Northampton Community Safety Partnership

STRATEGY 2012/2015
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The people of Northampton say that community safety, tackling antisocial behaviour and reducing crimes such as burglary, violence and robbery are among their major concerns. We are committed to making Northampton a safer town by addressing these matters.

We will continue to work closely with our communities to provide local solutions for local problems. Over the last three years we have reduced crime significantly. For example, we have achieved a 14.2% reduction in overall crime, a 39.9% reduction in house burglary, reduced anti-social behaviour by 30% and most serious violence offences by 38.2%. There is however, still much to do, so over the coming years we will continue to set challenging targets for reducing crime and disorder.

The introduction of Police Crime Commissioners (PCC) later this year will provide us with new and exciting opportunities to work in partnership across a range of agencies at local and national level to ensure there is a unified approach in addressing issues of crime and disorder. With the introduction of the PCC and in an era of budget reductions and spending cuts, we believe that working together in partnership is even more important than in the past. It is the best way to ensure that we can continue to collectively make optimum use of our available resources to achieve the best outcomes for our communities.

Our population is growing and the town is home to a broad cross-section of people. We are proud of this diversity and the tolerance and respect that people display towards each other. We will continue to support and encourage greater cohesion amongst all our communities and citizens.

Northampton successfully bid for an Enterprise Zone, this is attracting new business and development to the town. It further reinforces the importance of effectively addressing issues of crime and disorder and community safety, thereby ensuring the towns reputation as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

It is the responsibility of everyone in Northampton to play our part in making our neighbourhoods safer. The success of this strategy relies on us working together to achieve further improvements in community safety. The Northampton Community Safety Partnership has an excellent record of working together. We are determined to continue to improve our partnership record and we are confident that, with the continued commitment of our partners, and by improving our work within the communities, we will succeed in making Northampton a safer place.

Julie Seddon
Chair, Northampton Community Safety Partnership
2. **Introduction**

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 placed a statutory duty on various agencies to work together to reduce crime and disorder in their local areas. These agencies or ‘Responsible Authorities’ include Northampton Borough Council, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire County Council, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Northamptonshire Probation Trust and the Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust. Working alongside other organisations of both a statutory and voluntary capacity, they constitute the Northampton Community Safety Partnership (NCSP).

Following amendments outlined in the 2006 Crime and Disorder Act Review, all Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are required to implement a rolling three-year Partnership Plan to tackle local community safety priorities. In recognising that not all of these priorities will remain the same, a further duty has been introduced that requires an annual Strategic Assessment to be conducted to ensure that the Partnership Plan maintains its focus on the most important issues.

The Partnership Plan for the three years covering 2008 – 2011 had a significant focus on the need to reduce crime and perceptions of anti-social behaviour and provided a strategic and operational framework to address community safety issues in Northampton. Many of the three year targets we set ourselves in 2008 were achieved within two years and further, more stretching targets were set for 2010/11.

Recent changes at a national level have resulted in a number of changes to the policy and legislative context in which Community Safety Partnerships will operate in the future. Some of the proposed changes, for example the introduction of directly elected Police Commissioners, will take effect during the course of the next three years. The impacts of public sector funding cuts over the duration of the current parliament will also require some flexibility in approach to planning and delivery in the next few years. The principle aim of community safety partnerships remains unchanged and the Northampton Community Safety Partnership vision is still as important in 2012 as it was three years ago. Our Vision is to:

**Deliver a safe, confident Northampton**

**By Working together to improve the quality of life for local people**
3. Our achievements in 2011/12

Over the last year we have continued to focus our priorities on ensuring that Northampton is a safe place for people to live, work and enjoy themselves. We have continued to prioritise the issues which are most likely to affect people in their day to day lives, including anti-social behaviour, domestic burglary and vehicle crime and ensuring that our town centre and communities are safe places in which to live and enjoy themselves.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Following a number of years of impressive performance by the partnership and some significant reductions in crime, the partnership continue to work well, achieving some, but not all of the 2011/12 targets in the face of adversity. With financial pressures and dwindling resources for partner organisations and the general public, reducing crime and improving public safety is an increasingly challenging task.

