

St Helens Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment 2014/15

Introduction

The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) to complete on an annual basis, as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998.

This legislation places a joint responsibility upon specific agencies to work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

This Assessment provides an overview of crime and disorder in St. Helens. It also highlights any changes and emerging trends to inform and support strategic planning by partners working in the relevant fields.

With the creation of the role of the Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), and the expectation that the relationship with CSP's will continue to develop, a decision was made to expand our delivery plan over a four year period (2013-17) in effort to align with the PCC plan, but have committed to continue delivery of a yearly strategic assessment and review of our priorities each year.

There are five CSP's across Merseyside – Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. All five come together with the Merseyside PCC as the Merseyside CSP to take a joined up approach to tackling crime and anti- social behaviour across Merseyside.

The four priorities set by the PCC in the current PCC plan (created in 2015) are

- To prevent crime and anti-social behaviour,
- Provide a visible and accessible neighbourhood policing style,
- Tackle serious and organised crime and Support victims, and
- Protect vulnerable people and maintain public safety.

Underpinning this approach Merseyside Police are developing a different way of assessing police effectiveness and operations with at its core, a strong emphasis on putting the individual and the community first, which ensures a renewed focus on protecting the vulnerable in society.

St Helens CSP is made up of five responsible authorities – St Helens Council, Merseyside Police, St Helens Clinical Commissioning Group, Probation Services and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, plus other partners from the public, private and voluntary community sector that have been defined locally as having a key role to play.

St Helens CSP aims to work closely with Merseyside Police in terms of developing an effective understanding of the long-term prevention of crime and the causes of instability in communities.

The key challenges therefore in relation to Community Safety are to ensure that the outcomes being delivered locally are supportive of the wider PCC objectives and to ensure that strong

partnership working remains in place during a period of organisational change for many of the CSP members.

Councillor Lisa Preston

Cabinet Member - Community Safety (Including Housing Services)

St. Helens Profile

The economic, social and geographic profile of a Borough is an important determinate in the analysis of crime and disorder.

St Helens has a total population of 177,612 (ONS 2015). Population projections suggest that the Borough will increase by 4.4% over coming years, with an estimated population of 183,100 by 2033.

Overall St. Helens is now ranked as the 36th most deprived local authority in England out of 326. Its relative position has deteriorated since the 2010 Index of Deprivation where St. Helens was ranked as the 51st most deprived area.

Relative deprivation within the Borough continues to grow, with some areas getting more deprived relative to others. There are now a total of 28 Lower Super Output Area level (LSOAs) within the Borough that fall within the 10% most deprived LSOAs nationally, compared to 24 in 2010. A total of 47 LSOAs within the Borough fall within the 20% most deprived nationally, compared to 43 in 2010.

The most deprived LSOA within St. Helens is Parr Stocks Road, which sits on the border of the Town Centre and Parr ward. This is the 70th most deprived LSOA within England out of 32,844 LSOAs.

Although the proportion of people from black and ethnic minority groups remains significantly lower than both the regional and national average, the population of St. Helens is becoming increasingly diverse. In recent years, there has been an increase in migrant workers, principally from the Eastern European accession states. The proportion of people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (BME) is currently estimated to be 3.4% (as at Census 2011, up from 2.3% in 2001), with the largest ethnic grouping other than 'White' being 'Asian/Asian British' (1.1% of the total population).

Worklessness and poor health remain major challenges in St. Helens, and given the pockets of severe deprivation in the Borough, the continued regeneration of the local economy and infrastructure is an ongoing priority, particularly when faced with the current economic downturn. Educational attainment and housing conditions have improved across the Borough, although challenges including education, employment and training, adult education and poverty for young people remain.

The Crime domain measures the risk of personal and material victimisation at local level. The four indicators covering police recorded crime rates for violence, theft, burglary and criminal

damage. St. Helens ranks as the 116th most deprived authority nationally for the Rank of Average Score.

There are 119 LSOA's in St Helens and 2 are within the most deprived 5% nationally ,10 are within the most deprived 10% nationally, compared with 5 in 2010 and 17 are within the most deprived 20% compared with 10 in 2010.

