approach. The Police are now working closely with Council teams, such as neighbourhood, housing and licensing services, to address problems and deal with underlying causes. This approach will be developed further during the course of this plan with the establishment of more integrated operational and management arrangements. The key delivery vehicles for the achievement of many of the future priorities set out in this plan are already in place, including:

### **Place Group**

Meets monthly to identify opportunities where coordination of action by partners' services will achieve a reduction in crime and/or an improvement in an area. A location can range from a village or estate to an individual street or block of flats. This is a forum for joint problem solving that addresses a wide range of issues. Intelligence is used to anticipate emerging trends and to reduce their impact. The group monitors monthly crime figures and trends, keeping an overview of emerging patterns of crime.

### **Community Incident Action Group**

This is a multi-agency problem solving group that focuses on interventions to reduce the impact of individuals (both juveniles and adults) whose behaviour has a disproportionate impact on the wellbeing of their community. Early identification assists the co-ordination of actions by partner agencies to support these individuals. This can range from practical or financial assistance to diversionary activities or incentives, which can run alongside the legal processes to deter further criminal or anti-social behaviour.

The group is able to call on the work of specialist interventions, e.g. on parenting and substance misuse, and to employ methods such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts to encourage changes in behaviour. It has been successful in substantially reducing both the number of individuals requiring intensive intervention and the impact of their activities.

### **Town Centre Disorder Group**

*Part of the role of this group is to enable partners to work collaboratively to reduce town centre disorder and to address the priority issue of reducing violence against the person, including alcohol related violence.*

### **Casualty Reduction Group**

The focus on the group is to address anti-social driving and change road user behaviour to reduce accidents on the roads of Guildford. The group coordinates education, publicity and awareness raising, including the Drive SMART campaign. Its work includes running targeted community events, promoting and supporting Community Speed Watch and School Speed Watch.

### **Integrated Offender Management Unit**

Integrated Offender Management is a multi-agency approach to dealing with repeat offenders in the community who are causing harm or nuisance to local people with their re-offending. Work undertaken in this area includes monitoring of repeat offenders, case building work and enforcement activity.

### **MARAC**

The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is part of a coordinated community response to domestic abuse, incorporating representatives from statutory, community and voluntary agencies working with victims/survivors, children and the alleged perpetrator. It shares information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims/survivors. It determines whether an alleged perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community. It constructs and implements risk management plans and provides professional support to reduce the risk of harm to an individual.

The groups will develop detailed annual action plans to demonstrate how the priorities will be addressed. Consultation will also be undertaken through the Borough Council's citizens' panel, neighbourhood policing groups, community forums and day-to-day engagement activities to ensure that the partnership's priorities and action plans remain relevant.

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