Performance overall was mixed in 2011/12, achieving good reductions in some crime types but reduced performance in others. The partnership achieved substantial reductions in domestic burglary, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour and drug offences. However, other acquisitive crime, vehicle crime in particular, has seen an increase and violent offences have not seen a reduction. This is reflected in our partnership priorities for the coming year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime Type</th>
<th>2010/11 Baseline</th>
<th>2011/12 Target Reduction</th>
<th>Year End Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious Acquisitive Crime</td>
<td>3304 recorded crimes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3489 crimes 5.6% increase.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage</td>
<td>3752 recorded crimes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3378 10% reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Burglary</td>
<td>1253 recorded crimes</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>1253 crimes 9.7% reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-social behaviour</td>
<td>10.1% residents perceive ASB as problem</td>
<td>Reduce</td>
<td>8.6% 1.5% reduction reduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>567 successful prosecutions (County)</td>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>12 less successful prosecutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>17.8% MARAC Cases are repeat victims</td>
<td>Not to exceed 22%</td>
<td>23.6% MARAC cases are repeat victims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Serious Violence</td>
<td>182 recorded crimes</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>175 3.8% reduction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accident and Emergency Data Sharing Project

During the course of 2010/11 we worked with Northampton General Hospital to improve the way in which we collect information with our partners to help inform how we tackle issues which may lead to crime and disorder in our communities. We recognised that not all accidents or assaults will be reported to the police and that in some cases the only time that they will be recorded is when victims seek medical treatment. This information has already been used during 2011/12 in informing strategic operations and targeting resources in hotspot locations. This data will become increasingly more valuable over time in preventing serious assaults and crimes from happening by addressing the underlying causes highlighted by this source of information.
Target hardening of vulnerable properties

Despite crime increasing both regionally and nationally, the partnership have managed to continue the impressive reductions in domestic burglary into 2011/12. One key tactic used to reduce domestic burglary is target hardening of vulnerable properties in locations where burglaries occur most often. In 2011/12, we provided security improvements to 219 homes in Northampton resulting in significant reductions of domestic burglary in targeted areas and an overall reduction town-wide.

Street Drinking & Begging in Northampton Town Centre

During 2011/12 the partnership delivered a number of interventions to tackle street drinking and vagrancy issues in the town centre. A police led operation, utilising the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) bylaw already in place, provided a robust, zero tolerance response to alcohol consumption in public places. During the operation, alcohol seizures by front line officers increased by 353% compared to the same period the previous year. During the same period, the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) targeted high-end perpetrators of alcohol-related ASB in the town centre. This resulted in a reduction of ASB of those targeted and a CRASBO was obtained against a prolific street drinker.

The partnership also held a number of “Don’t Kill with Kindness” road shows in the town centre, raising public awareness of the potential consequences of giving money to beggars and promoting charities that can help individuals with homelessness and drug and alcohol dependency issues. These events were well received by the public and the media and are planned to continue in 2012/13 to tackle begging and vagrancy issues. reduced the risk of accidents as the result of collision between vehicles and pedestrians but has also improved pedestrian flow in the area and made it easier for policing teams to identify incidents and intervene earlier.

Improving safety in the night time economy

The town centre is the key focus of Northampton’s night time economy and we recognise that ensuring it is enjoyed safely is not just about policing. We have worked closely with licensed premises in the town to ensure that safety inside licensed premises is a key priority and continue to support the “Best Bar None” accreditation scheme to recognise those establishments which have excellent policies and procedures in place to ensure their establishments are well managed and safe for customers to enjoy themselves responsibly.

We also continue to work with our local Street Pastors to support their work in the town centre on Friday and Saturday nights, recognising the excellent work they do in engaging with people who might cause harm to themselves and others. They help in diffusing situations through early intervention and non-confrontational discussion to prevent escalation of minor altercations to situations which could result in assault, injury or arrest.

Working with our communities

Through our Neighbourhood working arrangements we have continue a partnership approach to tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and wider community and environmental issues that contribute to perception of crime and safety in priority locations. Partners attend community meetings to give local people the opportunity to raise concerns in their local area directly with police and other partners and to work with us in developing local solutions to respond to the issues raised.