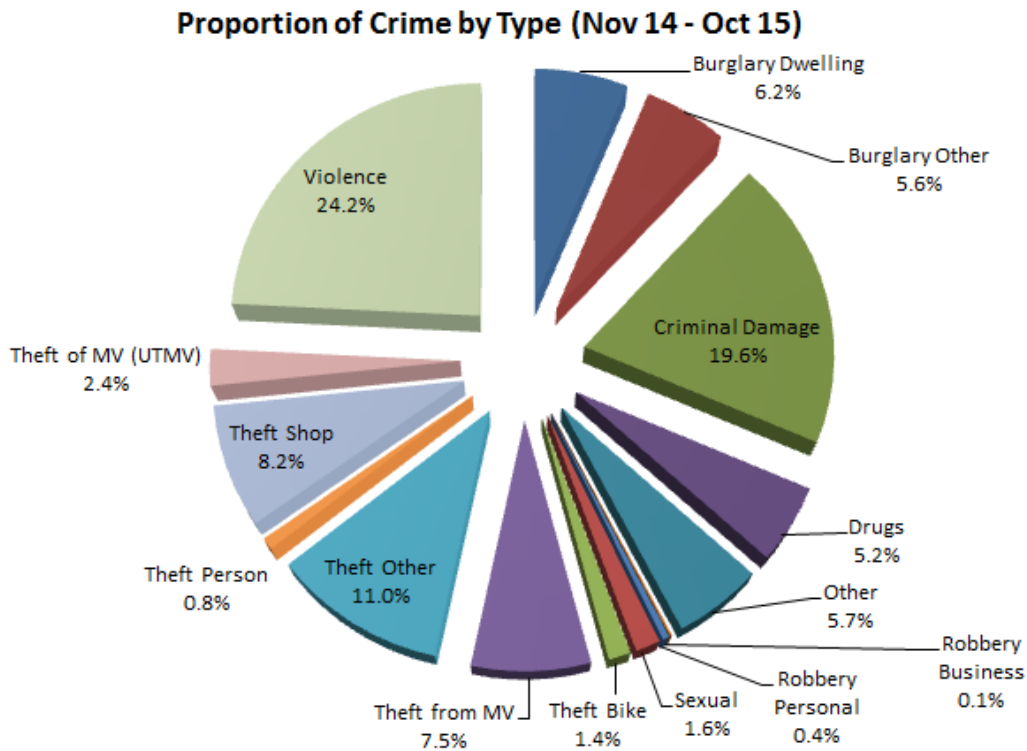
Crime Deprivation Change Over Time - 2010 – 2015

Number of LSOAs within	Crime Domain 2010	Crime Domain 2015	Change
Most deprived 1%	0	0	0
Most deprived 5%	2	2	0
Most deprived 10%	5	10	+5
Most deprived 20%	10	17	+7
Total Number of LSOAs in St. Helens		118	119

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government 2015

The highest relative levels of crime deprivation are found in the Town Centre, Parr and Bold Wards.

**St Helens Crime Overview
Statistical Review of Recorded Crime**



Source: Merseyside Police

As evident in the chart above, Violent offences were the most prominent crimes followed by Criminal Damage (which can be a proxy for Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and associated theft offences).

Table 1

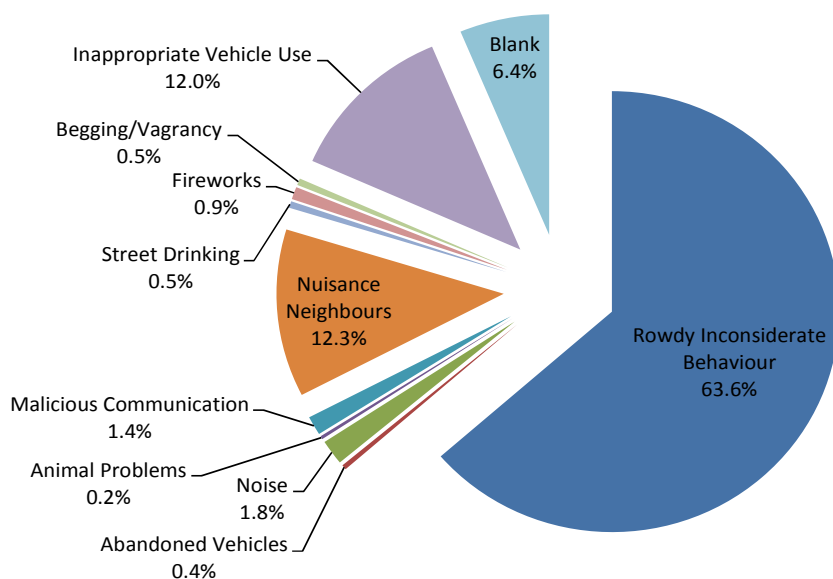
Crime in St Helens over 12 month Period Nov - Oct				
Crime	2013/14	2014/15	% Change	Direction
Burglary Dwelling	681	755	+11%	↑
Burglary Other	1017	679	-33%	↓
Criminal Damage	2148	2372	10%	↑
Drugs	854	634	-26%	↓
Other	549	686	+25%	↑
Robbery Business	25	16	-36%	↓
Robbery Personal	63	49	-22%	↓
Sexual	164	190	+16%	↑
Theft Bike	205	169	-18%	↓
Theft from MV	856	907	+6%	↑
Theft Other	1289	1333	+3%	↑
Theft Person	107	98	-8%	↓
Theft Shop	1242	991	-20%	↓
Theft of MV (UTMV)	328	296	-10%	↓
Violence	1984	2930	+48%	↑
Grand Total	11512	12105	+5%	↑