We have also carried out targeted partnership activities in areas which have been identified as having high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, typically over a six month period. This has included target hardening work in homes and businesses, environmental improvements, home fire safety checks, activities for young people, family support work, work with residents associations and community groups and activities which are put forward by the community to address local concerns. The impact on crime levels in all of the areas assessed to date have shown significant reduction in the volume of domestic burglary in particular and have been well supported by the communities in those areas.
Each year Community Safety Partnerships are required to carry out a strategic assessment of crime and anti-social behaviour in the local area and to consult local communities on the proposed partnership priorities for the coming year. The Partnership Strategic Assessment is developed by a range of agencies using information and data from a variety of sources, including existing local research, consultation and analysis. It looks at specific crime and community safety issues identified through a 'threat assessment'.

In addition to annual consultation on the strategic partnership priorities, a number of consultation and engagement activities are carried out during the course of the year through Partnership meetings, Safer Community Teams and local events to ensure that we are responsive to local issues.

The Strategic Assessment for 2012/13 identified six priorities for the partnership which were consulted on with local communities:

- Anti Social Behaviour
- Domestic Abuse
- Hate Crime
- Serious Acquisitive Crime (Vehicle Crime, Robbery and Domestic Burglary)
- Violence Offences
- Sexual Offences

Two public consultation events were held in Northampton, in the Grosvenor Centre and in Weston Favell Shopping Centre, as well as the consultation being available to complete online. We invited people to rank the priorities, as well as providing the opportunity to identify other key issues which they felt were important to them or their communities that were not already covered by the 6 key priorities.

Members of the public were asked to rate the priorities 1 to 6 in relation to their areas of concern, with 1 being the highest priority concern and 6 being the lowest. The results are shown in the table below on the left, which records the individual priorities and how many responses indicated each level of rating for them:

Members of the public were also asked what type of anti-social behaviour is of greatest concern; the responses to this question are also shown below.

The questionnaire also provided the opportunity for members of the public to identify any other issues which they felt should be local priorities, not already listed as one of the six identified in the strategic assessment. The most commonly raised other issues of concern to communities included flytipping, parked cars (on roundabouts, outside schools, for sale), lack of police presence locally, littering and speeding cars.

The consultation indicated that communities were broadly supportive of the partnership priorities with an emphasis on tackling anti social behaviour as a particular priority across all sections of the community.

### Priority Rating

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Most important</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>Least important</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious Acquisitive Crime</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-social Behaviour</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent Crime</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hate Crime</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Crime</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Issues of Concern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Most important</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>Unrated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol-related ASB</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti &amp; Vandalism</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle-related ASB</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental ASB</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug taking &amp; dealing</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers Loitering</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise in residential areas</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Perceptions of Crime and Anti Social Behaviour

Northamptonshire Police has been conducting its own Public Attitude Survey since May 2007, which surveys members of the public by phone on the topics covered in the British Crime Survey (BCS).

The survey indicated that as of February 2012, 83.2% of respondents felt that the police understood the issues that affect their community, this is a decrease of 2% since March 2011, and 60.9% felt that they were dealing with the things that mattered locally, an increase of 1.8%. 8.6% of respondents in Northampton perceived ASB to be a problem in their local area, a decrease of 1.5% since the end of 2010/11, and 3.3% less than at the end of 2009/10. The key ASB issues that respondents were most likely to be concerned about were the lack of street lighting, issues with young people and street cleanliness.

Our Partnership Priorities

The Partnership priorities have been developed to reflect the local priorities in Northampton for reducing crime and the fear of crime in the town, and within this context, it is recognised that anti-social behaviour contributes significantly to the fear of crime. However there are a number of themes that cut across each of the priorities below. This may be explicit in some of the partnership actions but not in others. However it is important to recognise that no crime type can be considered in isolation and that there are a number of other influences that may contribute to and impact on the work of the partnership.

Drug and alcohol misuse underpin many of the Partnership priorities recognising the correlation between alcohol consumption and violence, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. Drug misuse has also been identified as a factor that can influence levels of serious acquisitive crime. Northamptonshire has been identified as an area in which alcohol related harm is a problem and a county Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy has been developed. In Northampton, alcohol related violence, particularly related to the night time economy in the town centre has been identified as an issue and the NCSP will be focussing on specific actions to support the delivery of the strategy and address local issues within the town.

At a local level, Integrated Offender Management recognises the range of social, health and economic issues that an individual may have and that these problems have manifested themselves into high levels of unacceptable criminal behaviour. In 2012/13 the partnership will continue to work with the Probation service to ensure that Integrated Offender Management in Northampton makes an effective contribution to reducing crime levels.

The need for intervention and diversionary activities for young people is also a key area in which the partnership recognises the links between young people and perceptions of anti-social behaviour. The partnership has previously funded diversionary youth outreach support which is flexible and targeted to hot spots areas within the town and has been a key partner in the county-wide Intensive Intervention Project which focussed on specific intervention work with some of the most challenging young people in the county. The financial challenges we now face have seen reductions in the level of youth outreach activity funded through the partnership, however, through effective partnership working and commissioning it is hoped that any impacts can be minimised and some key priorities retained.

In recognition of the cross cutting wider issues which contribute to the priorities of the Partnership it is intended that a targeted approach to reduce all aspects of crime, anti-social behaviour, harm and risk issues on a neighbourhood by neighbourhood basis will be a more effective way to address the overall perception of crime and fear of crime.

The Partnership intends to build on the success of targeted action in neighbourhoods to address crime and disorder and environmental and community issues through a range of activities, actions, interventions and education initiatives according to the needs of each areas. Programmes of work in identified neighbourhoods will be lead through the Area Partnership co-ordination arrangements.
Priority 1

To reduce the number of recorded violence offences (including Serious Sexual Offences, Robbery & Assaults)

The Partnership has recognised that over the course of 2010 and 2011 the number of recorded incidents for violence offences has increased and that actions to date have not been sufficient to reduce the level of violence in the town. A range of partnership activities during the year have focused on a range of initiatives which seek to address issues which contribute to these offence types including alcohol and substance misuse and management of the night-time economy. In particular regular licensing visits, additional support for the Street Pastors, partnership support for the Xmas police operations and the continuation of schemes like Best Bar None have improved the relationship between enforcement agencies and licensed premises in managing issues particularly within the town centre.

During the course of 2010/11 the partnership has sponsored the introduction of data sharing arrangements with the Emergency Department at Northampton General Hospital to improve the information available to partners relating to violence offences. This information source is already being put to use to inform strategic operations and target resources in hotspot locations and will becoming increasingly valuable over time.

Objectives

- Prevent drug and alcohol related violent crime, including town centre violence, using a range of proven measures including CCTV, work with licensed premises and security staff and enforcement action against 'problem premises'.

- Implement a range of measures focussed on young people including increased youth activities on Friday and Saturday nights, family support interventions and Staysafe initiatives.

- Develop and deliver targeted interventions around violent crime to deliver within schools and youth projects.

- Utilise Accident and Emergency data on assault injuries to more effectively identify and profile high volumes of violence offences to enable targeted activity in key areas.

Performance Measures

To reduce the volume of violent crime offences (Assaults + serious sexual offences + robbery) by 3.5% by March 31st 2013.
Priority 2

Reduce Serious Acquisitive Crime (Vehicle Crime, Robbery and Domestic Burglary)

The focus on crime in Northampton will continue to centre predominantly on those crimes that are considered to be Serious Acquisitive Crimes and include Domestic Burglary, Vehicle Crime and Robbery. The measure incorporates all related crimes and recognises the role of the police and partners in securing and designing environments and communities to reduce the opportunity for such crimes, as well as providing enforcement action. In addition, the partnership recognises the need to ensure that older people and other potentially vulnerable individuals are given the information and support they need to prevent them from being victims of specific crimes, including distraction burglary, and will support and promote initiatives to raise awareness within communities about security and safety.

The Partnership has already achieved significant reductions since the first partnership targets were established in 2008 and performance is in line with that of comparator police force areas in our most similar group (MSG). In addition, we intend to work with partners and communities to reduce other acquisitive crimes like non-domestic burglary and cycle theft.

Objectives

- Tackle the underlying issues which underpin most acquisitive crime committed by prolific offenders, including problem drug use, homelessness and unemployment.
- Promote and raise awareness of specific crime types, like distraction burglary, which tend to target the elderly and vulnerable.
- Work with homeowners to improve security in the areas where burglary rates are highest, and undertaking a range of 'target hardening' measures.
- Support the commercial sector, in particular retailers, commercial businesses and our night time economy, to increase their and their customers resilience against becoming victims of crime.
- Make improvements to the physical environment in our communities to ensure they look attractive and are designed in a way which goes as far as possible in “designing out” the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Work with vehicle owners to improve awareness of their risk and vulnerability to vehicle crime, across the borough, but particularly in hotspot locations.