Source: Merseyside Police

- There has been an overall 5% increase in crime on the previous year.
- Violent Crime increased by nearly 50%. Violent crime covers a wide range of offences, from minor assaults such as pushing and shoving that result in no physical harm through to serious incidents of wounding and homicide. Improvements in crime recording processes by the police are thought to be the main driver of the rise. As a result of the renewed focus on the quality of crime recording by the police, caution should therefore be taken when interpreting police recorded crime trends.
- The rise in Sexual offences is reflected nationally with the number of sexual offences in the year ending March 2015 (88,106) was the highest figure recorded by the police since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002. As well as improvements in recording practices, this is thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes. Sexual offences include rape, sexual assault and unlawful sexual activity against adults and children, sexual grooming and indecent exposure.

ASB Analysis

Proportion of ASB by Category Nov 14 - Oct 15



Source: Merseyside Police

- There were a total of 7161 ASB calls to the police over the 12-month period with Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour being the most prominent type, accounting for over 63%.

Table 2

ASB in St Helens over 12 month period Nov - Oct by Ward				
Ward	2013/14	2014/15	%	
Billinge and Seneley Green	111	182	64%	↑
Blackbrook	299	318	6%	↑
Bold	758	729	-4%	↓
Earlestown	306	418	37%	↑
Eccleston	284	185	-35%	↓
Haydock	326	383	17%	↑
Moss Bank	252	336	33%	↑
Newton	278	259	-7%	↓
Parr	744	774	4%	↑
Rainford	62	74	19%	↑
Rainhill	170	169	-1%	↓
Sutton	428	468	9%	↑
Thatto Heath	518	474	-8%	↓
Town Centre (St Helens)	1606	1776	11%	↑
West Park	374	347	-7%	↓
Windle	280	269	-4%	↓
Grand Total	6796	7161	5%	↑

Source: Merseyside Police

- There has been an overall 5% increase in ASB calls for service. Nine wards have recorded increases. Billinge and Seneley Green returned the highest increase of 64%. Eccleston recorded the highest reduction of 35%. St Helens Town Centre recorded the highest volume.
- The police neighbourhood of St Helens South (Sutton, Bold, Parr, Rainhill, Thatto Heath, West Park and Eccleston) was the most prominent neighbourhood in relation to ASB accounting for 44%. Calls in relation to Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour accounted for over half of the calls within the neighbourhood (61%). It should be noted that due to the changes in classification of the ASB codes it has effected how they are recorded and 6% of incidents in this neighbourhood have not been classified.

Community Safety Partnership Performance Assessment against 2013-17 priorities

Priority

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Reduce ASB across St. Helens, and improve quality of life for all residents and communities. Further objectives will include working with specific families to support changes and intervene before they become more entrenched in ASB patterns.

The key outcomes in reducing ASB will be:
a reduction the number of ASB calls to the Police and St. Helens Council; improving residents' perceptions of St. Helens as a safe place, and reducing the impact of ASB on individuals;
a reduction in the number of repeat callers; and
the development of a 'community trigger' for residents.

What we have been doing

Partnership-work is in place locally, with thematic campaigns of Spring watch, Safe Space and Good Guy.

A mix of prevention, education and enforcement in place, including planned interim weekend alcohol confiscation patrols to hotspot locations for underage drinking (Operation Greenall), removing vulnerable young people to a place of safety (Operation Stay Safe), and street-based interventions (ASB Outreach Team), and working 1-on-1 with young people on the cusp of criminality/ASB (YOS Prevention Service).

Throughout the year the Police have robustly dealt with vehicle nuisance with vehicles being seized when appropriate.

Identified repeat victims and intervened by means of tenancy support, target hardening and enforcement measures against identified offenders.

The Council has also worked in partnership with registered social landlords and has its own private landlord tenancy officer to

address problematic tenants.
The following groups ensure action is taken to address issues relating to ASB:

- ASB Steering Group;
- Neighbourhood Action Groups.

Introduce a Community Trigger Process

Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary and Vehicle Crime)

Reduce household burglary and increase awareness among residents about proactive measures to guard against burglary; reduce vehicle crime through a range of preventative, intervention and enforcement initiatives; and have a reduced rate of reoffending of the Integrated Offender Management Cohort.

A range of partnership approaches are in place, such as Operation Handle and the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme focusing on the most impactful offenders.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (burglary, robbery, vehicle crime) is the main characteristic of the IOM cohort.

Maintenance and repair of Alley gates, assists in preventing and reducing rear entry burglaries.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

The objectives for dealing with cases of domestic abuse are to enable victims/survivors and professionals to identify the need to seek help as early as possible, and to provide them with the support needed; ensure children and young people affected by DV are identified and protected from further harm; work with perpetrators (convicted and non-convicted) of DV to intervene early and prevent reoffending; and reduce the likelihood of reoffending and ensure that abusers are held accountable.

The CSP works collectively to provide specialist training for frontline staff, including the police, health agencies and Council services.

An Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy Service is commissioned to provide individual support for victims of domestic abuse.

The CSP also operates a MARAC where information about high-risk domestic abuse victims (those at risk of murder or serious harm) is shared between local agencies. By bringing agencies together at MARAC, and ensuring that whenever possible the voice of the victim is represented, a risk focused co-ordinated safety plan can be drawn up to support the victim.

A 'White Ribbon' 'Walk a Mile in her Shoes'

event is organised each year in November in St Helens Town Centre.

Drugs and Drug related Crime

The key objective is to reduce the number of drug related offences that occur, including serious acquisitive crime and the re-presentation rate of offenders for trigger offences. Success in reducing drug offences should improve local resident's perception of their communities as safe places. Further objectives in reducing drug offences include the number of problematic drug using offenders moving into recovery drug treatment services.

St Helens is part of the 'Test on Arrest' programme, where those arrested for 'trigger offences' (including acquisitive crimes, or when the offence is suspected to be connected to the use of heroin, cocaine or crack cocaine) are tested and provided with pathways into treatment via the Drugs Intervention Programme where appropriate.

Violent Crime

The overall objective is to further reduce the incidence of violent crime in St. Helens by reducing serious violent crime and reducing assaults causing less serious injury.

A Strategic Plan under the auspices of the Tackling Violent Crime Group which includes the monitoring of repeat offenders through analyst information and sharing details of those offending on three or more occasions in twelve month (rolling) period with partners to ensure suitable interventions are in place to prevent re-offending.

Preventative measures (MAPPa approach) and enforcement operations (PubWatch) bans, and Operation STAND information and sharing details of those offending on three or more occasions in twelve month (rolling) period with partners to ensure suitable interventions are in place to prevent re-offending.

'One Punch' Can Kill campaign, which involve uses the use of radio, social media and face to face interaction. The 'One Punch Can Kill' campaign reminds people that in a split second a person can become a killer or be killed.

Monitoring of CCTV on the Night Time Economy to allow a more efficient Police response to evolving incidents.

Hate Crime

It is recognised that hate crimes are under-reported. Some minority groups and victims may be mistrustful of authorities, be fearful of reprisals, or not have the confidence to speak to the Police.

This means that one of the primary objectives is to raise public awareness, and to ensure that victims feel supported; in addition the CSP aspire to develop an advocacy service and enhance the process for all agencies involved in responding and working to prevent hate crime.

Stop Hate UK is now the third reporting party mechanism across all of Merseyside, having been utilised in St Helens for several years.

Effective local support services are in place (e.g. Police Hate Crime Investigation Unit) and marketing in local media has been used regularly to raise the profile of this issue, including the promotion of our 'No Place for Hate' Campaign.

The Hate Crime Group meets on a quarterly basis to monitor performance and the group's associated action plan.

Tackling Organised Crime

Embedding a partnership approach;
To engage the community in tackling organised crime;
Effectively undertaking disruption, enforcement and/ or prevention activity against organised crime.