Targets

- By 31st March 2013 to have reduced Serious Acquisitive Crime by 5% from the April 1st 2012 baseline of 3489 crimes.
- Reduce Vehicle Crime by 5% (to 1882 crimes).
Priority 3

Reduce Anti-social Behaviour (including Criminal Damage)

Anti-social behaviour in itself is subjective and dependent on the differing views of acceptable behaviour amongst both perpetrators and victims.

In Northampton the overall number of recorded Anti-Social Behaviour incidents has continued to reduce and is showing a positive trend for the future however perceptions of anti-social behaviour and drunk and rowdy behaviour have not seen a similarly demonstrable reduction and both are still considered to be a problem by people living in Northampton.

The Home Office have increased the measures available to local partners in tackling anti-social behaviour, including guidance on prosecution, improving the way in which breaches are tackled and providing greater support for victims and witnesses. The Partnership will also be ensuring that all partners are delivering effectively against those standards at a local level.

Objectives

- Delivered effective enforcement actions against perpetrators including the use of Anti-Social Behaviour Contracts and Anti-Social Behaviour Orders.
- Worked directly with individuals who are at significant risk of offending to provide a range of non-negotiable interventions for identified families which challenge their behaviour and support them to change.
- Identified and address problems at the earliest stage and deliver high quality preventative projects to divert young people away from ASB and crime.

Targets

- 10% reduction in anti-social behaviour incidents (including personal ASB) to 13,433 by March 2013.
- Reduction in number of people perceiving ASB as a problem from the Public Attitudes Survey.

Reduce Anti-social Behaviour (including Criminal Damage)
Priority 4

Reduce the Harm associated with Domestic Abuse

The Partnership is committed to working with victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse to reduce the harm and risk to individuals and their families. The partnership is committed to working at a local and county level to provide services which support and enable people in vulnerable situations to take the actions required to safeguard themselves and their families, including addressing issues of under-reporting, bringing offenders to justice, empowering and supporting victims and improving efforts in particular communities.

During 2011/12 the county underwent a review of services which provide support to people suffering from interpersonal violence with the aim of commissioning a single holistic service which will support specific individual needs during times of crisis and provide ongoing support to people to manage change within their lives.

Objectives -

- Increase the number of successful prosecutions for domestic abuse through the provision of support to victims from Interpersonal Violence Services.
- Improve the efficiency of existing Interpersonal Violence services, including Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC), Independent Domestic Violence Advocates services, Sexual Assault Referral services and interventions for perpetrators.
- Ensure effective levels of support for victims of serious sexual assault.
- Implement a range of measures to educate people about the harm associated with Domestic Abuse and raise awareness of support services for victims and perpetrators.

Targets

- Increase the reporting of first time victims of domestic crimes and incidents.
- Reduce the number of repeat victims of domestic crimes.
- Maintain the repeat victimisation rate of those domestic violence cases reviewed by MARAC at an upper-tolerance level of 22%
5. Partnership delivery

Governance arrangements for monitoring the performance of this plan at a town and county level are highlighted in the diagram below. The groups outlined below operate at both an operational and strategic level and are supported by task and finish groups for specific projects as required.

The Community Safety Partnership has the primary duty to implement and deliver all community safety issues within the Partnership Plan. The Northampton Community Safety Partnership (NCSP) Board is informed and supported by the Business Support Group that translates the strategic direction of the Plan into project delivery through operational task and finish groups.

The NCSP Board monitors its performance against targets on a monthly basis based on IQuanta data and local partner performance information.

The Business Support Group operates to provide guidance and direction to the task and finish groups to ensure that their focus links directly to the Partnerships priorities and report on progress to NCSP to highlight good practice or areas of concern.

Area Partnership Approach

In 2010/11 four co-ordinated partnership areas were launched across Northampton - North, East, Southwest and Central as shown in the map below.

The arrangements were introduced to bring a neighbourhood focus to the work of the partnership, allowing the planning and delivery of services to be focused on local areas and the priorities of local people.