Local partnership approaches were informed by local profiling of serious and organised crime.

Partners contributed to Merseyside Police's Organised Crime Tactical Interventions Meeting.

The Neighbourhood Action Group meetings consider if appropriate our Multi Agency response to Gun and Gang Crime

Reducing Reoffending

Focus on offenders not offences. The IOM Operational Delivery Group consists of partner agencies, including the Probation and Youth Offending Services, and discusses performance, blockages and the management of nominations on and off the cohort of offenders to be managed.

Continued with St Helens IOM Programme

Co-location of Police , Community Rehabilitation Company and Council staff in the IOM

Continued to reduce reoffending by those on the IOM programme

Emerging Issues

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a consistent and steady increase in reported incidents of ASB since the start of 2014, principally around complaints of rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour.

Some ASB issues are pervasive and general, e.g. graffiti on buildings, discarded litter in streets while other ASB issues are individual and specific, e.g. somebody suffering from repeated anti-social harassment. Our research has recognised that litter and rubbish left around is one of the top ASB concerns of St Helens. Another key area to focus on is repeat victimisation due to the risk of harm towards victims.

Changes made to the ASB, Crime and Policing Act in October 2014 have simplified previous powers which enable the police, local authorities and other agencies to respond quickly, effectively and more flexibly to ASB and tackle its underlying issues.

Serious Acquisitive Crime (Domestic Burglary)

It has been suggested (Drugscope) that one third to over a half of all acquisitive crime is related to illegal drug use. Examples of users needing £15,000 to £30,000 a year to fund drug habits have often been given. To make such amounts of money from stolen goods police often suggest multiplying by three – on the basis that stolen goods will fetch about one third of their normal value and that one third to over a half of all acquisitive crime is related to illegal drug use.

Burglary Dwelling offences have seen an increase across the Borough up by 11%. 21% of them were crimed as an attempt with no access being gained. There were 29 repeat victims (properties) identified which accounted for 9% of all the burglary dwelling offences. Eight were victims on three occasions.

The most common items to be targeted have been 'CRAVED' items. Items that are Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable and Disposable such as computers, jewellery, small electrical goods, cars, cash and personal accessories. This includes laptops, tablets, watches, cameras, mobile phones, handbags, and TV's.

There were a total of 84 vehicles stolen as a direct result of burglary dwelling offences, which is an 8% decrease on the previous period. Ford and Vauxhall have been the most common types to be taken by method of stealing the keys. There were also a number of quad bikes and motorcycles stolen. Of the 84 vehicles stolen 55 of them have since been recovered mainly within the St Helens and Knowsley areas.

There were a number of repeat streets identified, which indicates that the offenders are likely to return to areas where they have previously been successful. The main method of entry for offences was via insecure doors and windows and by forcing doors and windows. December was the peak month although there was a 15% reduction on the previous year.

Violent crime

There is evidence (Office of National Statistics) to suggest that the rise in recorded violence reflects changes in police practice, rather than levels of crime. It is known that violent offences in the past have been prone to subjective judgement by the police about whether or not to record the offence. There has been a renewed focus in the last 12 months on the quality of crime recording and a drive to improve compliance with national standards for recording. The quality of crime recording is thought to have led to improved compliance with national recording standards, leading to proportionally more crimes reported to the police being recorded by them.

Nationally evidence suggests 53% of violent incidents involving adults were alcohol-related. Violence was more often alcohol-related in incidents involving male victims. Alcohol-related violent incidents most commonly involved strangers, followed by acquaintances and incidents of domestic violence. Violent incidents were more likely to involve alcohol at the weekend. The proportions of violent incidents that were alcohol-related increased as the evening progressed. Drunkenness is associated with a majority of murders, manslaughters and stabbings and half of domestic assaults. This information underpins our One Punch Can Kill campaign, which involves the use of radio, social media and face to face interaction with residents of St Helens.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

At a national level recent cases in Rotherham, Rochdale, Derby, Oxford and other towns and cities have uncovered not only the previously hidden scale of the problem but also a particular pattern of abuse involving predominantly White British girls as victims and gangs of predominantly Asian heritage men as perpetrators.

CSE is a hidden crime; young people often trust their abuser and don't understand that they're being abused. They may depend on their abuser or be too scared to tell anyone what's happening. Sexual exploitation often starts around the age of 10 years old. Girls are usually targeted from age 10 and boys from age 8. It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities. Any person can be targeted but there are some particularly vulnerable groups: Looked After Children, Children Leaving Care and Children with Disabilities.

The true extent of CSE is not known. CSE isn't a separate category of abuse in child protection procedures and this means that data is often missing or incomplete, concealed in other crime categories or is unreported. In law, there is no specific crime of CSE; offenders are often convicted for associated offences such as sexual activity with a child. Therefore it's not possible to obtain figures from police statistics of sexual exploitation offences.

In St Helens the Local Children's Safeguarding Board is fully committed to the aims and objectives of the Pan Cheshire and Merseyside CSE multi-agency strategy and have formed a CSE sub group, which aims to reduce the likelihood of children and young people becoming victims of sexual exploitation and divert children and young people who are victims and support them to successfully exit and to ensure action is taken to safeguard children and young people at risk.

A monthly Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation (MACSE) meeting provides the framework to allow regular information sharing and action planning to tackle CSE. The meeting receives referrals of concerns relating to MACSE and considers each referral against information held by the range of agencies represented at the meeting.

In the case of each referral, a multi-agency action plan will be developed, detailing the tactical response to be provided by the relevant agency. The intelligence and information shared at the meeting will be recorded on police systems in order to allow the analyst based within the Public Protection Unit to identify themes, patterns and trends emerging from MACSE meetings held across Merseyside. This may include the identification of serial perpetrators, and the involvement of gangs or premises linked to CSE.

Youth Crime and Child Criminal Exploitation

Although not included as an individual priority the CSP is aware that Youth Crime is associated with many of its key priorities. The aim of the Youth Justice system is to prevent offending and re-offending by children and young people. There is also a concern that exists with regard to children and young people who are exploited, through whatever means, to engage in criminal activity by other young people or adults who are able to coerce them to do so. The young people involved may not identify themselves as being 'exploited' as such, but it is clearly to their detriment that they are involved in this type of activity.

St Helens Youth Offending Service (YOS) aims to provide a coherent service that diverts young people from crime and provides the health, education, welfare and family support to rehabilitate that small proportion of young people who offend. With the recognition that as first time entrants continue to fall, those young people involved with the YOS are often among the most vulnerable young people, with complex needs, entrenched in offending and therefore challenging to work with.

The St Helens YOS Youth Justice Plan sets out a clear service improvement plan in relation to reducing the number of first time entrants, with a primary focus is on the following three outcome areas:

- Reducing first time entrants by preventing offending
- Reducing re-offending
- Reducing the use of custody, including remand to Youth Detention Accommodation

Preventing violent extremism as part of the UK-wide 'Prevent' strategy

A new duty in the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 "to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism", (the "Prevent duty") came into force on 1 July 2015. Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It is part of the Government's Counter Terrorism strategy.

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups.

Extremism is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology. Not all extremism is harmful or criminal, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way, can go on to become terrorists. Violent extremism is also linked to the far right, neo Nazi and some animal rights movements.

Merseyside Police in partnership with St Helens Council and other partnership agencies is working to stop people becoming or supporting terrorists. Our aim is to support local communities and institutions to challenge and reject the message of extremism. The Prevent strategy also aims to support vulnerable members of our communities by helping to divert them away from violent extremism.

Cross-cutting themes and hidden harm

Further themes are relevant to each of the emerging issues and so can be thought of as 'cross-cutting themes':

Community confidence

Engaging with people who live or work in or visit St Helens to understand their concerns and work together effectively together to keep St Helens safe.

Repeat victims, offenders and locations:

Working in partnership to reduce the risk of people being repeatedly victimised and to change the offending behaviour of repeat offenders.

Hidden harm

There are some hidden issues that often have the greatest effect on the most vulnerable people in our communities. The term 'hidden harm' describes the experiences of people affected by substance misuse, abuse, modern day slavery, hate crime and some instances of ASB. People will often suffer in silence; their circumstances are often not known to services. They often do not know where to turn for help and the impact of their experience can have a deep and long-lasting impact on their lives. These impacts can include physical harm, impaired patterns of parental care, higher risk of emotional and physical neglect or abuse, poverty and material deprivation, inappropriate substitute caring roles, and exposure to drug and alcohol using culture.

The CSP is committed to supporting not only an increase in understanding and awareness of the hidden harms our communities face, but encouraging those who are suffering to have the confidence to come forward and seek help from the Partnership and our services.