Each area has a dedicated partnership co-ordinator who will work with partner agencies and local communities to address priorities at a local level. This approach recognises that the partnership priorities may differ in different parts of the town and that the ways in which local communities can help us to address them will also vary from area to area. It enables the priorities and approaches to tackling local issues to be more tailored to local communities and ensures that we are making best use of our resources where there is most need.

These arrangements incorporate the Police Safer Community initiative, initially launched in 2007, to provide an opportunity for residents to work more closely with partners to share their local community concerns.
6. New and emerging policy and legislative context

The coalition government formed in June 2010 launched some significant changes to policy and legislation which will impact on community safety partnerships and the way in which partners work with communities to address local issues. Critical to the proposals being developed by the government is the role of community safety partnerships to have a leading role in local areas to ensure that resources are maximised towards reducing crime and anti social behaviour, tackling drug and alcohol related crime, reducing incidents of domestic abuse and responding to local communities.

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill was introduced in the House of Commons on 30 November 2010 with the aim of making the police service more accountable to local people and to tackle alcohol related violence. The bill includes provisions for

- Making the police service more accountable to local people by replacing police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners from May 2012.
- Overhauling the Licensing Act to give more powers to local authorities and the police to tackle premises that are causing problems, doubling maximum fines for persistent underage sales and allowing local authorities to charge more for late night licences to contribute towards the policing of the night time economy.

The Protection of Freedoms Bill includes a range of provisions to safeguard civil liberties and reduce the level of government intrusion into people's lives including measures for further regulation of CCTV and ANPR systems.

The Home Office “A New Approach to Fighting Crime” strategy gives clear direction to the public, police and partners about a new approach to fighting crime and emphasises the role of local councils, health services, probation and fire and rescue services in helping to keep communities safe. The strategy outlines the Government's approach to Community Safety Partnerships as the place where decisions should be taken about how to tackle the crime issues which matter most locally, setting clear priorities which lead to real action.

Introduction of Police Crime Commissioners

2012 will see the introduction of Police Crime Commissioners (PCC). Elections will take place on 15th November 2012, with elected Commissioners taking up office a week later. Police and Crime Commissioners will have responsibility for:

- Appointing the Chief Constable and holding them to account for the running of their force
- Setting out a 5 year Police and Crime Plan based on local priorities (developed in consultation with the Chief Constable, communities and others)
- Setting the annual local precept and annual force budget
- Making grants to organisations aside from the police (including but not limited to Community Safety Partnerships)

Commissioners will be new entrants to a complex local leadership landscape and will need to work collaboratively. Collective local leadership on crime, justice and community safety will be the key to cutting crime and improving outcomes for local people.

The mechanisms and practices of partnership working are complex and have developed over time. The reforms may provide an opportunity for local leaders to review the current partnership landscape (where this is not already underway) with a view to simplifying and streamlining ways of working together.

Police and Crime Commissioners will need to work with a broad range of organisations and local authorities will be vital partners. In addition to a focussed role in scrutinising the Commissioner through Police and
Crime Panels, local authorities and elected members will need to work closely with commissioners as partners. They will share an interest in improving outcomes and services in a range of areas from community safety and youth justice to health, safeguarding and civil contingencies.

The introduction of PCCs will mean a fundamental change for community safety partnerships. Unlike police authorities, commissioners will not be 'responsible authorities' under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, so will not be members of CSPs. There is however a provision included in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill that places a mutual duty on PCCs and the responsible authorities on CSPs to cooperate to reduce crime and disorder and re-offending.

**Countywide Review of Community Safety Partnerships**

During 2011/12 a review of the community safety arrangements across Northamptonshire was undertaken. The main purpose of the review was to develop a range of options in order to streamline structures around the county's six Community Safety Partnerships.

Recommendations from this review have now been adopted and will see the alignment of some specific functions at county level, and the creation of a Chief Executives Lead Officer Group, with senior representation from all statutory agencies.
NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
Members of the Northampton Community Safety Partnership:

- Northampton Borough Council
- Northamptonshire County Council
- Northamptonshire Police
- Northamptonshire Police Authority
- NHS Northamptonshire
- Northamptonshire Probation Trust
- Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT)
- Youth Offending Service
- Community sector
- Voluntary sector
- Business community
- Neighbourhood partners

For further information contact:

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