We need to gain greater understanding of these issues in order to safeguard against and respond to them effectively and, in this way, increase people's confidence in services and encourage more reporting.

Police Crime Commissioner

Towards the end of 2014, the PCC and Merseyside Police launched a public consultation to introduce a 10-year investment plan to transform the Police estate on Merseyside. Following the development of an Estate Strategy – a review of police buildings, their use and location – the proposals focused on ‘taking the right steps’ to ensure the provision of accessible policing, with neighbourhood police teams to be based at the heart of every community.

New or refurbished area headquarters will be provided in each of the five local authority areas and community police stations will be developed where old police stations are currently closed to the public.

Community Police Stations have already proved a success in St Helens, The intention is to roll this model out across the region, providing modern facilities which are regularly open to local people.

Feedback from St Helens residents about Community Safety

According to Home Office research, “negative perceptions around crime and criminal justice, and lack of confidence in the way that crime and ASB are tackled, can impact on: people’s quality of life and well-being, the ability of communities to maintain security, and how effectively the criminal justice system operates”. This demonstrates how important it is to increase public confidence when it comes to ASB, crime and disorder.

As a result, the CSP regularly surveys local residents and monitors changes in perceptions. In 2015, as part of its annual report to residents, the CSP conducted its regular residents’ survey.

The survey was to obtain the views of residents in relation to their perceptions of crime and the fear of crime, and what they considered to be the crime priorities for the CSP to tackle during the next year. (N.B. with a statistically low return rate in 2010, results from this year has been excluded).

Key findings from this research;

- Overall community confidence in the Police and St Helens Council is strong.
- Feelings of Safety is strong
- Environmental ASB (Dog fouling, litter and rubbish left around) is a concern.

Table 3 records the findings from the last CSP Residents’ Survey compared with previous years.

Table 3

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
How important do you think it is for us to Reduce Crime and Disorder where you live	96.15%	95.90%	94.00%	91.40%	94.02%	95.03	94.03%	93.20%	95.00%
How well do you think the Council and its partners are doing in tackling crime and ASB in your neighbourhood	47.51%	55.30%	52.30%	60.50%	68.95%	74.57	71.80%	66.20%	68.80%
How well informed do you feel about the work the Council and its partners are doing to reduce crime and ASB where you live?	42.53%	44.70%	46.30%	51.40%	48.95%	54.69	46.00%	39.30%	42.50%
How safe do you feel in the area where you live?	51.36%	62.30%	65.30%	70.80%	75.22%	76.86	79.60%	76.30%	78.30%

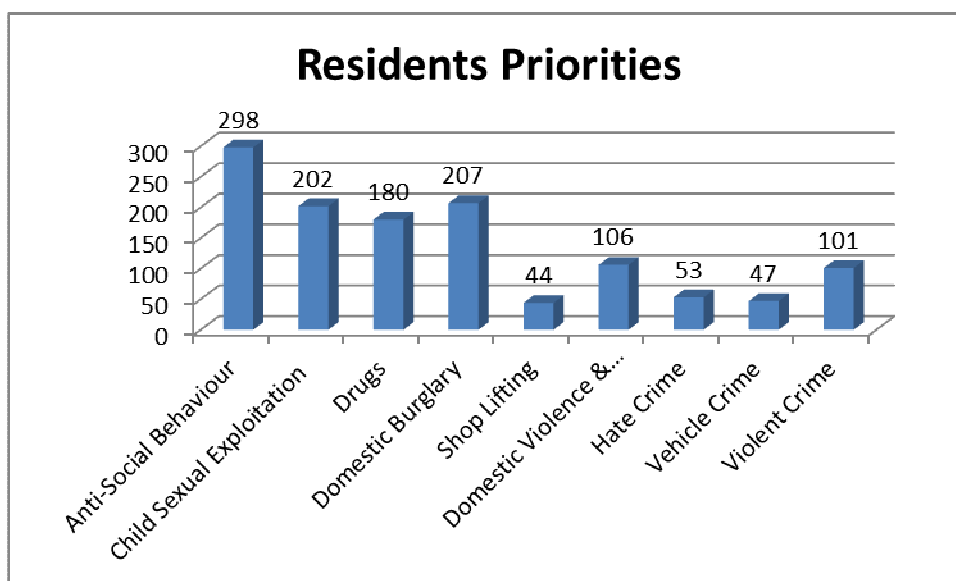
Source: St Helens CSP Survey

The most notable change is evident in residents’ perceptions of safety, from just over half feeling ‘very’ or ‘fairly’ safe in 2006 to consistently over 75% since 2011. This may be associated with visible Neighbourhood Policing and initiatives developed by the CSP.

Residents Priorities

As part of the residents’ survey, a poll was conducted in order to help determine the public’s crime priorities for the CSP in the coming year. What should be noted is that residents’ perceptions and concerns are at the heart of CSP business and fundamentally inform the setting of Partnership priorities. Over 450 individuals participated and the survey allowed residents to prioritise 3 choices. The results are recorded in Table 4 below

Table 4



Source: St Helens CSP Survey

Tackling ASB remains the number one priority for residents, which reflects the magnitude of the issue and the blight it is on people’s quality of life throughout the Borough. Concerns about Child Sexual Exploitation reflect the national picture and our support of ‘Listen to my story’ awareness campaign. In general, the ranking of crime types by residents approximately reflects their relative prevalence in the Borough (e.g. burglary is both a high priority for residents and a high-volume crime in St. Helens).

As recorded in Table 5 below, residents’ perceptions of a high level of ASB has gradually reduced to just fewer than 20% over the last 8 years apart from an increase in 2011 which may have been influenced by media reporting of national disorder that year.

Some studies (Home Office research report 34 2010) have highlighted that certain demographic and other ‘background’ factors are correlated to a higher perception of ASB. Younger people, women, and those with prior victimisation experiences (both real and vicarious) are more likely to have high perceptions of ASB, as are those living in more deprived, and in densely populated areas, and where there are high levels of violent crime.

Analysis of the British Crime Survey has found that perceptions of ASB is driven by personal, household and area characteristics as well as the direct and indirect experience of crime and ASB. These factors can be summarised as follows.

Personal

Younger respondents, women, ethnic minorities, the unemployed and those who were ill were more likely to perceive problems of ASB, as were victims of crime and those who read tabloids.

Household

High levels of perceptions of ASB were more likely among households comprising a single adult and child(ren) than for other household types. Those living in social-rented housing and those with lower incomes were also more likely to perceive problems of ASB.

Area

Respondents living in areas with higher levels of deprivation were more likely to perceive problems of ASB, as were those living in areas with ‘low’ levels of community cohesion.

Table 5

High Level ASB Perception	CSP 2007	Place Survey 2008	CSP 2008	Place Survey 2009	CSP 2009	CSP 2011	CSP 2012	CSP 2013	CSP 2014	CSP 2015
Yearly Return	42.3%	26.2%	34.2%	21.2%	24.9%	31.1%	24.5%	20.7%	20.3%	19.5%

Source: St Helens Safer Communities

Further analysis of ASB evidences that environmental ASB continues to be of concern of local residents as highlighted in Table 6 below.

Table 6

Issue	Priority
Nuisance Neighbours	7
Teenagers Hanging around	3
Vandalism / Graffiti other deliberate damage	6
People using / dealing drugs	4
People being drunk or rowdy in public places	5
Rubbish litter lying around	2
Abandoned / burnt out vehicles	13
Street prostitution	15
Begging rough sleeping	12
Nuisance Vehicles	8
Dog Fouling	1
People being abused : colour of skin	14
People being abused : sexuality	11
People being abused: disability	10
People being abused: age	9

Source: St Helens CSP Survey

Recommended CSP Priorities

Following this review and evidence the CSP are recommended to: -

Include the following as priorities in the new Partnership Delivery Plan:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Serious Acquisitive Crime(Burglary &Vehicle Crime)
- Drugs and Drug related Crime
- Violent Crime
- Reduction in Re offending
- Hate Crime

- Child Sexual Exploitation

In addition, due to their nature and impact that they may have on St. Helens in the longer term, the CSP are recommended to ensure that any future Partnership Plan includes and takes account of: -

- Preventing violent extremism
- Community confidence
- Repeat victims, offenders and locations
- Hidden harm
- Business Crime
- Youth Crime and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Tackling Organised Crime
- Gun and Knife Crime

Conclusion

The strategic assessment this year has been produced with minimum resource.

It is important to be aware that the data collected is already a year old and current trends need to be considered when developing a new delivery plan. There is already a vast amount of work being delivered within the crime and disorder remit and it is important to consider this when agreeing priorities and developing a new delivery plan which will be circulated to CSP partners for consultation purposes prior to publication.

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